

international community in efforts to improve the global economic and trading environment. In addition, Canada has worked with African governments and the donor community to incorporate concerns about women, the environment, AIDS and population growth into economic and development planning. Within the UN system itself, Canada has worked actively to encourage the major voluntary funds, the UN Development Program (UNDP), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and the World Food Program (WFP), to strengthen their programs in Africa.

Africa has been, and continues to be, a clear priority in Canadian development assistance activities. Canada provides development assistance to almost every country on the continent, as well as to the Southern Africa Development Coordination Conference (SADCC). In fiscal year 1986/1987, some 38% of Canadian assistance delivered through all channels - through multilateral and international financial institutions (estimated), bilateral, food aid, non-governmental organizations and through business cooperation programs etc. - was disbursed in Africa. This amounted to almost 1 billion Canadian dollars, a figure which will grow substantially in future years.

a) Improving the Quality and Modality of External Assistance

In recent years, Canada has worked to improve the quality of Canadian aid and its delivery. In March 1988, the Government of Canada announced a new development assistance strategy which states that the primary purpose of Canadian official development assistance is to help the poorest countries and the poorest people of the world. Africa has a special place within the framework of the new strategy since a full 45% of Canadian bilateral aid will be directed to the continent over the next five years. In addition, other significant development assistance is provided through Provincial Governments, Canadian non-governmental organisations and the business community.

Increased concessionality, more rapid disbursement, more untied aid, improved coordination and consultation with recipient countries and improved project and program planning and design are the objectives of measures Canada has taken to improve the quality and delivery of its assistance programs with Africa. In particular, since April 1986, all new bilateral development assistance has been in grant form to all countries.