

the most vulnerable to poverty, violence and climate change. So we will work closely with local women's rights groups, particularly in the areas of sexual and reproductive health; in the fight against child, early and forced marriage; and in enabling access to the formal economy and decision making.

The core action area for the new policy—which will be integrated across all areas—is:

- **gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.**

The other action areas we have chosen are:

- **human dignity**, covering humanitarian action, health and nutrition, and education;
- **growth that works for everyone**, which targets areas such as sustainable agriculture, green technologies and renewable energy;
- **environment and climate action** focusing on adaptation and mitigation, as well as on water management;
- **inclusive governance**, including democracy, human rights, the rule of law and good governance; and
- **peace and security**, by promoting inclusive peace processes and combatting gender-based violence.

In terms of its geographical distribution, Canada will no longer limit its international assistance strictly to a list of countries of focus, nor will it disperse its efforts in all directions. We will strike the right balance to ensure that Canada's contributions have the greatest positive impact. We will address conflicts and climate change in fragile states and contexts, while continuing to foster economic development and growth that works for everyone in the poorest countries and supporting middle-income countries that face particular challenges, notably with respect to governance.

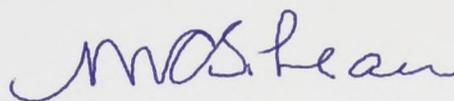
For our assistance to have the greatest possible impact on the ground, we must be determined but also creative, flexible and rigorous in our approach.

We must be innovative and foster innovation in how we work—through our funding mechanisms and by forming new partnerships. We will make sound decisions based on evidence and closely track our progress, but in a manner adapted to the needs of different stakeholders in different contexts.

Today, Canada has the capacity to play a leading international role and will take the opportunity to implement its new vision for international assistance in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. I will speak up for the poorest and most vulnerable, especially women and girls, and they can count on the commitment and expertise of our team in Canada and in our missions around the world, as well as the support of our many Canadian partners, with whom we are strengthening our collaboration.

As we implement this new policy, I will continue to engage with Canadians and our stakeholders, because the launch of this policy is not the end of the process but rather a first step in a longer journey to achieving the best international assistance results.

We commit to all of this because international solidarity is a shared Canadian value. We live in an increasingly interconnected world, and Canada's international assistance will benefit not only partner communities but also Canadians. Together with our international partners and allies, we have a collective responsibility to safeguard and promote global health and security, education, environmental protection and growth that works for everyone—and we will do so with conviction and pride.



The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau
Minister of International Development and
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