

# THE CANADIAN APPROACH

we must therefore elevate another priority to guide our international policy. Canada is a vibrant liberal democracy, with both regional and global responsibilities, whose success is intimately tied to a stable international order.

Effective multilateral governance is essential for Canadian security and prosperity. Multilateral action is in turn dependent on states accepting their responsibility to both their citizens and to other countries. Our support for these three core priorities—prosperity, security and responsibility—reflects the fact that they are closely related and mutually reinforcing. Canada's future depends on our skill in pursuing all three together.

We should not be daunted by this task. Our experiences inside our borders, within North America and as part of the global community have given us the expertise necessary for devising effective solutions to the new problems confronting our interconnected world. We understand the demands of good governance and the intricacies involved in accommodating power. While we can speak the language of toleration and negotiation, we are also prepared to stand up for our principles—

especially when they are under siege abroad. Now is the time to mobilize our assets, and our reputation, in the service of a new global role that will serve our national interests and contribute to a safer and fairer world.

*How will we know if we've made a difference?* Given the global nature of so many 21st century challenges, Canada will rarely act alone. This reality makes the task of measuring our impact more challenging, but it has not prevented us from playing a distinctive role, in areas as diverse as Afghanistan, Haiti or Ukraine. Our old middle power identity imposes an unnecessary ceiling on what we can do and be in the world. Canada *can* make a difference, if it continues to invest in its international role and pulls its weight. We will know we have done so if there is demand for Canadian ideas and expertise, if Canadian priorities have pride of place on the international agenda, if the institutions we are part of deliver solutions efficiently and equitably, if our efforts to catalyze induce others to follow, and if the partners we support achieve their aspirations. Future generations will use these tests to determine whether Canada's global potential has been fulfilled. The responsibility to act now is ours.