

- Canada has committed a total of US \$575 million to IDA VIII: our share, plus a special additional contribution.
- Canada will contribute SDR (Special Drawing Rights) 200 million to a tripled Structural Adjustment Facility in the IMF.
- And, at the Francophone Summit and Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, we undertook to forgive the remaining outstanding Canadian ODA debt of 13 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, a measure worth CDN \$672 million.

In addition, the Canadian Government has taken steps to orient our development assistance more directly toward the most pressing needs of the poorest countries, in particular in the area of human resource development and in respect of the role of women. In line with our concern for Africa, we have taken the decision to increase the percentage of our bilateral development assistance channeled to African countries to 45%.

And, we have taken the additional decision to untie that assistance up to 50% so that it can be more quickly and effectively used, and better adapted to local circumstances. As yet a further step to better aid delivery, we have decided to decentralize the Canadian International Development Agency and will be moving parts of the administration and decision making power to our representatives on the ground in developing countries and regions. We will begin this process in Africa.

Canada is but one country amongst many others. We are very much aware that measures we take alone will not solve the enormous problems of Africa nor provide the kind of relief and assistance that is so desperately needed.

But we are committed, wholly and completely, to finding ways to support Africa, both bilaterally and multilaterally. On other occasions, I have referred to "Constructive Internationalism" as the cornerstone of Canadian foreign policy. For us, this means making the process of multilateral exchange and cooperation work, at its best, and to the benefit of all. In the case of Africa, the multilateral system is faced with a formidable challenge: to make a greater whole out the sum of our individual efforts.

We in Canada are convinced that this can and must be done. We have noted the comments of the Secretary General. We will listen carefully to the views and ideas of others in this debate. And we commit ourselves to work with all others to make what we do more realistic, practical and effective.