



Group of 78 2025 Annual Policy Conference

Redefining Development in the New World Order

Summary of Recommendations

Full report found at <https://group78.org/group-of-78-2025-conference-report-now-available/>

Getting the SDGs back on track and Canada's future development engagement

1) International development and growing inequality have retreated from the public eye. Civil society organizations (CSOs) need to change the narrative on how they explain development issues to the public. **It is critical that civil society articulate a positive and constructive vision for the future and mobilize within the Canadian political arena to execute that vision.** CSOs need to ask themselves: What sort of vision do we have for the post-2030 world? What does it look like, and how do we construct a roadmap to get there?

2) **The international assistance and humanitarian aid community must launch a coordinated effort to ensure that the voice and value proposition of this sector are represented at every table, forum, meeting, and conference where Canada's role internationally is being discussed and decided.** They must: hone and synchronize talking points and narratives; join coalition efforts; build solutions; use digital media channels to connect with influencers and decision-makers on a daily/weekly basis; publish op-eds and analyses on all policy announcements relative to the sector; create and cultivate a roster of media experts who are available at short notice; speak at Parliamentary committee meetings; have regular correspondence with Ministerial aides; lobby for keynote and speaker roles at meetings and conferences; submit research and abstracts; join conference programming committees; stake out a presence by having booths and side events at major meeting and events; invite people from other sectors (security, military, economics, business, labour, government) to their own meetings and conferences.

3) **Canada must move forward with the recommendations outlined** in NPSIA's [*Moving the Needle*](#) report, including: developing a new framework which clearly articulates Canada's core principles and goals for development and humanitarian engagement, one that retains gender equality as a driving principle and focuses on the protection of civilians, peacebuilding, building ecosystems for development, a sustained commitment to health and education, and strengthening ties between trade and development. Canada must use the convening power of its 2025 G7 Presidency, and work with France's Presidency in 2026, to form and lead a G7 Working Group on International Responses to Conflict, Fragility and Development, and to articulate a new framework to guide its engagement in fragile, conflict-affected and developing contexts.

4) As a G7 country, Canada must take a leadership role in driving the recommendations outlined in the African Expert Panel's submission to the G20 meeting, *Growth, Debt and Development: Opportunities for a New African Partnership*, released in November 2025.

5) Canada should work with other countries to amplify, support and learn from the voices and knowledge of Indigenous communities in development projects while strengthening Indigenous languages and culture. Canada should also redouble its efforts to **implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples** in Canada and abroad.

6) Canada should provide funding in support of an independent scientific task force to reassess, reorient and strengthen the Sustainable Development Goals, and develop post-2030 targets, anchored by development scholars at Guelph and Ottawa universities.

Redefining finance for development

7) Canada should work with the governments, civil society organizations and scholars of other countries to strengthen the capacity of the State to reassert control over the allocation and direction of capital in national economies and development initiatives. Neo-liberalism has pushed governments to the side, making them peripheral actors in many countries.

8) Canada needs to fulfill the commitments it made at the Sevilla meeting, converting intentions into actions, creating policies and mobilizing resources domestically to ensure that it can optimally leverage its influence as a G7 country, and has the means to make progress on the initiatives it championed: the provision of technical assistance with debt management through approaches such as debt-for-development swaps; the implementation of 'pause clauses' in current and future loan contracts with both public and private actors to help countries manage debt obligations during periods of crisis; as well as influencing reform in multilateral development banks, taking advantage of its long association with them; and a broadening of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) to benefit developing countries. Canada has led initiatives for debt management and relief before and should do so again.

9) A key measure to improve national economic sovereignty is to strengthen the role of national public development banks. With Canada's experience and record in this area, the Canadian government is well positioned to assist developing countries in this task and should do so.

10) Canada must implement fair levels of taxation on top earners in the country and redistribute the proceeds for maximum social benefit, rebuild its own economy for the future, and contribute to the economic health of its global partners. It needs to lead the world in acting against the scourge of extreme wealth inequality.

11) Through both foreign and domestic policy, Canada must accelerate its progress on its own green energy transition and move away from the outdated extractive economic model to one based on knowledge and services and clean energy. Canada must protect the assets and resources upon which its wealth depends so that it will continue to have the means to contribute to global economic development. It must do this for its own future and to be considered a competent and reliable international partner, an inspiring example to other extractive economies, and not a cautionary tale. Further, Canada's aid, both bilateral and multilateral, should support clean energy projects, not those based on fossil fuels. **Civil society groups and other actors need to reinforce the message that the green transition is unstoppable—and more affordable.**

12) Canadian foreign-aid projects working with developing-country governments, business associations, trade unions, and educational institutions should test wealth- and job-creation strategies that focus on human capital, skills development, local expertise, and alliances with the private sector in a range of business sizes and sectors, to generate more high-quality employment in existing industries, especially in services, in Africa, Asia and the Americas.

13) As it makes its way through the Parliamentary process, the Canadian Parliament must support the Climate-Aligned Finance Act (Bill S-238), a bill sponsored by Independent Senator Rosa Galvez, and reintroduced in October of 2025, calling for Canadian financial institutions to be held accountable for meeting the Paris Agreement targets, driving Canada's progress on the green energy transition. This applies to the overseas investments of financial institutions based in Canada, as well.

14) The International assistance community in Canada must advance a powerful coordinated campaign to communicate the value proposition of ODA to the Canadian public and the government. The community must make a push for a recommitment from Canada to the achieving the UN guideline of 0.7% of Gross National Income in every forum where Canada's role in the world is being discussed and decided upon. ODA has been a stable and reliable source of development funding for the past several decades and must continue to be a key part of the mix.

Technology - opportunities and threats in artificial intelligence

15) Canada should work with other countries to strengthen the United Nations Global Compact to maximize the options of low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) to build their own AI capacity, support local developers, create social and economic value, and ensure affordability of access to AI for their populations and institutions. Developing countries are particularly vulnerable to the control of AI by other countries and international corporations. Canada should adopt an appropriate position and take action to assist LMICs to create local control of AI technologies and systems.

16) Canada should work through other multilateral bodies of which it is a member—G7, G20, APEC, ASEAN, OECD, WTO—and some of which it is not a

member—such as the BRICs bloc—to advance policies and practices on AI that maximize the options of LMICs to build their own AI capacity, support local developers, create social and economic value, and ensure that local access to AI is open and affordable.

17) Global Affairs Canada must open a new program window to expand its support of AI capacity building in priority LMIC partner countries, including exploring local developer acceleration, SLMs and AI-in-a-Box options and lower cost services.

18) The International Development Research Centre must be provided with sufficient financial resources from the Government of Canada to expand its research partnerships on AI capacity and innovation in LMICs, particularly in Africa, and to test and adapt local developer acceleration and SLM and AI-in-a-Box approaches.

19) The Centre on International Governance Innovation (CIGI) must be provided with sufficient financial resources from the Government of Canada to expand its research and policy development on artificial intelligence in terms of the global and national governance and risk management of AI, threats to democracy, and other emerging issues, such as digital sovereignty, greater access, lower pricing, local developer strengthening, and the potential of SLM models.