

A better focused, specialized approach to Canadian Foreign Policy

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Canadian Foreign Policy makers should stop and review their procedures in detail in order to produce an inter-departmental framework aimed at creating sound programs in international development and human security. Currently our resources are large, however our actions are uncoordinated.

We have pushed for new norms in cooperation with the international civil society, but the reality is that the average 25 richest countries have \$25000 per capita GNP, 58 times the average GNP person in the poorest 50 countries.

This human security framework should be complementary to such instruments as the national security strategy of the United States that shapes alliances and core transformations in international relations. It should promote equity and the reciprocity of rights at the supranational, national, regional and local level. It should use horizontal management in the creation of joint-up programs adopted by all international ministries, and administered by the Treasury Board.

We have the possibility of shaping norms such as the democratization of global governance, the influence of non-governmental bodies, environment stewardship and peace-building. A country like Norway invests 1.1 % of its GDP in Official Development Assistance (ODA) and is recognized around the world for its mediation efforts in the middle-east. Why do we not obtain such a result? There are two factors: a) there is no high-profile coordination mechanism such as a ministerial committee of international relations b) International departments such as CIDA, DFAIT, DND and CIC are at war with each other. Globalization means adopting policies aimed at closing the gap between economic integration and social cohesion, by building effective programs to increase both human development and social capital at home and abroad.

Joint-up programs reduce tensions between the various policy planning divisions by unleashing planners and managers' talent. Tools such as a common Intranet system including virtual task forces, study groups, on-line conferences with experts, surveys, list of International treaties where Canada is signatory and discussion rooms should be adopted by all departments. All of these tools will enhance the machinery's effectiveness at adopting common, de-compartmentalized policies and programs.

Future peace-keeping missions will require the combinations of all our resources, including provinces, municipalities, NGOs and the private sector. Increased cooperation between the RCMP and the CAF is needed for efforts to stabilize and empower the legitimate local authority. Increased cooperation between CIDA and DFAIT is also needed to better administer development and human security programs such as the removal of landmines. More understanding between all departments and NGOs will be essential in the debate, planning and applications of the programs.

Transmission of Canadians values will occur only if we invest all our societal, economic and human capital resources in fewer countries. Each G20 countries could do the same within its region. Let's adopt 5 or 6 least impoverished countries as a partner in the genuine reconstruction of their societies. The government has the ability of coordinating many agencies for various specific achievements such as community reconciliation, development of small businesses, agriculture, schools, and effective means of governance. Canadian embassies should have a definite coordinating role, simply because there are present locally.

Finally, the concept of partnership countries will only be realized once the international community will accept placing its organizations under further scrutiny as well as to reform the ODA attribution. In order to include civil society in the shaping of globalization, the Breton Woods institutions and the WTO should be balanced by the development of a World Rights Organization (WRO) and a World Social Forum (WSF). On the other hand, world states should invest more in ODA, proportionally to their wealth and growth. Canada should push for a new equalization aimed at attaining the 0.7% of GDP guideline suggested by the UN. A human security and development interdepartmental framework increases the possibility of shaping a globalization that is sensitive to human needs.