



Report to the Members of the Group of 78 for 2025-2026

1. Introduction

It has been a very productive year for the Group of 78. We have ramped up our activities, hosted top-quality events, posted insightful analysis, and kept pace with a fast-changing world. Led by our volunteers, we continue to work hard to meet the moment.

2. Context

We are not bystanders. In a chaotic, disordered world, it is our responsibility to use our main tools—policy dialogue and public education—to build the alliances and solutions that can strengthen citizens and communities and shift institutions to policies and practices that are fairer, safer and more sustainable. In the face of coercive, unaccountable hegemony (see Box 1), the Group of 78 is increasingly interested in middle-power coalitions working alongside multilateral organizations to advance peace, climate action and justice, guided by leaders of Indigenous, women’s and youth-led organizations.

Box 1: Tactics Used to Dismantle USAID

- **Step 1:** Fabricate and spread false stories of waste and abuse to turn public opinion against the work the agency is doing
- **Step 2:** Infiltrate and immobilize IT and financial systems to prevent the provision of services
- **Step 3:** Terminate contracts to ensure that the damage cannot be reversed
- **Step 4:** Vilify, demoralize, and ultimately eliminate staff
- **Step 5:** Replicate at other departments and agencies

Source: N. Enrich, *Into the Wood-Chipper: A Whistleblower’s Account of How the Trump Administration Shredded USAID*, Summit Books, 2026

3. Organization

Volunteers: As a small, volunteer-led organization, the Group of 78 relies on the talent and energy of our impressive Executive Committee. It has been an honour to have worked closely this past year with Susan Tanner, Roy Culpeper, Richard Harmston, Ruby Dagher,

Genevieve Harrison, Leah Darbyson, and Gordon Breedyk. We have also benefited from the insightful contributions of other members of our Board of Directors, including Sylvie Lemieux on nuclear disarmament, Manfred Bienefeld on geopolitics, and Bruce Campbell on climate policy. And we thank Maude Stephany, our executive secretary, for their passion and expertise.

Initiatives: Consistent with the recommendations of the Revitalization Committee’s 2025 report, we have engaged with and learned much from younger colleagues, including the ten student rapporteurs at our 2025 policy conference and, especially, from the insights and energy of ExCom member Leah Darbsyson. We have also begun a process of understanding how we can become more effective allies with Indigenous organizations and communities. In addition, to increase our visibility and spread our messages, G78 has accelerated the pace of our posting to our website and social media. As Figure 1 shows, this has resulted in major increases from the previous year in views of (18,000) and visits to (12,000) our site as well as increased participation in our annual conference and webinars.

Figure 1: Growth in Views of and Visits to the G78 Website, 2025-2026



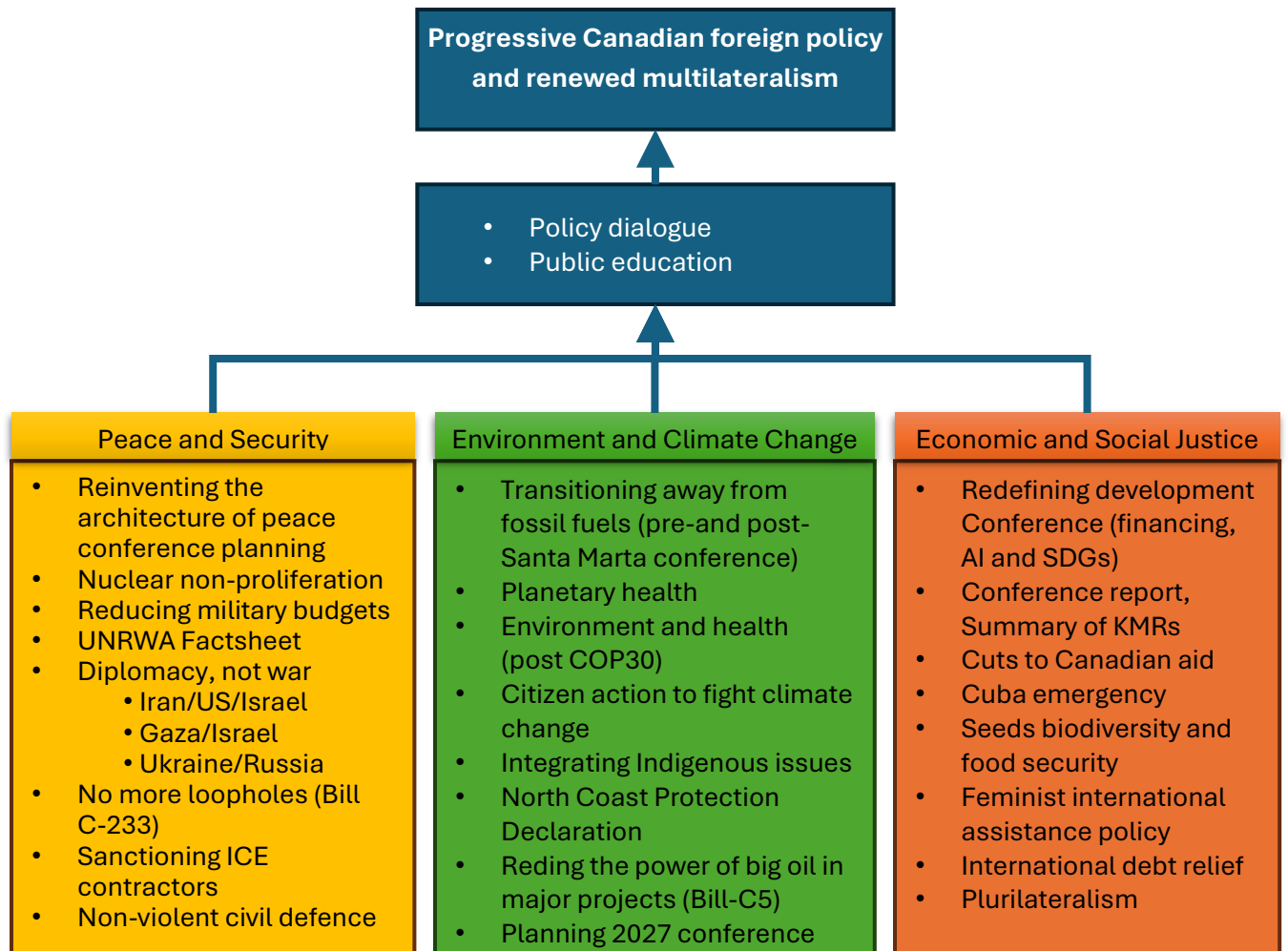
Priorities: However, there is still more work to do to revitalize our organization to make it fitter for today’s world—and tomorrow’s. We need to attract younger demographics—Gen X and Millennials, particularly—to our membership and Board. There is an opportunity to enhance our footprint in other parts of Canada, including the prairies and west coast. We must build a larger endowment to fund our programs. Further, we must strengthen our ties with key allies in the Senate, House of Commons and the Embassy community in Ottawa and increase our capacity to host in-person events in the nation’s capital. Finally, we need,

as a friend has said, a good “paint job” on our website—a redesign, in fact—to improve its effectiveness as a communication, membership-building and fundraising instrument.

4. Activities

Figure 2 summarizes the range of issues the Group of 78 engaged with over the past year across our three pillars: peace and security, environment and climate change, and economic and social justice. Using our independent voice in alliance with other organizations, our agenda has been both responsive and proactive in a complex world. Among others, our partners in this work have included the embassies of Colombia and Netherlands, the Senate of Canada, International Development Research Centre, Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Fossil Fuel Treaty Initiative, CAFES Ottawa, Ottawa, Carleton and Victoria universities, and the G20 Inter-Faith Forum.

Figure 2: G78 Activities by Pillar, 2025-2026



4.1 Policy Dialogue

In 2025-2026, our policy dialogue work took a variety of forms. In a series of letters to the Prime Minister and his Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defence and Environment, G78 called on the Government of Canada to use all forums and tools to reject the NATO military spending target of 5% ; revitalize the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty process; work for ceasefires and diplomatic solutions to conflicts in Gaza, Ukraine, and Iran; mobilize allies at the United Nations to end Israel's genocide; increase support for the relief work of UNRWA and unblock food aid to Gaza; close loopholes in weapons sales to the US (Bill C-233); sanction Canadian companies working for ICE; cooperate with Europe and Mexico to end the illegal US embargo of Cuba; strengthen its support of the International Court of Justice; reduce the power of big oil and increase the power of Indigenous approval and environmental regulations in the government's major projects legislation (Bill C-5); and provide high level representation and support at the Santa Marta conference on transitioning away from fossil fuels.

We also published two opinion pieces in The Hill Times: one urging Canada to lead a United Nations process to stop Israel's genocidal war on Gaza and another on Brazil's plurilateralism on environment, development and trade. However, our relations with mainstream reporters and social media bloggers remain underdeveloped. Without strengthening this dimension of our policy dialogue efforts, our impact on policy change will be constrained.

4.2 Public Education

Our prime public education event was G78's annual policy conference in October 2025 on the theme of redefining development in the new world disorder, featuring keynotes from global experts and leading-edge panel discussions on creating new financing strategies, understanding the potential and threats of AI in development, and reforming and re-energizing the Sustainable Development Goals. Supported by the International Development Research Centre and CIPS, the event was well attended by 160 participants in person and online. The conference report, background papers, and summary of key messages and recommendations are available to inform follow-up action.

At the same time, as Table 1 shows, we built a rich program of stimulating webinars which, combined, attracted nearly 700 participants, including 215 participants in our webinar on the Cuba emergency. In addition, G78 co-sponsored hybrid events with UOttawa's Centre for International Policy Studies on feminist policy, with the Senate on planetary health, and with IF 20 on the role of religion in the Ukraine-Russia conflict. Including all these events

plus the conference, we estimate that our public education activities this past year directly reached about 1,200 individuals. This is good progress.

Table 1: Registrants at G78 Webinars, June 2025 – May 2026

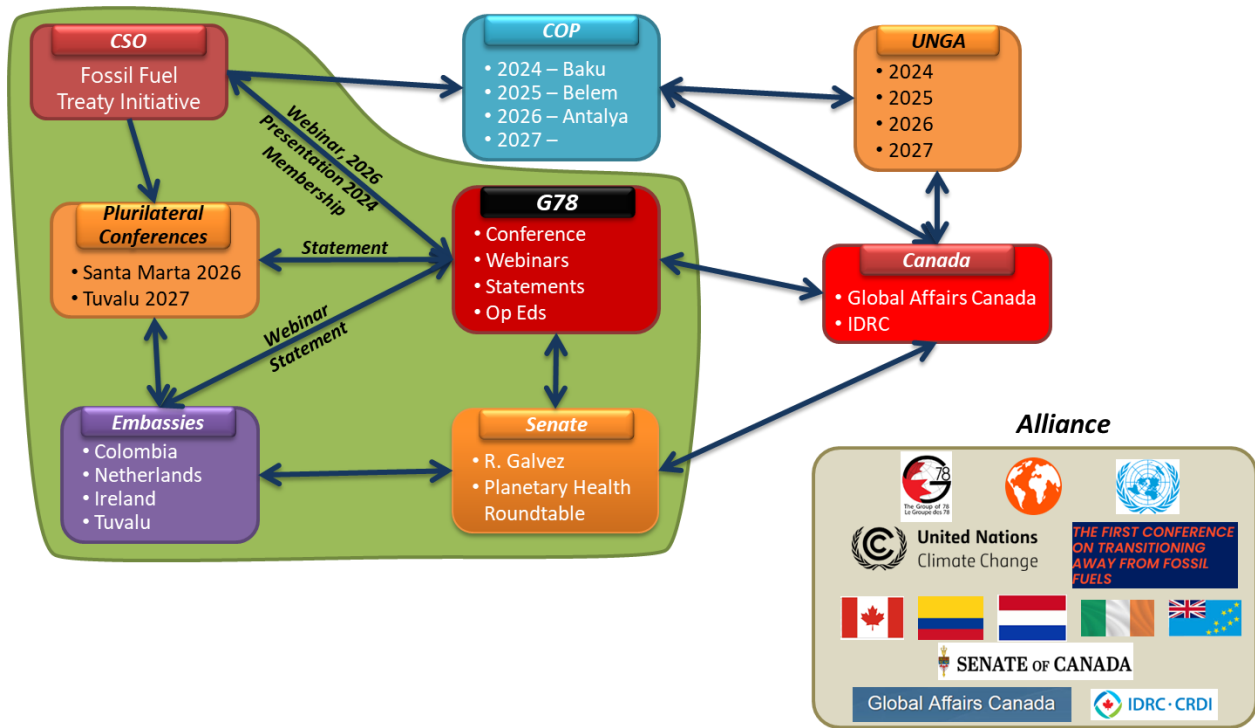
<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Registrants</i>
May 13, 2026	Beyond Fossil Fuels: The Santa Marta Action Plan and How Canada Can Push It Forward	89
Mar. 11, 2026	Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels: The Ambition of the Santa Marta Conference	105
Mar. 4, 2026	The Cuba emergency: What should Canada do?	215
Jan. 28, 2026	Seeds, Biodiversity, and Food Security	81
Jan 22, 2026	Post COP-30 Action – Climate and Health in an International Context	51
Dec. 5, 2025	When We Turn Our Backs... [Cuts to Canadian aid]	73
June 26, 2025	If You Want Peace, Prepare for War... [the US threat to Canada]	53

5. Lessons

The past year has provided important lessons to guide our work in the future. Three are worth noting:

- 1) **Theory of change:** Figure 3 shows the cluster of allies and meetings involved in our support for the transition away from fossil fuels, including civil society, embassies, the Senate and other stakeholders. Our approach involved working with a plurilateral coalition led by middle powers, giving us an opportunity to test and refine our theory of change in today’s geopolitical context.
- 2) **The Ottawa advantage:** Our work on the energy transition file also underscored once again the importance of our location in Ottawa, close to Parliament, Ministers, Senators, federal departments, international affairs schools, and national media correspondents. We can and should organize more in-person events in the nation’s capital and boost our capacity to work in French as well as English.
- 3) **Digital momentum:** Finally, our gains in posts, views and visits to our website built new digital momentum that increased participation in our webinars and conference. Now we must take further steps, including a website redesign and stronger links with the media, to grow our membership, raise new funds and increase our impact.

Figure 3: Theory of Change: Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels – Allies and Meetings



6. Conclusion

For the Group of 78, 2025-2026 was a year of intensive, creative work in which we developed an agenda of policy dialogue and public education to meet the moment. G78’s volunteer-led energy and independent voice on critical issues in peace, climate and development were valued by policymakers, diplomats, activists, and scholars. Looking ahead, we have more work to do to strengthen our organization to become even more effective. The Board of Directors of the Group of 78 is deeply grateful for the encouragement and contributions of our members and supporters. Let’s keep moving forward together.

Ted Jackson
 Chair, Group of 78

May 19, 2026