

CONCLUSION

This International Policy Statement establishes the principles and priorities that will guide the next generation of Canadian global engagement. It starts from two basic premises. First, that there can be no greater role, no more important obligation for a government, than the protection and safety of its citizens. Second, that unless states act collectively, acknowledging their shared vulnerability, the rich will become richer and the poor will become poorer—and everyone will be less secure.

The strategy that emerges from this International Policy Statement reflects who we are: a highly successful liberal democracy, with both a regional destiny and global responsibilities. It adapts to the key changes in the global context since 1995: new and more deadly security threats; a changed distribution of global power; challenges to existing international institutions;

and the transformation of the global economy. It also singles out particular geographic areas for increased activity: the Arctic, Africa and the Americas.

Most importantly, this document responds to the historic opportunity Canadians have today to re-conceptualize and re-energize their global role. That opportunity can only be seized through a clear-eyed understanding of our core national interests, and strategic reinvestments in our military, diplomacy, commercial policy and development programs. We believe that through more focused and integrated policies, Canada can honour its historical achievements in international affairs, and make a difference to greater security and prosperity in the 21st century. The success of this strategy will depend on our continued resolve, and our capacity to forge new partnerships with other states and non-state actors.