

News Release

Communiqué

Secretary of
State for
External Affairs



Secrétaire
d'État aux
Affaires
extérieures

No. 045

March 7, 1990.

CANADA SALUTES INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

MARCH 8, 1990

On the occasion of International Women's Day, March 8, 1990, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, stated, "Canada remains committed to the improvement of the status of women around the world and their full integration into the economic, social and political life of society. To this end, we continue to support international efforts to attain full equality for women."

At the United Nations, Canada is the second largest contributor to the UN Development Fund for Women, which provides advice on women's issues and funds projects designed to serve the needs of women. On February 1 of this year, Canada presented to the UN its second report outlining Canada's progress in implementing the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). This Convention was adopted by the General Assembly in 1979 and entered into force in Canada in 1982.

Canada is also an active participant in the UN Commission on the Status of Women, which is now meeting in Vienna to evaluate implementation of the Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. These Strategies, adopted in 1985 in Nairobi, are designed to guide the international community in its efforts to achieve full equality for women by the year 2000.

Within the Commonwealth, Canada has served on the Expert Group on Women and Structural Adjustment, which studied the effects of structural adjustment policies on women. The Expert Group's report, entitled Engendering Adjustment for the 1990's, was issued last June and then submitted in October to the Commonwealth Heads of Government at their biennial meeting in Kuala Lumpur. The report will be reviewed in detail at the third meeting of the Commonwealth Ministers Responsible for Women's Affairs, to be hosted by Canada in Ottawa in October 1990.

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Canada

Canada also contributes towards improving the status of women in other fora. For example, our country is a very active member of the working Party of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on the role of women in the economy. Canada promotes equality for women as well through our activities in La Francophonie and the Organization of American States.

Since June 1986, under the Leadership of the Canadian International Development Agency, the Canadian government has also had in place a policy and action plan for promoting the integration of women into the process of development.

"It is important that, as a government and as a people, we continue to promote the equality of all women not just domestically, but internationally."