

Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Convention on Biological Diversity. Through these mechanisms, Canada will continue to help build developing countries' capacity to actively participate in the implementation of their international environmental commitments and other global environmental priorities.

### Ensuring Gender Equality

*Gender equality will be a crosscutting theme throughout Canada's development cooperation. Gender equality results will be systematically and explicitly integrated across all programming within each of the five sectors of focus. This integration will be achieved through the identification of these results as well as specific programming that targets gender-equality outcomes jointly with outcomes related to the sector in question. Explicit gender-equality results in the sectoral areas will be related to women as decision makers, the human rights of women and girls, and access to and control over resources.*

Gender equality means that women and men have equal conditions for realizing their full human rights and potential to contribute to national, political, economic, social, and cultural development, and to benefit from the results. Gender equality is therefore the equal valuing by society of both the similarities and differences between women and men, and the varying roles they play. Decisions made in planning development initiatives are not neutral with respect to gender equality, even where gender equality is not considered. Thus, the Government of Canada requires explicit considerations of gender equality issues in the planning and decision making process that supports progress toward gender equality. As such,

*The advancement of women and the achievement of equality between women and men are... the only way to build a sustainable, just and developed society. Empowerment of women and gender equality are prerequisites for achieving political, social, economic, cultural and environmental security among all peoples.*

— Beijing Platform for Action, 1995  
Reaffirmed at the 49th session of the  
UN Commission on the Status of Women, March 2005



The Tamale Intermediate Technology Transfer Unit in Ghana produces small and medium-sized replacement parts for machinery and provides a range of training and support services to small-scale artisans and entrepreneurs.

gender equality contributes substantially to improving the well-being of women, men, girls and boys in our partner countries.

Emphasis on gender equality is based on Canadian values of equality and social justice, as well as respect for human rights, and builds on Canada's long-standing international commitments to advance gender equality. Canada strongly supports and advocates for the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing Platform for Action, and the MDGs, which also converge around the notion that addressing inequality between women and men is fundamental to achieving poverty reduction and sustainable development. Gender equality and women's empowerment is the third MDG and is internationally recognized as fundamental to achieving all MDGs. Other donors and partners in developing countries look to Canada for leadership in this area.

Canada has demonstrated expertise and has established an international reputation for leadership in gender equality and development, including significant expertise in the area of analysis and programming. Canadian government agencies and departments have demonstrated a