

This helps Canada to better target its assistance to those countries that need it most.

The Commonwealth is a forum in which Canada can contribute to the promotion of fundamental values such as democracy, respect for human rights, women's equality and peace.

The Government of Canada invests approximately \$40 million each year in Commonwealth programs.

The Government of Canada offers scholarships, as part of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan, to students from Commonwealth countries to allow them to pursue advanced programs in Canada. Other governments offer similar scholarships to Canadian students.

Declaration of Commonwealth principles

The Commonwealth has no constitution but it does have formal principles. These principles were adopted by Heads of Government when they met in Singapore in 1971 and were unanimously reaffirmed at their last meeting in Harare. The Declaration of Commonwealth Principles sets out four fundamentals:

- the pursuit of international peace and order through the United Nations;
- the promotion of representative institutions and guarantees for personal freedom under the law;
- the recognition of racial equality and the need to combat racial discrimination and racial oppression; and
- dedication to lessening the disparities of wealth existing between different sections of humanity.

The Commonwealth of tomorrow

The world has changed dramatically since 1971. At their Harare meeting, the Heads of Government recognized that the Commonwealth must

adapt to these new realities and agree on more specific objectives and strategies.

In the Harare Declaration, the Heads of Government declared that, "having reaffirmed the principles to which the Commonwealth is committed, and reviewed the problems and challenges which the world, and the Commonwealth as part of it, face, we pledge the Commonwealth and our countries to work with renewed vigour ... to overcome the challenges of the 1990s and beyond."

The Heads of Government agreed that priority should be given to the following areas:

- "the protection and promotion of the fundamental political values of the Commonwealth," such as the democratic process, fundamental human rights, women's equality, access to education and the establishment of a free, democratic, non-racial and prosperous South Africa;
- the promotion of sustainable development and the protection of the environment;
- action to combat drug trafficking and abuse, and the spread of diseases such as AIDS;
- alleviation of poverty through a stable international economy, the freest possible flow of international trade, adequate transfers of financial resources, technical expertise and modern technologies from the rich to the poor member countries of the Commonwealth; and
- increased support for the United Nations and other international institutions in their search for peace, disarmament and effective arms control.

With regard to the promotion of democracy, the Heads of Government stressed that the Commonwealth should strive to strengthen democratic institutions in its member countries, most notably by mounting electoral-observer missions when requested. Such has been the case most recently with Kenya, the Seychelles, Lesotho, Guyana and Mozambique.