

The spectre of AIDS is of critical concern for all countries. Beyond the human tragedy is the heavy economic burden of treating the afflicted and of trying to prevent the disease from spreading. The loss of valuable human resources and the economic burden threatens to undermine seriously the recovery and development efforts in Africa. In 1987/88, Canada contributed \$Cdn 5 million toward the World Health Organization's Global Program on AIDS and will provide another \$Cdn 5 million in 1988/89. Canada also is cooperating with several countries in developing bilateral projects that will support the international effort. Canada's contribution aims to strengthen existing primary health care systems, improve health education and increase the safety of blood supplies. In francophone Africa, Canada is providing \$Cdn 22 million over 5 years to a regional program to support national AIDS control programs. Similar support activities will soon commence in anglophone Africa.

African governments have recognized their responsibility to shape the destiny of their continent. Already many have mobilized domestic resources to implement the policy reforms needed for recovery. Canada's support for Africa's development rests upon our conviction that the international community must assist in a long-term and substantial way. Increased concessional resource flows and further debt relief are still needed to make it possible to implement policy reforms. The quick and full implementation of the measures already in place is an urgent priority. In the near term, the international community should work towards the finalisation of the framework of comparability at the Paris Club and the speedy and generous completion of negotiations for the ninth replenishment of the International Development Association, as well as the third replenishment of the International Fund for Agricultural Development. But further innovative measures will still need to be developed. Without the full support of industrialised countries, Africa's reforms, however extensive, may not be enough to ensure the fundamental restructuring that will launch the continent on the path of sustained development.

The Mid-Term Review is an opportunity to assess progress, to redirect efforts where necessary and to renew commitments to continue the cooperative efforts of African governments and the international community to overcome Africa's problems and to restore prospects for a brighter future. For our part, Canada will stay the course with Africa on its journey to recovery and development.