

Looking Ahead

"In the face of a panoply of challenges, and a range of possible responses, the Government of Canada will seek to make a difference in three main areas: countering global terrorism, stabilizing failed and fragile states, and combatting the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction."

—Canada's International Policy Statement: A Role of Pride and Influence in the World, April 2005.

Canada's Commitment

The possibility of weapons and materials of mass destruction being used by terrorists, including against targets in Canada, prompted the Government of Canada to develop a Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Strategy. Announced on March 31, 2005, by the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, the CBRN Strategy aims to protect Canadians by taking all possible measures to prevent, mitigate and respond effectively to a CBRN terrorist incident in this country. The strategy provides a comprehensive framework for directing current activities, as well as future plans, policies and funding initiatives.

Canada's Global Partnership Program, which is identified as an element of Canada's CBRN Strategy, contributes to the Government's commitments to:

- continue to support the global effort to combat terrorism through coherent and consistent international action based on agreed-upon standards and practices; and
- work with the international community to improve security for the storage and movement of CBRN weapons capable materials as well as the safe destruction of CBRN weapons.

Canada released a new foreign policy statement in April 2005, which also reaffirmed the Government's commitment to the goals of the *Global Partnership* and cooperative threat reduction. Within this statement, the need to act multilaterally and with flexibility, in order to advance the international agenda, was highlighted and reinforced.

It is clear from these two recent government statements that Canada intends to continue to adapt and use as many strategies and mechanisms as are practical and necessary, in order to respond to the challenges and threats posed by WMD worldwide.

"Foreign Affairs [DFAIT] will seek to expand its contribution to the G8's Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction to include other countries willing to support the Partnership's goals."

—Canada's International Policy Statement:
A Role of Pride and Influence in the World,
April 2005.

The new multilateralism

"Modern sovereignty encompasses responsibilities to the international community as well as to one's own citizens ... areas where Canada intends to push forward the international agenda for action [include]: the 'Responsibility to Deny', to prevent terrorists and irresponsible governments from acquiring weapons of mass destruction that could destroy millions of innocent people."

—Canada's International Policy Statement: A Role of Pride and Influence in the World,
Foreword by Prime Minister Paul Martin, April 2005.