

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND  
INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

---

Canada is delivering on these commitments. We have committed \$6 billion in assistance for Africa in new and existing resources over the five-year period beginning with the Kananaskis Summit in 2002. As part of this effort, Canada established the \$500 million Canada Fund for Africa to support the objectives of the Africa Action Plan and NEPAD. The Fund became operational following the Kananaskis Summit, under the guidance of the Minister for International Cooperation. In its initial year of operation, ending March 31, 2003, the Fund disbursed \$70 million. As of the Évian Summit, the Fund was fully committed.

The Prime Minister also committed to increasing international assistance by eight per cent a year and to directing half or more of these additional resources to Africa. Accordingly, the February 2003 federal budget increased Canada's international assistance envelope through 2004/05 as a first step towards doubling the assistance budget by 2010. This translates into an increase of \$1.4 billion in the 2002/03 fiscal year and the two subsequent years, of which half or more will be directed to Africa.

A significant amount of these new and existing resources deployed in Africa will directly address issues identified in the Sub-Committee's report: HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases; humanitarian assistance to address food shortages, famine and other crises; human rights, democracy and good governance; and, peace and security.

At the 2003 G8 Summit in Évian, Canada led, along with France, in a decision to expand the G8/NEPAD dialogue to include other key donors and multilateral institutions. G8 Leaders made clear this continued commitment to the implementation of the G8 Africa Action Plan.

The Report accurately portrays the devastating direct and indirect effects of HIV/AIDS on all parts of sub-Saharan African society and the need for sustained action. Canada is committed to doing its part and playing a leadership role in the global fight against HIV/AIDS. The Response outlines Canada's policy initiatives and increased financial commitments in this regard. Government departments, in particular the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Health Canada and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), are working closely together to ensure policy coherence and a coordinated effort in the global response to HIV/AIDS.

Sub-Saharan Africa will continue to remain the primary focus of Canadian humanitarian programming and that of our partners. Last fiscal year, the Government stepped up its humanitarian assistance programming in sub-Saharan Africa, particularly in response to the food shortages in southern Africa and the Horn of Africa. At the same time, we continued our financial and diplomatic support to conflict-affected populations in such countries as Sudan and Angola and responded further to deteriorating situations in Liberia and in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The Government not only responds to the symptoms of humanitarian crises in Africa, but we support efforts to find peaceful solutions to them. We continue to make efforts to mainstream conflict-