## FOREWORD

Canada needs up-to-date policies if it is to play its full role in a changing world. International development is one of the areas in which this is especially true -- because it concerns our relationship with three-quarters of the world's people, and because it is a field where change has been fast and vast.

And it is in this context that the Government welcomes the report of the Standing Committee on External Affairs and International Trade (SCEAIT), entitled FOR WHOSE BENEFIT?. The report offers a valuable set of recommendations about the future objectives and conduct of our development cooperation.

This document, TO BENEFIT A BETTER WORLD, represents the Government's direct response to matters raised in the widely praised SCEAIT report. A comprehensive Strategy will be announced shortly.

The SCEAIT report itself is an important component of the process that began in 1984, when the Government undertook a review of Canadian foreign policy, and invited Parliament to conduct a series of studies on Canada's role in international affairs.

In the course of a year, the Committee carried out an extensive, in-depth study. Public hearings were held in eight cities across the country. Several hundred written briefs and thousands of letters were received. Field visits were made to Tanzania, Ethiopia and Senegal. Discussions were held with senior officials of the United Nations and international financial institutions in Washington and New York.

The remarkable public response to the Committee's inquiry indicates that Canadians are aware of the world around them -- of its problems and possibilities -- and they firmly believe that Canada can make an important contribution to international development and to efforts to bring about a more just and equitable world.

After examining virtually all major aspects of the aid program, the Committee submitted 115 recommendations. Each has received careful scrutiny. In response, the Government has accepted most of the recommendations -- agreeing fully with 98 and in part with another 13.