

Some Dialogue participants, concerned that Canada's overall international role be strengthened, warn that substantially greater capacities and resources are needed to advance Canadian values and interests, and to sustain credible bilateral and multilateral partnerships. Since the cumulative effects of earlier budget cutbacks have yet to be rectified, it is argued that Canadian foreign policy cannot succeed in its aims without substantial reinvestment in diplomacy, defence and development assistance. Responses observe that DFAIT itself should be bolstered in its resources and its policy development capacities, as well as in its missions abroad.

Many participants also encourage the Government to pursue improved policy coherence among the many departments and agencies that support Canada's affairs abroad. Objects of particular attention here are relations between DFAIT, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Department of National Defence (DND); more coherence is also urged among policies on international trade, development assistance, environment, and sustainable development. The importance of cultivating domestic partnerships with other levels of government and with civil-society organizations is also stressed. Provincial and territorial contributions emphasize the need for cooperative federalism mechanisms in developing effective international strategies. More coordination of these multiple instruments and actors is seen as integral to strengthening Canada's ability to speak with a unified voice and carry weight internationally.

Finally, Canadians emphasize that they expect leadership from the Government in defining clear policies



Photo: CP (Osama Honda)

and in ensuring adequate capacities and coordination to support these policies. Several governmental initiatives are currently under way to improve coherence across federal departments for all aspects of Canada's international affairs. Reviews of resources and allocations within DFAIT are also ongoing.

Over the next months, the advice that citizens have given will inform the development of long-term foreign policy directions for Canada in the years ahead. The volume and variety of the contributions testify to the engagement of Canadians in international affairs, and to the strength of our democracy. Participants in the Dialogue have done much to help guide a secure and prosperous course for Canada and the world.