

THE GOVERNMENT'S STRATEGY FOR ACHIEVING THESE OBJECTIVES HAS TWO UNDERLYING COMPONENTS:

MAXIMIZING THE USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

In the Quebec City *Statement on Connectivity*, Leaders committed to providing "all citizens of the Americas with the opportunity to develop the tools to access and share knowledge and to promote democratic consolidation, economic integration and social inclusion in our new knowledge-based economy." The Institute for Connectivity in the Americas, a result of the *Statement*, is expected to play a pivotal long-term role both in organizing project work aimed at closing the digital divide and in increasing opportunities for citizens in all societies to participate in dialogues on hemispheric issues and to make their voices heard. Initiatives in this field have the potential to play a particularly important role in less-developed areas of the region. The Internet is a cost-efficient means of reaching the public, and its use should be maximized. Accordingly, the Government will:

- ♦ explore the restructuring of existing instruments in an effort to maximize the potential offered by information technology (IT) in terms of outreach and cost efficiency, and will develop appropriate outreach strategies for each sector; and
- ♦ within existing resources, expand and improve IT tools and explore ways to make Web sites and other instruments more interactive and effective.

COORDINATING RESOURCES

The successful implementation of the Quebec City Summit mandates is important to Canada. The credibility of the Summit process rests on the ability of the Canadian government and other governments of the hemisphere to realize the commitments made in Quebec City. The Government is already engaged in this effort. For example, it confirmed its concrete support to Summit mandates implementation by contributing \$20 million to the creation of the Institute for Connectivity in the Americas. In the lead-up to the Summit, the Minister for International Cooperation announced 50 projects, for a total of \$191 million, in support of the Summit's objectives in sectors such as education, health, democratic development and governance. The Government of Canada also invested great efforts to ensure the unprecedented engagement by the multilateral development banks in support of the implementation of the *Plan of Action*. Sustained attention will be necessary given the breadth and depth of Summit mandates. Accordingly, the Government will: