

bluntly applied, can itself erode the roots of democracy and human rights. Structural adjustment is necessary if societies are to develop seriously and if they are to grow without destructive inflation. But our financial institutions should act in partnership with developing countries to ensure that structural adjustment preserves the social foundations for future growth.

Eighth, we must recognize the crucial importance of partnership in building democracy and strengthening human rights. Just as democracies do not work if they are imposed, so too democracy is only maintained if all elements of society are involved. Equally, governments do not have all the answers. Resources, expertise and experience are present throughout society and should be drawn on.

Partnerships within societies can be encouraged by partners abroad.

That is why the Canadian government established the independent International Centre for Democratic Development and Human Rights in Montreal.

That is also why we emphasize democracy and human rights in regional organizations of which we are a part. Last June, we proposed a Unit for Democratic Development within the Organization of American States to provide expertise and assistance to countries which are on the democratic path. That proposal was accepted. Through the Commonwealth High Level Appraisal Group we are working to establish a similar capacity within the Commonwealth Secretariat. We are exploring similar ideas for La Francophonie and are encouraging the Group of Experts on Judicial and Judiciary Co-operation to take an active role in promoting both human rights and democratic development.

Those regional units can provide a wide range of potential assistance and support including:

- facilitating the exchange of information and expertise;
- developing an inventory of experts on democratic systems and institutions;
- developing regional standards and procedures for elections;
- organizing electoral observer missions;
- co-operating with other regional and multilateral organizations; and
- fostering dialogue within those regions on democratic principles and values.