

In both developing countries and countries with economies in transition, energy solutions for sustainable development require fundamentally different approaches than might be taken in industrialized countries. Canada seeks to foster a wide range of energy options, which should be assessed and compared against the criteria of sustainable development with regard to particular circumstances. Access to flexible and diverse energy supplies is key to energy security and reliability, as well as sustainability.

## Key Themes and Challenges

Canada believes that several key challenges need to be addressed by both developed and developing countries in pursuing sustainable energy paths. This does not necessarily call for more international fora, but rather for ways in which existing fora can work together more effectively.

### *Regional and International Cooperation*

Regional and international cooperation is critical in establishing the right conditions and processes for effective sustainable development policies and in encouraging nations to work toward common sustainable development goals. Cooperation also facilitates discussions and debates on international issues that can influence domestic policies and measures. Regional and international cooperation can serve as a means of sharing information and assessments of policy and technological options and of undertaking R&D and policy analysis.

A number of important regional and international organizations are already undertaking significant work on issues of energy and sustainable development. Governments and agencies need to consider how to coordinate these various activities most effectively and encourage synergies in the development of global and national policies.

For example, regional economic cooperation organizations (such as the Hemispheric Energy Initiative and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation [APEC]) have an important role to play in facilitating trade and investment liberalization and market reform in energy, energy-related goods, and energy technologies, which in turn will ensure that countries have more secure access to energy, a stronger economy, an improved quality of life, and reduced environmental impacts associated with energy production and use. The APEC Energy Working Group's efforts to harmonize energy-efficiency testing standards for electrical equipment and appliances show how governments, standards organizations, and the private sector can work together to reduce the cost of doing business among participating countries.

### **IEA Implementing Agreements**

*The energy technology and R&D collaboration program of the International Energy Agency (IEA) facilitates cooperation among IEA member and nonmember countries to develop new and improved energy technologies and introduce them to the market.*

*The program brings together experts on specific technologies to work on common problems and share the results of their endeavours. Activities are defined under implementing agreements that set out the commitments of parties (government organizations or private entities) and the management structure that will guide the activity.*

*Since the program began in 1974, nearly sixty implementing agreements have been established, demonstrating that international cooperation can be effective in accelerating energy technology development by facilitating the sharing of scarce resources and broadening prospects for market deployment.*