

At the Summit of the Eight in Denver in 1997, attention centred on global integration and meeting domestic economic challenges. The summit's broad agenda covered new issues such as aging populations and infectious diseases, as well as sustainable development. The summit's discussions took place on the eve of the UN General Assembly Special Session on Environment and Development, which reviewed the global environmental agenda five years after the 1992 Earth Summit, and during the lead-up to the Kyoto Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Climate Change.

Canada's Place at the Summit Table

Canada enjoys the benefits that come with having a seat at the table with the world's most advanced economies but at the same time assumes the responsibilities that flow from this. Membership enables Canada to pursue its broad foreign and economic policy agenda and to play a part in shaping and influencing global developments on a range of diverse issues.

Canada brings to the summit table intellectual capital and value far greater than its relatively modest economic strength. Canada is also a member of the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, the Commonwealth, la Francophonie and the Organization of American States. Membership in these organizations affords Canada a wide range of diplomatic tools and opportunities to pursue its unique foreign policy agenda.

Globalization brings with it new economic opportunities but it also creates new challenges. The summit process allows the G-8 to work together to meet these challenges, both at the domestic level and on a global basis. Canada has used the summit to advance economic, trade and political issues of importance to Canadians. Since 1976, Canada has worked with its summit partners to develop common strategies in response to these issues as well as in response to regional situations such as the Middle East Peace Process, the conflict in and reconstruction of Bosnia, and the Asian financial situation.