Setting the Goals

Early in the development stage of *Agenda 2006*, consultative workshops were held with Departmental employees and external stakeholders. Although the format varied slightly, participants at each were asked to critique *Agenda 2003*, to identify the substantive SD issues facing Canada and assess their intersect with the DFAIT mandate (issue scan), and to make recommendations on the focus of the next SD strategy.

The consensus of both workshops was that the goals developed for *Agenda 2003* remain relevant. However, it was felt that they could be amalgamated and restructured to provide more clarity and to reflect recent accomplishments at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), as well as the challenges related to human security and conflict.

Participants agreed that ensuring a good SD example had to remain the primary and most important Departmental goal. They also advised that there should be a continued focus on working bilaterally, regionally and multilaterally to promote and advance SD, and the need to build on previous efforts related to Corporate Social Responsibility, linking SD with globalization and trade, and the means to deal with climate change and environmental degradation along with their related economic and social impacts. Further emphasis was placed on the need for ways to reduce social tensions and disparities related to human security and human rights.

Both groups were adamant that the global community and Canadians would be disappointed and discouraged if there was not a solid commitment to follow up on the commitments made by Canada and other countries at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg.

The input received from the workshops, along with the advice provided by the Department's SD Task Force, informed the development of the four goals and provided the needed input for many of the objectives, targets, actions and expected outcomes. They were further refined by both consultation groups and by exposure to a much broader base of over 600 consultees when a draft of *Agenda 2006* was circulated both electronically and by hard copy during August and September 2003.

The next page sets out the four goals. The way in which each will be addressed is set out thereafter in a short narrative and a chart indicating supporting objectives, targets and actions along with a description of the expected outcomes. The two Departments are responsible to Parliament for achieving the commitments set out in the charts and will report annually on progress in meeting them through the Departmental Performance Reports. Annual progress reports will also be posted on the Departments' SD website.

More information on setting the goals can be found in *Agenda 2006 Appendix II* on the DFAIT Sustainable Development website at: **http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/sustain/sd-dd/Append-en.asp**