

MAKING A DIFFERENCE GLOBALLY

defend the interests of our stakeholders. Through Doha, developed states stand to gain a more liberal trading regime while developing countries will get a fairer deal. Here, as in the security realm, national interests can be brought to converge with common interests. Reaffirming the key tenets of the Monterrey Consensus, Canada can also help developing countries make the adjustments necessary to benefit from the opportunities offered by free trade. Continued support, both through development assistance and technical capacity building, are necessary if all states are to participate as equal members in the global economy.

Promoting Sustainable Development

While global economic growth has produced many benefits, it has also had a devastating impact on many natural systems. For too long, the debate has been characterized as environmental sustainability versus economic prosperity. Today, there is a growing understanding that the most prosperous economies are also those that take the best care of their natural environment. Achieving prosperity without environmental sustainability only beggars the future for the spoils of the present. The world as a whole needs to adopt models of resource and energy-intensive development that do not jeopardize the planet's capacity to support life. Yet problems of the global commons are particularly intractable and little consensus exists on how to advance key issues. Effective collective action

has proven difficult. Canada will play a lead role in breaking the impasse through both national and international initiatives.

Since the collapse of northern cod stocks in the 1990s, the devastation produced by overfishing has become especially apparent to Canadians. Indeed, the Food and Agriculture Organization now estimates that 75% of the world's fish stocks are either under strain or recovering from depletion. Canada has taken a lead role in addressing this problem, particularly in the negotiations that led to the 1995 United Nations Agreement on Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, which came into force in 2001. But regional stocks remain threatened and Canada will continue to work with a network of like-minded countries to improve the sustainable management of fisheries resources around the world.

More broadly, new international environmental policies at home will provide a management framework that integrates domestic and international goals.

Strengthening domestic environmental organizations will also enhance Canadian expertise in developing green technologies. We have a niche role to play in designing innovative solutions to the technical problems plaguing sustainable development, particularly in the area of clean and renewable energy.

Internationally, Canada can set an example. As a first step, we will increase our efforts to mitigate the causes

PRIORITY FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

Pursue sustainable development through both domestic and international strategies

KEY INITIATIVES

- Design an action plan to implement our Kyoto commitments in a timely fashion
- Contribute to the reform of the United Nations Environmental Programme
- Support implementation of the 2002 Cartagena Agreement on improvements in international environmental governance
- Build on Canada's Oceans Action Plan and work internationally to close gaps in the management of oceans resources
- Launch a reform process for international fisheries governance at the May 2005 Conference on High Seas Fisheries and the UN Fish Agreement