countries are to become richer and develop. All indices of human development include per capita GDP as a major component, underlining the importance of economic growth in any development strategy.[57]

Canada has a generous historical record of providing international assistance to developing countries and, more recently, to the economies in transition in eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Still, for most developing countries, such assistance from the members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) makes at best a modest contribution to improving per capita living standards. In 1990-91, total development assistance from the OECD area accounted for less than one percent of gross national product (GNP) throughout most of the developing world. Even in the poorest region, sub-Saharan Africa, net international assistance transfers from OECD members only accounted for 10.8% of the region's GNP, despite receiving over one-third of total bilateral and multilateral disbursements from OECD members.[58]

Decreasing OECD trade barriers against developing country exports would be more beneficial, surpassing the amount of international assistance currently given, and offering indebted countries a means to reduce external debt obligations. The World Bank estimates that if OECD tariff and non-tarriff barrier (NTB) restrictions

[57]Generally, social indicators such as life expectancy and literacy rates which are commonly used to measure the degree of development, tend to be highly correlated with economic growth. In fact, the Overseas Development Council's Physical Quality of Life Index (PQLI) was found to be statistically redundant in a ranking of 150 countries, since the PQLI ranking was approximately equal to the ranking based on per capita GNP. See D.A. Larson and W.T. Wilford, "The Physical Quality of Life Index: A Useful Social Indicator?" *World Development*, Vol. 7, No. 6 (June 1979), 581-84, cited in Panayiotis Afxentiou, "Basic Needs: A Survey of the Literature," *Canadian Journal of Development Studies*, Vol. 11, No. 2 (1990), 241-57.

[58]Development Assistance Committee (DAC), *Development Co-operation, 1992 Report*, Paris, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, 1992, pp. A27-29. Net international development assistance includes concessional flows from OECD members and through member-financed multilateral orgainizations. Credits from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are more substantial. In the 1980-90 period, Fund credits averaged 1.8% of the recipient country's GDP and covered 29.3% of the current account deficit. Countries which completed IMF programs, however, received larger proportions of IMF financing. In these cases, Fund credits averaged 2.6% of GDP and 48.3% of the current account deficit. Although Fund programs are largely designed to offer temporary balance of payments relief, in practice many countries, particularly those in sub-Saharan Africa, have become dependent on this financing. See Tony Killick, et. al., "What Can We Know About the Effects of IMF Programs," *The World Economy*, Vol. 15, No. 5 (September 1992).