



through diplomatic means; and support of census projects that often form the primary building blocks for economic and development planning.

It was argued that Canada should develop a more coherent policy for non-governmental organizations (NGOs). To this end, the Canadian government should develop a regulatory framework for NGOs that would provide for independent monitoring of their activities without jeopardizing their work. Dialogue among Canadian and African NGOs should also be encouraged.

Protecting the Environment and Promoting Agriculture

Canada's aid policies should cause minimal harm to the environment. In particular, it was noted that Canadian projects should not compromise food safety. In order to ensure that Canadian aid in Africa is environmentally friendly, participants recommended that Canada should encourage a Canadian or international agency to conduct environmental and social impact studies on all proposed trade and aid packages. Furthermore, in order to ensure that African states do not become

dependent on imported produce, Canada should promote investment in African agriculture. Finally, community-based environmental management programs should be actively promoted as a means of protecting the environment and ensuring the continued supply of natural resources.

Engaging Civil Society

Civil society involvement, both in Canada and Africa, was identified as an important component for any balanced long-term policy. To this end, some suggested that the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade seek further opportunities for dialogue with African civil society. Participants also recommended that Africans should take a leading role in developing Canada's Africa Action Plan. Furthermore, when implementing Canada's Africa policy, the Department should cultivate the skills and expertise of its domestic Africanist community and Canadians of African descent. The Canadian government should also keep people informed of progress on the Africa Action Plan and other developments in Canada-Africa relations after the G8 Summit.

It hardly needs saying, in a meeting like this, that without an end to violence and civil war in Africa, and the protection of all fundamental rights — political and civil, as well as socio-economic, there are likely to be early limits to what can be achieved by even the best efforts at poverty reduction and sustainable development...Canadians would, I believe, take great pride in a government that joined others in seeking to move the G8 and the world towards constructive responses to African development challenges.

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