

The Canadian Government views the promotion and protection of human rights as integral to development. Canada has been active in promoting the acceptance of international standards of human rights at both bilateral and multilateral levels. But also, in recent years through development assistance programs, the International Development Research Centre and the Canadian Human Rights Commission, Canada has begun to support efforts to promote human rights and to strengthen the institutional framework in this area. An International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development will be established in the near future to work closely with governments, public institutions and NGOs in developing countries. As indicated in the Government's new aid strategy, human rights will be an important factor in Canadian development assistance policies and programs.

African governments have taken steps to improve the management of their economies and their public sectors. In 1988, Canada in cooperation with others, promoted the creation of a \$Cdn 60 million Management Development Program under the auspices of the UNDP. This Program will provide assistance to African governments in their long term efforts in this area.

Rapid population growth has a significant impact on prospects for recovery and development in Africa, imposing heavy demands on scarce resources. Governments are sovereign in matters of population policy, but there is a collective responsibility to protect the global environment and resource base for future generations and greater efforts should be devoted to this purpose. Canada is particularly concerned about the relationship between the needs of a growing population, scarce resources for development and the limited capacity of the environment to provide resources to meet these needs.

Canada has been involved in the population field since 1970 and has provided increasing funding primarily through multilateral and NGO channels. Canada is now the fourth-largest donor in the sector with global disbursements of \$Cdn 38 million in 1986/87, 34% of which is delivered through bilateral channels. Increasing assistance to African countries will continue to emphasize education, information and communication projects, institution building and census support. In 1986, Canada requested UNFPA to develop a new strategy for Africa and to allocate a greater share of its financial and staff resources to this region.