

SUPPORTING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In 2015, world leaders agreed on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development—a global action plan to eradicate poverty and build peace around the world. The 2030 Agenda’s 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets are integrated and indivisible. They balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: social, economic and environmental. Unlike the Millennium Development Goals that focused on helping the world’s poorest countries, this is a universal agenda that applies to, and requires action by, all countries.

Canada places significant emphasis on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls—the objective of the 2030 Agenda’s Goal 5. Support for Goal 5 will be a key entry point for Canada’s international assistance and will drive progress in the other SDGs. The Government of Canada believes that a feminist approach is the best way to reduce poverty and ensure that no one is left behind. This is the core of Canada’s new Feminist International Assistance Policy.

The 2030 Agenda is a challenge to the international community that will require the building of new multi-stakeholder partnerships. This agenda is not just about the goals but about how governments and other actors work together. Canada recognizes the need to work with a robust ecosystem of organizations to find innovative and integrated ideas that create a more sustainable world. Canada is doing this through effective and productive partnerships with a wide range of partners, including:

- civil society;
- Indigenous people;
- multilateral and international organizations;
- philanthropic foundations;
- other governments at all levels; and
- the private sector.



It is estimated that achieving the SDGs will require a combined global investment of as much as US\$5 trillion to US\$7 trillion a year by 2030. Reaching this level of investment requires new ideas and initiatives that can leverage additional financing beyond ODA. To help unlock new sources of development finance, Canada will increase and diversify its mechanisms for working with the private sector and other stakeholders. These efforts will help create the growth necessary to realize the SDGs and ensure that no one is left behind.

Canada has stepped up its efforts on key financing for development challenges and for pursuing new and innovative approaches. These are pivotal to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Here are some examples.

- Canada and Jamaica are co-leading the Group of Friends of SDG Financing at the United Nations (UN). This initiative seeks to unlock new sources of public, private and philanthropic financing to help achieve the SDGs.
- In March 2017, Canada announced funding and the establishment of a new institution called the Development Finance Institute. This institution will leverage forms of international assistance to mitigate risk and unlock additional funds for sustainable development.