

Recommendation 6.3

Such policy changes alone, however, cannot succeed in meeting the needs of sub-Saharan Africa or in allowing Canada to play a much greater role in long-term development without adequate resources. The Sub-Committee calls on the government to further increase and sustain the amount spent on all the major elements of Canadian foreign policy programs, including diplomacy, defence and development assistance. The Sub-Committee notes the concern expressed regarding resources devoted to diplomacy.

The fiscal discipline that the Government has exercised over the last decade will now enable it to re-invest in its foreign policy programs. Canada is committed to doubling its international assistance by the year 2010, and earmark at least half of that increase for Africa as part of Canada's support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development. The new security challenges brought about by the terrorist attacks of September 2001, along with Canada's commitment to help re-build failed and failing states, where this is feasible, will continue to place demands on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the Canadian International Development Agency and the Department of National Defence. Given these factors, the Government is increasingly prepared to consider assisting in these situations.

Recommendation 6.4

The Sub-Committee welcomes both the clearer focus of Canadian development assistance and the government's commitment to double its aid budget by 2010. However, the Sub-Committee notes the estimate of the Canadian Council for International Cooperation that the planned increases will not permit Canada to achieve the UN's target for official development assistance (ODA) of 0.7% of GNP until 2040, 25 years after many of the UN Millennium Development Goals are to be achieved. It therefore supports the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade's 2002 recommendation that Canada should propose a realistic timetable for achieving the UN's ODA target of 0.7% and should lobby its G8 partners to increase their level of ODA for Africa, with the objective of rapidly raising the overall level of assistance from the G8 members to that of the average of the non-G8 donor countries, currently 0.46% of GNP.

Over recent years Canada has demonstrated a clearer focus in strengthening aid effectiveness and fostering coherence in our development policies and programs. The Sub-Committee's acknowledgment of these important developments is evidence of our progress.

As noted by the Sub-Committee, the recent Speech from the Throne committed Canada to doubling our international assistance by the year 2010. The Budget Speech delivered on this commitment with an additional \$1.4 billion in the International Assistance Envelope (IAE) over three years,