

Canada's Year of Asia Pacific 1997: Sustainable Development and the Trade Liberalisation
Debate: Civil Society Concerns about APEC with Options for Canadian Foreign Policy
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The paper examines Canadian foreign policy on sustainable development in the context of APEC. More specifically, it explores public debate in the media as well as comments by NGOs and civil society representatives on the APEC agenda, and criticises the weaknesses of Canadian foreign policy. It concludes by offering realistic and strategic alternatives that are more ecologically, socially and economically sustainable than Canada's current foreign policy which supports trade liberalisation over sustainable human development and ecological goals.

Recommendations for Canadian Foreign Policy:

- consult civil society and academia to envision a new economic paradigm;
- support civil society, academia and business to implement alternatives;
- green the budget and implement a National Sustainable Development Plan;
- phase out business subsidies which promote unsustainable development;
- review and reform Canadian trade policy;
- further progressive domestic and foreign policy coherence/accountability;
- establish a new APEC roundtable on the environment and economy;
- establish a Standing Civil Society Advisory Committee on APEC;
- advance APEC's FEEEP Agenda through a National Working Group;
- apologise for civil liberties violations during the 1997 APEC Leaders Summit.