

countries that do not already do so will allocate 20 per cent of government expenditures towards meeting basic human needs and donor countries that enter into the compact will support these efforts by re-orienting 20 per cent of Official Development Assistance (ODA) to meeting basic human needs.

- **Resource issues:** There were calls for mobilization of new, adequate and/or predictable resources for social development from all sources, private and public, in all WSSD documents. The UN was tasked with finding new resources for social development.
- **Partnership for social development:** The program of action called for involvement of civil society and all levels of government (provincial, municipal, etc.) in achieving social development.

IV. ELEMENTS OF A CANADIAN RESPONSE TO INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

Canada views the WSSD as a qualified success. While it achieved a measure of consensus on social development that was unprecedented in UN history, the documents do not represent a comprehensive work program. More work is needed to create an international program of action on social development.

People centredness: This is already an objective of Canadian policy. Canada is promoting greater commitment to financing social development by re-orienting 25 per cent of ODA toward meeting basic human needs. The government is also committed to ensuring greater focus on the needs of the poorest people and countries. The promotion of good governance, respect for human rights and democracy — key elements of Canadian policy — encourage a people-centred approach to development.

An enabling environment: Canada's approach to trade liberalization and debt relief contributes to an enabling international environment for social development. Canada has consistently promoted a rules-based international trade and financial system, and has worked to ensure the success of the WTO. Canada is a leader in debt relief for the most severely indebted least-developed countries and promotes this policy internationally.

Poverty eradication: One of the overarching objectives of Canada's international policy is the eradication of poverty. Canada is committed to reallocating 25 per cent of ODA toward meeting basic human needs and giving priority to those countries in which there are substantial concentrations of people living in poverty. Canada's poverty programming recognizes the changing profiles of poverty and the relationship between poverty reduction and income. Canada is currently promoting an international conference on social indicators to improve measurement and monitoring of social development and will encourage the development of indicators to monitor the situation of disadvantaged groups listed in the program of action. The Department of Human Resources Development will play a leading role in co-ordinating programs for the international year for poverty eradication in 1996.