

# STEWARDSHIP AND PROBITY

## Financial Monitoring and Accountability Systems

A comprehensive network of policies, frameworks and reviews has been put in place to ensure the integrity of Canada's Global Partnership Program, which adheres to the highest standards of project management, stewardship and accountability.

Program actions are guided by the Management Accountability Framework, developed by the Treasury Board, a Project Management Framework specifically developed for the Program, consistent with an industry-standard project-delivery methodology, as well as a Treasury Board-compliant Risk-Based Audit Framework (RBAF) and a Results-Based Management and Accountability Framework (RMAF). These provide the basis for measuring, evaluating and reporting on performance, and enable the integration of risk management into implementation strategies and approaches. Risk registries at both the project and program levels list the most serious risks and provide mitigation strategies. Together, these instruments provide a comprehensive project management framework for the Program. For visible accountability, comprehensive reports on project implementation are submitted to Treasury Board on a biannual basis and to Parliament annually. The work of the Global Partnership Program is also fully reflected in DFAIT's annual submissions on Plans and Priorities and the Departmental Performance Report.

Stringent financial accountability underpins all Global Partnership Program activities. All expenditures and commitments are subject to the standards and practices of the Government of Canada's Financial Administration Act and related regulations and policies, and are made within a rigorous financial management framework that emphasizes internal control, due diligence and prudent fiscal management.

Cooperation with partners is covered by a comprehensive legal framework. The bilateral Canada/Russia Agreement Concerning

Cooperation on the Destruction of Chemical Weapons, the Dismantlement of Decommissioned Nuclear Submarines and Nuclear and Radioactive Material Protection, Control and Accountancy is an umbrella agreement that ensures that cooperation meets Canada's legal and policy requirements, including those involving safety and environmental protection. The Agreement contains strict monitoring, access, transparency, taxation, liability and intellectual property rights provisions. At the operating level, many projects have their own implementing agreement or arrangement. Additionally, to manage financial risks, Canada pays against completed milestones. Funding is disbursed once it has been verified that the work has been properly completed and meets the conditions of the original agreement.

Audit and evaluation are integral parts of the Program's activities. An internal audit conducted in 2005 (available on the DFAIT web site) found that significant achievements had been made in meeting Program objectives and outlined some recommendations for improvements, most of which have since been implemented. An outside evaluation was also commissioned and specific project audits are regularly undertaken. Such reviews strengthen the basis of the Program and assist its future development, ensuring that the highest standards of stewardship and accountability are being met and are underpinning Canada's continuing ability to be a Global Partnership leader.

As a whole-of-government priority, the Global Partnership Program works with two formal domestic consultation mechanisms: the interdepartmental Global Partnership Advisory Group and the more specialized Science, Technology and Trade Advisory Group. Terms of reference have been revised and formally approved for both groups. The Program also has formal relationships with departments and agencies, such as Health Canada, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, to ensure access to highly specialized expertise on an ongoing basis.