

FOREWORD FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

Accordingly, we have concluded that the government's aid budget is spread too thinly across too many programs in more than 150 countries. Put simply, the money that we contribute to international assistance on behalf of Canadians is not accomplishing as much as it should. We will narrow our focus to maximize our impact. We will be realistic about Canada's ability to help others, but we will be resolute in ensuring that our aid money is targeted so that it does as much good as possible.

That is why the International Policy Statement sets out a new strategic aid policy for Canada that will:

- focus our aid on 25 development partners;
- concentrate our spending on the key sectors that drive development—health, education, governance, indigenous private sector development and the environment;
- bring new and effective delivery mechanisms to bear, such as Canada Corps;
- continue to increase official development assistance and other forms of foreign aid by 8 percent each year, resulting in a doubling of assistance between 2001 and 2010; and
- maintain increases beyond 2010, and accelerate the projected rate of growth in international assistance as our fiscal position continues to improve.

Through implementing this integrated approach, we will ensure that our development assistance will make a difference where the need and the prospects for results are greatest. And we are committed to finding ways to increase our aid even more.

The Statement elaborates our approach to institution building, engaging Canadian expertise and idealism in developing countries. And it affirms our commitment to enhanced research and development to support a knowledge-based approach to the needs of developing countries.

It also declares that the best way for Canada to make a difference in post-conflict situations is to pursue a “3D” approach, undertaking Defence efforts to strengthen security and stability, pursuing Diplomacy to enhance prospects for nation-building and reconstruction, and making certain that Development contributions are brought to bear in a coordinated and effective way.

The New Multilateralism

In the post-war period, the international community has asserted greater collective responsibility for the well-being of the world's peoples. In areas ranging from human rights to civil conflict to the environment, the United Nations and other international organizations are addressing matters that historically were thought to lie solely within the authority of the sovereign nation-state. That is why, at the United Nations last year, I argued that modern sovereignty increasingly encompasses responsibilities to the international community as well as to one's own citizens, and identified five areas where Canada intends to push forward the international agenda for action:

- first, the “Responsibility to Protect,” to hold governments accountable for how they treat their people, and to intervene if necessary to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe;
- second, the “Responsibility to Deny,” to prevent terrorists and irresponsible governments from acquiring weapons of mass destruction that could destroy millions of innocent people;
- third, the “Responsibility to Respect,” to build lives of freedom for all people, based on the fundamental human rights of every man, woman and child on earth;
- fourth, the “Responsibility to Build,” to make sure our economic assistance programs provide the tools that ordinary people really need to get on with their own development; and
- fifth, the “Responsibility to the Future,” to ensure sustainable development for future generations through better management of global public goods.