

the Official Development Assistance Program now has a clear mandate and specific objectives.

The budgetary measures implemented by CIDA follow the principle that we should give priority to NGOs that work in developing countries. It is consequently the responsibility of these organizations to make Canadians aware of the problems of development and to support the involvement of young people in their programs. For this reason, I have decided to cease supporting organizations that work only in Canada.

Public participation is an integral part of the Agency's programming priorities, and steps must be taken to include this element in the regular programs of its partners, who are better equipped to forge ties with the public by virtue of their presence in developing countries.

If they wish, the development education organizations whose funding has been cut could join forces and submit new proposals supporting development activities in the field.

In closing, let me once again express my gratitude to the members of the Committee for the interest and enthusiasm that they show in carrying out their responsibilities.

I especially appreciate the honest dialogue that we have been able to maintain during these past few months. I believe that we still have a great deal to accomplish in the wake of the Statement on Foreign Policy. However, our ability as a government to democratize our foreign policy making process, and to involve as many Canadians as possible therein, largely depends on the work that you do.

Thank you.