

As part of a pro-active trade development program, Canada will focus on sector-specific trade initiatives emphasizing multilateral and commercial financing and specialized missions to priority countries. Increasing the awareness of Canadian capabilities in Africa and of African market opportunities in Canada, are goals that will be actively pursued through a communications program aimed at both the Canadian and African business communities.

The African Development Bank (ADB) and the World Bank will continue to be major sources of financing, particularly for projects that are part of national economic reform and industrial restructuring programs. We will place special emphasis on helping Canadian businesses take advantage of the opportunities that these programs offer. This also applies to project funding under the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) programs, especially those of the Canadian Partnership Branch. The limited scope of Export Development Corporation (EDC) activities in Africa, resulting from criteria used for countries facing difficulties with debt repayment, and the restricted access to concessional financing, will mean that other financial sources must also be tapped.

Canada's priorities in Africa will focus on North Africa, Nigeria, Gabon, Angola, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Cameroon, Zambia, Tanzania and Côte d'Ivoire. Sectorally we will concentrate on the oil and gas sectors, agri-food, transportation, telecommunications, mining, production and transportation of electricity, and management and consulting services. Industrial infrastructure, energy, computer equipment and services, education and training, and fisheries development will also reflect our priorities in certain countries.

The economic development of Africa over the next few years should offer substantial opportunities for Canadian exporters of goods and services, who will benefit from the advances achieved in the last few decades and the exploration of new avenues, such as importing from Africa, where economically feasible.