

2.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DFAIT and CIDA are the two bodies that assume the strategies and policies development role. DFAIT is a Department with two Ministers, one responsible for Foreign Affairs and the second responsible for international Trade. CIDA is an agency that reports to the Minister of International Cooperation. Thus, in terms of foreign policy, there are three ministers involved.

The policies undertaken by either CIDA or DFAIT, flow from the *Canada in the World* document, the government's foreign policy statement. It began as a promise in the Liberal Party's *Red Book* and was later published following a major round of public consultations.

Through analysis, review of various media, both primary and secondary sources the required statistical, quantitative and qualitative research was conducted. CAABWA also engaged its broad-based membership, both local in Canada and continental in Africa. Through personal interviews, surveys and discussion, significant input was gained.

Between DFAIT and CIDA there are a number of policies, strategies, plans and initiatives. (Initiatives are also undertaken independently by the non-profit and business sectors.). There is however, evidence of little policy coordination within the government in relation to Africa. To a large extent, CIDA is by default a primary policy driver of the agenda for action in Africa within the Canadian government. CIDA's policy role vis-à-vis Africa can be partly explained through its international development and ODA focus, where Africa's social and economic conditions, make her a continent primed for such programs.

Finally, there is no single source of information or repository of policies and strategies relating to Africa. The research component of this paper required speaking to both CIDA and DFAIT individually, as well as liaising with several staff in each section of government. Most staff had knowledge limited to their area and had difficulty providing comprehensive information for the countries of Africa they are responsible for.

Gender mainstreaming in Canada's foreign and trade policies is critical to fast track Africa's capacity for international business and Canadian businesses' interest and capacity to do business with Africa.

The significance of African women in ensuring the economic participation of Africa in the global market needs to be recognized and understood. It presents the base for policy development, precisely because Africa is embarking on a new partnership with G8 countries and Canada is once again taking the lead in ensuring that the G8 countries respond effectively to the NEPAD initiative.

CAABWA makes recommendations on the focus of Canadian policies that will further the social development of African women, enhance their benefits from the trade and investment activities, and as a result will profit all African communities, in alignment with the G8 Summit 2002 priorities.