

we are also talking about international trade and investment. The development of international trade and investment is clearly vital to Canada. We depend on it for our own development, for job creation and for our economic recovery. There is thus a complex interplay of values and interests, Mr. Speaker, both in developing countries and here at home.

Is there no way to better reflect our values and interests in our foreign policy? Is there no way to combine them? Can we build economic and political mechanisms that will show that the way to universal prosperity lies through fundamental rights for all? This is the challenge that I would like to propose to the members of the joint committee, to our partners participating in the Forum, and to the NGO representatives my colleagues and I will meet this year.

We must also take into account, in our foreign policy review process, the importance of our cultural presence abroad. We must recognize that this component of our international action is directly linked to our domestic efforts to enhance the creativity, innovation and development of our human resources.

We cannot separate our values from our interests. The realist versus idealist debate is absurd and will not lead to a coherent and independent foreign policy. More often than not, there is a strong relationship between economic development and social change. International commerce does not thrive on instability and social unrest. Human rights, democracy, the rule of law and shared prosperity are the best guarantors of peace and security.

This brings me to our development assistance program. Canadians are proud of our development assistance record, but there are concerns about both program delivery and the long-term effectiveness of aid. The pressures for review of the aims and utility of development assistance programs are increasing as governments and societies struggle with deficits, debts and structural adjustment. The countries we assist, too, are coming under increasing pressure to provide proof that aid works, to show that the aid provides value. Developing countries will have to demonstrate that they have adopted, or are prepared to adopt, the social, political and economic policies that will maximize the impact of development assistance programs.

We are going to review our development assistance programs. It is time to see whether our programs meet the objectives we have set for them as well as we expected. Like our foreign policy, they should perhaps focus on specific priority issues. But we are not the only ones that must review our programs. Recipient countries must also show that our assistance is useful and meets its objectives. These countries must increasingly show us that they have adopted, or will adopt, the necessary political,