

home, they will also help us to ensure that Canada continues to make its special contribution to global governance and prosperity.

The positive reaction we have received since tabling the Statement confirms that the Government has accurately assessed and appropriately responded to what Canadians told us during the foreign policy review. This reinforces our commitment to continue to involve Canadians broadly in the foreign policy-making process.

We have already taken steps to provide a foundation for the new directions set out in the Statement, for example:

- within the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade [DFAIT], a new Bureau for Global Issues has been set up, reporting to an assistant deputy minister who is also responsible for international cultural relations.
- DFAIT and the Canadian International Development Agency [CIDA] have established a co-ordinating committee, chaired by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, which is looking into systematic policy co-ordination between the two organizations.
- to maintain the momentum of consultation begun during the foreign policy review, DFAIT has held meetings of senior officials and leading non-governmental representatives to shape the new permanent mechanism for foreign policy consultation, research and outreach.
- DFAIT and CIDA are also preparing for the next annual forum on Canada's international relations, to be held in Toronto in May.

The Statement sets out the purpose of Canadian Official Development Assistance [ODA] and, to achieve this purpose, six program priorities. In order to operationalize them, CIDA is now preparing an implementation plan.

The reductions in CIDA's budget announced in the 1995-96 Main Estimates will not affect the ODA commitments in the Statement, which were developed taking into account fiscal constraints.

Similarly, despite DFAIT's contribution to fiscal restraint, through careful reallocation, the Department will continue to be able carry out the priorities and programs identified in the Statement.

HALIFAX SUMMIT

I know the Committee is very interested in the question of reform of international institutions. This question will also be a central focus of the G-7 Summit in Halifax. As host and chair of this year's meeting, we are in a position to shape the agenda to discuss issues of