



## CANADA-NIGER RELATIONS

Bilateral relations are very cordial and are essentially based on one of the oldest co-operation programs in the region. From 1989 to 1992, following the Canadian International Development Agency's (CIDA) decentralization, Niger benefited from a significant bilateral program. Niger also sends a very large contingent of senior officials to Quebec City each year for training at École Nationale d'Administration Publique.

Niger has been Canada's partner in La Francophonie since its inception. Prime Minister Mulroney met Prime Minister Cheiffou (who had recently assumed his duties) at the Chaillot Summit in November 1991. Canada is represented by Ambassador Denis Bélisle in Abidjan and Director Carol Voyer in Niamey, while Ambassador Abdou Aboubacar represents Niger in Ottawa.

Trade clearly favors Niger. Canada's imports in 1991 totalled \$11.3 million, while its exports totalled a mere \$1.8 million.

### **The Canadian Aid Program in Niger**

In recent years, the main objective of Canada's official development aid program in Niger has been to uphold sustainable development in the country by focusing on macroeconomic balance, human resource training, rural development and infrastructure reinforcement.

As a result of the economic statement of December 2, 1992, and the resultant cutbacks, Canada has decided to concentrate its co-operative efforts in three regions of Africa, including West Africa. However, attempts to streamline the CIDA program have forced Canada to reduce its involvement in Niger. The regional involvement and bilateral projects, which may be used to assist Niger, will be part of the Strategic Framework for West Africa now in preparation.

Canadian funds allocated to Niger during the 1992-1993 fiscal year are estimated to be \$10.7 million.

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