

Canada is poised to reclaim its rightful place in the world. As Prime Minister Martin has said, "We must seize this moment to reassert ourselves in the world stage—to speak up with a persuasive voice for equality, human rights and a fairer globalization."

The development cooperation program will be a vital instrument in making this vision a living reality for Canadians as global citizens. Canada has the capacity and the history to be among the best in the world in development, and Canadians support this priority.

The global conditions are now right for a significant breakthrough in the attempts to reduce poverty. There is now an unprecedented consensus among the developed and developing nations—centred around the Millennium Development Goals—on what needs to be done and how.

This paper sets out a new vision for Canada's development cooperation program in the new millennium, focused on reducing poverty. It calls for a national endeavour that harnesses our capacities and advances Canadian values of global citizenship.

In order to increase the effectiveness of the development cooperation program, we will focus our efforts in a few priority sectors and in a small group of countries and will engage in value-added, selective partnerships with Canadians and with the most effective multilateral institutions. To achieve our goals, we will ensure that Canada has a world-class development cooperation program, with a delivery system that is focused, flexible, transparent and accountable.

This strategy is designed to ensure that Canada's development cooperation program will be:

- clearly recognized by Canadians as representing our values and interests, drawing on what we do well while working with others;
- respected by our developing-country partners, other donors and the international community for excellence consistent with Canada's place in the world;
- delivered within the discipline of the resources that Canada can make available in meeting international commitments and Canadians' expectations; and
- a model of transparent reporting to Parliament and the public, with an annual report to Parliament and the highest standards of public information and performance reporting.

Reducing global poverty represents one of the most important and difficult challenges the world will confront between now, 2015 and beyond, but we are the first generation in human history to have the means to eliminate global poverty. Canada is prepared to act. With the energy, skills and resources of Canadians, effectively marshalled in pursuit of this goal, we *can* make a difference.