

## **Good Governance -- Responsible and Accountable Public Administration**

The third component of good governance centres on how a government administration operates and what priorities it sets for itself. This principle cannot be cast in absolutes, but some fundamental characteristics are clearly evident:

- honest government: measures against corruption, open and reliable public accounts;
- recognition of the limits of government actions: in the economic sphere, a free rather than controlled economy;
- sound economic management, including an appropriate level of defence spending, responsible fiscal and monetary policies;
- positive social policies that give priority to:
  - alleviation of poverty,
  - recognition and involvement of women,
  - protection and care of children, and
  - health and education; and
- responsible international conduct: for example, non-proliferation of weapons.

Fine ideas, you may say. But how do we -- one country among many -- bring about this revolution in policy and practice? We cannot bring it about by ourselves, but we can lead, and we can lend support to a growing movement of those who seek and work for change.

That is why speaking out, spelling out expectations as we did in Eastern Europe, can be helpful -- especially if it is clear that we expect no less of others, in the long run, than we aim for ourselves.

We recognize, as we deal with these same issues domestically, that we must remain constantly vigilant to keep our own principles and priorities on track. We seek no double standard for ourselves.

### **Encourage and Support Change**

We have set up several new instruments in recent years to foster and support the positive change I have outlined, including the establishment by Parliament of the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development.

The link between democracy and development has led to creative partnerships between External Affairs and International Trade Canada and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA),