

New Course Charted For Foreign Policy

On February 7, 1995, the Government of Canada released *Canada in the World*, its new foreign policy framework. This issue of *Global Agenda* focusses on the important role that environment and sustainable development issues play in Canada's contemporary foreign policy.

In recent years all countries have had to reassess their foreign policy directions. The Cold War has given way to a different world. Economic goals have taken on higher priority. We have come to understand the importance of issues such as a healthy environment and sustainable development to the achievement of global security and prosperity.

Canada in the World sets out Canada's foreign policy priorities in a changing world. The paper is

the result of a long consultation process. This process included hearings and a report by a Special Joint Parliamentary Committee and a National Forum on Canada's International Relations.

The Statement says "the Government has decided to focus Canada's foreign policy on three key objectives:

- promoting prosperity and employment;
- protecting our security, within a stable global framework; and
- projecting Canadian values and culture."

These objectives are interrelated and mutually reinforcing. They are intended to guide decisions on priorities and the allocation of increasingly limited resources.

Environmental and sustainable development issues play a significant role in these three objectives.

Prosperity and employment

Canada in the World recognizes that sustainable development contributes to economic health. The Government will take steps in the new World Trade Organization to promote compatibility between our international trade and environmental obligations. It will also seek to ensure a positive relationship between international

to manage sustainably the environment and the economy.

Security

The new policy highlights Canada's belief that security involves far more than the traditional military and political relationships. As the document notes, "Sustainable development [is] a precondition for human security." It underlines the impact of environmental degradation on security. The purpose of Canada's development assistance is to support sustainable development in developing countries in order to reduce poverty and contribute to a more secure, equitable and prosperous world.

Canadian values and culture

Canadians believe in a set of values and have cultural traits that have given us the stability and prosperity we wish for others. We believe that values such as a respect for the environment are as beneficial in the international setting as they are at home.

This new approach to foreign policy is built on a broad consensus found within Canadian society. Canadians are proud of the role we play internationally. We understand the value of international co-operation based on open economies and societies in an interdependent world. The foreign policy framework set out in *Canada in the World* reflects that conviction and our commitment to the environment and sustainable development. 🍀

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