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becoming important trading partners for Canada. Yet, even in these countries, large numbers have not shared in this progress and continue to live in poverty. Considerable challenges also remain in such areas as human rights and the environment. Other developing countries, especially in Africa, have seen the hard-won gains of previous decades slip away. And, increasingly, developing countries, like all others, find their future being shaped by global trends and issues, which can only be addressed successfully through international cooperation.

Given this complexity, an effective program of development cooperation - one that promotes sustainable development - must address environmental, economic, political and social issues in an integrated way, and must take cultural realities into account.

Development must be flexible, to allow Canada to work in a number of crucial areas with the most appropriate mix of policies and programs. It must also be targeted to those issues that have the most impact on development and where we can match our strengths to developing country needs.

A sound development program must be people-centred, with a focus on human development - on building capacity, which means helping women, men and children in developing countries, their communities and institutions, to acquire the skills and resources needed to sustain their own social and economic progress. An emphasis on poverty is vital - one that recognizes that there is no single approach to poverty reduction and that our efforts to help the poor must rely on an array of programs and policies working together in an integrated fashion. Finally, an effective development program must involve activities at the local, institutional and policy levels and must be built on a wide range of partnerships, at home and abroad, to bring together the best possible combination of expertise and skills. Canadian partners include NGOs, the private sector, universities and colleges, youth, professional organizations and federal, provincial and municipal governments, all of whom have long played a key role in Canada's development program. Canada also works with a number of international organizations and institutions and, most importantly, with the people and institutions of the developing world.

Canada's ODA policies should also work together with other aspects of our broader foreign and domestic policies to forge a consistent approach to developing countries and to contribute to common goals. The broader global context must also be considered. It is clear that development assistance is just one part of a larger effort - one that involves the resources of developing countries themselves and other factors, such as international trade and investment.