Recommendation 6.2

Resolving the urgent humanitarian crises in sub-Saharan Africa and overcoming obstacles to long-term development both require a more integrated approach to foreign policy, where diplomacy, defence and development are closely linked. The Sub-Committee calls on the government to intensify its efforts in this area, for example along the lines of current work at CIDA on the security-development nexus.

The war on international terrorism is a case in point where diplomatic, military and development resources have been deployed in an integrated fashion to increase national and international security. Canadians themselves recognize this new reality. During Foreign Minister Graham's recent foreign policy consultations, Canadians urged greater policy coherence among the departments and agencies responsible for diplomacy, defence and development in order for Canada to achieve more in the world.

The G8 Summit last year in Kananaskis focussed on combatting terrorism, as well as building a new partnership for African development and strengthening global economic growth. These objectives are mutually reinforcing, given our belief that terrorism is less likely to take root in communities and nations that are prosperous, stable and open.

In concert with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) is paying particular attention to the promotion of good governance and human security in Africa. In the G8 Africa Action Plan, peace and security, as in the New Partnership for Africa's Development itself, are considered as essential conditions to end crises in Africa and ensure future development of the continent. At the Évian Summit, G8 Leaders agreed on a plan to reinforce Africa's capacity to undertake peacekeeping operations. They also agreed to keep working together in support of mine action and small arms control in Africa. These actions point to a clear recognition of the security-development nexus.

CIDA is currently developing a policy framework, in close consultation with DFAIT and the Department of National Defence, that would strengthen its commitment to programming in fragile states in crisis, provide strategic direction for country engagement and offer a toolbox to guide activities in such countries. CIDA is also looking at the development of new policy tools in the area of security sector reform. These frameworks and tools will reflect CIDA's active engagement and commitment to an all-of-government approach to conflict prevention, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction, as well as its close collaboration with other donors in the context of the OECD Development Assistance Committee Task Force on Conflict, Peace and Development Cooperation.