

## I. Executive Summary

- This study, conducted on behalf of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the Department of National Defence and the Canadian International Development Agency, examines public attitudes towards Canada's place in the world as part of the Foreign and Defence Policy Review.

### A. Canada and the World

- There is wide divergence among Canadians about the most serious problem facing the world. Concern about world peace and the threat of war (16%) still tops the list of Canadians' international concerns, followed by concern about the environment (14%), hunger (13%) and unemployment (10%). No single issue has replaced the high levels of concern about world peace measured in the late 1980s.

#### i. Priorities for Canadian Foreign Policy

- The priorities Canadians propose for Canadian foreign policy tend to match their concerns discussed above. Canadians place greatest *importance* on the foreign policy goals of protecting the global environment and pursuing world peace. These goals are considered important by over 95% of Canadians, most of whom (75%+) consider these goals very important.
- Large (but slightly smaller) majorities also consider it important for Canada to promote trade (93%), discourage human rights abuse (84%), maintain a foreign policy independent of the United States (81%), maintain the ability to defend Canada (83%), participate in the United Nations (84%), work to improve the position of women in developing countries (83%), and assist poorer countries to improve their living standards (82%). These goals are considered *very* important by 35% to 54% of Canadians. However, these differences should not obscure the fact that Canadians endorse *all* these foreign policy goals.