

Building on the principles set out in the *Overview of Canada's International Policy Statement*, this paper charts a new course for a whole-of-Government approach to development cooperation.

Canadians, who come from every corner of the globe, understand that the life we enjoy in Canada depends increasingly on helping to make the world a better place. Our future is intertwined with that of people around the globe struggling to secure democracy and human rights, to build effective and accountable governance, to improve standards of living, and to sustainably manage their environment. Canadians cannot be safe in an unstable world, or healthy in a sick world; nor can we expect to remain prosperous in a poor world. Failure to achieve significant political, economic, social and environmental progress in the developing world will have an impact on Canada in terms of both our long-term security and our prosperity.

Security and development are inextricably linked. This was the foundation of the analysis of the UN Secretary-General's High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, whose December 2004 report in its executive summary noted:

Development has to be the first line of defence for a collective security system that takes prevention seriously. Combatting poverty will not only save millions of lives but also strengthen States' capacity to combat terrorism, organized crime and proliferation. Development makes everyone more secure.

While there is a moral imperative to respond to the humanitarian crises that erupt when states degenerate into conflict and chaos, Canadian interests are better served if these can be prevented. This preventative action can take many forms. One of these is long-term development assistance. This assistance helps build public institutions, civil society and accountable political culture, without which peace, security, and development cannot be sustained.

Development cooperation, however, ranges far beyond assistance. The UN Commission on the Private Sector and Development, in its report *Unleashing Entrepreneurship: Making Business Work for the Poor*, noted that while the primary responsibility for achieving growth and equitable

development lies with developing countries themselves, industrialized countries such as Canada have a responsibility not only to increase the flow of development aid, but also to help expand economic opportunities for developing countries.

Canadians can also have a significant impact on the prospects of developing countries through our policies and practices in areas such as trade, investment, debt relief, intellectual property and technology transfer. The Government's development-cooperation plans therefore include a coherent approach to non-aid policies that ensures that global poverty reduction is factored into decision making across government.

In order to regain a leadership role in development cooperation, Canada can build on its international experience in supporting development that is sustainable in economic, social and environmental terms. Other donor countries and agencies have recognized and built the concept of sustainable development into their policies and programs. Canada has many years of experience to bring to the table.

Canada's role in development cooperation cannot be defined exclusively on the basis of self-interest. The needs of our development partners, first and foremost in the poorest countries, must be our starting point. Further, the generosity of Canadians, expressed so tangibly in the outpouring of contributions from Canadian individuals, organizations, communities and businesses for tsunami disaster relief in the Indian Ocean region, is one aspect of the sense of global citizenship in the Canada of the 21st century. This sense of global citizenship is reflected not only through the human ties of Canada's many diaspora communities to their countries of origin, but also through Canadians' donations of time, expertise and resources to help people and countries in need.

This paper outlines a strategy for maximizing the contribution made by Canada and Canadians toward a world which is safer, healthier, more prosperous and more equitable; a world where development gains are sustainable; a world in which Africa takes its place among the other regions benefiting from globalization; a world in which today's development does not compromise tomorrow's environment; a world in which all girls and boys go to school and can look forward to a more healthy, productive and secure life.