

CHANGING HOW WE WORK

A world that is governed well, both globally and nationally, is not a soft ideal. It is a vital Canadian interest in the 21st century. Effective multilateral institutions allow our Government to have a hand in creating the global rules that directly affect Canadians. Without such forums, and without a strong Canadian presence in them, we risk subjecting ourselves to the wishes of those who may not act in accordance with our priorities. Effective multilateralism is therefore an essential tool in preserving the Canadian approach.

Diplomacy is a central tool for achieving the priorities set out in this International Policy Statement. But as the world changes, so too must our understanding and practice of diplomacy. The Government of Canada must rethink not only what we do, but with whom we do it. States remain the central actors on the global stage, but they are increasingly embedded in transnational linkages that diffuse power above to supranational frameworks and below to civil society. Individuals are playing a greater role in international affairs than ever before, with both positive and negative results.

THE NEW MULTILATERALISM

This year, 2005, marks the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War and the birth of the multilateral institutions that defined the post-war international order. Our 21st century world looks

markedly different. While 51 states signed the United Nations Charter in 1945, the current international system is composed of over 190 members. The purposes of key post-war institutions, such as the UN, NATO and the World Bank, have shifted dramatically as a result of globalization, the end of the Cold War, and the emergence of new and more deadly security threats. As they grapple with more complex problems, these foundational institutions face challenging questions about their continued relevance and legitimacy. Moreover, these institutions now exist alongside myriad informal rules and relationships that contribute to global governance. Canada must recognize and adapt to these realities, and contribute to building a new framework of governance that can both serve our interests and solve contemporary global problems. Just as we were present at the creation of the architecture that has governed our world since 1945, today we will continue to lend our ideas and expertise to institutional reform and innovation.

In pursuing this agenda, Canada will adopt two operating principles. First, we acknowledge that any successful framework of global governance incorporates power as well as rules. The founding members of the United Nations understood this instinctively, having experienced first hand the failures of the inter-war collective security system. Their key innovation—a Security Council that reflected the reigning balance of power—sought to harness the capacity of the powerful

PRIORITY FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

Contribute ideas, expertise and resources to reform efforts aimed at improving the effectiveness and legitimacy of existing international institutions

KEY INITIATIVES

- Actively support the reform agenda of the 2004 UN High Level Panel Report, particularly its recommendations relating to the Responsibility to Protect, the creation of a civilian Peacebuilding Commission, and reform of the UN Human Rights Commission
- Encourage the creation of an effective division of labour between the UN and key regional organizations
- Contribute to the ambitious transformation of NATO, as set out in the Prague Capabilities Commitment
- Lead the diplomatic efforts to create and define the agenda for an “L20,” comprising leaders from the developing and developed world