

admitted to the United Nations, the Commonwealth and La Francophonie. In 1968, it considered that the time had come to increase the effectiveness of its aid programs. It also wanted to bring to the attention of Canadians, as well as of foreign countries, the importance it attached to international co-operation. To this end, the Government decided to set up the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). This agency was given a double mandate: to step up assistance, and to concentrate on the social aspects of development. In the decade that followed, the value of disbursements tripled, reaching \$1.1 billion in 1978-79. The Agency works in sectors that are complex but of great social impact, such as integrated rural development and public health. The proportion of Canadian bilateral assistance given to the 20 least developed countries rose from 4 to 16 per cent of the total bilateral aid figure during the first half of the Seventies and, since 1975, those countries with an average *per capita* income of less than \$200 a year 125

