Notes for a Presentation to

Members of the Executive Committee of Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC)

Château Cartier, Aylmer, Québec
May 16, 2003

Maureen O’Neil, President
International Development Research Centre (Canada)

Target Audience: CIC Senior Management

Occasion: CIC is conducting an environmental scan as part of its strategic planning process.

Assumption: Target audience wants to engage in discussion about the developing world primarily because it is the source of a large part of CIC’s core business: would-be immigrants, refugees, etc.

Theme/Core Message: Canada in a world of growing complexity

1) Bref aperçu de l'évolution récente de l'APD canadienne (Aide publique au développement)

a. Imposition d'importantes mesures d'austérité au cours de l'examen des programmes fédéraux des années 1990.

b. Le Comité d'aide au développement (CAD) de l'OCDE déplore la réduction du montant de l'aide et le niveau élevé de l'aide conditionnelle, par opposition à la plupart des autres pays de l'organisation, (2002).


d. Le Canada a joué le rôle de pays hôte du Sommet du G8 à Kananaskis en 2002:
-Malgré l’accent que certains pays membres voulaient mettre sur le plan de lutte antiterroriste motivé par les attaques du 11 septembre contre les États-Unis, le Canada a insisté pour garder la question du développement à l'ordre du jour.
Le Canada a notamment insisté sur l’importance primordiale du Plan d'action pour l'Afrique constituant la réponse du G8 au NEPAD, le nouveau partenariat pour le développement de l'Afrique.

Le NEPAD a été élaboré par des Africains pour la relance des 53 pays du continent déterminés à prendre en main leur avenir et à rechercher des partenariats avec d'autres pays.

Lors du Sommet, le Canada s'est engagé à investir 500 millions de dollars (« Fonds canadien pour l'Afrique »).

e. Budget fédéral de février 2003 : augmentation de l'APD canadienne de 8 % au cours des deux prochaines années. Le CRDI a été cité explicitement dans le budget pour la première fois et s'est vu accorder une augmentation annuelle de 8 % de son crédit parlementaire au cours des deux prochaines années.

f. Occurrence de certains changements d'orientation importants au plan du contenu et de la conduite de l'APD :

- Accent sur l'Afrique (50 % de l'APD).
- Secrétariat hébergé à l'ACDI chargé spécialement de l'exécution du Plan d'action pour l'Afrique.
- Attention renouvelée portée à l'agriculture.
- Document d'orientation récent sur l'expansion du secteur privé.
- Énoncé de politique majeur sur l'amélioration de l'efficacité de l'aide internationale à l'automne de 2002 traitant, entre autres, des thèmes suivants: prise en charge locale, coordination entre les donateurs, plus grande cohérence des politiques; bonne gouvernance, aide conditionnelle et concentration par pays et partenariats renforcés.
- Suppression des tarifs et des contingents sur les exportations au Canada provenant de nombreux pays qui comptent parmi les plus pauvres du globe (à l'exception de certains produits agricoles).
- Initiative canadienne à l'égard de la dette : moratoire sur les paiements au titre du service de la dette active de 11 pays pauvres très endettés (PPTE).
- La plupart des sommes allouées à l'avenir au titre de l'APD se concentrent dans neuf pays :
  1) Bangladesh          3) Éthiopie          4) Ghana
  2) Bolivie              5) Honduras
6) Mali 7) Mozambique
8) Sénégal
9) Tanzanie.

- Mai 2003 : nomination du nouveau président de l'ACDI + d'autres changements survenus au sein du MAECI.

2) How has the world been changing, and what are the implications of these changes for Canada?

a. Signs of Progress:

Over the past forty years, the world has become much richer. Global gross national product per capita grew by around 75% (in real terms) in the last quarter of the 20th century. All regions of the world, except Africa, have higher national income per capita than 25 years ago.

Not only are people richer, but people also live longer, are more educated, more literate, and generally healthier.
- In the last 30 years, the under-five mortality rate worldwide fell from 96 to 56 per 1000 live births. Overall life expectancy at birth has increased by 6.5 years, or over 10%, since 1970.
- Even in low income countries, adult literacy rates rose by almost a quarter between 1985 and 2000.

People’s ability to realise their rights to education, good health, and a decent standard of living have generally improved in all regions, except in Africa. These improvements are summarised in the UN's human development index.

(Refer to Excel chart, with data from Canada, E. Asia, Latin America, Russia and Africa.)

In the field of civil and political rights, there has been a great surge in respect for civil and political rights over the past 20 years.
- Since 1980, 81 countries have taken significant steps towards democracy, with 33 military regimes replaced by civilian governments.
- 140 of the world’s nearly 200 countries now hold multiparty elections, more than at any time in history.

The status of women has improved in many societies, especially their access to education and employment outside the family home.
- The total fertility rate is a good proxy for the status of women; it is highest in countries where women have the least control over their sexual and reproductive lives. Global TFR has fallen by almost 40% since 1970.
The explosion of information and communication technologies has offered a partial break from censorship and monopolistic provision of news and commentary for many people and countries. Coupled with the wave of democratisation mentioned above, 125 countries, with 62% of the population, have a free or partly free press.

b. Causes for concern

At the same time as the world has been making such great progress, there are great causes for concern.

The benefits of this growth and development have been disproportionately concentrated in the already wealthy nations and in the already well-to-do classes of the poorer nations. Economic inequality seems to have grown in the last 20 year. The richest 5% of the world’s people have incomes 114 times those of the poorest 5%. But are the poorest poor at a higher or lower level than they were before? The picture is uneven. In many cases, this increased inequality has brought increased social and political tensions.

Access to health care and education has been slower to grow for the poorer nations and classes than for the rich.

– Worldwide, 111 million children of school-going age, most of them girls, are still denied the right to go to school.

Millions of people are still denied access to the benefits of modern science and technology.

– Almost 11 million children still die every year from easily preventable diseases that have been all but eradicated in countries like Canada.
– Every year, half a million women die in childbirth, mostly from preventable conditions, many because of lack of legal access to abortion.
– While only 14% of the world’s population live in the wealthy countries of the OECD, 72% of internet users live there.

Current patterns of international migration take many skilled professionals, especially those with a scientific or technological training, away from poorer countries and regions, and towards richer countries. Africa, home to 13% of humanity, accounts for less than 1% of global expenditure on scientific research and development, and only 1.5% of world scientific publications.

Furthermore, progress in many domains, especially in the growing respect for civil and political rights, has been fragile; in some cases, the progress in building democracy has been perverted or even overthrown, with predictable consequences for the level of political tensions and conflicts.

While conflicts between states fell in number in the last fifteen years, the number and severity of armed conflicts within states grew.

– During the 1990s the number of refugees and internally displaced persons grew by 50%.
Perhaps most shocking of all, some countries are actually going backwards. In most cases, this is due to a lethal cocktail involving social and political strife, armed conflict, the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and unresolved economic crises. Women and children have borne the brunt of these calamities, and Africa has been especially hard hit. Some 20 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, with more than half of the region’s people, are poorer now than in 1990 – and 23 are poorer than in 1975. The impact of full impact of HIV/AIDS has yet to be felt, especially in those countries, like India and China, where the epidemic is well under way, but where public and private denial impede a full and effective response.

3) Summing up.....

Social, economic and political trends have been complex in recent decades. In some countries, e.g. South Korea, social, economic and political conditions have all improved in recent decades.

In other cases, economic progress has come, but with no improvement in civil and political rights; this is the case of China. In many of the countries of eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, however, the reverse has been true, with improved civil and political liberties, but deteriorating economic and social conditions. One must wonder about the long-run sustainability of both these models.

In still other cases, civil and political freedoms and social conditions have improved despite a stagnant or slow-growing economy (e.g. Costa Rica, Kenya since 2002). Sadly, however, many countries are caught in a downward spiral of political and economic crisis, often complicated by armed conflict and/or epidemiological crisis, e.g. DR Congo, Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Myanmar/Burma. Ironically, several of the countries trapped in these downward vortices were only a few short years ago considered models of good practice for their neighbours, e.g. Cote d’Ivoire, Zimbabwe. That was before the aid-giving countries gave much thought to respect for human rights and democratic development.

In this complex world, Canada is a favoured place to live. We are a wealthy, peaceful, and democratic country, with a high and rising level of human development. Yet we live in a world where complex and contradictory trends buffet much of the rest of humanity. Globalisation will help bring many of these trends to our door sooner or later.
Documents to Accompany a Presentation to

Members of the Executive Committee of
Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC)

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May 16, 2003

Maureen O'Neil, President
International Development Research Centre (Canada)
1. Economic Growth and Disparity

Annual growth rate of GDP per capita saw an increase in most of the world between the period 1975-2000 and 1990-2000. There was notably growth in the least developed countries, Latin America and the Caribbean, and South Asia. Notable slowdowns were observed in OECD countries and especially in Sub-Saharan Africa, where growth has been negative in the former. Growth in CEE-CIS countries is also negative, although comparisons are not possible between the periods (See table below).

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<tr>
<th>Regions</th>
<th>GDP per capita annual growth rate (%)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Developing Countries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Least Developed Countries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arab States</td>
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<td>East Asia and the Pacific</td>
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<td>Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
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<td>CEE and CIS</td>
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<td>High-income OECD</td>
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## Human Development Index and Civil and Political Freedom Index

**HDI and Indicators of Civil & Political Freedom for Selected Countries**

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<td>0.888</td>
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<td>0.885</td>
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<td>0.882</td>
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<td>Chile</td>
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<td>0.555</td>
<td>0.579</td>
<td>0.609</td>
<td>0.631</td>
<td>F</td>
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<td>0.811</td>
<td>0.831</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>NF</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>(82-83)</td>
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<td>Iran</td>
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<td>0.820</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>NF</td>
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<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
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<td>0.607</td>
<td>0.645</td>
<td>0.688</td>
<td>0.721</td>
<td>NF</td>
<td>PF (84-85)</td>
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<td>Malawi</td>
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<td>F (94-95)</td>
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<td>0.313</td>
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</table>

F = Free  PF = Partly Free  NF = Not Free
The Human Development Index measures a country's achievements in three aspects of human development: longevity, knowledge, and a decent standard of living. Longevity is measured by life expectancy at birth; knowledge is measured by a combination of the adult literacy rate and the combined gross primary, secondary, and tertiary enrolment ratio; and standard of living, as measured by GDP per capita (PPP US$).

* Freedom House assesses a country’s level of freedom by examining its record in political rights and civil liberties. A country grants its citizens political rights when it permits them to form political parties that represent a significant range of voter choice and whose leaders can openly compete for and be elected to positions of power in government. A country upholds its citizens' civil liberties when it respects and protects their religious, ethnic, economic, linguistic, and other rights, including gender and family rights, personal freedoms, and freedoms of the press, belief, and association. The Survey rates each country on a seven-point scale for both political rights and civil liberties (1 representing the most free and 7 the least free) and then divides the world into three broad categories: "Free" (countries whose ratings average 1-3); "Partly Free" (countries whose ratings average 3-5.5); and "Not Free" (countries whose ratings average 5.5-7).
HDI and Freedom Trends for Select Countries

*The USSR was NF (72-75 to 89-90)
HDI not available before 1980

F = Free
PF = Partly Free
NF = Not Free

Source: UNDP, HRD, and Freedom House