

Principles of coordination

In order to define in general terms the roles and responsibilities of the various elements of Government concerned with the formulation and implementation of national policies with external aspects or applications, the ICER has developed the following guiding principles:

1. The development of any national policy with external contents or implications should reflect the combined judgment of the departments at the official level, and ministers at Cabinet level, concerned with the relevant functional matters on the one hand and those concerned with the external aspects and applications on the other.
2. It should be the responsibility of originating departments to see that their policy proposals are referred for consideration by and consultation with other agencies pursuant to 1 above.
3. The Secretary of State for External Affairs and his department, as part of their responsibility for the conduct of Canada's external relations, shall be responsible for ensuring coordination with respect to external aspects and applications of national policy.
4. The Department of External Affairs shall maintain, in consultation with other departments, a continuing overview of Canada's foreign policy for the purpose of identifying any problem areas or deficiencies, as well as opportunities for forward planning.
5. Pursuant to 1 above, all foreign operations programs should be developed on the basis of coordinated policy planning and carried out after consultation between the Department of External Affairs (with respect to trade matters, the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce) and the other departments concerned.
6. The Treasury Board should ensure that departments planning activities at home or abroad affecting foreign operations have followed the procedures in Propositions 1 and 5 above before making a submission to the Board for the allocation of resources for programs involving foreign operations.
7. It must be the responsibility of Privy Council Office to ensure that policy proposals which have not been subjected to the evaluative process set out in 1 above do not get submitted to Cabinet until this has been done.