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Canadian ODA will support the purpose and program priorities set out above in key countries in Africa, Asia and the Americas. Within these programming priorities, ODA will be expanded in sectors important to both Canada and the developing countries, such as agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

Recognizing the importance of ODA, the Government remains committed to improving its effectiveness and to making progress towards the ODA target of 0.7% of GNP when Canada's fiscal situation allows it.

Canada will continue to provide most of its ODA to low-income countries. Africa will continue to receive the highest share of resources in keeping with the immense challenges facing that continent. Programming there will be firmly rooted in individual countries but support for regional initiatives will grow as they assume greater importance.

The assistance program will also reflect the growing importance to Canada of our relations with our own hemisphere and will help countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to achieve sustainable development. Similarly, programs in the Asia-Pacific region will reinforce broader Canadian efforts to foster long-term relationships and help countries address key developmental issues.

#### *A commitment to strengthening partnerships*

A wide range of development partners in Canada, along with a large number of international organizations and, most importantly, the people and institutions of developing countries, play a vital role in the development of policy and in the planning and delivery of Canada's ODA. Their contribution is essential to providing the range of expertise, knowledge and resources required to meet the many diverse challenges of international development.

Canadian partners are a key source of the skills, know-how and technology that are needed to promote sustainable development. International institutions and organizations are crucial to the establishment of a rules-based global governance system. Many of the most pressing challenges facing national governments - in developed and developing countries - are global in scope and can be addressed successfully only through concerted action in international fora and through groupings of states and organizations. Partnerships with developing countries are vital; most of the resources invested in development come from them.

Canadian youth can assist in building these partnerships, especially at the grassroots level. The Government will encourage our young people