

CONCLUSION

The foregoing sets out an action plan for Foreign Affairs that does two things: it identifies the policy priorities for our new diplomacy, and it describes the capacities and tools we need to accomplish them in today's fast-paced world. These priorities are an expression of Canada's international identity, an identity that is itself evolving as our country changes and grows.

This international identity is an expression of both our interests and our values as a people. A peaceful and prosperous world, one that respects human rights and reveres democracy, is both in our interest and a reflection of broadly shared values. Indeed, these are the principles that characterize our social fabric and our body politic, as they do in most Western societies. But

there is one asset that we bring to the table that enables us to play a particular role in the world—our deeply held respect for diversity. This is an increasingly valuable commodity as our world shrinks to become, truly, a global village.

Our strengths and assets, which have grown out of our unique history, and which characterize us as a nation, have led us to take a practical approach to overcoming differences and to finding a middle way. This is the essence of Canadian diplomacy, and will remain so for the future: a pragmatic, action-oriented approach that seeks solutions and builds consensus on some of the most intractable yet pressing issues of the day.