

financial institutions, comprised of the World Bank Group, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the International Development Association (IDA), the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). In fact, much of Canada's official development assistance is channeled through these multilateral organizations.

Canada's contribution through the international financial institutions including the regional development banks have accounted for between 10% and 24% of official development assistance over the last ten years. A little over half of the program has been absorbed by the World Bank Group. During the fiscal year 1983-1984 Canada contributed \$325.18 million through the financial institutions.

Canada maintains and realizes development, political and commercial benefits from its membership in the international financial institutions. The primary reason for Canada's support is to enable assistance to be channeled to effective programs in the Third World. The multilateral program of Canadian assistance allows Canada to contribute to those countries that do not qualify for bilateral assistance. Moreover, contributions to the institutions allow Canada to support programs in sectors in which Canada may not have the expertise or the inclination to be directly involved.

The program also reflects the Canadian approach to multilateralism and North-South relations which are of considerable importance in Canadian foreign policy.

Canada has a good reputation in Third World countries because of its commitment to encourage development in the Third World. Participation in the multilateral programs enables Canada to have an indirect assistance relationship with all developing countries while the bilateral program is focused on about thirty-one countries of particular interest to Canada.

Canada also derives commercial benefits from its membership in the United Nations system. Besides giving Canadian firms access to an international market in developing countries, Canada receives direct procurements from the multilateral institutions. The most recent available data indicates that Canada has received \$728.5 million in procurements from the World Bank alone.

Canada also contributes significantly to the multilateral cooperation programs. In 1983-84 Canada will contribute about \$54 million to the United Nations Development Program, \$12 million to the United Nations Children's Fund, \$9.25 million to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and other funds to smaller programs.

Canada currently ranks as the seventh largest donor of the UNDP which is the largest organization within the United Nations system assisting developing countries. Canada participates in many of the UNDP projects and maintains a seat on the Governing Council of the UNDP of which it was the president of 1982.

Canada is also a strong supporter of UNICEF. Canada currently ranks as the sixth largest donor and is considered a major contributor both from government level and from private contributions made through the Canadian Commission for UNICEF.

Canada has also contributed to the development of international law. A striking example is the 1982 Law of the Sea Convention which was signed by Canada and the majority of states on December 10, 1982 in Jamaica. The Law of the Sea Convention has been held as a monumental achievement of the United Nations system. It is a large treaty that governs all facets of Man's use of the oceans.

Canada was an integral part of the negotiations and drafting on the treaty. A Canadian, J. Alan Beesley spent thirteen years on the Law of the Sea negotiations and was the chairman of the drafting committee that processed literally thousands of amendments to the treaty before its final text was adopted.

Canada has over the last forty years made several other important initiatives in the context of creating international standards and treaties. Significant contributions have been made to human rights and social issues, for example, Canada is an active participant in the United Nations General Assembly and the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. Canada has contributed to the significant advancement in the codification of standards of human rights in the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, both of which Canada has now ratified. Canada is also a party to the Optional Protocol to the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights by which a Canadian may, as an individual, petition an international tribunal for redress. Canada continues to work in several areas. For nineteen years Canada has been proposing a declaration and subsequent treaty concerning the rights of religious minorities.

Canada has also been particularly active in the question of refugees. The number of people displaced by war persecution and natural disasters has increased significantly during the past fifteen years. As a result, Canada has participated in a variety of relief operations through the United Nations system. A recent Canadian initiative involves the establishment of an advance warning system by which potential sources of refugees can be identified before problems emerge.

CANADA'S PRESENT POSITION AT THE UNITED NATIONS

Recently, the Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs made a major policy statement in which he reiterated the importance of the United Nations to Canada. He outlined his belief that the United Nations system has greatly benefitted Canada over the years and is now in a particularly difficult period in its development.

He picked three examples to illustrate what benefits Canada receives from the United Nations. First, the Law of the Sea Convention which "has been a central element in the promotion of Canada's national interests". Second, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) which acts as an inspection agency in applying internationally accepted safeguards on the sale of nuclear material and technology. "For Canada", he said, "to provide equivalent bilateral coverage for its nuclear exports would not only be prohibitively