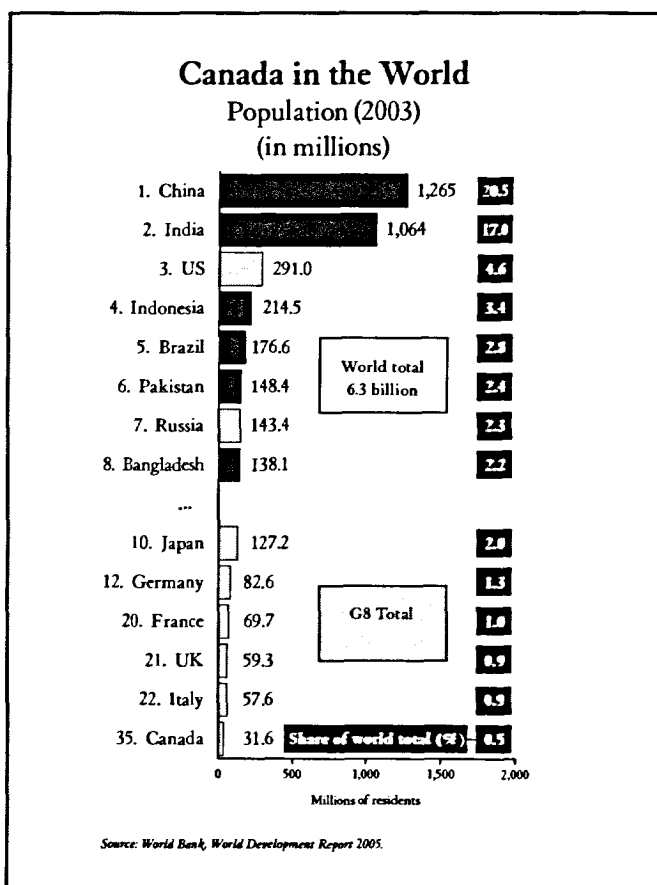


STRENGTHENING CANADA'S OVERSEAS NETWORKS

Although Canada has global interests, our diplomatic reach is limited. There are almost 200 countries in the world. We cannot be everywhere if we want to make a significant difference on the priorities that have been described in the preceding pages. In order to pursue these priorities effectively, Foreign Affairs' new diplomacy will reflect changes to the way we prioritize our engagement in regions beyond our continent.

- *Current and emerging global actors:* These are composed of two sub-groups: the first are Canada's partners, along with the United States, in the G8 (i.e. France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom) with whom Canada has a well-established history of cooperation. It is essential that Canada maintain "full-service" relations with all of them, as well as with the EU, which is an important strategic partner. The second sub-group includes the new powers in the developing world, such as China, India and Brazil. Canada needs to build relationships with them to better reflect our growing interests.

- *Pathfinder states:* A growing number of countries exercise influence regionally, have established niche areas of global influence, or are being emulated for their successful experiments with domestic and international policy. These nations often welcome stronger partnerships with Canada, with whom they perceive a common interest in a progressive international agenda. Responding positively to this interest will position Canada to advance shared bilateral objectives. As well, partnerships with pathfinders will advance our goals in the regions, or multilaterally on global issues and on the human security agenda.
- *Failed and fragile states:* These states need help and can become incubators of threats to Canada's security and well-being. Unfortunately, they are too numerous for Canada to provide major contributions in each case. Our focus, therefore, will reflect Canada's case-by-case assessment of where we can be of most use and where our interests and values are most engaged.
- *Regional (and sub-regional) approaches:* Diplomacy continues to rest primarily on state-to-state relations and multilateral negotiations, but regions and sub-regions are emerging as actors in their own right. Many of these are dynamic zones of economic growth where Canadian interests are high or increasing—for example, Northeast and Southeast Asia and parts of Latin America. Others, such as East Africa, South Asia, Central America and the Caribbean, are linked to us by a long history of trade, cultural and people-to-people ties. Still others, such as the Middle East, are critical regional "hotspots" where peace and security are vital for broader global stability. Canada recognizes the opportunities formal and informal regionalism offers. In practical terms, this will mean providing greater support to selected regional initiatives and organizations, where they possess a particular comparative advantage in addressing an issue.



In light of this prioritization, set out below are details on how our new diplomacy will be applied regionally, focusing on why each region (other than North America, dealt with separately) matters to Canada from a foreign policy perspective (specific issues related to trade and commerce, development and defence are