

MAKING A DIFFERENCE GLOBALLY

PRIORITIES FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

Focus our contribution to the Millenium Development Goals on governance, private sector development, health, basic education and environmental sustainability

Ensure our development assistance efforts systematically incorporate gender equality throughout

KEY INITIATIVES

- Provide additional funding to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria through the World Health Organization's "3 by 5" initiative and the Global Fund to fight HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria
- Encourage implementation of Canada's new generic drug legislation in other countries
- Focus education assistance on improving community access to schools, increasing the quality of teaching and supporting life skills training
- Launch the Canada Investment Fund for Africa to provide risk capital to support growth-generating private sector development
- Renew Canada's Climate Change Development Fund as an important mechanism to help combat the challenges of global warming in developing countries

combined with more recent innovations such as the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Social Union Framework, have given coherence to our transcontinental partnership of regions and languages.

For those in countries where violence threatens to overtake political accommodation as the answer to competing interests, Canada's long history of accommodation of linguistic, ethnic and cultural differences—dating from the Quebec Act of 1774—offers a glimmer of hope. Our system of governance represents a laboratory full of intriguing experiments that can assist others engaged in the complex task of institution building. This understanding of the "DNA" of governance is an important resource Canada can use to make a difference.

The establishment of good governance in other societies around the globe will make Canadians safer and more prosperous. In a globalized world, where threats are transnational and greater wealth depends upon deeper forms of exchange, the creation of stable and capable states will form a major part of Canada's global agenda.

The plight of failed and fragile states is where Canada's interests and obligations are most closely aligned.

National interest dictates that we look beyond our borders to treat the root causes of instability. At the same time, Canadians have demonstrated that they will not turn a blind eye to the poorest and most destitute of the world. The tremendous response to the recent Indian Ocean tsunami and Canada's enthusiastic contribution to facilitating the democratic transformation in Ukraine reflect our growing sense of global solidarity and awareness of shared vulnerability. As the world moves toward a more mature phase of globalization, there is greater concern with the uneven impact of this powerful process.

Weak states in the global community confront unique and particularly daunting governance challenges. Many are locked in vicious circles where insecurity undermines prosperity, and underdevelopment generates instability. Any solution to their dilemma must operate within this security-development nexus, seeking to embed efforts to provide a safe and secure environment in a broader framework of human development. Tragically, very few of these societies have sufficient resources—financial or human—to begin addressing these problems. With vital technical capacity already lacking, the spread of HIV/AIDS compounds the crisis, and civil wars drag whole regions backwards.