

Canada is currently the vice-chair of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board and will take over as chair in June 2004. In 2004, Canada assumed a two-year seat on the board of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Canada, the United Kingdom and Switzerland comprise a constituency seat at the Global Fund).

The majority of Canada's financial contribution to the global response comes from CIDA. HIV/AIDS is one of the agency's four social development priorities. Canada is committed to increasing annual funding for HIV/AIDS programming from \$22 million in 2000-2001 to \$80 million in 2004-5, for a total five-year investment of \$270 million. In addition, Canada has committed \$100 million US (about \$130 million Cdn) to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria. As well, \$62 million from the Canada Fund for Africa goes toward developing an AIDS vaccine and supporting the work of a Canadian coalition on HIV/AIDS which focuses on the social impact of the disease. In total, CIDA's five-year cumulative investments for the period 2000-2001 to 2004-5 are projected to be almost half a billion dollars.

International Women's Day theme: Women and HIV/AIDS

March 8, 2004 is International Women's Day. Established in 1977 by the United Nations, International Women's Day provides an opportunity to reflect on the progress made in advancing women's equality, to evaluate the challenges facing women in present-day society, to consider future steps to enhance the status of women and to celebrate the gains made in these areas.

This year, the Department of Foreign Affairs in partnership with CIDA and Health Canada is commemorating International Women's Day with a focus on the UN theme of Women and HIV/AIDS.