

# STRENGTHENING CANADA'S OVERSEAS NETWORKS

with regional “pathfinders” such as South Africa, Foreign Affairs will pursue a new, more flexible and effective multilateralism with Africans to achieve common goals.

Canada takes very seriously its responsibility to prevent and deal with the consequences of the humanitarian catastrophes that have bedevilled the African continent. From Congo (in the early 1960s) to Ethiopia and Eritrea (2000-2002), many of the largest Canadian deployments of peacekeepers have taken place in sub-Saharan Africa. Canada continues to lead efforts on the Responsibility to Protect initiative at the UN, aiming to provide higher standards and clear guidelines for international interventions on humanitarian grounds—an important issue for Africa. In the G8 context, Canada supports increasing the capacity of regional organizations, such as the African Union (AU), to conduct peace support operations. In this connection, we have committed \$20 million to support the efforts of the AU in Darfur. The new Global Peace and Security Fund will enable

Foreign Affairs to play a stronger, more effective role in leading the civilian response to conflict.

With regard to the recent elections in Zimbabwe, Canada—like a great number of other countries—considers that these were not held in an environment conducive to a free and fair expression of the will of Zimbabweans. In spite of some improvements, the results were tainted by a climate of fear and intimidation, fuelled by widespread human rights violations. Across the region, Canada will continue to advocate democratic reform, supported by the \$500 million Canada Fund for Africa. In so doing, Canada will work with key countries such as South Africa—which alone comprises 40 percent of sub-Saharan Africa’s GDP—to help us better achieve our common goals in the region. As well, the Canada Corps will enable Canadians to take an active part in helping to strengthen governance and the protection of human rights in Africa.