

massaged accordingly to fit specific countries. The outlined elements will be relevant to some regions and not others. Geographic bureaus should assess which elements should be promoted as priorities given their regional contexts.

This Framework assumes that although consolidation is the final objective of a democratic process, Canada's role is to assist countries to develop the key mechanisms of democracy and sound foundations for democratic consolidation.

## **1. Introduction**

Democratization is a dynamic process. It develops in multiple forms and with varying speeds across a range of phases and contexts. As democracies around the world evolve, Canada is being called upon to assist new democracies into consolidation.

It is in Canada's interest to pursue a high profile foreign policy on promoting democracy, for two reasons. First, in *Canada and the World*, the Government outlines its principled commitment to supporting democracy the world over in coming years, and in so doing, work towards global security. Second, in assisting young democracies to consolidate democratic structures and institutions, Canada strengthens its relations with diplomatic and trade relations with allies throughout the world.

Canada's relations with the developing world demand that Canada is regularly called upon to assist countries in consolidating democracy. Canada's response has primarily been through development assistance in the following areas: electoral assistance, institutional strengthening, legal reform, police training and strengthening of civil society. Yet even with significant domestic reforms and the aid of donor countries, many new democracies continue to experience challenges from within.

This Democracy Framework acts as an instrument to assist Canada in establishing priorities for new democracies to overcome some of these challenges. DFAIT cannot affect normative change within a country-- but it can offer a relatively neutral set of criteria for both enabling a democratic transition and the successful consolidation of democracy.

The Framework is divided into three parts. Part One presents a definition of democracy for Canadian foreign policy. Part Two examines the elements necessary for a Canadian foreign policy to promote democracy. Part Three concludes with the Canadian instruments for action.

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