

GLOBAL ISSUES: PROMOTING A NEW MULTILATERALISM

PROMOTING DEMOCRACY THROUGH GOOD GOVERNANCE, HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION AND RESPECT FOR DIVERSITY

Canada has an excellent reputation for providing assistance to help develop capacity at the state level to strengthen democratic institutions. This includes support for human rights commissions, for free and fair elections, and for the establishment of effective democratic institutions. Canada also supports civil society watchdogs, such as free and independent news media and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that are active in human rights advocacy. The international community increasingly recognizes the importance of these efforts for democratic development around the world.

We can have still greater impact. To that end, the Government has established the Canada Corps to strengthen Canada's contribution to human rights, democracy and good governance internationally. CIDA will be playing a lead role in this effort.

At the same time, there is a range of organizations within Canada that have been established at arm's-

length from the Government or Parliament to promote democratic governance internationally. Each of them has established expertise and credibility in specific areas: for example, Rights and Democracy promotes human rights globally, while the Parliamentary Centre helps countries build effective parliamentary institutions. Elections Canada contributes to the holding of elections, as it did in Iraq, while the International Development Research Centre supports democratic governance.

Specific Initiative

- in order to leverage the impact of these groups internationally, to promote sharing of best practices, to build synergies among them, and to better publicize this work to Canadians, Foreign Affairs, with CIDA and CIDA's Canada Corps, will promote greater outreach and dialogue with both government and non-governmental actors in this area.

Key to our promotion of the new multilateralism is the strengthening of international human rights institutions. The level of commitment by all countries to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other foundation human rights documents is still insufficient.

