

has excellent training facilities within universities and at a number of scientific field stations. Canada could open these facilities for training purposes and thus contribute to the overall training of future Antarctic scientists. At the same time it would contribute to competence-building in the developing world as part of the development assistance program.

There are roughly 200 countries in the world, and about 40 of these have acceded to the Antarctic Treaty. In other words, one in five countries belong to the AT System. On the African continent there are approximately 50 countries, and only one (South Africa) has ratified the AT. The anomaly—mainly a legacy of past racial policies in South Africa—is startling. Are there bridges to be built between the AT and countries previously alienated from the Treaty? If so, Canada can play a constructive role among the large number of African francophone countries.¹³ Canada is currently preoccupied with internal conflicts between various groups, and it would offer some perspective to consider what a bilingual and bipolar Canada could contribute to our knowledge of the polar regions and to our ability to manage these areas effectively.

At first glance, these questions may seem to be far removed from the field of science, but in Antarctica science plays a very significant role in all aspects of development. Participation in scientific activities is a means of gaining knowledge and influencing developments. Task 7 will initiate some useful discussions about these issues among Canadian stakeholders, but the Department of Foreign Affairs must articulate the vision of Canada as a polar country.

¹³ Perhaps, we may one day see a student from Chad, enrolled in a Ph.D. program at Laval University, doing her thesis on a project in the Dry Valleys of Antarctica!