

burden for many developing countries and the international economy, and appropriate policies to deal with these problems. The Government will also examine how the consultative process might be continued.

Each spring the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Minister of Finance jointly host a seminar on international economic issues to which representatives of banks, business, academe, and NGOs are invited. Views on the international debt strategy, Canadian policies and other economic matters are shared among participants in wide-ranging discussions. The ministers meet frequently with their colleagues from developing countries and other industrialized nations at which time these issues are also considered.

A senior level inter-departmental committee (the Inter-departmental Co-ordinating Committee on Structural Adjustment and Debt) has been established to co-ordinate policies on structural adjustment and debt. There is also a regular meeting of concerned deputy ministers to review economic relations with developing countries which discusses, inter alia, the debt, trade, environmental and aid issues affecting our policies and programs. These officials meet and consult bankers, NGOs and academics on a continuing basis. They also participate in the meetings of the many international fora which discuss these issues and at which Third World countries are well represented.

CHAPTER IV

Recommendation

We believe that Canadian policies must reflect Canadian values of social justice, respect for human rights and democratic participation. Canada should have a policy framework, which is ethically coherent and economically responsible, to guide Canadian actions to assist debtor countries.

Response

The Government agrees that Canadian policies towards developing countries on issues of debt and structural adjustment must reflect Canadian values of enterprise, individual initiative, social justice, respect for human rights, and democratic participation. Policies must be both economically and environmentally sustainable, focus on the human dimension and poverty reduction and arise out of effective political participation by all. The consolidation of democratic institutions and values, as well as improvements in human rights, are directly related to the restoration of a healthy and vibrant economy.

The principles for Canadian policy outlined in the beginning of this document guide the Government in its debt and development strategy and parallel those proposed by SCEAIT.