

CAI EA 2005
MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER



I am pleased to present *Canada's International Policy Statement—A Role of Pride and Influence in the World: Development*. It is an ambitious but achievable plan for enhancing Canada's role in the fight against global poverty.

In recent years, the world has made significant progress in human development. The number of people living on less than a dollar a day has dropped impressively; more children, particularly girls, are in school; and democracy has continued to spread. Yet these achievements are uneven: a fifth of humanity still struggles to meet basic needs for shelter and sustenance, confronted by disease, illiteracy, oppression and environmental degradation.

Such poverty offends our most basic values of decency and fairness. There is simply no good reason why, in the twenty-first century, half a million women a year should be dying during childbirth, or why thousands of children should be killed every day by easily preventable and treatable diseases. Such poverty is a moral affront to all of us, and this reason alone compels our response.

Increasingly however, such poverty also poses a direct risk to Canada and our allies. We understand there are links between acute poverty and state failure, and between state failure and global security. We understand that the surest way to achieve peace is to build a world in which all children, girls and boys, can go to a good school, get a good job, raise a healthy family, have a voice in their community and leave their own children a better planet.

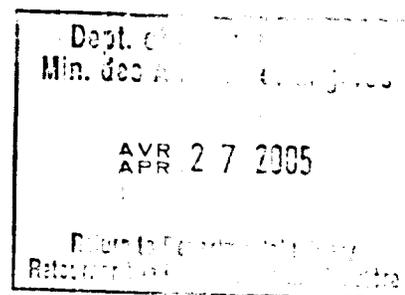
Our progress toward this vision will be clearly measured against the Millennium Development Goals, time-bound targets for reducing poverty. To best achieve them, Canada will take a strategic approach that matches developing country needs with Canadian expertise, while working in coordination with other donors. We will focus our efforts in five key sectors. Country-to-country cooperation programs will be concentrated in a limited number of developing countries—the majority in Africa—that are among the poorest but offer good opportunities for poverty reduction.

This is about much more than aid. We will ensure that our policy in other areas, such as trade negotiations, support these efforts. And at the Canadian International Development Agency, our task is nothing less than creating the world's best development agency.

I look forward to working with Parliament and all Canadians to make this vision a reality.

Aileen Carroll

Aileen Carroll
Minister of International Cooperation



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