

And beginning next year, our program will grow again, tied by a formula to the growth of the Canadian economy. Our ODA ratio will gradually increase.

Canada will continue to do its share to increase ODA flows in the coming years. Over the next five years, Canadian development assistance will amount to some \$16 billion.

Although aid quality is often harder to measure than volume, both are necessary for a credible aid effort. Canada is committed to quality in its program, and despite the budget reductions, the fundamental developmental orientation of Canadian aid will remain central.

That means that the policy direction of the Canadian ODA strategy, announced last year, and welcomed by the development assistance committee, remains unchanged. All the improvements will remain and will be carried out:

- the commitment to development first, and to the poor;
- the emphasis on partnership;
- the improved program planning and implementation;
- the commitment to public outreach;
- the priority put on major themes such as human resource development and the environment.

Canada will also continue to work actively in this organization to encourage improvement in the quality of our collective assistance efforts.

The problems of debt and development have been compounded by the growing threat to the global environment.

Farmers in Africa cannot be productive when desertification robs them of their fields. No more so than farmers in Bangladesh whose harvests are washed away by uncontrollable floods. These and other problems such as deforestation will, if left unchecked, limit the potential of developing nations.

But the threats are not just to the developing world. We all face them. On Canada's Atlantic coast our fishing industry is in jeopardy because of the over-harvesting of North Atlantic fish stocks. In the waters off our Pacific coast thousands of birds and marine animals perish every year, victims of rapacious drift net fishermen.