

Sustainable Development

Questions

- 1. How should Canadians promote sustainable development in Asia-Pacific (aid, trade, private sector, new technologies etc.), and where.*
- 2. What should Canadians/Canada contribute/pay.*
- 3. Is there a minimum level of economic/industrial development needed before advancing sustainability.*
- 4. How can Canada best work with like-minded countries in promoting sustainable development.*

The discussion concerning sustainable development in Asia-Pacific centred around five observations about Canadian foreign policy in the region, and ten recommendations to enhance Canada's influence over issues related to sustainability.

Observations

1. Canadian engagement in Asia-Pacific is lower than in other regions in the international arena.
2. Promotion of NGO activity in some countries in Asia-Pacific can sometimes be perceived as undermining the authority of the domestic government.
3. Foreign policy can be used as a tool to respond to diverse issues in a context sensitive way.
4. There is a substantive link between good governance and local capabilities for sustainable development.
5. There are different levels of interest in and commitment to sustainable development in various countries of Asia-Pacific that correspond to different levels of economic development.

From the discussion emerged three recommendations/objectives to help guide Canadian foreign policy in the Asia-Pacific region.