

CANADA

1. Measures to accelerate progress towards the MDGs by 2015

Canada has identified three new thematic priorities for its development co-operation, which include stimulating sustainable economic growth, increasing food security and securing the future of children and youth. In addition to these priority themes, Canada continues to integrate three crosscutting themes in all of its programmes and policies: increasing environmental sustainability; promoting equality between women and men; and helping to strengthen governance institutions and practices. Canada has also committed \$1.1 billion under the Muskoka Initiative, which focuses on accelerating progress towards the MDGs relating to maternal, newborn and child health. Canada is also contributing to MDG8, developing a global partnership for development, by supporting bilateral and multilateral debt relief initiatives, innovative finance and committing to double international assistance by 2010-2011 to reach \$5 billion.

2. Changes in development policy, and what drives them

In 2009-10, Canada announced important changes to its development cooperation policy, which were largely driven by a mandate to enhance focus, efficiency and accountability. As a result, CIDA will focus its assistance in 20 countries of focus and three priority themes. It is also shifting more resources and authority to the field, aiming to address local needs more effectively and to develop stronger relationships with local stakeholders. Canada has also committed to untie all Canadian aid by 2012-13, in order to increase effectiveness and deliver on its international commitments to untie aid. In addition, Canada announced a new approach to increase the engagement of Canadians and Canadian organisations. The "Partnerships with Canadians" Branch has designed two new programmes and has instituted a call-for-proposals approach intended to streamline the application process and reduce the administrative burden for project applications, leaving more money for development work on the ground.

3. Measures to increase the predictability of aid

CIDA's Aid Effectiveness Action Plan (2009-2012) which includes commitments to improve transparency and predictability of aid. The Plan commits CIDA to publishing three-year funding estimates by sector on an annual basis for each bilateral country programme. In addition, CIDA will provide public authorities in partner countries with timely and accurate information on annual commitments and actual disbursements in accordance with timelines.