
Objective

The Global Issues Bureau has developed a Canadian foreign policy Framework for Promoting Democracy. The objective of the Framework is to assist foreign policy-makers with an understanding of the range of elements necessary for consolidating democracy abroad. Furthermore, the Framework indicates Canada's foreign policy tools for Promoting Democracy and points to meaningful interventions for assisting democratizing countries with the process of political transformation.

CIDA has its own Policy on "Human Rights, Democratization and Good Governance" which examines democracy from a development perspective. For specificity in program design, CIDA separates the concept of democratic development into its three distinct parts: human rights, democracy and good governance. This paper does not make the above distinction. Instead it re-groups these elements under one coherent goals: the promotion of democracy. CIDA prioritizes civil society as an essential component in the planning of developmental activities. The Global Issues Bureau compliments this policy by emphasizing institutional strengthening (among other elements) as the central thrust of promoting democracy abroad, as institutions allow for the structural continuity of democratic reform.

Implicit in the Framework is the recognition that democratization will be a major global issue into the year 2000. As states-- indeed regions-- undergo political and economic transformation, democracy will increasingly become a standard requirement for legitimate inter-state relations. Canada should position itself accordingly, by choosing strategic issues and regions in which to lead on democratization. Canadian democratic values continue to carry moral authority in the global community. Canadian policy-makers must use this comparative advantage to serve the national interest, as laid out in *Canada in the World*.

The Framework defines democracy through four necessary but not sufficient elements: transparency, accountability, institutionality and rule of law. Transparency opens up the decision-making process to public scrutiny. Accountability demands checks on the system to ensure that government representatives and officials are ultimately accountable to the public. In so doing, corruption and the insulation of politicians and public servants are dramatically reduced. Institutionality describes a legitimate institutional framework which allows governments to carry out their requisite functions in a democracy. This may be contingent upon the ability of democratic governments to raise revenue for a professional civil service. Rule of Law must be respected within government and civil society in a well-functioning democracy. The law must be applied equally in a non-arbitrary fashion and be seen as an accurate reflection of a social consensus. In sum, the above elements of democracy legitimate the political and economic institutions of a state.

Although the Framework has a global reach, its utility lies in its applicability to both bilateral initiatives and multilateral contexts. Its intention is to be plugged into different regions and
