

**A**mendments to the Auditor General Act in 1995 require that all Ministers table Sustainable Development (SD) Strategies for their respective departments in Parliament by December 1997.

Agenda 2000 is the first SD Strategy of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT). It sets out the Department's action plan to achieve, alone and through partnerships, its sustainable development objectives through to the year 2000.

The action plan is based on a review of the Department's profile and activities in terms of their impact on sustainable development, and on clearly defined SD objectives. It also includes the perspectives of those outside the Department itself. Consultations on the strategy involved the public and private sectors, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the academic community.

The Department recognizes that change of this nature requires time to take root; it requires a committed investment of energy and resourcefulness to ensure that the integration of SD principles into policies, programs and operations strikes an appropriate balance between the three pillars of sustainable development - economic growth, social development and environmental protection.

Progress will be measured. The amendments to the Act also created the position of the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development within the office of the Auditor General.

Departmental strategies must be reported on annually, updated every three years, and will be subject to audit by the Commissioner and to petition by the public. Agenda 2000 includes mechanisms for performance measurement, analysis and reporting.

## **PROFILE**

The strategic goals of the Department are based on the following mission statement: "To act for Canada and all Canadians to enhance prosperity, employment and security and to work toward a peaceful world by the promotion of Canadian culture and values". As defined in Canada's Foreign Policy Statement, Canada in the World these values include: the promotion of prosperity and employment, the maintenance of international peace and security, the promotion of Canadian values and culture abroad and the provision of quality services to Canadians.

The implementation of the Department's mandate, and management of its programs and operations are organized along eight functional lines: International Business Development, Trade and Economic Policy, International Security and Cooperation, Assistance to Canadians Abroad, Public Diplomacy, Corporate Services, Services to Other Government Departments and Passport Services. In many of these areas progressive work is already underway to ensure the long-term interests of sustainable development.

## **OBJECTIVES**

Four sustainable development goals are addressed in Agenda 2000. These are based on the three strategic objectives of the Department as well as an environmentally-sensitive objective, that of Greening Operations.

## **ACTION AND MEASUREMENT**

As the Department's first sustainable development strategy, Agenda 2000 is the basis for a policy which will continue to evolve over time. It is an ambitious attempt, presenting visionary objectives grounded on a framework of realistic targets. These targets have been translated into a viable plan of action, including milestones to measure current progress and outline upcoming activities.

