
VI. INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

The Government had indicated that it would review International Assistance in the context of its broader foreign policy review. The purposes of the program and the manner of its delivery have been reassessed to ensure that it serves clear and identifiable national objectives, and that, in an era of increasing fiscal constraints, the scarce resources dedicated to it are managed with maximum efficiency. This determination is in line with that expressed by Canadians.

As the earlier sections of this Statement indicate, International Assistance is a vital instrument for the achievement of the three key objectives being pursued by the Government. It is an investment in **prosperity and employment**. It connects the Canadian economy to some of the world's fastest growing markets - the markets of the developing world. And, in the long-run, development cooperation can help lift developing countries out of poverty. This means that it contributes to a stronger global economy in which Canadians, and other peoples, can grow and prosper. International Assistance also contributes to **global security** by tackling many key threats to human security, such as the abuse of human rights, disease, environmental degradation, population growth and the widening gap between rich and poor. Finally, it is one of the clearest international expressions of **Canadian values and culture** - of Canadians' desire to help the less fortunate and of their strong sense of social justice - and an effective means of sharing these values with the rest of the world.

Canada's Official Development Assistance (ODA) Program

An effective development assistance program begins with the recognition that development is a complex process and that many conditions must be met before it takes permanent root. Individuals must have equitable access to basic social services, to productive assets and to employment opportunities. Women must be able to participate fully and equally in development. Respect for human rights is essential, as are a healthy civil society and political systems that inspire confidence and trust. The basic infrastructure that underpins society must be in place, along with policies that promote sustainable economic growth with equity. And, in today's interdependent world, a society's long-term prosperity depends increasingly on access to international markets and finance. Finally, development does not last if it is not environmentally sustainable.

The growing diversity of the developing world adds to this complexity. Approaches to development must take into account widely varying developing country needs and capabilities. Several developing countries have achieved remarkable rates of economic growth and are