
EXCERPTS: KEY OBJECTIVES OF FOREIGN POLICY

THE EVOLVING FOREIGN CONTEXT POLICY

Four trends stand out in the still uncertain and evolving post-Cold War world:

- **First**, influence is increasingly the product of economic strength;
- **Second**, although traditional security concerns remain - including arms control issues - assuring our security now means that we must broaden the focus to non-traditional sources of transnational or global insecurity such as overpopulation, underdevelopment, international crime, and environmental degradation, all of which can lead to conflict or a decline in our quality of life.
- **Third**, the ability of individual governments to address issues - their sovereignty - in this international context is changing:

governments are increasingly constrained fiscally;

decision-making must take into account the rapidly growing economic and, in some cases, political, integration among countries; and

many of the current challenges can only be met through cooperative, long-term strategies which must be painstakingly worked out among a number of countries or institutions.

- **Fourth**, more and more, the challenges, the responses to them, and the opportunities they present, are global. Globalization is affecting economies, security, and cultural matters. States are trying to find the right balance between openness to the world and a degree of local control that responds to their populations' needs and demands.

These trends mean that foreign policy-making is more complex than before and that countries, while recognizing the importance of exiting bilateral and multilateral relationships, must examine the possibilities of new relationships to further their objectives.

Canada is well-positioned because it can build on traditions of openness to the world, participation in key international groups, its cultural diversity and its reputation for impartial and constructive international engagement. The Government will responsibly exercise the influence which these strengths give to Canada.