

# GLOBAL ISSUES: PROMOTING A NEW MULTILATERALISM

persons. In some important areas, new international law or norms are needed to address changing conditions and rising expectations for the treatment of people. Major gaps exist, especially in areas of security, such as humanitarian intervention. Regional organizations have grown in importance recently, but many lack the capacity to deliver development and security. Much work is needed to sort out mandates and to ensure that multilateral institutions work better on their own and in cooperation with one another. New institutions, formal or informal, and reform of the mandate of existing bodies may be necessary.

As noted above, to meet these needs across the multilateral system, the Prime Minister has identified five areas where Canada intends to advance the international agenda:

- first, the “Responsibility to Protect,” to hold governments accountable for how they treat their people, and to intervene if necessary to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe;
- second, the “Responsibility to Deny,” to prevent terrorists and irresponsible governments from acquiring weapons of mass destruction that could destroy millions of innocent people;
- third, the “Responsibility to Respect,” to build lives of freedom for all people, based on the fundamental human rights of every man, woman and child on earth;
- fourth, the “Responsibility to Build,” to make sure our economic assistance programs provide the tools that ordinary people really need to get on with their own development; and
- fifth, the “Responsibility to the Future,” to ensure sustainable development for future generations through better management of global public goods.

Renewal of the multilateral system is a vast project that engages not just states and multilateral institutions but also international networks of citizens. Through innovative partnerships, Canada should be at the forefront of reform, acting as a pathfinder in developing flexible answers to the multilateral challenges we face, and building consensus on the way forward. Foreign Affairs’ multilateral diplomacy will reflect this ambition.

## Specific Initiatives

- support UN reform, especially in areas identified by our Responsibilities Agenda. A strong foundation for reform is contained in recent reports from the UN High Level Panel and UN Secretary-General. Foreign Affairs will pursue a strategy aimed at building international support for the practical, achievable recommendations they contain;
- devote particular attention to the G8, our most influential membership, as it increasingly becomes a key international driver in advancing development and security issues, and as it focuses on dialogue with other countries and regions, including China, India, Brazil, Africa and the broader Middle East;
- building on the G20 Finance Ministers’ group, promote a meeting at the level of leaders, an L20, to ensure that emerging issues and issues not dealt with elsewhere in a single forum receive high-level political attention; we will work to build support for this new initiative, recognizing that this may take time;
- give greater support to UN agencies that are both key to our interests and can be effective. For example, promote the upgrade of the UN Environment Programme so that it can better coordinate international action on sustainable development;
- help build the capacity of regional organizations such as the African Union to address conflict in their neighbourhoods (e.g. in Sudan). As the UN’s recent reports recommend, standing arrangements between the UN and regional security organizations could make for faster and more effective action in humanitarian crises; and
- utilize our diverse memberships in other global and regional organizations such as the Commonwealth, the Organization of American States (OAS), the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum and la Francophonie to create networks in support of our objectives, especially in the area of human rights, democracy and respect for diversity. The hosting of the 12th Summit of la Francophonie in