

GLOBAL ISSUES: PROMOTING A NEW MULTILATERALISM

REPORT OF THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL: *IN LARGER FREEDOM: TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT, SECURITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL*

In March 2005, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan issued a report containing proposals for UN reform to be considered for adoption by world leaders at a UN summit in September 2005. Drawing upon the UN High Level Panel report and Jeffrey Sachs' millennium project report, *In Larger Freedom* presents an integrated approach that views development, security and human rights as interconnected. It offers over 40 proposals in those three areas as well as on UN renewal. As the Secretary-General put it, "The world must advance the causes of security, development and human rights together, otherwise none will succeed." Prime Minister Martin welcomed the report, which he noted was "a bold call to action and a blueprint to strengthen the capacity and effectiveness of the UN."

will hold a summit to assess progress in meeting the UN Millennium Development Goals. CIDA will play a leading role on this challenge, but Foreign Affairs will utilize our membership in the G8 and other forums to promote the broader development agenda of debt relief, private sector partnerships and other tools to build local development capacity. Foreign Affairs will cooperate with CIDA on the needs of Africa, ensuring that our development strategies are supportive of our overall relationship with developing countries and regions.

Foreign Affairs will also play an important role through our Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI). This is a flexible and responsive aid mechanism for Canadian embassies and high commissions to make direct contributions to local organizations for small-scale development projects. Foreign Affairs will strategically manage a smaller and refocused CFLI program to support Canada's local presence in countries where this is important to Canadian foreign policy interests.

Health has emerged as a critical international issue, with economic, security and development dimensions. Avian flu, the HIV/AIDS pandemic and efforts to prevent and control outbreaks of new diseases all demand strong multilateral action. Foreign Affairs is already playing a key role. For example, because of its network in Asia, it was able to make a major contribution to coordinating Canada's response to the SARS crisis in 2003.

Specific Initiative

- The Department will, through its network of missions abroad, contribute to the Government's initiative to enhance the early warning of new

diseases (including avian flu), while developing analytic capacity on infectious diseases. The planned strengthening of our field presence in Asia will contribute to this goal. We will also promote multilateral and bilateral cooperation on health, and work with CIDA, Health Canada, the Canadian Public Health Agency, and international agencies in the prevention and control of disease.

STREAMLINING AND MODERNIZING CANADA'S MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY

The substantive agenda on global issues described above is daunting. But it will be impossible to achieve without an effective means to deliver it: reformed and more focused multilateral cooperation. In some ways, multilateral cooperation has become a victim of its own success. Multilateral forums, which were originally designed for a relatively small group of countries accustomed to working closely together, work less well now with four times as many members. This has been accompanied by rapid growth in the rules to be administered. (Canada, for example, became party to 145 new multilateral agreements in the last decade alone.) As a result, the UN General Assembly and many other multilateral bodies are bogged down in procedure and formality, handicapping their ability to act effectively. There is overlap and inconsistency—for example, no single organization or agreement is responsible for the oceans.

Moreover, issues that were not high on the international agenda decades ago are now critical, such as climate change, fragile states, terrorism and internally displaced