

THE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF CANADA'S BILATERAL ASSISTANCE: ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES

Executive Summary

This paper develops indicators to test alternative approaches to the allocation of Canada's bilateral assistance to developing countries.

25 indicators have been arranged into five clusters:

- 1) Commitment to people;
- 2) Commitment to sound economic policies;
- 3) Commitment to the environment;
- 4) Commitment to democratic development/human rights/stable security; and
- 5) Canadian interests and values.

The first four clusters measure the commitment of governments to sustainable development on the basis that bilateral assistance will be most effective in countries whose own governments are most committed to pursuing appropriate policies. The 20 highest scoring developing countries are listed.

The Paper then tests two other approaches. On the assumption that Canada's bilateral assistance should be concentrated on the world's least developed countries, the next approach considers only these countries, although still testing for commitment to sustainable development.

The final approach places greater emphasis on a more complete cross-section of Canadian interests using the fifth cluster, regardless of the level of development of the LDCs.

The results of the different approaches are then compared and issues for discussion are put forward.

Résumé

Les indicateurs contenus dans le présent ouvrage ont été conçus pour tester d'autres formules possibles de répartition de l'aide bilatérale du Canada aux pays en développement.

Les 25 indicateurs ont été regroupés en cinq grappes selon qu'ils concernent :