

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Many pressing global problems, such as the spread of infectious disease or financial crises, are too large for any one country to tackle alone. These problems affect the well-being, security, and prosperity of all countries, and dealing with them calls for the joint resources and commitment of the world community through multilateral organizations or global partners. These organizations provide economies of scale and of scope, making it easier for individual donors, such as Canada, to help many more countries than they could effectively help on their own. The majority of Canada's contributions are highlighted throughout this report, integrated within the results achieved by thematic priorities.

Multilateral organizations play a key role in fostering international development cooperation. Through Canada's whole-of-government engagement with multilateral organizations, the government promotes commonly shared values such as equality and democracy. As Canada sits on several governing bodies of multilateral organizations, it has a role to play in ensuring that they are well managed and achieve their objectives.

Below is a summary of some of Canada's whole-of-government key contributions to these organizations.

Canada's Contribution to the World Bank

In 2013–2014, Canada, through the Department of Finance Canada, provided a total of \$492.8 million in grant support to the World Bank Group's International Development Association (IDA) and Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI) to achieve results in all of the government's development priority areas. The World Bank Group is one of Canada's most important international development partners and is ranked among the top multilateral organizations by several independent reports. Canada's continued support to the World Bank Group is an integral part of our commitment to enhance our aid efficiency and accountability.

SUMMARY OF REPRESENTATIONS MADE BY CANADA AT THE BRETTON WOODS INSTITUTIONS

The timing of the release of the *Report on Operations under the Bretton Woods and Related Agreements Act* has been adjusted such that it now corresponds with the release of the present report. To respond to ODAAA requirements, full information regarding Canada's engagement with the Bretton Woods institutions will be available as of September 30, 2014, through the website of the Department of Finance Canada.

A significant portion of the Government of Canada's contribution was provided as core support to the IDA, the part of the World Bank Group focused on helping the world's poorest countries. The IDA offers grants and concessional loans to low-income countries, and provides grants to fragile and conflict-affected states and other countries at risk of debt distress. All IDA funding is provided directly to governments, with environmental, financial and human rights safeguards to ensure that funds are well spent.

The IDA replenishment negotiations, held in 2013–2014, were an important opportunity for Canada to shape the World Bank's priorities and work programming in the poorest countries. The negotiations resulted in outcomes that align with Canadian priorities. For instance, the upcoming years will see an increased IDA focus on the most challenging frontier areas, greater private sector mobilization, and stronger, more targeted investments in climate change and gender equality.

As a result of this positive outcome, Canada pledged a total of \$1.32 billion over three years. This maintained Canada's place as the sixth-largest contributor to this organization and contributed to a total commitment record of \$52 billion in financing over the next three years to help accelerate the fight to end extreme poverty. These funds will support a wide range of development activities and help pave the way toward equality, economic growth, job creation, higher incomes, and better living conditions.

The World Bank releases an annual report showing the development results that countries have achieved with support from the IDA and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, which is the World Bank's arm focused on middle-income countries. The document highlights results across many investment areas such as institutions and governance; human development and gender; infrastructure; agriculture and food security; climate change and the environment; and finance, private sector development and trade. Between 2003 and 2013, through the two key World Bank lending arms, both supported by Canada, 597 million children were immunized, 195 million women received prenatal care and 117 million people gained access to health services. Moreover, between 2002 and 2013, 260,000 kilometres of roads were constructed or rehabilitated worldwide.

Canada also provided \$51.2 million to the MDRI through the World Bank Group. Debt relief under the MDRI contributes to poverty reduction by freeing up resources, which would otherwise be used to service sovereign debts, to be used toward social expenditures. This initiative contributed to decreasing debt service payments in recipient countries and enabled them to increase their poverty-reducing expenditure.