

foreign policy practitioners and civil society actors..."<sup>6</sup>

**Common policy ground between government and NGOs has grown as policy agendas have begun converging.** For example, today at CIDA international development co-operation is seen as a politicized process thus legitimizing policy areas such as human rights and democratic development. At DFAIT, the rise of the concept of "common security" means that a more comprehensive approach embraces the human security agenda. (On the other hand, some policy areas such as trade remain largely separated from the policy debates on sustainable development and human rights.) In addition, discrete Southern and Northern policy concerns have become global in nature as the line between the domestic and the international has blurred. This has accelerated the recognition of the necessity of North-South policy reciprocity. And states have perceived the more frequent need to link governmental and non-governmental policy work in the pursuit of consensus building and the development of constituency support. (An example of the latter is the way in which the Department of Foreign Affairs worked with Canadian aboriginal organizations to help build an international climate of support for the creation of the Arctic Council.)

**The emergence of international, especially Southern, NGO movements and policy coalitions has encouraged Northern policy capacity development.** These Southern coalitions have prompted policy debate within the international NGO community. This in turn has provided for unique NGO perspectives on the practice of Canadian foreign policy.

**Some international development issues have become more visible and more pressing, stressing the urgency of the global issues agenda.** Certain global problems, such as environmental degradation (ozone depletion, global warming, marine ecosystem

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<sup>6</sup> Evan Potter, "Redesigning Canadian Diplomacy in an Age of Fiscal Austerity", in Fen Hampson and Maureen Appel Molot, Canada Among Nations 1996: Big Enough to Be Heard, Carleton University Press, Ottawa, 1996, p. 34.