

countries. For Africa, this amounted to \$Cdn 208 million. Then in 1986, Canada adopted an all grant assistance program and announced at the UN Special Session on Africa in May a five-year moratorium, extendable to the year 2000 on the repayment of ODA loans previously made to the countries of sub-Saharan Africa. In 1987, Canada forgave the outstanding ODA debt of Togo, Mauritania and the former East African Community. The total amount forgiven was \$Cdn 68 million. And most recently, in the autumn of 1987, at the Quebec Summit of La Francophonie and at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting, Canada indicated its intention to forgive the ODA debt of thirteen Francophone and Commonwealth African countries eligible for the ODA debt moratorium. The value of these debts is \$Cdn 672 million. The total value of the ODA debt which Canada has forgiven in Africa is approximately \$Cdn 948 million.

Canada has also supported multilateral initiatives to ease the debt burden and has generated proposals to make it possible for some donors to offer concessional rates on outstanding official commercial credits. At the Paris Club, Canada has strongly supported special treatment for the poorest, heavily-indebted countries. Lengthened grace and repayment periods have been granted to all eight African countries which have requested debt rescheduling recently (Zaire, Mauritania, Uganda, Mozambique, Somalia, Senegal, Guinea Bissau and Togo).

However, Canada recognises that longer repayment periods in themselves do little to alleviate the long term debt burden. Relief through concessional interest rates on unrescheduled official commercial credits is needed. To break a deadlock in discussions on this issue at the Paris Club, Canada proposed a compromise to develop a flexible framework of comparability which would allow creditor countries to contribute to official debt relief by choosing among a number of mechanisms. Equitable burden sharing amongst creditors would be preserved by providing for those creditors offering concessional terms to be repaid more rapidly than those who reschedule at commercial rates. Leaders at the Toronto Economic Summit in June 1988 endorsed this approach and urged the Paris Club to work out the technical elements of this framework in order to implement it by the end of the year. The impact on the debt burden of the poorest could be considerable.

Canadian Support for the Priority Sectors of the UNPAAERD

Canada has responded to priorities at the national, sub-regional and regional levels identified in the UN Program of Action within the context of our multilateral and bilateral assistance.