

Europe and the former Soviet Union. Together, they represent four fifths of the world's people. CIDA always makes a point of working in close partnership with host countries as well as Canadian organizations, institutions and businesses, and international organizations and agencies.

Canada's foreign aid program supports efforts to provide primary health care, basic education, family planning, nutrition, water and sanitation, and shelter. We support the full participation of women as equal partners in the sustainable development of their societies. Another priority is helping developing countries and countries in transition deliver environmentally sound infrastructure services, with an emphasis on assisting poorer groups and building capacity.

Development assistance is a vital component of Canada's new foreign policy. That policy is painting a new picture of Canada on the global canvas.

We have, therefore, achieved much progress by focussing attention on the quality and security of human lives. Canada has actively pursued a human security agenda.

Since 1997, signatories of the Ottawa Convention banning anti-personnel mines have destroyed 20 million stockpiled mines. As a result, mine casualty rates have dropped by more than 50 percent in Cambodia, and by 90 percent in Bosnia and Mozambique.

We helped develop the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Canada also hosted a global conference of governments, international agencies and civil society groups for the purpose of developing a global strategy on war-affected children.

At the UN Millennium Summit, we helped win support for a new instrument of international law: the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

These are only a few examples of Canada's new emphasis on issues that involve human security. Among the many other issues to be addressed with our global partners are disease, trafficking in people and drugs, counter-terrorism, freedom of the press, independence of the judiciary, and good governance.

Our global institutions must re-orient themselves to these new realities. They must ensure that their priorities are aligned with the most pressing needs of humanity as a whole, particularly people in poor and conflict-torn regions.