

A Strategic Framework

11. Bilateral government-to-government collaboration in S&T can, under certain circumstances, offer benefits and it is inevitable that Canada will wish, or be urged, to consider this form of cooperation in the future. Departmental S&T resources are, however, at a premium and this is particularly true of those available for foreign policy or other ancillary roles. *It is therefore imperative that they be applied within a coherent framework which permits rational choice to be made and optimum benefits obtained. The key elements of such a strategy should be:*

- 1. The selection of major bilateral and multilateral target activities chosen for their potential importance to Canadian domestic S&T programs, foreign policy, economic or development assistance goals.*
- 2. The establishment of a simple effective mechanism to facilitate the planning and initiation of these activities.*

Strategic S&T Sector Targets

12. A conscious and deliberate effort has been underway within the Federal government over recent years aimed at identifying sectors of priority concern and, within these, technologies in which Canada has or is developing special expertise.

- These domestic priorities should now be reflected in, and reinforced by, efforts to identify and develop appropriate international collaboration activities on a government-to-government basis.*

13. It is considered that this approach to grasping the initiative can be best done by the use, in selected areas of national priority, of small ad hoc groups of knowledgeable people representing where appropriate the industrial research, university, Federal government and provincial research communities; in some cases they could be the Task Forces now being established by MOSST to define priorities in specific technological areas. The groups would be tasked with the analysis of potential areas of collaboration and the subsequent development of specific, narrowly focussed objectives.

Strategic S&T Country Targets

14. An attempt should be made to draw up a list of countries rated according to their perceived potential value