

# **Canada and the Developing World: Meeting our Responsibilities**

## **Group of 78 Annual Policy Conference 2003**

### **Conclusions and Recommendations**

**September 19 - 21, 2003**

**Econiche House: 32 River Road, Cantley, Quebec J8Y 3A1**

**Conference Chair: Ross Francis.**

**Rapporteurs: Geoffrey Pearson, Tim Creery, Arch MacKenzie.**

---

#### **Increased commitment of CIDA funding for health care training and programmes**

Recognizing the importance of the Millennium Development goals and that one of the priorities of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) is the provision of primary health care and that 2003 has been designated the United Nations International Year for Fresh Water as a human right, we urge CIDA to increase the breadth and coherence of its health care programs to make them truly supportive of sustainable development.

To that end, we urge CIDA to increase its support for the training of health care professionals in its partner countries; to carry through without delay the recommendation of the government's International Policy Framework Task Force in increasing co-ordination with other departments, specifically Health Canada and the International Development Research Centre; and in its preventive health care program to focus upon those diseases that place the greatest burden, in mortality and morbidity, on the greatest number of people, specifically malnutrition and HIV/AIDS.

Noting that a Team Canada mission to China included a representative of the Canadian tobacco industry and that the world-wide tobacco industry has greatly increased its sales campaigning through the developing countries, we recommend that CIDA recruit without delay a specialist on the risks of lung

cancer and other diseases from smoking, in order to inform our partner countries of the governmental experience in Canada in combating such campaigns.

Noting with appreciation that the government of Canada has shown commitment to the provision of generic affordable drugs to treat conditions such as HIV/AIDS, we urge the government to eliminate the patent protection laws that currently prevent Canadian generic drug companies from marketing appropriate pharmaceuticals to low-income countries.

---

### **Increased Funding to CIDA**

Bearing in mind Canada's commitment to the Millennium Development goals, we recommend that the government of Canada's plan to increase funding to CIDA from the present \$2 billion per annum to \$4 billion by 2010 be revised upward to reach \$6 billion a year by 2010.

This would be achieved by doubling the proposed increase to CIDA to 16 per cent from eight per cent.

The internationally-agreed target for foreign aid has been 0.7 per cent of the gross domestic product for many years. This motion works toward that goal.

---

### **Additional CIDA funding for special reconstruction measures**

That additional funds be made available to CIDA when special measures such as reconstruction in Afghanistan and Iraq are taken so that CIDA's budget for its chosen areas of spending are not affected.

---

### **Promotion of 'Tobin tax' to increase resources for foreign aid.**

The time is opportune for a renewed attempt to introduce a so-called Tobin tax on international financial transactions to boost resources for foreign aid.

Canada should take the opportunity to promote the idea among OECD nations and as many others as possible.

In 1997, a Tobin tax of 0.1 per cent would have raised \$97 billion (U.S.) world wide. The rate of international currency today has increased so that tax product would be larger today.

The intent of this motion is to provide additional funds that nations could use partly to boost funding to the UN for foreign aid.

---

### **Offer of assistance for Iraq through United Nations**

Canada should offer to the U.S., through the United Nations, humanitarian and technical assistance for Iraq.

---

### **Reform of food aid programs**

Food aid programs should be reformed so they do not involve subsidized agricultural products but rather support developing countries' local domestic agricultural productions.

---

### **Impartiality of humanitarian aid**

The government of Canada should be encouraged to continue to uphold and defend the principles of international humanitarian law as it delivers assistance to countries in conflict.

This would include maintaining clear distinctions between humanitarian aid and military activities, encouraging aid agencies to remain impartial and independent in the delivery of aid and encouraging other countries also to abide by international humanitarian law.

---

### **Increased stability of NGO funding**

Recognizing the increasing financial insecurity of NGOs, which are unable to plan ahead, build infrastructure or pay for basic costs, we request that CIDA or Treasury Board re-examine the way NGOs are dealt with a view to funding for longer terms and to cover their core costs.

To encourage the sustainability of the NGO sector, CIDA is requested to consider funding Canadian and regional NGOs so that Canadians can be educated about development issues. This would increase knowledge of and support for key CIDA priorities and raise the NGO donor base.

---

## **Public inquiry into deportation of Maher Arar**

Canada is asked to undertake a public inquiry into the deportation to Syria by the United States of Maher Arar, with a view to producing recommendations to protect Canadian citizens in analogous situations.

---

## **United Nations rapid reaction capability**

The government of Canada is asked to continue to lead in the further development of a rapid reaction capability in support of United Nations peace support operations or UN-mandated peace support operations.

This leadership would include the initiative to expand the mandate of the Standby High Readiness Brigade (SHIRBRIG) to include participation in chapter VII (Security Council authority to order force if necessary) operations under the charter of the UN.

Further, that the Canadian Forces maintain the capability to participate in SHIRBRIG operations at a robust level and that the government of Canada explores the possibility of further integration of SHIRBRIG with the UN Standby Arrangement System.