

3.4 Commitment to democratic development/human rights/stable security (4 indicators)

This cluster assesses a government's protection of civil liberties and political rights, commitment to nuclear non-proliferation, and the role of the military in the society.

The values of authoritarian and totalitarian régimes are antithetical to Canadian values. Democratic reform and institutions are an important condition of sustainable development. The intention of this section, therefore, is to reward good performers and screen out bad performers. It is not intended to identify countries which should receive bilateral assistance in spite (or because!) of poor performance (e.g., as a form of "constructive engagement").¹⁸

The assessment of political rights (e.g., free and fair elections, competitive parties, self-determination for minority groups) and civil liberties (e.g., freedoms of expression, assembly, demonstration, religion and association) is taken from an annual publication of the respected non-governmental agency, Freedom House, entitled Freedom in the World: The Annual Survey of Political Rights and Civil Liberties. Freedom House scores countries each year in each category from one (best performance) to seven (worst performance). For our purposes, we have converted the scores covering both civil liberties and political rights into a single index with a range from 2 (best performance) to zero (worst performance).

Adherence to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the size of the armed forces as a percentage of the population (when compared to the average of a specific region)¹⁹ have been used as proxies for a commitment to stable security régimes. The latter indicator also gives clues regarding the importance of the military in a society.

3.5 Canadian interests and values (8 indicators)

This cluster assesses a country's importance to Canada on the basis of: its poverty (LLDC or Low Income Country), status as an export market, host of significant Canadian foreign direct investment, NAFTA membership or potential

¹⁸ The Paper recognizes that civil liberties in a particular country can be undermined by non-governmental terror as much as by governmental actions. What can be said, however, is that situations of poor respect for political rights and civil liberties, especially when they are the result of conflict and bloodshed, are likely to affect bilateral development assistance negatively. For this reason, a list of governments involved in major armed conflict (annex table A16) is included for information purposes. To the degree that government funds are fungible, Canada and other donors who provide bilateral assistance to governments involved in military conflict are indirectly supporting that government's cause. Bilateral aid to these governments must be given "en toute connaissance de cause".

¹⁹ The military regions used were those defined by the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London.