

B. Policy Setting, Coordination and Communication:

Our research has shown evidence of little policy coordination within the government in relation to Africa. To a large extent, CIDA is by default a primary policy driver of the agenda for action in Africa within the Canadian government. CIDA's policy role vis-à-vis Africa can be partly explained through its international development and ODA focus, where Africa's social and economic conditions, make her a continent primed for such programs. The Africa Trade Strategy 2000 is the first continental trade policy by DFAIT.

There are often contradictions between policies. For example, Human security policy contradicts with trade policy. Many times a market necessary for trade is not established due to human security issues that are ignored; trade policy does not consider these issues.

As we also found, there is no single source of information or repository of policies and strategies relating to Africa. It is critical at this time for Canada to develop the mechanism for policy coordination in general and more specifically towards Africa.

We have found that most Canadian and African business people were not aware of Canadian policies. NGOs were more familiar with the programs and strategies of CIDA that frame their international development work. Beneficiaries of the programs are not aware of the foundations of the programs: policies, strategies, treaties, funds, and therefore cannot efficiently access them. As well, they are unable to support and participate the development of more effective policies.

Both DFAIT and CIDA bring valuable experience and knowledge of Africa that they can use to ensure effectiveness of Canada's role in working with Africa.

Recommendations:

2. There should be linkages between various government policies and greater coherence amongst policies.
3. There is need for beneficiaries and for Canadian and African businesses to have a greater knowledge of policies. Greater dissemination and communication about the various Canadian policies is required. The Secretary of State for Africa should assume such communication and dissemination role.
4. That DFAIT and CIDA form a joint policy coordination committee for policies towards partnership with Africa. These policies need to balance economic policies (trade, investment, business sector development, etc.), social and sustainable development.
5. That the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development as it is already its role, be the liaison between the committee and the Canadian civil society and businesses operating or interested in operating in Africa.