

A ROLE OF PRIDE AND INFLUENCE IN THE WORLD

The Government of Canada tabled in Parliament on April 19 the *International Policy Statement (IPS)*, Canada's first comprehensive framework in a decade on the country's role in the world. Subtitled *A Role of Pride and Influence in the World*, the Statement presents a vision of an internationally active Canada anchored in North America, equipped to promote Canadian interests and values in a rapidly changing and less predictable world.

International policy at a crossroads

The world is smaller and more crowded than ever before. While sovereign states remain the fundamental building

blocks of international society, they now share the landscape with a host of other actors. Globalization has connected people and places in ways that were previously unimaginable, and has blurred the lines around national economies. In the process, it has generated unprecedented levels of wealth. Yet many have been left behind and unexpected threats have emerged. Canadians now understand that seemingly remote events can have direct, and sometimes dire, domestic consequences.

With a rich and open economy, and a skilled and adaptable population, Canada is well placed to gain from this worldwide transformation. But Canada can do more than benefit. It can also contribute. A series of positive developments, both at home and abroad, have coalesced to provide Canada with an unprecedented chance to make a difference in the world.

A historic opportunity

The IPS responds to the historic opportunity Canadians have today to reconceptualize and re-energize their international role. That opportunity can only be seized through a clear understanding of Canada's core national interests, and strategic reinvestments in the country's military, diplomacy, commercial policy and development programs. Recent years have witnessed a relative decline in the attention Canada has paid to its international instruments, and reinvestment is critical in order to maintain influence in a more competitive world. Through more focused, integrated and strategically

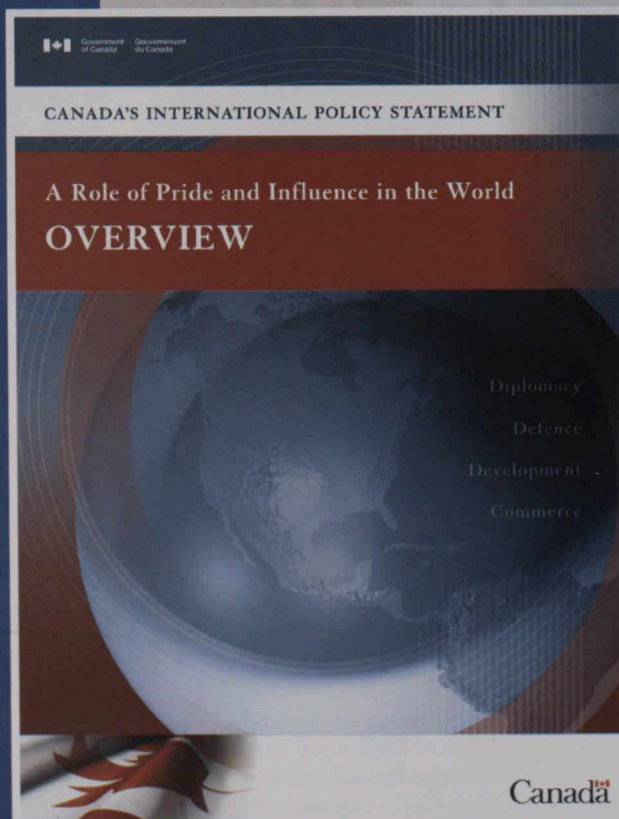
resourced policies, Canada can honour its historical achievements in international affairs and help create greater security and prosperity in the 21st century. The success of this strategy will depend on Canada's continued resolve and capacity to forge new partnerships with other states and non-state actors.

The IPS establishes the principles and priorities that will guide the next generation of Canadian international engagement. It starts from two basic premises: first, that there can be no greater role, no more important obligation for a government, than the protection and safety of its citizens; and second, that unless states act collectively, acknowledging their shared vulnerability, the rich will become richer and the poor will become poorer—and everyone will be less secure.

The strategy that emerges from the Statement reflects what Canada is—a successful liberal democracy, with both a regional destiny and international responsibilities. It adapts to the key changes in the world context: new and more deadly security threats, a changed distribution of power, challenges to existing international institutions, and the transformation of the global economy.

A new approach

The Statement includes an overview and four documents focused on diplomacy, development, defence and international commerce strategies. They outline how Canada will deliver on five key priorities: revitalizing Canada's North American partnership,



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