

Government Response to the Report of the Standing Committee of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

in Egypt as well as Governmental support for a Canadian presence in a cultural festival for impoverished youth.

RECOMMENDATION 14

The Government should ensure that Canadian development assistance to Egypt is concentrated in people-centred projects, working with independent NGOs wherever possible. Canada should also work with the private sector to advance responsible investment and trade that benefits both countries.

Canadian development assistance to Egypt is people-oriented and premised on "Canada to Egypt" support, meaning that the Government seeks and supports collaboration and partnerships with all types of civil society organizations, including NGOs and businesses, as well as governments at various levels in Egypt. The Government's overall programming goal is to support Egypt in its efforts to reduce poverty amongst the country's most marginalised people, in particular women and children and youth. This goal will be achieved through enhancing access by the poor to quality basic education and to employment through support to job creation by small and medium enterprises. To enhance the direct impact on the well-being of people, special attention is paid to human rights, gender equality, child protection, institutional capacity strengthening of NGOs and environmental sustainability.

In addition, the Government promotes investment in Egypt by Canadian firms, including through support for firms that create jobs in Egypt, transfer technology and introduce modern management techniques. Canada-sponsored projects also support corporate social responsibility and the needs of the environment, and address gender related barriers that women may face in the workplace. The Government also encourages investment through outreach and support to Canadian firms with an interest in the region.

The Government is encouraging the development of increased business ties with Egypt across many goods and services sectors that have demonstrated great potential for partnership. The Government publicizes such opportunities through the production of a bi-monthly Middle East e-newsletter that provides current information on business prospects and activities to over 1800 Canadian business contacts.

The Government is also working with the Canada-Arab Business Council to help generate greater private sector interest in the region. Another recent positive development includes the creation of a Canada-Egypt Business Council in Cairo with a membership of 200 people.