

Government Response to the Report of the Standing Committee of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

Regarding the International Policy Review, the recommendations of the Standing Committee have been taken into consideration and are reflected in several elements of the Review, and the Committee's Report is also specifically cited in the text.

RECOMMENDATION 2

The Government of Canada should strengthen the analytical and diplomatic capacities required to be effective in enhancing Canada's relations with the countries of the Muslim world.

The newly established Working Group on Canada's Relations with Muslim Communities is examining how Canada can enhance its engagement with Muslim communities around the world. Concrete recommendations derived from the Working Group's deliberations will serve to better inform Canadian diplomatic efforts in predominately Muslim countries. Such recommendations will form the basis of a guide for Canadian missions abroad, with a view to ensuring a consistency of approach while allowing for country-specific considerations.

In addition, the Working Group is exploring the possibility of creating a training course in cooperation with the Canadian Foreign Service Institute intended to enhance Canadian knowledge of and appreciation for Muslim history and culture. This course will be aimed at officials active on bilateral and multilateral issues dealing with Canada's relations with predominately Muslim countries. Such training can help officials to better understand the contexts in which they will be operating abroad as well as domestic implications.