

## PART IV — A Brief Conclusion

The coming decades will see many more people living in the world beyond Canada, and many more people anxious to get into other countries including Canada. These trends, alarmingly clear in general but unpredictable in detail, will increasingly impinge on Canadian interests—developmental, security, political, economic, social. The picture of the future is a complex one, with a tangle of interacting factors, and continuing change and turbulence. Poverty, conflict, and violations of human rights will be endemic over much of the globe.

Two kinds of reaction to this murky, uncertain situation must be avoided by governments and the public. One is that of relaxing our international effort and turning inward, either through complacency—fed by comforting headlines such as the recent UN-inspired “Canada is the best place in the world to live”—or through excessive concentration on the internal problems of our own making, such as national unity or budgetary shortfalls. The world will not let off so easily a country deeply dependent on international trade and prosperity, and with immigration as a basic element of national policy.

Also to be avoided is the risk of indecision and loss of focus, from a feeling that international problems, especially those involving the developing world, are too complicated, too numerous, too cross-linked, and rarely susceptible of progress. **In the field of population and migration in particular, as this paper has tried to indicate, some fairly simple policy actions are clearly desirable and urgent, and likely to be effective if resolutely pursued and sustained over a period, in the company of others.**

Alongside these steps, and of equal importance, **much more should be done by all leaders and departments concerned, and by NGOs, to highlight in internal and international discussions, and to discuss with the public, fundamental long-term factors affecting and affected by population and migration, such as development, human rights, the status of women, gaps between rich and poor countries, globalization, and the environment. Without much broader long-term attention to these issues, the lessons which the 21st century may have in store for us could well be harsh indeed.**

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