

and International Trade issued a report entitled *For Whose Benefit* on Canada's development co-operation program. In its response, the government reiterated that human rights continue to constitute a fundamental part of Canadian foreign policy. This commitment was reconfirmed in November when the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Minister for External Relations announced the government's intention to establish a Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development.

The rights of aboriginal peoples have also gained increasing recognition as a significant human rights issue. Within the UN system, Canada is working on a draft declaration on indigenous rights and on revisions to the Indigenous and Tribal Populations Convention of the International Labour Organization. The Department consults with aboriginal peoples on these and other issues and seeks to ensure that Canadian positions are consistent with Canada's international human rights policies.

Global equality issues

Canada continued to build on the increasing awareness and progress made in status of women's issues at the international level. The Department's initiatives for 1987/88 were related to global equality and to women in development, and they made an important contribution to the government's work plan for women. Another initiative was to strengthen the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in accordance with the decisions and recommendations of the special session of the Commission, which was held in January 1987. Canada played a key part in obtaining reform of the agenda, the annualization of meetings, and improvement of links between the CSW and other parts of the UN system. Follow-up actions were taken at the Economic and Social Council sessions and at the General Assembly. In addition, Canada participated at the second meeting of the Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers held in Harare, Zimbabwe, in August 1987. The meeting adopted a Plan of Action for Women in Development and dealt with the impact of structural adjustment policies on women.

Commission on the Status of Women

The Commission met in Vienna in March 1988 to review the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women (FLS). The session, which Canada chaired, was the first opportunity to review the major reforms approved at the 1987 Special Session. Working closely with other countries, Canada was able to reinforce the central position of the CSW within the UN system. The Commission adopted by consensus a number of important resolutions dealing with (a) system-wide co-ordination of activities to advance the status of women and integrate women in development; (b) establishment of national machinery for the advancement of women; (c) convening in 1990 of a session of extended duration to appraise progress in the implementation of the FLS; (d) improvement of the status of women in the UN Secretariat; and (e) establishment of a comprehensive reporting system to monitor, review and appraise the implementation of the FLS. The Commission also recommended that the membership of the CSW be enlarged from 32 to 43 countries. These and related issues are to be pursued at future meetings of the ECOSOC and the UN General Assembly.

Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women

During the past year, the Department continued to work towards the full integration of the FLS into the planning, programming and budgeting systems of the UN and its specialized agencies. Canada also worked for the establishment of a more direct link between the work program of the CSW and measures outlined in the FLS. Finally, Canada facilitated a more effective integration of women in UN economic and development programs by proposing a series of wide-ranging resolutions. Canadian delegations were instructed to pay special attention to these issues at UNCTAD VII, and in the preparations for the mid-term review of the UN Program of Action for African Economic Recovery. The priority accorded to women in development is well reflected in Canada's ODA policies and CIDA programs. Canada is the second largest donor to the United Nations Development Fund for Women and also supports the promotion of status of women through intergovernmental bodies such as OECD, the Commonwealth Secretariat, and the Development Assistance Committee. In addition, Canadian delegations participating at meetings of specialized agencies such as the ILO, WHO, FAO, UNESCO and the UN regional commissions for Europe, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean have focused on the inclusion of the FLS in their programs.

Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women

Although 94 states are parties to this important human rights instrument, Canada continues to be concerned that many states have ratified the Convention with significant reservations. Canada was successful in obtaining the inclusion at the fourth meeting of States Parties to the Convention, held in New York in March 1988, of a general exchange of views on reservations. Canada has also promoted better linkages between the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Commission on the Status of Women, in relation to the Commission's task of monitoring and appraising the implementation of the FLS.

Drug control

The problems caused by drug abuse and illicit trafficking continue to be alarming. There is increasing recognition that drug trafficking and the accompanying abuse of drugs are matters of transnational importance and that effective control requires international co-operation. For this reason, Canada has encouraged the United Nations to play a leading co-ordination role. The Department has also been active in the worldwide campaign against the drug menace. Canada was re-elected to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for another four-year term (1987-90).

The International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking held in Vienna in June 1987 was the centrepiece of the UN's drug activities in the past year. The Canadian Delegation was led by the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Jake Epp, who is also the minister responsible for the National Drug Strategy. The delegation included representatives of provinces and non-governmental organizations as well as officials of federal departments. Canada was active at the Conference, especially in drafting the final