

maintain our independence and continued existence through peaceful means. Moreover, security is necessary to promote prosperity which is a Canadian interest because we wish to increase our material well-being. Finally, a rules-based international order is a Canadian interest because we wish to protect ourselves from the arbitrary or unilateral actions of others, but also because we value order (as in "peace, order and good government") and justice.

The 1994 Report of the Special Joint Committee Reviewing Canadian Foreign Policy (SJC) suggested that "the primary purpose of Canadian Official Development Assistance [ODA] is to reduce poverty by providing effective assistance to the poorest people, in those countries that most need and can use our help".⁴ The Committee noted further that "this statement of purpose introduces three elements that relate to targeting: a) the focus on the poorest people; b) the selection of countries based on need, which in our view should reflect broader measures than simply per capita GNP; and c) the proviso that countries must have a minimum absorptive capacity for Canadian assistance".

In its response to the Committee, the Government's 1995 foreign policy statement, Canada in the World, stressed that Canadian ODA: a) is an investment in prosperity and employment by connecting the Canadian economy to some of the world's fastest growing economies and by contributing to a stronger global economy; b) contributes to global security by tackling threats to human security such as the abuse of human rights, disease, environmental degradation, population growth and the widening gap between rich and poor; and c) expresses the Canadian desire to help the less fortunate and to promote social justice. On this basis, the Government decided that the purpose of Canada's ODA "is to support sustainable development in developing countries in order to reduce poverty and to contribute to a more secure, equitable and prosperous world".

2.2 What are sustainable development policies?

The Paper proceeds on the basis that the following are sustainable development policies: a) long-term investment in people, including: education, health, the equality of women and men, and control of excessive population growth; b) fostering of entrepreneurship and investments in infrastructure; c) implementation of liberal trade and foreign investment régimes; d) avoidance of excessive fiscal deficits and high inflation; e) protection of the environment and the integration of environmental considerations with economic decision-making; f) respect for human rights; g)

⁴Special Joint Committee Reviewing Canadian Foreign Policy, Canada's Foreign Policy: Principles and Priorities for the Future, Ottawa, 1994, p. 48.