

# LEADING-EDGE DELIVERY SYSTEM

The delivery of Canada's international cooperation program is a formidable management challenge, and the Government is firmly committed to ensuring that the Canadian delivery system is structured and organized to achieve leading-edge results in line with the strategic directions set out in this Statement. Internationally donors have agreed to harmonize their planning, monitoring and reporting with the capacities and systems of their development partners. This is essential to reduce administrative burdens while helping them to improve their capacity to manage and account for the use of resources.

From the Canadian perspective, the Government is committed to achieving and demonstrating results, in a transparent manner that meets Canadian expectations and accountability processes. This requires adherence to government contracting and other regulations, and demonstrating due diligence and responsible management of the significant resources devoted to international cooperation. CIDA will further streamline administrative procedures to support more efficient and transparent operations.

Canada has been recognized internationally as a leader in results-based development, and will build on this capacity to fully meet these management challenges. In fulfilment of commitments made by over 90 countries and over 20 international organizations in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness in March 2005, the Government of Canada will:

- ensure transparency, accountability and a results focus in its activities through all funding mechanisms including those involving national and international partners; and
- ensure fair access for Canadian expertise through transparent processes including competitive bidding. This will be closely monitored by the Government's network of Offices for Liaison with International Financial Institutions, located in Canadian missions in cities where the major international development banks are headquartered.

CIDA will intensify its work to improve the way it does business and sets service standards to guide its relations with colleagues and partners, domestic and international. These improvements will address issues from greater transparency and streamlined program and project approval processes, to response times to calls and correspondence – all with a much stronger service orientation. CIDA will not only provide an Agency-wide response and perspective on service standards and business processes, it will also engage other government departments in preparing responses as appropriate. In line with best practices in modern management, monitoring and reporting requirements will be reviewed with partners to ensure they impose the minimum burden required to meet accountability requirements and strengthen reporting against results in conformity with government-wide accountability processes.

Finally, the Government will strengthen Canada's development presence on the ground. In so doing, it will strengthen our institutional learning and memory, our flexibility and our accountability. Our system must attract, deploy and support the requisite CIDA skills, capacities and authorities where we do business. Greater focus will help ensure that overheads are kept reasonable.