

Canada emphasizes building African capabilities by using different approaches depending on the level of development. Effective and sustainable development in Africa depends on the capacity of African countries to govern effectively, to establish peace and to manage their economies in order to take advantage of global trade and investment opportunities. Canada looks to multilateral development institutions to play a key role in these areas, especially in fostering regional approaches and dialogue. Canada's approach also emphasizes the importance of African ownership of the development process and the need to pursue an active dialogue that involves Africans.

Knowledge and information technologies are vital tools for development. Canada's aim is to help developing countries harness these tools. Canada contributes to the African Information Society Initiative. This is an African plan, through the Acacia Initiative, developed by the International Development Research Centre. It aims to help sub-Saharan communities use information and communications technologies for social and economic development. As well, Canada will co-host, with the World Bank, a conference on knowledge for development in the information age — Global Knowledge '97— in Toronto, June 22-25.

Another Canadian priority is to integrate the poorest into the global economy. This means improving the capacity of the least developed countries, especially those in sub-Saharan Africa, to take advantage of preferential trading arrangements. Canada also encourages increasing private capital flows, given their huge development potential, to the poorest countries. At the same time, Canada recognizes a continuing role for official development assistance for poverty reduction, social development and environmental protection, particularly in reform-minded, poor countries as yet unable to attract significant private investment.

### ***Peacebuilding***

Development progress depends on a secure and stable environment. Recent and ongoing conflicts in Africa accentuate the need for peacebuilding in war-torn and conflict-prone regions. In Canada's view, peace and stability in Africa will be enhanced by improving the continent's capacity to deal with security in the broadest sense.

There is a strong relationship between good governance, democratic principles, human security, and a country's economic performance. Canada supports measures to encourage the rule of law, the building of civil society, the effective allocation of public resources, the reduction of military expenditures, and the functioning of open and honest government.