

victims the particular targets. The programme for Women and Health received a special subsidy from Canada.

The last social sector is that of Education, the oldest field of Commonwealth collaboration. Here Commonwealth Ministers have asked themselves how the new technology can be used to improve the delivery of education at every level, and how the curriculum should be adjusted to accommodate the demands of technology in the work place.

This catalogue of achievements would be incomplete without mention of the environment, another area where Canada has been able to make a signal contribution. The IDRC under Keith Bezanson was a founder member of the Iwokrama International Rain Forest Programme in Guyana. We have now been able to raise US\$8.2m of core funding, to launch what can be seen as the jewel in the Commonwealth's crown in the implementation of the Rio Agenda, with its special relevance to climate change, biodiversity and forestry. This work is buttressed by that of the Commonwealth Science Council, whose four flagships are of outstanding contemporary relevance to global needs - water, energy, biodiversity and capacity building for the application of the new technology for development.

The Canadian Government can take pride in the imagination and generosity of its support to the Commonwealth. With such assets and activities, no wonder so many countries want to join our family!

But I believe your meeting this week cannot duck a set of liabilities which threaten the achievement of the Commonwealth's objectives and may even test the loyalty of its members.

If I may speak from the perspective of one sitting in London, the perception of the Commonwealth by the man in the street (I use the term in the gender-inclusive sense!) is often bored and even hostile. Derek Ingram has ably spelt this out in his recent review. Our image (he shows) is one of an outdated institution locked into its historical origins as offspring of the British Empire.