

- Canada has also provided \$5 million for ICT-based commercial training initiatives in connection with Franconet, a network of French-speaking national Internet communities, and with technological institutions that focus on increasing Internet capacity, training, and access in 20 francophone countries in Africa.

Peace and security

NEPAD emphasizes that peace, security, and human rights are among the conditions necessary for sustainable development in Africa. Through NEPAD, African leaders undertook joint responsibility for specific obligations. Canada has also sought to reinforce African efforts in each of these areas.

- Canada has committed \$15 million to promote peace and security and build safer communities in West Africa. This initiative, undertaken in conjunction with the 15-member Economic Community of West African States, seeks to build capacity in three crucial areas: peace support operations, including peacekeeping; controlling the flow of small arms and light weapons; and policing. Canadian funding of the newly established Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre in Accra, Ghana, is supporting curriculum and faculty development.
- Canada has committed \$4 million to maintain peace and security through the newly formed African Union. This, too, reflects a priority objective of NEPAD. When arrangements are complete, the African Union will be better able to fulfil its conflict prevention and conflict resolution mandate — by strengthening its early-warning systems, mediation capacity, and ability to deploy observer missions and protect civilians in situations of armed conflict.
- Canada has also intensified its support for African efforts to achieve and consolidate peace. For example, special envoys named by the Minister of Foreign Affairs have been active in the search for peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sudan, and the Foreign Minister of Sudan made an official visit to Canada in May 2003 in connection with the peace process. Since 2002, Canada has also provided more than \$6.7 million for reconciliation processes, tribunals, and court systems in Sierra Leone and Rwanda, and more than \$17 million for peace building through the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants; community-based initiatives involving women and children; and related child-protection work in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, and Uganda. Canada also continues to support efforts to enhance African capacity for the physical and legal protection of civilians in armed conflict, including developing, with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, a pilot project in Guinea to improve security in refugee camps.