



Policy Options from Commissioned Papers relating to the National Forum on Africa

Further to the recommendations from the National Forum on Africa (January–February 2002), the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development commissioned policy options papers from the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters, the Canadian and African Business Women’s Alliance, and the Canadian Labour Congress. These groups were asked to examine tariffs, trade and investment issues. This work was commissioned in the knowledge that officials have been studying Canada’s tariffs policy and access to Canadian markets by the Least Developed Countries. As well, three other papers were commissioned to look at conflict prevention and African renewal.

The commissioned papers are:

- *“Issues in Doing Business Between Canada and Africa”* by the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters;
- *“Current Canadian Policies Towards Africa”* by the Canadian and African Business Women’s Alliance;
- *“Labour and Africa: The Way Ahead Through Real Partnership”* by the Canadian Labour Congress;
- *“Armed Conflict and Natural Resources: The Case of the Minerals Sector”* by Jason Switzer, International Institute for Sustainable Development;
- *“From Good Intentions to Good Practice: The G8 and New Conflict Prevention Initiatives for Africa”* by John Kirton, Gina Stephens and Kristiana Powell, The G8 Information Centre, University of Toronto; and
- *“The G8 and African Renewal Symposium Report”* by Malinda Smith, Athabaska

University and The International Centre, University of Alberta.

Recommendation Summaries

The Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters recommended that:

- the Africa Branch of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade prepare an umbrella foreign policy for Canada and Africa, including specialized policies for individual African countries, based on the recommendations of the National Forum on Africa and the G8 Summit Office.
- Canada reduce or eliminate quotas or taxes on imports from Africa so that Canadian companies may partner with African firms to import value-added goods. Canada should determine, on a country-by-country basis, where Canadian tariffs and quotas are being detrimental to sectors dominated by women, such as the textile industry.
- Canada, as a pillar of the Africa Action Plan, should pledge to enact more Trade and Investment Cooperation Agreements with African countries.
- Canada should raise Africa’s profile and attractiveness with additional trade missions.
- Canada assist businesses and NGOs to work together to reduce the costs of two-way trade.
- Canadian Trade Commissioners provide quick answers to questions and enhance their local websites to answer generic questions.