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NATIONAL REPORT OF CANADA ON IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMITMENTS FROM THE FIFTH
SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS
(APRIL 2009-MARCH 2010)



National Report of Canada on Implementation of Commitments from the Fifth Summit of the Americas

April 2009-March 2010



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

Canada

INTRODUCTION










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MINISTER OF STATE
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
(AMERICAS)

The Fifth Summit of the Americas took place in April, 2009 in Trinidad and Tobago, against the backdrop of a global economic crisis that threatened to erode many of the socio-economic gains made in the hemisphere in recent years. Leaders – many meeting for the first time – exchanged views on how to confront the crisis, and how to act collectively to advance energy security, environmental protection, and economic growth. Prime Minister Stephen Harper backed up a compelling case for a renewed commitment to free trade with an announcement of a temporary \$4 billion increase to Canada’s callable capital at the Inter-American Development Bank. Canada’s timely action gave the Bank the flexibility to help countries address the crisis through restoration of liquidity in the region. Ultimately, the summit overcame a number of challenges and saw leaders renew their commitment to inter-American co-operation across a broad range of areas.

The Port-of-Spain Declaration contains leaders’ commitments and direction given to the various organizations that make up the inter-American system. The Summit of the Americas is a priority for Canada’s engagement in the hemisphere, and Canadian government departments and agencies have been engaged over the past year on implementation of each of the 96 commitments in the declaration. The present report is organized under the following broad themes: Democracy, Prosperity, Security, Energy, Environment, Social Development, and Summit Follow-up. Our intention with this approach is to increase accountability and transparency in the reporting on implementation of commitments undertaken at the Summit of the Americas.

In addition to reviewing Canada’s national report, I invite you to consult the report of other countries, which are being posted on the OAS Summit Secretariat’s website.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<hr/>	DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE 4 Democracy 4 Human Rights 9 Civil Society 11
	<hr/>	PROSPERITY 12 Private and Public Co-operation 12 Trade 12 Sustainable Economic Growth 13 Science and Technology 15
	<hr/>	SECURITY 17 Disaster Management 24
	<hr/>	ENERGY 26
	<hr/>	ENVIRONMENT 35 SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT 40 Agriculture 40 Aging 42 Cultural Diversity 43 Education 44 Gender 45 Health 47 Indigenous Peoples 53 Labour 53 Migration 56 Social Development 56 Youth and Childhood 59
	<hr/>	
	<hr/>	SUMMIT FOLLOW-UP 61



DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

Democracy

COMMITMENT

We, the Heads of State and Government of the democratic countries of the Americas, guided by a renewed spirit of cooperation, integration and solidarity, have gathered in Port of Spain at the Fifth Summit of the Americas, with a firm commitment to protect and promote the political and civil liberties and improve the social, economic and cultural well-being of all our peoples by advancing joint solutions to the most pressing challenges facing our Hemisphere. Recognising the sovereignty and independence of each of our countries, we reiterate our will to strengthen national, regional and hemispheric efforts to create the conditions for justice, prosperity, security and peace for the peoples of the Americas, based on the protection and promotion of and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 1)*

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada's strategy of engagement in the Americas, launched by Prime Minister Stephen Harper in 2007, is a comprehensive, whole-of-government approach that seeks to create a safer, more prosperous and democratic hemisphere that promotes stability and opportunity for its citizens. As Canada is committed to active, long-term engagement in the region, a wide range of efforts to strengthen democratic governance, build dynamic and growing economies and enhance regional security were undertaken through 2009-2010, and with many continuing in 2010-2011. Canada is committed to advancing these objectives simultaneously, recognizing that neither sustainable economic development nor strong democratic governance can flourish in an atmosphere of insecurity, and vice versa. Canada has worked to strengthen its relations with key bilateral partners to deliver on common objectives, pursue mutual interests, and advance shared values in the Americas. Canada works closely with regional multilateral institutions such as the Organization of American States (OAS), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), and the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) to search for joint solutions to hemispheric challenges.

COMMITMENT

We reaffirm the principles and values of the Charter of the United Nations, the Charter of the Organisation of American States (OAS), the Inter-American Democratic Charter, the Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development and the Millennium Declaration; and we are determined to intensify our fight against poverty, hunger, social exclusion, discrimination and inequality, and promote social inclusion and cohesion to improve the living conditions of our people to achieve development and social justice. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 2)*

IMPLEMENTATION

The Canadian International Development Agency's (CIDA) development assistance programming across the hemisphere aims at reducing poverty and inequality. Within the framework of Canada's aid effectiveness agenda, CIDA's three key thematic priorities are focused on: 1) increasing food security, 2) securing the future of children and youth, and 3) stimulating sustainable economic growth.

In response to the urgent capital needs identified by the Inter-American Development Bank as essential to an effective response to the effects of the economic crisis in the Americas, Canada made available US\$4 billion in callable capital, which nearly doubled the institution's lending capacity. This timely increase in support provides countries in the region with greater access to credit to promote economic growth, an essential element of economic recovery.

COMMITMENT

We reaffirm the importance of promoting cooperation among our States on the basis of solidarity in the different spheres of inter-American relations in accordance with the principles and essential purposes of the Charter of the OAS, recognizing our social, political and economic diversity. (*Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 3*)

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada is reinforcing its relationships with key bilateral partners in the Americas to achieve common objectives, pursue mutual interests, and advance shared values. Recognizing that the Americas are a diverse and dynamic region, Canada strives to engage constructively with all countries in the hemisphere in the spirit of cooperation established in the Charter of the OAS, while maintaining our core belief in the value of democratic governance, including freedom, human rights and the rule of law. In an effort to strengthen bilateral relationships, Canada has increased its engagement in the region through numerous high-level visits by the Governor General, the Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers. In recognition of the region's importance to Canada, in 2008 Prime Minister Harper named a dedicated Minister for the Americas, Minister of State Peter Kent. Minister Kent has conducted regular visits to the region in order to strengthen Canada's bilateral and multilateral ties in the hemisphere and to bolster Canadian engagement on key hemispheric issues. Canada has also strengthened its diplomatic capacity through the increased deployment of civil servants to the region.

COMMITMENT

We affirm that the solutions to the challenges facing our peoples are closely inter-dependent with our efforts to promote sustainable development and social inclusion; build stronger democratic institutions; strengthen governance in our democracies; preserve the rule of law and ensure access to justice for all citizens; protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms; prevent and combat violence, crime, terrorism and corruption; fight the global drug problem and related crimes; and achieve broader civic participation of all citizens of the inter-American community. (*Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 5*)

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada is committed to advancing its interconnected and mutually-reinforcing objectives of strengthening democratic governance, security and prosperity in the region. Canada's objective with respect to democratic governance is to strengthen democratic institutions, practices and principles that safeguard freedom, human rights and the rule of law. Canada's approach involves promoting free and fair elections, supporting independent civil society and media, and working with multilateral organizations in the region.

Canada's efforts to enhance regional security and stability aim to combat the threats posed by illegal drugs, organized crime, pandemics and natural disasters. Canada has made a significant new investment to combat transnational criminal activity in the Americas, establishing the Anti-Crime Capacity Building Program (ACCBP) in December 2009. The objective of the ACCBP is to enhance the capacity of States, government entities and international organizations to prevent and respond to threats posed by transnational criminal activity. ACCBP programming consists of \$15M per year for activities such as training, legislative drafting and advocacy and awareness-raising.

Canada also conducts anti-crime efforts in the region through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the OAS Inter-American Drug Control Commission (CICAD), as well as through the Ministerial Meetings for Public Safety (MISPA) and Justice Ministers and Attorneys General (REMJA). Canada's annual

contributions provide support for efforts in the region to address drug control, corruption and human trafficking. Canada also contributes to training and technical assistance aimed at improving international legal cooperation, as well as mentoring programs and criminal justice reform.

Canada's efforts to increase prosperity in the region include promoting responsible investment and open markets to create new opportunities and jobs. Canada is pursuing robust bilateral and regional free trade agreements, double taxation agreements, foreign investment protection agreements, stronger financial and bank institutions, and a comprehensive development assistance agenda.

COMMITMENT

Our aspirations and goals for the Americas depend on strong democracies, good governance, the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. We believe that democracy is essential for the social, political and economic development of the peoples of the Americas. We therefore renew our commitment to fight poverty, inequality, hunger and social exclusion in order to raise the standard of living of our peoples and strengthen democratic governance in the Americas, and we will uphold the principles of and fully implement the Inter-American Democratic Charter. We reaffirm our commitment to fostering credibility and public trust in democratic institutions, in particular the legitimacy of electoral processes and full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 78)*

IMPLEMENTATION

The consolidation of democracy in the Americas is a priority for Canada. Canada is working with other OAS Member States and the Secretary General to ensure the full application and strengthening of the Inter-American Democratic Charter. In 2009, as in previous years, Canada introduced an OAS General Assembly resolution on the subject.

In response to the coup d'état in Honduras, Canada's Minister of State for the Americas participated in high-level missions to Tegucigalpa in support of mediation efforts. Minister Kent remained in regular contact with all key interlocutors, encouraging them to reach a resolution that would restore Hondurans' trust in democratic institutions and advance the country's reintegration into the hemispheric community.

In 2008, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) committed significant resources over three years to build the OAS' institutional capacity. In 2009, CIDA also contributed to the OAS' Americas Electoral Assistance Initiative which supports Member States in developing stronger, more transparent electoral practices and institutions. CIDA is also providing support to the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas (FIPA) to facilitate parliamentary dialogue and exchange. Through its support for FIPA, Canada contributed to efforts aimed at strengthening the efficiency of the legislative branch and its ability to promote democratic governance and to implement policies to maximize gains from trade, create jobs and reduce poverty. Canada assisted with the organization of the fifth FIPA bilateral trade workshop held at the Argentine Congress on March 16, 2010.

At the bilateral level, Canada provides assistance to help form more effective, transparent and accountable public institutions. CIDA contributed in 2009 to budgetary support for the strategic plans of four public institutions which play a key role in exercising democratic governance in Bolivia. CIDA also assisted Haiti's National Identification Office to modernize its capacity to maintain a unified national civil registration and identification system.

Additionally, Canada is supporting civil society advocacy to strengthen the implementation of the Inter-American Democratic Charter. For example, Canada funded the Carter Center to engage with governments and civil society to encourage application of the Charter.

In addition, the Government of Québec provided financial support for the co-ordination of OAS activities in Haiti, in particular those related to good governance and democratic development.

COMMITMENT

We recognise the role of good governance at the local level as a tool for strengthening democracy and sustainable development. We affirm the importance of enhancing decentralisation, local government and citizen participation and we reiterate our commitment to supporting the work of the high level Inter-American Network on Decentralisation, Local Government and Citizen Participation (RIAD) and its continued engagement in initiatives that promote good governance principles and practices at the local level. (*Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 79*)

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada is committed to promoting effective participation of local government institutions and local community groups in the democratic process, at home and abroad.

Domestically, the Government of Canada works with provinces, territories, municipalities and other partners to realize the hopes Canadians hold for themselves and their families. Through its Economic Action Plan, the Government of Canada is providing a significant amount of stimulus to help Canadian workers and communities manage through the global recession.

In the Americas, Canada has invested in initiatives that enhance citizen participation in political decision-making at the local level and empower local governments. In Haiti, CIDA has supported Haitian government institutions in developing a national local development policy and implementing a co-ordination structure that represents local development stakeholders. Additionally, Canada provided support to the Caribbean Forum for Local Government for the development of a Regional Policy and Cooperation Framework on Local Governance which aims to promote and foster good local governance throughout the region.

The Government of Canada, through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA,) has supported the work of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), an organization representing Canada's municipal government. FCM's extensive work in Latin America and the Caribbean continues to focus on improvement of local governance and democratic practices, and development of overseas partners' capacity to deliver essential services, promote economic growth and encourage the participation of their citizens. FCM has implemented a municipal partnership program with programming in Bolivia, Cuba, El Salvador, and Nicaragua. Program activities included assisting the Federation of Latin American Cities, Associations, and Municipalities in sharing best practices on decentralization and democratic governance in the region.



An OAS observer at a polling station in El Salvador. [credits: Gaston Gauvin]

COMMITMENT

We will strengthen our fight against all forms of corruption, fraudulent practices and unethical behaviour by increasing transparency, integrity, accountability and efficiency in the public and private sectors. We reaffirm our commitment to the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, and declare our support for the ratification and effective enforcement of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. In the framework of applicable national and international law, we reiterate our commitment to deny safe haven to corrupt officials, those who corrupt them and their assets, and to cooperate in their extradition as well as in the recovery and return of the proceeds of corruption to their legitimate owners. (*Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 80*)

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada is party to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (IACAC), and participates in the Committee of Experts of the Follow-Up Mechanism for Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC). Canada is currently the Vice-Chair of the MESICIC which is undertaking its third review round on how states are implementing the IACAC.

At the November 2009 Conference of States Parties of the UNCAC, Canada actively participated in the negotiation of the terms of reference for an effective, transparent, and inclusive UNCAC implementation review mechanism. Canada also participates in ongoing UNCAC working groups on asset recovery and technical assistance.

In 2009-10, Canada provided technical assistance through the UN Office on Drugs and Crime to advance the implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption and in support of anti-corruption objectives more generally.

Canada has made a significant new investment to combat transnational criminal activity in the Americas, establishing the Anti-Crime Capacity Building Program (ACCBP) in December 2009. One of the ACCBP's six priorities is to provide support for anti-corruption and transparency measures and assist in the effective implementation of legislative frameworks such as the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (IACC).

COMMITMENT

Alarmed by the corrupt, illegal and fraudulent practices in the management of some national and transnational private enterprises, which have a negative impact on the economies of our countries and could present a threat to their political and democratic stability, we will continue to enhance legal mechanisms for information sharing, and we will develop and implement policies that foster a culture of integrity and transparency within public and private offices and institutions. We will therefore seek to ensure that important progress is made in providing access for our citizens to public information, particularly on government revenues, expenditures and budgets. (*Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 81*)

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada works with other countries in the hemisphere enhancing legal mechanisms for information sharing, principally through the inter-American Meetings of Ministers of Justice or Other Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA). At the last REMJA meeting in Brazil in February 2010, Canada's Minister of Justice and Attorney General worked with counterparts from the region to strengthen access to justice and international legal cooperation.

The Government of Canada is committed to transparency and accountability. Canada's *Access to Information Act* gives Canadian citizens the right to access information in federal government records. The *Privacy Act* provides citizens with the right to access personal information held by the government and protection of that information against unauthorized use and disclosure.



A girl in El Salvador [credit: Gaston Gauvin]

COMMITMENT

In accordance with the Declaration on the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (2006-2016), we reiterate our commitment to protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities and to promote their full participation and inclusion in the development of our societies. We will undertake, as appropriate, social, political, economic, cultural and development programmes to enable such persons to access opportunities without discrimination and on an equal basis with others. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 40)*

IMPLEMENTATION

On March 11, 2010, Minister of Foreign Affairs Lawrence Cannon traveled to the United Nations to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Canada had previously signed the Convention on March 30, 2007 shortly after its adoption in December 2006. Ratification of the Convention by Canada underscores Canada's long standing commitment to equality, inclusion and full participation in Canadian society for persons with disabilities.

In addition, Canada is upholding its commitment to the rights of persons with disabilities through effective policies, programs and services that support opportunities for all Canadians, including people with disabilities, to participate fully in society. For example, the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) helps individuals with disabilities and their families save for long-term security; and the Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities is designed to help Canadians with disabilities who have little or no labour force attachment, and who are not eligible for Employment Insurance benefits.

As of August 1, 2009, the Government implemented new Canada Student Grants that don't need to be repaid, and a new Repayment Assistance Plan that offers flexibility in how and when students with disabilities repay their loans.

COMMITMENT

We reaffirm the principles contained in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, which recognises that all human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent and interrelated. We recognise that the universal promotion and protection of human rights, including civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, as well as respect for international law, including international humanitarian law, international human rights law and international refugee law, are essential to the functioning of democratic societies. We further recognize that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action reaffirms, *inter alia*, the importance of ensuring the universality and objectivity of the consideration of human rights issues. (*Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 82*)

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada completed its three-year term as a founding member of the Human Rights Council in June 2009. Over 2009 Canada participated actively in the Human Rights Council's proceedings as an observer country, working with all interested member and observer states to further the promotion and protection of all human rights – civil, political, economic, social and cultural. As part of Canada's commitment to universality and objectivity in the consideration of human rights issues, Canada has participated in all countries' reviews under the Universal Periodic Review Working Group of the Human Rights Council. The outcome of Canada's review was adopted by the Council in June 2009. Canada also provided over \$5M in voluntary contributions to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in 2009.

COMMITMENT

We reiterate our commitment to protect and promote human rights in our Hemisphere, and to the strengthening of the inter-American human rights system, with due respect for its autonomy and independence. We express our support to continue furthering the constructive dialogue with the participation of all actors, including the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, in the framework of the reflection process which contributes to enhancing its effectiveness, universalisation, and the adequate financing of the bodies of the system. (*Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 83*)

IMPLEMENTATION

In 2009, countries of the Americas celebrated important milestones for the hemisphere – the 50th anniversary of the inter-American Commission of Human Rights and the 30th anniversary of the inter-American Court of Human Rights. Canada values the work carried out by the inter-American human rights system to enhance the protection and promotion of human rights in the Hemisphere, and will continue to defend the independence of the region's human rights institutions and support their ability to assess the situation of human rights in specific countries. Canada has a strong record of supporting the inter-American human rights system. Between 2008 and 2012, the Canadian International Development Agency supported the work of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights. Canada has worked closely with the IACHR on practical ways to improve its effectiveness. In June 2009, several IACHR members met with Canadian Human Rights Commission officials in Ottawa to learn more about how the Canadian commission succeeded in clearing its own backlog of complaints.

COMMITMENT

We also reaffirm that all forms of discrimination inhibit the full participation of all persons in society and commit to taking continued steps to combat them. We will continue in our efforts to conclude negotiations on the draft Inter-American Convention Against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance. (*Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 85*)

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada's *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* states: "Every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination and, in particular, without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability."

Canada has participated in discussions at the OAS on the Inter-American Convention Against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance. Canada has remained engaged in working with other OAS member states to explore opportunities to elaborate concrete initiatives to combat discrimination in the Americas.

Civil Society

COMMITMENT

We commit to continue encouraging the participation of our peoples, through the engagement of our citizens, communities and civil society in the design and execution of development policies and programmes, by providing technical and financial assistance, as appropriate, and in accordance with national legislation to strengthen and build their capacity to participate more fully in the inter-American system. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 94)*

IMPLEMENTATION

Canadian voluntary sector organizations are important partners in Canada's international development programs, including in the Americas. These organizations include non-governmental organizations (NGOs), volunteer cooperation agencies, academic and educational institutions, provincial and regional councils, membership and specialized training institutes, cooperatives, unions, and professional associations. Through the Canadian Partnership Branch's Voluntary Sector, CIDA supports the work of nearly 270 Canadian voluntary organizations on a cost-shared basis.



Peruvian children in the Andes [credit: Geneviève Houle]



PROSPERITY

Private and Public Co-operation

COMMITMENT

We will continue to work towards eliminating administrative and bureaucratic barriers to the creation of new public and private enterprises. We will therefore take the necessary and feasible measures to simplify the processes involved in establishing and closing business ventures, with the goal of reducing business start-up time to a maximum of 30 days by 2015. We request that the IDB, World Bank, ILO and other relevant regional organisations support national and local government efforts to improve the legislative frameworks and administrative procedures for achieving this target. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 21)*

IMPLEMENTATION

According to the World Bank's Doing Business Report for 2009, Canada ranks near the top of the global list for ease of starting a business, with an average start-up time of five days involving a single procedure.

Trade

COMMITMENT

We recognise the positive contribution of trade among our nations to the promotion of growth, employment and development. We will therefore continue to insist on an open, transparent and rules-based multilateral trading system. We further recognise the need for all our peoples to benefit from the increased opportunities and welfare gains that the multilateral trading system generates. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 14)*

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada has not stood still in pursuing enhanced trade and investment opportunities. The Canada-Peru Free Trade Agreement entered into force in August 2009. Canada is working toward ratification of free trade agreements with Colombia and with Panama as well. Free Trade Agreement negotiations have resumed with four countries of Central America and were initiated with CARICOM members.

Canada has opened two new trade offices in Brazil (Recife and Porto Alegre) to take fuller advantage of the business opportunities in this country. Canada has also appointed a Co-ordinator for Corporate Social Responsibility for the Americas to mobilize relevant stakeholders within Canada and the Americas to advance a corporate social responsibility agenda in the region.

Export Development Canada (EDC) has taken a lead role in opening up business channels for Canadian companies in the Americas. In 2009, EDC facilitated over \$7 billion of trade in Latin America. EDC continues to expand its presence in this important region. Building upon the opening of a representation in Santiago, Chile in 2008, EDC opened a representation in Lima, Peru, in 2009, its fourth in Latin America, to expand upon the growing trade between Canada and the greater Andean region.

Sustainable Economic Growth



COMMITMENT

We are committed to addressing the current economic and financial crisis in order to achieve our objectives of promoting human prosperity and securing our citizens' future. We are determined to enhance our cooperation and work together to restore global growth and achieve needed reforms in the world's financial systems. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 7)*

IMPLEMENTATION

In April 2009, Canada temporarily provided the Inter-American Development Bank with US\$4 billion in lending capital, providing added credit access for borrowing members. Throughout 2009 and into 2010, Canada has been active in capital increase discussions for both the Inter-American and Caribbean Development Banks. Canada is also working to ensure the right governance structures are in place at the international financial institutions, such as through domestic ratification of proposed reforms to establish more balanced and equitable representation at the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Regionally and bilaterally, Canada is contributing funds towards the establishment of a Regional Technical Assistance Centre for Central America and the Dominican Republic, which aims to improve governance in the areas of macro-economic, fiscal and monetary policy and practices, as a basis for improved economic growth and poverty reduction. In 2009, CIDA also provided support to Haiti for a Technical Support program, helping government institutions facilitate Haiti's National Strategy for Growth and Poverty Reduction.

COMMITMENT

We recognise that there are significant differences in the levels of development and the size of our respective economies. Accordingly, we must continue to make a particular effort to promote sustainable development in small and vulnerable economies of the hemisphere by enhancing their competitiveness, human and institutional capacity-building, financial and physical infrastructure, as well as the development of information and communication technologies (ICT) and the development of the business sector and other productive economic sectors, including tourism. We will also continue to support the national development efforts of middle-income countries to achieve the goals of the Millennium Declaration, emphasising the reduction of poverty and the eradication of extreme poverty. We will work, as appropriate, in coordination with the relevant international institutions and organisations to improve the effectiveness of aid and development cooperation with middle-income countries. In this context, we also recognise the challenges faced by the land-locked countries of the hemisphere. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 12)*

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada supports equitable development in both large and smaller, more vulnerable economies via negotiation of free trade agreements, support for governance initiatives and through technical assistance. In 2009, CIDA announced a Trade-Related Technical Assistance Program to support partners' abilities to use trade and investment to reduce poverty and promote sustainable development. CIDA has contributed to sustainable economic growth in Haiti in a number of ways, including:

- » a partnership with *Developpement International Desjardins* to support savings and credit cooperatives;
- » support for economic and community opportunities for grassroots groups, and rehabilitation and construction of social and economic infrastructure; and,
- » a partnership with the province of Quebec to strengthen public sector financial management.

CIDA has also contributed to the Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre, which provides technical assistance and training in core areas of economic and financial management.



Prime Minister Harper meets with Mexican students, among the first recipients of the Emerging Leaders in the Americas (ELAP) scholarships.

In 2009 Canada announced an Emerging Leaders in the Americas Program, which will expand an existing scholarship program to enable students from the Americas to come to Canada and study in fields which advance the economic, social and governance development in their countries.

Canada's ability to support the sustainable development of the hemisphere is also enhanced in an ongoing way by organizations such as the Export Development Canada (EDC), the Canadian Commercial Corporation and the International Development Research Centre. For example, in 2009, EDC supported the construction of Phase 1 of the San Jacinto-Tizate Geothermal Energy Project in Nicaragua. The Government of Québec supported the OAS Scholarships for Academic Studies program through differential tuition fees for ten students from various countries in the Americas. In addition and in response to the January 12 earthquake, the Government of Québec worked with the OAS to provide urgent support to 40 Haitian students whose studies were interrupted by the disaster.

COMMITMENT

To reduce poverty and hunger, eradicate extreme poverty, create dignified and decent work, and raise the standard of living of all our people, we must achieve higher levels of business development and sustainable economic growth with equity. Subject to the domestic laws of each country, we will continue to promote diversified economic activity in the energy, transport, tourism, communications, services, financial services and agricultural sectors. We are committed to facilitating investment and public-private partnerships in infrastructure and other relevant sectors in order to promote business development, economic growth and social development with equity. We will continue to promote increased corporate social responsibility and improved competitiveness, to which the Americas Competitiveness Forum in Chile in 2009 will contribute. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 13)*

IMPLEMENTATION

In 2009, Canada released its corporate social responsibility strategy. The strategy includes measures to help Canadian extractive companies meet their social and environmental responsibilities abroad, and initiatives to build the capacity of developing countries to manage their natural resources in a sustainable manner. In 2009,

Canada's promotion of sustainable economic growth in Latin America and the Caribbean took many forms, including the following activities funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA):

- » Two key infrastructure projects in Haiti: the Les Cayes-Jeremie road project, and the Routes des Rails road project. CIDA also provided support for a Haitian Centre for Professional Training;
- » In Honduras, a 6-year program aimed at strengthening forestry co-operatives and promoting sustainable forestry practices;
- » Support to the Partnership for CARICOM Private Sector Development, which, implemented by the International Finance Corporation, addresses the unique challenges to Caribbean private sector development.



1- Fishermen in El Salvador [credit: Gaston Gauvin] 2- A market in Guatemala [credit: Gaston Gauvin]

Science and Technology

COMMITMENT

In order to foster innovation, increase competitiveness and promote social development, and taking note of the outcomes of the Second Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Science and Technology, held in Mexico City in 2008, we commit to create conditions for increasing public investment and to take measures that promote investment in the private sector, particularly in science, technology, engineering, innovation, research and development, and to encourage the strengthening of linkages among universities, science institutions, the private and public sectors, multilateral agencies, civil society and workers. We recognise that the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights should contribute to the promotion of technological innovation and to the transfer and dissemination of technology, to the mutual advantage of producers and users of technological knowledge and in a manner conducive to social and economic welfare and to a balance of rights and obligations. Therefore, we reiterate our commitment to their protection in accordance with the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). (*Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 22*)

IMPLEMENTATION

One way in which Canada promotes innovation, competitiveness and social development is through the negotiation of bilateral and regional free trade agreements. These can serve as a catalyst for collaborative relationships among a wide variety of actors, including policy makers, researchers and technical specialists at various stages of the value chain. Often these bilateral exchanges lead to initiatives which foster the development of innovative technologies which enhance the competitiveness and socio-economic development of partner economies.

Through its participation in the activities and meetings of the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission (CITEL), Canada has contributed to the development of policies that support trade liberalization and innovation in information and communications technologies (ICT) and telecommunications. At the same time Canada's participation in CITEL has fostered linkages between academic institutions specialized in telecommunications.

Through representation in CITEL a number of international bilateral and multilateral fora, Industry Canada's Telecommunications Policy Branch facilitates discussion of emerging technologies and other international issues related to ICT, shares information and best practices with other countries, and promotes co-operation in the international telecommunication arena.

COMMITMENT

We recognise that the benefits of a digital society should reach all citizens of the Americas. Additionally, we consider that reducing the digital divide, both among and within the nations of the Americas, is one of the conditions for achieving internationally agreed development objectives, including those of the Millennium Declaration. We therefore renew our commitment to collaborate with regional, subregional and multinational agencies to advance progress in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), the Agenda for Connectivity in the Americas - the Plan of Action of Quito and the Declaration of the OAS General Assembly held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic in 2006 on 'Good Governance and Development in the Knowledge-Based Society', and we take note of the eLAC 2010 Plan of Action contained in the San Salvador Commitment of 2008. We call upon our Ministers and high level authorities with responsibility for information and communication technologies (ICT) and for health and education to promote the use of ICT in all those areas in which they can improve our public and private sectors and the quality of life of our people, and to seek to improve access for households and communities. (*Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 43*)

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada participates actively in all the activities and programs undertaken by the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission conducive to reducing the digital divide and promoting the use of information and communication technologies for social and economic development. Canada was one of the authors of the Agenda for *Connectivity in the Americas* and *Plan of Action of Quito*, which serves as a guideline for countries in the region assisting them in the design and implementation of National Connectivity Agendas.

Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) is one of the world's leading institutions in the generation and application of knowledge to meet the challenges of international development. IDRC works in close collaboration with researchers from the developing world in their search for the means to build healthier, more equitable, and more prosperous societies. IDRC supports research under four broad themes: agriculture and environment; health and health systems; science, technology and innovation; and social and economic policy. In Latin America and the Caribbean IDRC has helped to identify and create capacity to use technology as a tool to enhance development, leading to tangible progress in citizen's participation, governmental transparency, sustainable and innovative economic opportunities for the poor, better access to public services, and better understanding of the dynamics and evolution of the digital divide. The OAS has recognized IDRC's support as critical to the development and implementation of the Summits Virtual Community, a new and innovative online mechanism for participation and collaboration between Member States and other actors in the Summits process.



SECURITY

COMMITMENT

We recognise the importance of addressing the threats, concerns and other challenges to security in the Hemisphere that are diverse, multidimensional in scope and impact on the well-being of our citizens. We reaffirm that our concept of security in the Hemisphere incorporates the priorities of each State, contributes to the consolidation of peace, integral development and social justice, and is based on democratic values, respect for and promotion and defence of human rights, solidarity, cooperation and respect for national sovereignty. It is indispensable for our States to strengthen cooperation on security matters. We therefore reaffirm our commitment to the Declaration on Security in the Americas. (*Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 68*)

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada supports initiatives to prevent crime and conflict, increase security and promote peaceful resolution of conflicts through:

- » annual contributions to key multilateral organisations and mechanisms leading initiatives against illicit trafficking, crime and terrorism;
- » flexible and responsive projects that address crises and complex conflicts, public security, rule of law and human rights concerns, as well as build anti-crime and counter-terrorism capacities of security systems in the Americas;
- » political support and deployment of personnel to peace operations while supporting continued training to increase peacekeeping capacities;
- » capacity-building towards military cooperation;
- » support to disaster risk reduction initiatives in Latin America and the Caribbean;
- » active participation in and ongoing implementation of key UN and OAS groupings and instruments targeting the reduction of crime; and
- » partnerships for the creation of the Caribbean Public Health Agency.

In preparations for the 2010 G8 Summit in Muskoka, Canada hosted a G-8 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in March 2010 that included discussions on transnational criminal activity and its impact on Latin America and Western Africa, as well as its potential links to terrorist activities. This led to a discussion at the Muskoka Summit between G8 leaders, select African leaders and leaders from Colombia, Haiti and Jamaica.

COMMITMENT

We recognise the important role of the OAS in the peaceful resolution of our differences, its participation in the promotion of a culture of democracy, peace, dialogue and non-violence in the region, as well as its role in the implementation of the Inter-American Democratic Charter. We commit to improve the capacity of the OAS in its efforts to assist in enhancing peace and the democratic, social and economic stability of our region. (*Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 88*)

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada believes the OAS plays a critical role in safeguarding democratic governance in the region, notably through ensuring respect for the Inter-American Democratic Charter. Canada's support for strengthening the OAS' ability to perform this essential role takes many forms:

- » High-level political engagement, such as through the personal involvement of Canada's Minister of State of Foreign Affairs (Americas) in OAS mediation efforts to resolve the 2009 political crisis in Honduras;
- » Financial support for electoral observation missions, and technical support for democratic institutions; and
- » Participation by Canadians in electoral observation missions.

Canada presented a resolution at the OAS General Assembly in June 2009 that identified ways of strengthening the role of the OAS in promoting and strengthening democracy as follow-up to the Inter-American Democratic Charter.

COMMITMENT

We reiterate our most vigorous condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as criminal and unjustifiable under any circumstances, in any place, and regardless of who perpetrates it, because it poses a grave threat to international peace and security, and to the democracy, stability and prosperity of the countries in the region. We commit to prevent, punish and eliminate terrorism and to continue the fight against all criminal activities that finance and facilitate it, with full respect for domestic law and international law, including international human rights law, international humanitarian law and international refugee law. We also commit to strengthen cooperation, including mutual legal assistance and extradition, in combating terrorism and its financing, in accordance with our domestic law and established international conventions. We urge those States that have not yet done so to accede to the international conventions on terrorism. (*Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 69*)

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada has a legislative framework to counter terrorism. It targets terrorists and terrorist groups and helps Canada to investigate, detect and prevent terrorist activities at home and abroad, including offences related to money laundering and terrorist funding.

Canada is able to provide mutual legal assistance to treaty partners under its Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Act. Canada is also able to provide assistance to non-treaty partners if such assistance does not require compulsory measures. In cases of extreme urgency pertaining to terrorism, it is possible to provide evidence on very short notice. Canada is able to extradite under bilateral and multilateral treaties containing provisions for extradition in cases where suspects are accused of terrorism or terrorist-related offences.

Canada's Counter-Terrorism Capacity Building Program (CTCBP) disbursed approximately \$6 million in fiscal year 2009/2010 to implement initiatives in the Americas. The CTCBP provides recipient states with training, funding, equipment, and technical and legal expertise to enable them to prevent and respond to terrorist activity in a manner consistent with international counter-terrorism and human rights norms.

As the largest contributor to the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism (known by its Spanish acronym "CICTE"), Canada has provided approximately \$4.7 million in project funding since 2005.

COMMITMENT

We will continue to fight all forms of transnational organized crime, illicit trafficking in drugs, illicit trafficking in arms, ammunition and explosives, illicit trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, money laundering, corruption, terrorism, kidnapping, criminal gangs, and crimes associated with the use of technology, including

cyber crime. We therefore reaffirm our will to implement the Commitment to Public Security in the Americas adopted by the First Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Public Security in the Americas in October 2008 in Mexico City, the commitments emanating from Meetings of Ministers of Justice or other Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA), as well as the 2006 Hemispheric Plan of Action Against Transnational Organised Crime. We thus invite the international community and international financial organizations to continue making financial contributions and other appropriate forms of assistance, within the scope of their respective competencies, to facilitate the achievement of the objectives of public security in the Americas. (*Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 70*)

IMPLEMENTATION

Combating organized crime is a priority for Canada. Canada has strengthened its criminal laws to fight organized crime and has invested in crime prevention, targeting young people who are vulnerable to gang involvement.

Canada completed implementation of Public Agents Firearms Regulations, which have led to the creation of a national database, containing information on seized and recovered firearms. This has enabled national trafficking patterns to be investigated.

Canada is also engaged in hemispheric co-operation in the fight against crime. In August, 2009, Prime Minister Harper announced the establishment of an Anti-Crime Capacity Building Program that includes support for projects aimed at combating transnational organized crime. Canada is an active participant in meetings of Ministers Responsible for Public Security in the Americas (MISPA) and in meetings of Ministers of Justice or Other Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA). As follow-up to the First Meeting of Ministers



Prime Minister Harper, President Obama, and President Calderón pose with RCMP police trainers and their counterparts from the US who participated in training Mexico's new federal police.

Responsible for Public Security in the Americas, Canada provided input to the OAS feasibility study on how to best strengthen the training and education of personnel with responsibility in public security matters in the region.

COMMITMENT

Accordingly, we commit to fostering public policies, in coordination with pertinent institutions and with citizen and community participation, designed to prevent crime, violence and insecurity, and to strengthen with a multidimensional approach and in accordance with domestic law, the channels of communication and the exchange of information, practices and experiences among Member States in combating and preventing crimes affecting public security. Moreover, we will strengthen our national and regional capacities through, inter alia, increased cooperation and technical assistance, as appropriate, that enable us to benefit from the expertise of each Member State. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 71)*

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada's National Crime Prevention Strategy provides a policy framework for the implementation of crime prevention interventions in Canada. The National Crime Prevention Centre provides leadership on effective and cost-efficient ways to both prevent and reduce crime by addressing known risk factors in high-risk populations and places.

In 2009, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police provided basic training to 1,500 new police officers and 300 middle managers in Mexico. Canada also trained 45 Mexican police executive as part of a joint training program with the United States and Colombia. In March 2010, the Canadian Police College provided forensic interviewing training to the Mexican Federal and State Police Departments.

In fiscal year 2009-2010, Canada committed approximately \$1.5 million dollars to train police officers in the Americas to support crime prevention initiatives.

Canada participates in the Working Group on Mutual Legal Assistance and Extradition under the authority of meetings of Ministers of Justice or Other Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas. This working group has advanced international cooperation in the fight against crime through various means, including the creation of a secure e-mail network that links relevant national authorities responsible for mutual legal assistance and extraction, sharing of best practices and drafting of model legislation.

COMMITMENT

We will increase our efforts to prevent and combat all aspects of the global drug problem and related crimes, with strengthened international cooperation and an integral and balanced approach based on the principle of common and shared responsibility, in accordance with the principles enshrined in the United Nations and OAS Charters, international law and our applicable legal frameworks. To this end, we will strengthen our national capacities and will continue to implement, as appropriate, the recommendations of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM). We welcome the completion of its latest Evaluation Round, and we will continue strengthening the Mechanism so as to enable it to face the new challenges and needs of the countries of the Hemisphere. We also recognise the importance of sustainable alternative development programmes and, where appropriate, of preventive alternative development in tackling the global drug problem. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 72)*

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada has a National Anti-Drug Strategy which focuses on: combating illicit drug production and distribution; preventing illicit drug use; and, treating and rehabilitating those with illicit drug dependencies. As part of this strategy, Canada launched the Synthetic Drug Initiative, designed to combat the production and distribution of illegal synthetic drugs in Canada, and reduce the overall influence of organized crime on drug trafficking in Canada.

In 2009, the Government of Canada introduced a bill to impose mandatory minimum penalties ranging from a minimum of six months to three years for offences such as trafficking and production of drugs such as heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine and cannabis. The issue remains under Parliamentary consideration.

Canada's Anti-Crime Capacity Building Program supports initiatives designed to restrict the supply of, and demand for, illicit drugs in the Americas. Canada also supports the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to combat the illicit drug trade in the Americas, including in the areas of container control, narcotic prosecution, information technology for drug control, synthetic drug information, and support for the Santo Domingo Pact and Managua Partnership and Monitoring Mechanism.

In 2009-10 Canada provided an annual contribution of \$1 M to OAS Inter-American Drug Control Commission (CICAD), and \$2.5 M for UNODC.

COMMITMENT

We request that the General Secretariat of the OAS submit to the next Summit of the Americas a progress report on the implementation of commitments made at the Meetings of Ministers Responsible for Public Security in the Americas (MISPA) and at the Meetings of Ministers of Justice or other Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA). We look forward to advancing further cooperation at these meetings and the work of the OAS in support of the MISPA and the REMJA. We express appreciation for the ongoing technical support of the OAS in matters covered by these meetings. (*Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 73*)

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada has engaged with the OAS on implementing the commitments made at Meetings of Ministers Responsible for Public Security in the Americas (MISPA) and is actively engaged in preparing for MISPA III in 2011.

Since the 2008 meeting of Ministers of Justice or other Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA), Canada has demonstrated its re-engagement in the Americas through its support for a number of initiatives undertaken by REMJA in the Americas, and its leadership in the effort to enhance, within the hemisphere, the capacity and ability to effectively engage in international cooperation in the fight against transnational crime, cybercrime, trafficking in persons, and asset restraint and forfeiture.

COMMITMENT

We recognise that violence is preventable and as such, we will formulate or strengthen policies that take an integrated approach to its prevention. To this end, we will complement law-enforcement policies with other violence-prevention strategies of measurable outcomes, in areas such as education, labour, health and other pertinent fields, as appropriate. We will continue to strengthen and implement activities that promote a culture of non-violence within a public health context, and to create safe, healthy, sustainable environments and communities. We acknowledge the Declaration of the First Meeting of Ministers of Health of the Americas on Violence and Injury Prevention, held in Merida, Mexico in March 2008, which commits to further innovate, develop, implement, and evaluate plans for violence prevention. (*Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 74*)

IMPLEMENTATION

Through its contributions to the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime, Canada supported the preparation of the UN International Report on Crime Prevention and Community Safety: Trends and Perspectives, which was presented at the UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Brazil in April 2010.

Canada's National Crime Prevention Centre has funded the development and dissemination of a crime prevention assessment tool, *Guidance on Local Safety Audits: A Compendium of International Practices* that was made available in Spanish and is being translated into Portuguese.

Canada is one of the founding members of the World Health Organization (WHO) Violence Prevention Alliance which promotes the use of an evidence-based, public health approach to address the root causes of violence. Through this membership, Canada has participated in the WHO Milestones meeting of a Global Campaign for Violence Prevention held in Geneva in September 2009.

Through its Family Violence Initiative, Canada has identified fourteen best and promising practices on the prevention of family violence to promote through the Canadian Best Practices Portal.

In March 2009, Canada participated in the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) meeting on Violence, Road Safety and Injuries in the Americas.

COMMITMENT

We are convinced that illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials are a threat to security, breed violence, exacerbate conflicts and adversely affect the rule of law. We reiterate the need for effective cooperation to prevent, combat and eradicate this threat and in this regard we reaffirm the value of Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and other Related Materials (CIFTA) and its model legislation as a basis for such cooperation. We will continue to combat the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials by, among other actions, marking and tracing firearms, destroying excess stocks of firearms designated by each State, securing and managing stockpiles and regulating firearms brokering, including sanctions for illicit arms brokering for the purpose of avoiding their diversion through illicit channels and their proliferation. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 75)*

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada is a signatory to the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and other Related Materials. Canada participates actively in the annual CIFTA Consultative Committee process as well as other CIFTA related meetings and initiatives. In March 2009, Canada in conjunction with the OAS and US, hosted a workshop in Vancouver, British Columbia on Practical Approaches to Combating the Illicit Trafficking In Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and other Related Materials Across Borders, which brought together law enforcement authorities and customs officials.

Canada participated in a UN Office of Drugs and Crime regional workshop in Barbados to promote the implementation of the United Nations Protocol against Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts, Components and Ammunition.

In 2009, Canada's Anti-Crime Capacity Building Program provided support to the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean to build the capacity of law enforcement officials to combat illicit firearms trafficking.

COMMITMENT

We will redouble our efforts to prevent access to our financial systems by funds/assets of illicit origin, through national measures and international cooperation to identify, track, freeze, seize or forfeit the funds/assets that are proceeds of criminal activity, and determine their destination and/or return in accordance with our national legislation and international law. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 76)*

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada has introduced legislation to amend its Proceeds of Crime (Money Laundering) and Terrorist Financing Act to enable the government to bring countermeasures against jurisdictions and foreign entities that are deemed to be of high risk for facilitating money laundering and/or terrorist financing.

The Anti-Crime Capacity Building Program committed \$202,000 to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to combat the proceeds of crime by strengthening asset recovery systems in Latin America. The project will promote and support the establishment of asset recovery networks in Central and South America, based on the Camden Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network model, in which Canada takes part.

COMMITMENT

We also emphasize our decision to address the criminal gang problem, its related aspects and its effects on the social environment, which challenge the progress made by our societies in the process to achieve stability, democratisation and sustainable development, taking a global approach that includes, inter alia, prevention, rehabilitation and reintegration of individuals affected by this phenomenon. To that end, we will encourage OAS efforts to prepare a comprehensive hemispheric strategy to promote inter-American cooperation in dealing with criminal gangs. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 77)*

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada is active in the OAS Working Group on Criminal Gangs and is providing input for the development of a regional strategy to promote Inter-American cooperation in dealing with criminal gangs.

In 2009, Canada enhanced its legislative tools to fight organized crime, including criminal gangs. On October 2009, amendments to the Criminal Code of Canada came into effect to respond to organized crime by:

- » Making all murders connected to organized crime automatically first-degree regardless of whether they are unplanned or deliberate;
- » Creating a new offence to target drive-by and other reckless shootings;
- » Creating two new offences to address assaults against police and other peace officers; and,
- » Strengthening the gang peace bond provisions – provisions which enable law enforcement to impose conditions designed to keep the peace on persons who are deemed likely to commit criminal organization offences.

These amendments build on a robust legislative framework targeting organized crime activity.

Disaster Management



1- A Canadian sailor from Her Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) Athabaskan, transports a little girl for medical help in Leogane. January 19, 2010 [credit: Corporal Johanie Maheu, DND/CF] 2- Two Canadian sailors give medical aid to the earthquake casualties. January 19, 2010 [credit: Corporal Johanie Maheu, DND/CF]

COMMITMENT

We commit to improving regional cooperation and strengthening our national technical and institutional capacity for disaster reduction, prevention, preparedness and response, rehabilitation, resilience, risk reduction, impact mitigation, and evaluation. We will strengthen our monitoring, surveillance, communications and early warning systems and will encourage the sharing of information and research on disasters. In this regard, we recognise the importance of our active participation in the Pan American Institute of Geography and History, the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) and the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) as tools to increase access to information and facilitate coordinated action, as well as in the regional meetings on international mechanisms for humanitarian assistance and the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation, as appropriate. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 60)*

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada is active in supporting disaster risk reduction initiatives in the Americas and Caribbean region. Canada is contributing \$20 million to the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility from 2007 to 2012. In addition, Canada is contributing \$20 million to the Caribbean Disaster Risk Management Program from 2007 to 2015 to strengthen regional, national and community level capacity for the mitigation, management, and coordinated response to natural and technological hazards, and the effects of climate change. Canada provided \$250,000 to the ISDR Regional Platform in 2009. In addition, Canada has provided support to the Pan-American Health Organization's Programme for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Relief since 1988. Canada contributes to the work of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) ad hoc committee for re-building the Hydrometeorological services of Haiti. Specialized information technology equipment has been shipped to

increase the capacity to deliver forecasts and warnings, in particular, during the 2010 rainy and hurricane seasons. In addition, for the 2010 cyclonic season, Canada is deploying meteorologists to augment the capacity of the Haitian Meteorological Service. Canada was identified as the lead for the WMO Assessment Team to recommend short, mid and long term initiatives to increase operational capacity of the Meteorological and Hydrological Services of Haiti.

In addition, Canada also gives financial support to organizations that provide humanitarian assistance following natural disasters. These organizations work to ensure basic human needs such as physical security, food, water, health care, and shelter are met. For example, following the earthquake that struck Haiti January 12, 2010, Canada provided over \$150 million in humanitarian assistance.

COMMITMENT

We will encourage the strengthening of domestic planning and zoning measures and building codes, as appropriate, in order to reduce risks, mitigate impact and enhance the resilience of future residential, commercial and industrial developments. We will consider measures, where feasible, to discourage developments in areas where risks cannot be reduced or impacts mitigated and to facilitate the protection or relocation of any areas of human settlement and sections of essential industrial and transport infrastructure that might be at risk. We will also promote education and training with the aim of increasing public awareness of natural disaster preparedness and of national plans for prevention, mitigation and post-disaster recovery. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 61)*

IMPLEMENTATION

At the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in June 2009, Canada announced its commitment to establish a National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, in accordance with the Hyogo Declaration and Framework for Action. Once established, Canada's National Platform will create the enabling environment for raising awareness and encouraging the systematic integration into national policies, plans and programs of knowledge about hazards and measures for reducing their negative consequences. Canada's National Platform will aim to involve all levels of government and stakeholders representing a variety of sectors in coordinating efforts for managing hazard risks and potential impacts. Through the National Platform, the Government of Canada will leverage resources and expertise for collaborating on domestic, regional and international disaster risk reduction initiatives.

Since 2006, Canada has conducted annually the "72 hours...Is Your Family Prepared?" campaign, which recognizes that emergency preparedness is a shared responsibility among all levels of government and citizens. The campaign encourages Canadians to be prepared to cope on their own for at least the first 72 hours of an emergency, enabling first responders to focus on those in urgent need.

COMMITMENT

We instruct the relevant Ministers or pertinent high level Authorities, in collaboration with the specialized national, regional and international disaster organizations, and in the context of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and the Hyogo Declaration and Framework for Action 2005-2015, to strengthen cooperation within the Americas in the areas of disaster risk reduction and management. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 62)*

IMPLEMENTATION

Recognizing the linkages between adaptation, disaster risk reduction and other development related issues, Canada encourages collaboration among the many players, agencies and fora that address these issues. Canada has made significant investments in disaster risk reduction initiatives, with a strong focus on the Americas. Canada's total disaster risk reduction contribution in the region amounts to over \$50 million over 2010-2015 for projects such as the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility.





ENERGY

COMMITMENT

We recognise that energy is an essential resource for improving the standard of living of our peoples and that access to energy is of paramount importance to economic growth with equity and social inclusion. We will aim to develop cleaner, more affordable and sustainable energy systems, to promote access to energy and energy efficient technologies and practices in all sectors. We will aim to diversify our energy matrices by increasing, where appropriate, the contribution of renewable energy sources, and will encourage the cleaner, more efficient use of fossil fuels and other fuels. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 45)*

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada's energy policy is guided by a series of principles, agreements and accords. The main principles of our energy policy are:

- » A market orientation. Markets are the most efficient means of determining supply, demand, prices and trade while ensuring an efficient, competitive and innovative energy system that is responsive to Canada's energy needs.
- » Respect for jurisdictional authority and the role of the provinces. Canadian provincial governments manage resources within their borders. The National Energy Board regulates international and interprovincial aspects of the oil, gas and electric utility industries; as well as frontier lands and offshore areas not covered by provincial/federal management agreements.
- » Where necessary, targeted intervention in the market process to achieve specific policy objectives through regulation or other means. These policy objectives include issues of health and safety, such as pipeline regulation, and environmental sustainability.

Canada's federal, provincial and territorial governments are committed to sustainable development of energy resources and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through investments in clean energy technologies that demonstrate the greatest potential for progress, such as carbon capture and storage.

COMMITMENT

We reaffirm the sovereign right of each country to the conservation, development and sustainable use of its own energy resources. We will continue to promote efficient and transparent energy resource management for achieving sustainable development in all our countries, taking into consideration national circumstances. We support the exchange of experiences and best practices and will seek to cooperate, where appropriate, in the implementation of energy efforts in the Hemisphere. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 46)*

IMPLEMENTATION

In Canada, provincial governments generally manage their own resources. Policy co-ordination between the federal and the provincial governments takes place through formal high-level committees and informal contacts and consultations.

Canada promotes dialogue and cooperation on shared energy and climate challenges facing the hemisphere and engages in a range of bilateral and multilateral energy and climate-related partnerships that focus on regulatory framework reforms, capacity building, sustainable resource governance, and corporate social responsibility.

In the Americas, Canada works bilaterally with the U.S. through the Canada-U.S. Clean Energy Dialogue, which aims to promote the development and deployment of clean energy technologies aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and addressing climate change. Other key partnerships in the Americas include bilateral and trilateral mechanisms such as the Canada-Mexico Partnership Energy Working group, the Canada-Chile Energy Working Group and the North American Energy Working Group.

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) is also engaged in energy and climate-related partnerships in the Hemisphere including through electrification (Nicaragua), and electricity-generation cost-recovery projects (Haiti). CIDA also provides capacity-building support to regional governmental and non-governmental organisations in the energy sector.

COMMITMENT

We will foster energy efficiency and conservation in the public and private sectors, particularly in our transport systems, industrial sectors, commercial enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as at the household level, and will promote cleaner, more sustainable patterns of production and consumption. (*Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 47*)

IMPLEMENTATION

Since the introduction of the *Energy Efficiency Act* in 1992 Canada has set some of the highest standards for energy efficiency in the world. In May, 2009, Canada amended the *Energy Efficiency Act* to regulate classes of products that affect or control energy consumption, including windows, doors and thermostats — and not just products that consume energy themselves.

The Government of Canada promotes energy efficiency through the funding of ecoENERGY initiatives which promote smarter energy use and provide financial incentives in support of energy-efficiency improvements in homes, small buildings and industries.

In Canada, low-income households were able to participate in the ecoENERGY Retrofit - Homes program, which provides financial support for energy-saving retrofits with complementary retrofitting programs available in many provinces and territories. The ecoENERGY Retrofit – Small and Medium Organizations program provides a financial incentive up to 25 percent of eligible costs to help small and medium-sized organizations in the industrial, commercial and institutional sectors improve energy efficiency.

Natural Resources Canada's ecoENERGY for Industry program is designed to improve industrial energy intensity and reduce energy-related industrial greenhouse gases and air pollution. It is delivered through the long-standing and successful Canadian Industry Program for Energy Conservation, a voluntary partnership between government and industry that brings together industry associations and companies representing more than 98 percent of all industrial energy use in Canada.

A series of ecoTRANSPORT initiatives are being implemented to reduce the environmental impacts of transportation and secure Canada's future prosperity and competitiveness, by making the transportation system more sustainable, both economically and environmentally.

Canada is a leader in regulating consumer and commercial products that affect or control energy consumption. In support of its regulatory activities, Canada promotes consumer awareness through energy efficiency labelling.

COMMITMENT

Taking into consideration national needs and priorities and consistent with applicable national and international law, we will strive to foster investment and innovation in the development and diversification of energy sources and of efficient and environmentally friendly technologies, including cleaner technologies for the production of fossil fuels. Furthermore we recognise the importance of transparency in energy-related government and private sector activities. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 48)*

IMPLEMENTATION

The Government of Canada supports energy research and development to help reduce such environmental emissions while also preserving the benefits of hydrocarbons, including coal, as plentiful and inexpensive fuels for electricity power production. In this regard Canada's priorities are focused on:

- » electric power generation from renewable energy sources;
- » cleaner conversion of coal to electricity;
- » small-scale or distributed generation, with an emphasis on combined heat and power applications;
- » carbon dioxide capture and storage; and
- » development of Generation IV nuclear energy systems.

Canada has introduced new policies and fiscal incentives to improve the investment climate in energy projects. Canada established the Clean Energy Fund, an investment of nearly \$1 billion over five years for clean energy research and demonstration projects, including carbon capture and storage.

The Office of Energy Research and Development (OERD) within Natural Resources Canada is responsible for the Program of Energy Research and Development (PERD), the ecoENERGY Technology Initiative, and the Clean Energy Fund. The OERD works with federal departments and agencies to fund research and development (R&D) and technology demonstrations in oil and gas; clean electric power generation; clean transportation energy; clean energy systems for buildings and communities; clean energy systems for industry; and sustainable bioenergy.

The Government of Canada, through Sustainable Development Technology Canada (SDTC), finances and supports the development and demonstration of clean technologies which provide solutions to issues of climate change, clean air, water quality and soil. The government established a \$500 million fund to be administered through SDTC to invest with the private sector in establishing first-of-kind large-scale demonstration facilities for the production of next-generation renewable fuels.

In addition, Canada is working bilaterally with the U.S. through the Canada-U.S. Clean Energy Dialogue to advance clean energy research and development and promote collaboration on key technologies (particularly carbon capture and storage).

COMMITMENT

We recognise the potential of new, emerging, and environmentally friendly technologies for diversifying the energy matrix and the creation of jobs. In this regard, we will encourage, as appropriate, the sustainable development, production, and use of both current and next-generation biofuels, with awareness of their social, economic and environmental impact. In accordance with our national priorities, we will work together to facilitate their use, through international cooperation and the sharing of experiences on biofuel technologies and policies. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 49)*

IMPLEMENTATION

The Government of Canada is committed to expanding the production and use of cleaner, renewable biofuels in order to:

- » reduce the greenhouse gas emissions resulting from fuel use;
- » encourage greater production of biofuels such as ethanol and biodiesel;
- » accelerate the commercialization of new biofuel technologies; and
- » provide new market opportunities for agricultural producers and rural communities.

Canada's ecoENERGY for Biofuels Program supports the production of renewable alternatives to gasoline and diesel and encourages the development of a competitive domestic industry for renewable fuels. The program provides an operating incentive to facilities that produce renewable alternatives to gasoline and diesel in Canada.

Canada's ecoAGRICULTURE Biofuels Capital Initiative provides repayable contributions for the construction or expansion of transportation biofuel production facilities. Funding is conditional upon agricultural producer investment in the biofuel projects, and the use of agricultural feedstock to produce the biofuel.

Internationally, Canada cooperates both multilaterally and bilaterally on biofuels. Canada participates in the International Energy Agency's Technology agreement on Bioenergy. Canada and the U.S. cooperate under the Clean Energy Dialogue (CED) Clean Energy R&D working group – which aims to connect Canadian and US experts and promote cross-border collaboration in a number of priority areas for the CED, including future generation biofuels (e.g., algal biofuels, pyrolysis), clean engines/vehicles, and energy efficiency.

In addition, the Canadian Biomass Innovation Network coordinates the Federal Government's interdepartmental Research, Development and Demonstration activities in the area of bioenergy, biofuels, industrial bioproducts and bioprocesses.

COMMITMENT

We will encourage the development of diverse renewable energy sources and technologies. We will develop national strategies, in keeping with each country's capacity, to promote the science-based development and use of increasingly advanced technologies for sustainable energy production, taking into account possible social or environmental impacts. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 50)*

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada has one of the cleanest electricity systems in the world, with three-quarters of its electricity supply emitting no greenhouse gases. Natural Resources Canada's CanmetENERGY is the Canadian leader in clean energy research and technology development. It works with the energy industry, academia and environmental stakeholders on cost-shared basis through in-house work and funding support.

The Office of Energy Research and Development (OERD) at Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) has coordinated energy research and development activities in Canada for over 30 years. It administers NRCan funding for interdepartmental research and development programs which support Canada's energy priorities including:

- » reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
- » improving the energy efficiency of our homes, offices and industries;
- » finding practical, affordable alternate sources of energy;
- » developing cleaner, more efficient transportation vehicles and systems;
- » ensuring the integrity of Canada's energy infrastructure; and
- » providing economic opportunities for Canada's energy-related industries.

The ecoENERGY Renewable Initiative includes the following programs:

- » The ecoENERGY for Renewable Power program, which is supporting the installation of about 4,000 MW of new electricity capacity from clean renewable sources like solar photovoltaic, wind, geothermal, tidal, biomass, and low-impact hydro, and
- » The ecoENERGY for Renewable Heat program, which is supporting the deployment of renewable heating systems, such as solar air and water heating in the commercial, industrial and institutional sectors.

The Clean Energy Fund (\$1B) and the Green Infrastructure Fund (\$1B) also support a range of initiatives including energy efficiency, renewable energy and clean energy research and development.

COMMITMENT

We recognise that many sources of energy are available at particular times and locations. We will therefore, in accordance with applicable national and international law and considering the particular needs and priorities of each of our countries, encourage investment in the development and scaling-up of renewable and non-renewable energy, energy integration projects, new, efficient energy generation, including storage and energy sharing systems, cross-border transportation and distribution systems and other energy-trading and cooperation networks. We affirm that nuclear energy production in our countries will be carried out in strict compliance with our respective obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, as well as under other applicable multilateral international agreements on non-proliferation, nuclear safety and nuclear security, to which the Member State is a party. We will cooperate to improve the security, safety, quality, reliability and protection of our critical energy infrastructure and supply networks, including regional interconnection networks where feasible and useful, and will seek to ensure that all links in the energy supply chain operate to the highest standards of human health and safety, environmental protection and physical security. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 51)*





Arnprior solar farm Ontario, Canada [credit: Geneviève Houle]

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada promotes cooperation on common energy issues and challenges in the region to strengthen overall energy security. The framework for the protection of Canada's energy infrastructure systems is based on three fundamental and inter-related elements: prevention, response in times of an emergency, and resilience. The basis for the framework is the national security policy of 2004, *Securing an Open Society: Canada's National Security Policy*; the 2007 Emergency Management Act, and the 2008 draft paper entitled *Working towards a National Strategy and Action Plan for Critical Infrastructure*.

The Energy and Utilities Sector Network serves as the forum that brings all the energy sector stakeholders together to discuss issues of common interest – discussion of methodologies for risk profiles, identification of interdependencies, emergency management programs, and communications plans.

The National Energy Board regulates international and interprovincial aspects of the oil, gas and electric utility industries; as well as frontier lands and offshore areas not covered by provincial/federal management agreements.

In addition, NRCan is working with the U.S. Departments of Energy and Homeland Security, pursuant to the Smart Border Declaration and the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America, to assess cross-border energy infrastructure systems and to share best practices and information. Also, Canada is a member of the International Energy Agency, whose initial role was to co-ordinate measures in times of oil supply emergencies, and whose mandate now includes the “three E’s” of balanced energy policy making: energy security, economic development and environmental protection.

Nuclear energy falls within federal jurisdiction in Canada. The Government of Canada gives high priority to the safety and protection of persons and the environment with respect to operations of the nuclear industry and has established a comprehensive and robust regulatory regime. Canada's nuclear regulator is the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, an independent federal agency. Atomic Energy of Canada Limited is a federal Crown corporation which reports to the Canadian Parliament through NRCan. It developed the CANDU technology, and designed and built (with industrial partners) all the country's nuclear plants. It provides maintenance and refurbishment services for CANDU plants and operates the country's nuclear research sites.

Canada is actively involved in the International Atomic Energy Agency, the International Nuclear Regulators Association, the CANDU Senior Regulators group, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's Nuclear Energy Agency and the G8's Nuclear Safety and Security Group.

COMMITMENT

Based on our technical and financial capabilities, and consistent with applicable national and international law, we will continue to promote cleaner energy through research and development, capacity building and the transfer on mutually agreed terms and commercialization of environmentally sustainable technologies. We will also promote, where appropriate, participation in mitigation and adaptation mechanisms and funds, and in international carbon markets. Priority should be given to the sharing of information and experiences, and to increasing international cooperation and the fostering of domestic enabling environments to support clean energy technologies that could benefit all our nations. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 52)*

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada has established the Clean Energy Fund and the Green Infrastructure Fund, which provide close to \$2 billion for the development of promising clean energy technologies and green infrastructure initiatives. Canadian federal and provincial governments and industry work together to support clean energy technologies such as carbon capture and storage. National Resource Canada's CanmetENERGY is leading research and development toward a diverse set of innovative technologies for clean fossil fuels, bioenergy, renewables, industrial processes, oil sands and transportation.

The Office of Energy Research and Development (OERD) within Natural Resources Canada is responsible for the Program of Energy Research and Development (PERD), the ecoENERGY Technology Initiative, and the Clean Energy Fund. The OERD works with federal departments and agencies to fund research and development (R&D) and technology demonstrations in oil and gas; clean electric power generation; clean transportation energy; clean energy systems for buildings and communities; clean energy systems for industry; and sustainable bioenergy.

Canada is working bilaterally with the U.S. on a range of clean energy issues. For example, Canada has implemented harmonized passenger vehicle emission standards. Under the Canada-U.S. Clean Energy Dialogue, Canada and the U.S. have established joint working groups to support collaboration in three focus areas: (1) clean energy research and development; (2) clean energy technologies, particularly carbon capture and storage (CCS); and (3) clean and renewable electricity generation.

Canada and other Major Economies Forum countries have identified opportunities for joint effort in carbon capture and storage, advanced vehicles, smart grids, energy efficiency, bioenergy and renewables. In addition, Canada and Mexico are exploring CCS and related enhanced oil recovery issues.

COMMITMENT

We will aim to develop public education campaigns in each nation, with commitments from governments and industry, which serve to provide the people of the Americas with access to accurate, reliable and impartial information on energy, environmental and climate change issues. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 53)*

IMPLEMENTATION

The Government of Canada provides a number of information products for consumers on energy efficiency, a key aspect of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Through its many programs for the residential, commercial, industrial and transportation sectors, NRCan's Office of Energy efficiency has the most up-to-date information on energy efficiency, alternative energy and clean fuels. This information is available through numerous free of charge publications that can be obtained in print or on-line on topics such as appliances (Energy Star), energy efficient products, energy-use statistics, and transportation.

Energy Pricing Information for Canadian Consumers is provided by the National Energy Board on a website dedicated to providing timely information about energy commodities, focused on pricing and factors affecting pricing.

As well, a range of statistical products regarding the energy sector are available from Statistics Canada.

COMMITMENT

We will take further action to improve and enhance the collection and reporting of market data on oil and other energy sources in all countries to ensure smooth functioning of energy markets at the regional and global levels. We will also support ongoing international initiatives such as the Joint Oil Data Initiative to promote improved governance, transparency and accountability in the energy sector. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 54)*

IMPLEMENTATION

In Canada, providing statistics is a federal responsibility. As Canada's central statistical agency, Statistics Canada is legislated to serve this function for the whole of Canada and each of the provinces. Statistics Canada maintains extensive contacts with international, scientific and intergovernmental organizations, to share professional expertise and to promote common concepts, standards and practices. Canada's membership in international organizations, such as the United Nations and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development requires that Statistics Canada's outputs meet international standards, ensuring that Canadian data continue to be comparable with those of other countries.

The National Energy Board compiles statistics related to its regulatory role in the oil, gas and electricity industries. In addition, statistical information, analytical reports and other documentation on energy in Canada including reports illustrating the energy sector's contribution to the Canadian economy is available from Natural Resources Canada.

Internationally, Canada promotes open and transparent energy markets and a significant role for independent regulators. Canada provides timely and accurate information to industry and the public concerning crude oil, natural gas and refined petroleum products. Canada also supports the Joint Oil Data Initiative's improvement of international energy data quality and coverage through the International Energy Agency (IEA).

Canada focuses on these priorities through work with international partners, multilaterally and bilaterally, including: the G8, the International Energy Agency, the North American Energy Working Group, and the Asia Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate Change.

COMMITMENT

We will continue to support the development and implementation of voluntary corporate social responsibility best practices in the energy sector, with particular emphasis on initiatives that enhance dialogue among government, industry, local communities, indigenous groups and non-governmental organisations, to enable all stakeholders to better understand, participate in and benefit from energy sector activities. We welcome the efforts of countries to effectively manage their extractive sector, thereby contributing to economic and social development, and environmental stewardship. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 55)*

IMPLEMENTATION

The Government of Canada works together with many partners in industry, civil society, and other levels of government, on a balanced approach to energy policy. In Canada, all resource projects, including oil sands development are subject to strict environmental standards that are among the most comprehensive in the world.

Prior to any permits being issued, resource projects must undergo a strict environmental and regulatory review, where all issues must be addressed prior to approvals. Extensive environmental monitoring and reporting are also required by governments.

The Government of Canada works to ensure that any existing, new or expanded facility meets the requirements and regulations of the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*, the *Species at Risk Act*, the *Fisheries Act* (Section 36 – water pollution prevention provisions), and the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*.

COMMITMENT

We recognise the different and valuable existing energy cooperation and integration initiatives in the region, based, inter alia, on solidarity, complementarity, efficiency and sustainability. In this sense, and in order to advance hemispheric energy cooperation, we instruct our Ministers or pertinent national authorities, in a spirit of partnership, to develop cooperation strategies that will promote access for our people to reliable, efficient, affordable and clean energy, especially for the poorest sectors, and foster sharing of best practices and experiences, with a view to increasing energy efficiency, diversifying energy sources and minimising environmental impact, with the support of the institutions of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG) and other relevant international and regional organizations, within the scope of their mandates, as well as the private sector, as appropriate. To this end, we will convene a meeting as a first step toward the development of an implementation plan for this initiative, as well as other energy action items arising from this Declaration, for the consideration and approval of Ministers or pertinent national authorities. We further instruct Ministers or pertinent national authorities to submit a progress report on the implementation of this initiative by the next Summit of the Americas. (*Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 56*)

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada recognizes that the diversification of energy supply and suppliers, market transparency, energy efficiency, and the promotion of renewable technologies and cleaner fossil fuel technologies are all required to promote sustainable, long-term energy security in the hemisphere.

Canada supported regional energy co-operation through funding to support the hosting of the Ministerial-level symposium on Climate and Energy in Lima, Peru from 15-16 June, 2009; and for the hosting of the Energy and Climate Partnership for the Americas (ECPA) Ministerial meeting in Washington DC from April 15-16, 2010. Canada has also established a Heavy Oil Working Group under the aegis of ECPA to promote collaboration on clean energy research to reduce the environmental impact of fossil fuel development.

Canada participates in the North American Energy Working Group to promote trilateral energy cooperation between the members of the North American Free Trade Area (NAFTA). In addition, Canada engages in bilateral consultations through the Canada-US Clean Energy Dialogue, the Canada-Mexico Partnership (CMP) Energy Working Group and the Canada-Chile Energy Working Group.

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) is engaged in a range of energy and climate-related partnerships and initiatives in the Hemisphere. CIDA's support is directed at creating an enabling and predictable environment for economic growth through the increased capacity and accountability of public institutions, and by fostering a more competitive private sector. Initiatives include regulatory framework reforms and electrification and electricity-generation cost-recovery projects in Nicaragua and Haiti. CIDA also promotes corporate social responsibility through capacity-building support to regional governmental and non-governmental organizations such as the Latin America Energy Organization and the Association of Oil and Natural Gas Companies of Latin America and the Caribbean.



ENVIRONMENT

COMMITMENT

We recognise that social and economic development and protection of the environment, including the sustainable management of natural resources, are mutually reinforcing, interdependent pillars of sustainable development. We therefore reaffirm our strong commitment to sustainable development, as set out in the 1992 Rio de Janeiro Declaration on Environment and Development, the 1994 Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA), the 1996 Declaration of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, the 2002 Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, the 2005 Mauritius Strategy for the implementation of the BPOA, the 2006 Declaration of Santa Cruz + 10 and the objectives of the United Nations Millennium Declaration. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 57)*

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada remains committed to sustainable development as set out in the 1992 Rio de Janeiro Declaration on Environment and Development, 1994 Barbados Programme of Action, 1996 Declaration of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, 2002 Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, the 2006 Declaration of Santa Cruz + 10 and the objectives of the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

COMMITMENT

We recognise the adverse impacts of climate change on all countries of the Hemisphere, in particular, Small Island Developing States, countries with low-lying coastal, arid and semi-arid areas or areas liable to floods, drought and desertification, developing countries with fragile mountainous ecosystems and land locked countries. We reaffirm our commitment to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its objective of achieving stabilisation of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. We recognise that deep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions will be required to achieve the ultimate objective of the Convention, respecting its principles, notably that which states that we should protect the climate system for the benefit of the present and future generations of humankind, on the basis of equity, and in accordance with our common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 58)*

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada is an active and constructive participant in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process and is committed to achieving the ultimate objectives of the convention, in accordance with its principles and provisions.

Canada supports the Copenhagen Accord as a significant step forward towards achieving a fair, effective and comprehensive new agreement to meet the objectives of the UNFCCC. The Copenhagen Accord includes a shared agreement on the need for deep cuts in global emissions so as to hold the increase in global temperature below 2 degrees Celsius, incorporates commitments to reduce emissions by all major economies, and provides for scaled-up financing to support mitigation and adaptation efforts in developing countries.

Canada has formally associated itself with the Copenhagen Accord. On January 29, 2010, the Government submitted an economy-wide emissions reduction target for 2020 of 17 percent below 2005 levels for listing in Appendix I of the Accord, which is aligned with the target of the United States. Canada will continue to pursue a harmonized approach with relevant US legislation and measures, in light of the close integration of the two economies and their geographic proximity. As an important step towards achieving Canada's target, on April 1st, 2010, the Government of Canada released new proposed regulations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from new vehicles that will be harmonized with the mandatory national standards of the United States beginning with the 2011 model year.

Canada will contribute its fair share to the collective commitment by developed countries under the Accord to provide new and additional resources approaching \$30 billion for the 2010 to 2012 period.

COMMITMENT

We also support further dialogue and cooperation under the UNFCCC in order to strengthen long-term cooperative action, pursuant to the 2007 Bali Action Plan, and commit to work towards an agreed outcome at the Fifteenth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention (COP15) in Copenhagen in 2009, to enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the UNFCCC. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 59)*

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada was an active and constructive participant leading up to the 15th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen. Canada fully supports the Copenhagen Accord as a significant breakthrough in the global effort to address climate change.

Canada is committed to working with international partners to implement the Copenhagen Accord as a package of commitments, and formalize it as the basis for the negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change towards a comprehensive, legally binding post-2012 agreement. Canada is continuing efforts to assist Mexico in its role as the incoming host of the 16th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Cancun in December 2010.

COMMITMENT

We will continue to work towards promoting good environmental governance by, inter alia, advancing conservation efforts and strengthening, implementing and effectively enforcing national environmental laws, in accordance with our sustainable development priorities and international law. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 63)*

IMPLEMENTATION

The Government of Canada passed legislation in 2009 to enhance enforcement of laws that protect Canada's national parks, national marine conservation areas, air, land, water, and wildlife. When the new legislation comes into force it will put in place a stronger enforcement regime for the protection of the environment and Canadians' health. It will introduce stronger penalties and new sentencing powers, and strengthen the government's ability to investigate infractions. The legislative changes were accompanied by complementary measures, including doubling the number of environmental and wildlife enforcement officers, and improving forensics laboratory support, data collection, analysis and management systems.

COMMITMENT

We will collaborate to promote environmental sustainability through regional cooperation, in accordance with national legislation and applicable international law, in the areas of human and institutional capacity building, transfer on mutually agreed terms of environmentally sound technology, and effective mobilization of new

and additional human and financial resources, as appropriate, including innovative public and private financing mechanisms and instruments, for inter alia: (a) the sustainable management of forests, including efforts for reducing deforestation; (b) the sustainable management of protected areas and World Heritage Sites; (c) protecting endangered and migratory species; (d) combating illegal international trafficking of biodiversity; (e) promoting the exchange of scientific knowledge on biodiversity, such as through the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network; and, (f) recognizing and sharing the benefits arising from access to and use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 64)*

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada promotes environmental sustainability through regional cooperation, including activities such as:

- » Facilitating the development and growth of a Regional Ibero-American Model Forest Network, which manages a regional program of work related to the sustainable management of forest-based landscapes. This support resulted in twelve Latin American member countries effectively participating. Canada continues to facilitate communications, knowledge exchange, capacity-building and funding opportunities for existing model forests and those expected to join the network.
- » Supporting the participation of two Chilean officials in the Canadian Parks Council's Park System Leadership course.
- » Signing a memorandum of understanding on cooperation for wilderness conservation with the National Commission for Natural Protected Areas of Mexico and several U.S. agencies.
- » Expanding Canada's ability to conserve birds and other migratory species internationally using tools including the North American Bird Conservation Initiative, the Canada-Chile Agreement for Environmental Cooperation, the developing Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative and the Canada/Mexico/USA Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management.



1- Plains Bison [credit: Hélène Gaulin] 2- Burrowing Owl [credit: Geoff Holroyd]

- » Working with Mexico and the United States on joint activities in the area of training, intelligence and information sharing through the North American Wildlife Enforcement Group; and, facilitating the participation in 2009 of wildlife officials from Chile in training.
- » Producing a report series focused on biodiversity adaptation to climate change to address critical gaps in information and the tools required for decision-making related to biodiversity and climate change adaptation.
- » Developing domestic policy on benefit-sharing for genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge informed by engagement with aboriginal peoples and other key stakeholders.

COMMITMENT

We recognise that the conservation of marine resources and the protection of marine ecosystems, including estuaries and coastal areas, throughout the Americas are vital for the continued economic and social well-being of those who live near or otherwise depend on the sea. We will seek to secure the wider adoption and implementation of existing regional and international marine conservation and marine pollution agreements. We further recognise that the wider Caribbean is a marine area of unique biodiversity and highly fragile ecosystems, and we will continue to work together along with other countries and relevant regional and international development partners to continue to develop and implement regional initiatives to promote the sustainable conservation and management of Caribbean coastal and marine resources. In this regard, we take note of the ongoing efforts to consider the concept of the Caribbean Sea as a Special Area in the context of sustainable development without prejudice to relevant national legislation and international law. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 65)*

IMPLEMENTATION

In support of the conservation of marine resources and the protection of marine ecosystems throughout the Americas, Canada works through the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Commission for Environmental Cooperation established under the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation.

Canada organized a two-day workshop with representatives from the Caribbean region in St. Lucia July 27-28, 2009 to share best practices on attaining international standards for sustainable fisheries and oceans management and curbing illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. Canada hosted a CBD workshop in September 2009 on the use of biogeographic classification systems and identification of marine areas beyond national jurisdiction in need of protection.

Canada has continued to work with the Commission for Environmental Cooperation on marine conservation through projects such as those under the North American Marine Protected Areas Network and North American Conservation Action Plans.

COMMITMENT

We renew our support for the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (PIDS) (2006-2009), and we instruct the relevant Ministers and invite all other authorities responsible for sustainable development to gather in 2010, under the auspices of the OAS, with the collaboration of relevant international organizations and financial and development institutions, and with the participation of the academic community and other members of civil society, to assess the achievements of the Program to date, and renew or modify the PIDS as necessary. We will give special attention to the most vulnerable areas. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 66)*

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada is engaged in discussions with other countries in the Americas to prepare for the Second Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development, to be held in the Dominican Republic in October, 2010.

COMMITMENT

We renew our support for the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), whose findings provide valuable information on climate change mitigation and adaptation. We call upon the relevant Ministers and other responsible authorities, and with the support of relevant international and regional organizations including those of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG), within the scope of their mandates and capabilities, to consider the findings of the IPCC with the aim of examining, as appropriate, the potential implications for our respective countries, in particular the poorest and the most vulnerable sectors, in order to reinforce national adaptation and mitigation actions and plans, and to inform, as appropriate, sub-regional plans for the management of the impact of climate change. We will enhance our cooperation in this area throughout the region. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 67)*

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada values and appreciates the contribution by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in conducting comprehensive assessments of the science of climate change. Canada accepts the main findings of the Fourth Assessment Report and continues to be supportive of the IPCC and its work. The Government of Canada actively participates in the IPCC process and supports Canadian experts from government, academia and industry who contribute to the development of IPCC reports.

Canada was an active and constructive player leading up to and at the 15th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen. Canada fully supports the Copenhagen Accord as a significant breakthrough in the global effort to address climate change. The Copenhagen Accord recognizes the science documented by the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, and the reality that economic development and poverty eradication are the first and overriding priorities of developing countries and that a low-emission development strategy is indispensable to sustainable development.



1- Plains Bison [credit: H el ene Gaulin]



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Agriculture

COMMITMENT

Providing our people with adequate and timely access to safe and nutritious food is among the most immediate challenges confronting our Hemisphere and the world. We recognise the negative impact on our people of food crises when they occur, and commit to taking urgent and coordinated action, working in partnership with the relevant international and regional organisations, as appropriate, to develop and implement comprehensive policies and programmes in order to confront the challenges of food security. We reaffirm our commitment to the objective of the Millennium Declaration to halve by 2015 the proportion of people who suffer from hunger; and we recognise United Nations General Assembly Resolution 63/235, which calls for addressing these challenges. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 23)*

IMPLEMENTATION

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) promotes food security in the Americas and around the world through a range of approaches, including:

- » encouraging flexible, predictable food security funding by the donor community;
- » promoting the use of social safety nets, food distribution systems, and school feeding programs;
- » working with other countries to improve the United Nations Food Aid Convention;
- » supporting nutrition considerations in broader food security initiatives, including increasing programming to promote life-saving nutrient food supplements such as Vitamin A and salt iodization; and
- » supporting and strengthening national and regional food reserves, as well as food crisis alert and prevention systems.

For example, CIDA is supporting private sector development in the Department of Sololá, one of Guatemala's poorest indigenous regions. The project will improve living conditions and increase the average income of 30,000 families.

Likewise, in Haiti, CIDA is working with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, in collaboration with the Government of Argentina, to improve public sector policy and administrative management.

COMMITMENT

We call on our Agriculture Ministers to develop activities aimed at addressing issues affecting access to and availability of food in order to combat chronic malnutrition and to promote adequate nutritional policies for our populations. We support the promotion of investment in agriculture, as well as the strengthening of our States' institutional capacity, with a view to increasing and intensifying productive activities, particularly in the countries most affected by hunger. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 24)*

IMPLEMENTATION

Canadian federal government, provincial and territorial governments, and civil society organizations work together on a wide variety of initiatives to improve access to healthy, safe and nutritious foods in Canada. These activities include social welfare and poverty reduction programs, initiatives to reduce health disparities, targeted programs for vulnerable populations, new strategies for the promotion of healthy eating, and a variety of projects to improve food security research, knowledge and understanding.

COMMITMENT

We believe that a multidimensional and multisectoral approach to agriculture and rural life is a key factor for sustainable development and food security. In this context and within the framework of the Agro Plan 2003–2015 of the Fourth Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas held in Guatemala in 2007, we support the efforts in the repositioning of agriculture and rural issues and priorities in our national strategies and we commit to strengthening national, sub-regional, regional and hemispheric approaches and strategic actions, as applicable, with the support of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and other relevant organisations. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 25)*

IMPLEMENTATION

In 2009, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper joined with other G8 leaders to express support for country and regional agricultural strategies that included a special focus on smallholders. G8 Leaders committed to invest US\$ 20 billion over three years into agriculture in developing countries to increase food production and improve food security. The G8 Leaders' statement on food security also stated their commitment to increasing smallholders' access to the inputs, technologies, and other tools that can enable them to improve their production.

Domestically, Canada took steps to reposition agriculture with the continued implementation of Growing Forward, Canada's national agricultural strategy. Among other achievements, in fiscal year 2008 – 2009 a new suite of business risk management programs were introduced, including AgriStability and AgriInvest. This and other components of Growing Forward are designed to increase the competitiveness of agriculture in Canada, enable the sector to better contribute to health and food safety goals, and proactively manage risks.



1- Farmer holding crops. 2- Canada's booth at the Colombian Agroexpo fair in July, 2009

Aging



COMMITMENT

We will continue working to incorporate issues of aging into public policy agendas. To this end, we request that the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) further strengthen its programmes in this area, through the creation of enhanced information and data systems on the social and economic impacts of aging, as well as technical assistance, as appropriate, for the development of policies and programmes in support of the elderly. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 41)*

IMPLEMENTATION

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)'s Division of Aging and Seniors (DAS) provides federal leadership on seniors' public health issues in order to optimize healthy aging. The Division strives to engage stakeholders on matters concerning healthy aging, including the prevention and control of disease and injury in older adult life. PHAC provides reliable information about aging in Canada, covering a spectrum of topics including: caring for seniors, healthy aging, emergency preparedness and injury prevention.

Canada has endorsed strategies developed by both the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Pan-American Health Organization with respect to seniors' health and well-being. PHAC is actively engaged both domestically and with international non-governmental organizations in work to support the Madrid International Plan of Action on Aging's third major direction (creating supportive and enabling communities) through Age-Friendly Communities initiatives. PHAC's expertise and leadership through engagement with provinces and territories is supporting implementation of this model across the country. The benefits of this engagement are being shared with counterparts in the Americas.

The Canadian government provides financial support to the aging population through: Old Age Security, available to most Canadians when they reach the age of 65 and the Canada Pension Plan, which provides contributors and their families with retirement, disability, survivor, death and children's benefits.

Canada's government is providing \$10 million over two years to increase funding for the New Horizons for Seniors Program. The enhanced funding will support projects which focus on volunteering among seniors and ensuring that today's seniors can mentor the next generation of volunteers, passing on their valuable skills. It will also support projects that focus on raising awareness of financial abuse of seniors.

COMMITMENT

In this context, we will promote, in the regional framework and with support from PAHO and ECLAC, a review of the feasibility of preparing an inter-American convention on the rights of older persons. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 42)*

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada welcomes engagement with other states in the protection of this vulnerable population. While we share the concern of other states on this issue, Canada believes it is preferable to focus on implementing existing obligations rather than looking at the creation of new, potentially overlapping instruments. Canada shares the view expressed by the 1991 United Nations Principles for Older Persons which emphasize the importance of independence, participation, care, self-fulfillment and dignity.

Cultural Diversity

COMMITMENT

Culture has a central role in the overall development of our countries, in the fight against poverty and in our efforts to improve the quality of life of all our peoples. We acknowledge the positive contribution of culture in building social cohesion and in creating stronger, more inclusive communities, and we will continue to promote inter-cultural dialogue and respect for cultural diversity in order to encourage mutual understanding, which helps reduce conflict, discrimination and the barriers to economic opportunity and social participation. We also commit to increase our efforts to promote and support cultural and creative industries and activities as part of our national policies for the promotion of sustainable economic growth, job creation and income generation, especially for young adults. We further commit to facilitating the sharing of knowledge and practices on protecting and promoting cultural heritage and to educating communities on how best to protect their heritage sites and manage them in a sustainable manner. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 44)*

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada has served two consecutive terms as Chair of the Inter-American Committee on Culture (CIC) and was elected as Vice-Chair of the CIC in November 2009. Canada has been very active in working towards the development of effective cultural policy that promotes youth engagement, economic growth, and social cohesion in the Americas. In addition, Canada supports inter-cultural dialogue through exchanges and study tours for students from countries in the region. For example, Canada's Student Mobility Support Program supports organizations willing to offer international students the opportunity to advance their understanding of Canada, or to learn more about shared policy challenges between Canada and the international student's country.

The Government of Canada recognizes the significant contribution the Canadian artistic, cultural and heritage sectors make to Canada's identity and economy, and that special measures are required to ensure access to local cultural content. In 2009-2010, Canada delivered programs and services in the form of grants, contributions, tax credits, and policies, regulatory and legislative measures to:

- » support arts festivals or performing arts series and improve arts and heritage infrastructure, business and management capacity;
- » enable Canadian creators and cultural industries to develop, market and export Canadian cultural content;
- » contribute to the preservation and protection of heritage collections and objects; and
- » strengthen Aboriginal peoples' cultural identity.



1- Youths participate in a cultural activity in Canada. The event was organized by Wapikoni, a Canada-based social inclusion project that has worked in Brazil, Paraguay, and Chile promoting aboriginal culture through video [credit: Eza Paventi - Wapikoni mobile] 2- Building networks [between young leaders and artists from across member states of the OAS], Ignite the Americas: Youth Arts Policy Forum, Toronto 2008. [credit: Ignite the Americas]

Education



1- Peruvian children in the Andes [credit: Geneviève Houle] 2- CIDA helps promote bilingual education in the Peruvian Andes.

COMMITMENT

We affirm that equal access to education is a human right and that quality education is essential, a public good and a priority. Therefore, we will continue promoting access to quality education for all. We also recognise that improving access to and the quality of early childhood education is a key factor in achieving universal primary education by 2015. Recognising that investing in quality care and education from birth through the early years of primary education improves learning, social, health and employment outcomes, we take note of the Hemispheric Commitment to Early Childhood Education adopted by the Ministers of Education in 2007. We call upon the Ministers of Education to increase efforts to measure educational progress in the Americas by the year 2010, both within our individual countries and through multilateral initiatives such as the Regional Educational Indicators Project (PRIE). (*Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 36*)

IMPLEMENTATION

In keeping with its Aid Effectiveness Agenda, in 2009, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) announced its international assistance would focus on three themes including Securing a future for Children and Youth. Through CIDA, Canada is supporting ongoing and new initiatives that are contributing to the improved quality and access to early childhood, basic, vocational and technical education in the hemisphere. Canada's official development assistance in education in the region includes improving access to basic education, particularly for girls, teacher training and increasing access to learning opportunities for children and youth.

For example, CIDA is supporting the World Food Programme School Feeding Program in Nicaragua which provides daily meals to school children. In Peru, CIDA supports increased access to quality early childhood education. The project has achieved better quality of basic education at the primary level and uses a solid methodology to measure student learning outcomes; over the years, there has been a significant increase of student learning in language and mathematics. In Haiti, CIDA supports the Health and Education Fund to improve the quality, accessibility, and governance of basic education services for poor communities.

Several countries in the region are also benefiting from the multi-donor Education Program Development Fund with support from Canada. This fund provides resources to lower income countries to accelerate progress towards universal primary education with technical support and capacity-building to prepare sound national education planning.

COMMITMENT

We reaffirm our commitment to achieving a gross secondary education enrolment rate of at least 75% by the year 2010 and we call on the Ministers of Education, with the support of the OAS, specialised international and regional institutions and civil society organisations, to develop strategies to make quality secondary education accessible to all our young people by 2015, especially the most vulnerable groups and those with special education needs. These strategies should be based on the principles of equity, quality, relevance and efficiency in education, taking into account the gender perspective and student diversity, and should also encourage innovation and creativity. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 37)*

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada is contributing to strengthening access to quality education in Latin America and the Caribbean with growing support to youth development, both in formal and non-formal education. CIDA's support to countries in the region focusing on youth and education includes, for example, support to Colombia between 2005 and 2013 for children's rights and protection through education for internally displaced and at-risk children and adolescents, in particular in rural areas, and Indigenous and Afro-descendant youths.

COMMITMENT

Recognising that education is a lifelong process that promotes social inclusion and democratic citizenship and allows people to contribute fully to the development of society, we will give high priority to improving and expanding literacy, numeracy and science proficiency, as well as access to tertiary, technical-vocational and adult education. We intend to increase the tertiary education participation rate to a minimum of 40 per cent by 2020 and urge countries which have already made considerable advances in this area to exchange best practices that will support the efforts of other countries to achieve this target. We commit to support the initial preparation and ongoing professional development of teachers. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 38)*

IMPLEMENTATION

Canadian educational assistance in Latin America and the Caribbean is focused on access to quality education that is relevant and culturally appropriate. Quality education can overcome income disparities and enable poor and marginalized children and youth to access good employment, participate in decision-making and integrate into mainstream society as equal citizens.

Beyond support to early childhood education and basic education, Canada supports vocational training and technical education, targeting youth and workers, both in training institutions (learners with and without a secondary education diploma) and the workplace.

CIDA has also contributed to the professional development of teachers in the region. One example is ongoing support to the Guyana Basic Education Teacher Training project (GBET) for the initial and ongoing preparation of early childhood, primary and secondary teachers in Guyana. Using innovative distance education methodologies, GBET has reached and trained thousands of teachers, including many female indigenous teachers from the interior of Guyana. CIDA's support furthers Guyana's goal of training and certifying a majority of teachers in primary and secondary schools across the country in order to improve the quality of public education.

Gender



COMMITMENT

We recognise the importance of considering the differentiated needs of women and men in promoting and ensuring the integration of the gender perspective as a cross cutting issue in national and hemispheric policies, plans and programmes to be implemented in the political, economic, labour, social and cultural spheres. In this

regard, we will continue our efforts to produce regional studies and statistics disaggregated by sex for measuring and monitoring, and for promoting cooperation and the sharing of good practices, experiences and policies among States on gender equality and equity within the context of human prosperity, energy security and environmental sustainability. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 6)*

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada sees gender equality as not only a human rights issue, but also an essential component of sustainable development, social justice, peace, and security. Canada's foreign policy priorities include the elimination of violence against women, the full and equal participation of women in decision-making, and the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in all policies, programs, legislation and initiatives. Canada pursues these priorities in multilateral institutions such as the OAS, in bilateral discussions with individual countries, and through development assistance delivered by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

Canada's work internationally complements efforts at the domestic level. Status of Women Canada is the federal government agency responsible for promoting gender equality and the full participation of women in the economic, social and democratic life of Canada and plays a lead capacity-building role in the Government of Canada's gender mainstreaming activities.

COMMITMENT

We commit to strengthening the institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women, including, where applicable, the Mechanism to Follow Up on the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women "Convention of Belém do Pará" and its funding. We will encourage the full and equal participation of women in the political life and decision-making structures of our countries at all levels through laws and public policies that promote respect for women's human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as gender equality, equity and parity. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 11)*

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada supports strengthening institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women's equality, primarily through gender mainstreaming, an approach that incorporates gender considerations into the development of policies, programs, legislation and initiatives, as well as resource allocation across government. The Government of Canada is committed to strengthening the use of gender-based analysis as a key tool to develop policy and inform funding decisions. Achieving concrete results using gender-based analysis is a shared responsibility between Status of Women Canada and federal departments and agencies.

In 2009, Status of Women Canada in collaboration with the Treasury Board Secretariat and the Privy Council Office developed the the Gender-Based Analysis Action Plan. Under the Action Plan, departments and agencies are asked to identify gender impacts when developing policies, programs and legislation; implement specific organizational elements of a gender-based analysis framework; assess the performance and effectiveness of gender-based analysis on a yearly basis using instruments developed by Status of Women Canada; and report findings through current accountability mechanisms.

At the international level, the Canadian International Development Agency supports initiatives to prevent violence against women. Examples of initiatives in the Americas include:

- » A fund in Haiti that has supported the establishment of more than 30 shelters providing social, medical and legal assistance to women and children who are victims of violence;
- » Funding for non-governmental organizations promoting legal reforms, which contributed to the adoption of new laws to counter violence against women in Haiti and Surinam.

COMMITMENT

We recognise that the problem of inequality of access to comprehensive health care and health services persists, especially among vulnerable groups. We therefore commit to redoubling our efforts to promote social protection and to identify and implement strategies to advance towards universal access to quality comprehensive health care, taking into account labour, environment, gender-sensitive and social security policies, as well as the Health Agenda for the Americas 2008–2017, and will seek to provide necessary resources in order to improve our health indicators. (*Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 26*)

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada has a federal system of government, with most health-related responsibilities falling within the remit of provincial authorities. Under the terms of the *Canada Health Act*, “the primary objective of Canadian health care policy is to protect, promote and restore the physical and mental well-being of residents of Canada and to facilitate reasonable access to health services without financial or other barriers.”

Health Canada is the federal department responsible for helping the people of Canada maintain and improve their health. One of the goals of Health Canada is to improve the health outcomes of First Nations and Inuit people, ensure the availability of, and access to, quality health services and to support greater control of the health system by First Nations and Inuit. This includes the delivery of community-based health programs



Vaccination program in Haiti

on reserve and in Inuit communities, as well as the provision of drug, dental and ancillary health services to First Nations and Inuit regardless of residence. Canada supports programming in Aboriginal communities in maternal child health, mental health, addictions and chronic disease prevention.

In keeping with its Aid Effectiveness Agenda, in 2009, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) announced its international assistance would focus on three themes including Securing a Future for Children and Youth. Under this strategy CIDA supports initiatives to improve child survival, including maternal health.

Through Memoranda of Understanding with Brazil, Mexico, and the US and participation in regional workshops hosted by the Pan American Health Organization, Canada has shared best practices in health care with partners in Latin America.

COMMITMENT

While the region has made significant progress in reducing both maternal mortality and mortality in infants and children under 5 years, neonatal mortality has not decreased at the same rate. We call on the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) to continue to assist countries in addressing this problem through the implementation of the Regional Strategy and Plan of Action for Neonatal Health within the Continuum of Maternal, Newborn, and Child Care. We recognise the importance of cooperation in sharing experiences within the framework of the global Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 27)*

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada's Maternal Child Health Program (MCH) for First Nations Communities provides an investment of \$110 million over five years to enable home visiting by nurses and family visitors for pregnant women and families with young children. The goal of the program in First Nations communities is to support pregnant women and families with infants and young children to reach their fullest developmental and lifetime potential. In the north of Canada, the program enhances disease prevention and health promotion activities provided by the provincial/territorial governments.

The Canadian Perinatal Surveillance System monitors and reports on determinants and outcomes of maternal, fetal and infant health in Canada. The evidence obtained helps to inform health care and public health programs, practices and policies.

At the international level, Health Canada has co-organized international workshops on indigenous maternal and child health and midwifery. Canada is a founding and active member of the International Clearinghouse for Birth Defects Surveillance and Research, the objective of which is to share information and research to prevent birth defects and to ameliorate their consequences.

COMMITMENT

We are convinced that we can reduce the burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) through the promotion of comprehensive and integrated preventive and control strategies at the individual, family, community, national and regional levels and through collaborative programmes, partnerships and policies supported by governments, the private sector, the media, civil society organisations, communities and relevant regional and international partners. We therefore reiterate our support for the PAHO Regional Strategy and Plan of Action on an Integrated Approach to the Prevention and Control of Chronic Diseases Including Diet, Physical Activity, and Health. We also commit to measures to reduce tobacco consumption, including, where applicable, within the World Health Organisation (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 28)*

IMPLEMENTATION

The World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre (WHOCC) on noncommunicable disease policy housed in the Public Health Agency of Canada provides leadership in Canada and the Americas in reducing the burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). WHOCC strengthens multi-sectoral collaboration in the adoption of complementary policies and actions, such as through the Partners Forum, a global health partnership for

non-communicable diseases in the Americas. WHOCC works with the Canadian Society for International Health to examine best practice mechanisms to facilitate the development of strategic partnerships to implement the direction given in the Summit Declaration. WHOCC participates in the development of innovative social science models to predict socio-economic impacts of health policy pertaining to non-communicable diseases prevention and control. It also fosters international collaboration and shares findings and expertise to promote comprehensive and integrated preventive and control programs, partnerships and policies.

The Government of Canada funds the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer, a not-for-profit corporation whose mandate is to implement the Canadian Strategy for Cancer Control, a plan developed in consultation with more than 700 cancer experts and survivors.

The prevention of smoking, particularly among youth, remains an important priority for Canada. In October 2009, the Cracking Down on Tobacco Marketing Aimed at Youth Act was passed to ban the use of appealing additives including flavours in some tobacco products. It also established minimum package sizes for certain tobacco products and further restricted tobacco advertising.

The Government of Canada remains fully committed to the objectives of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and is active on a number of working groups supporting its implementation.

COMMITMENT

We instruct our Ministers of Health, with the support of PAHO, to incorporate the surveillance of NCDs and their risk factors into existing national health information reporting systems by 2015. We encourage national planning and coordination of comprehensive prevention and control strategies for NCDs and the establishment of National Commissions where appropriate. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 29)*

IMPLEMENTATION

Chronic disease surveillance is a component of the Integrated Strategy on Healthy Living and Chronic Disease, providing the Government of Canada with a unique capacity to track national trends in chronic disease and risk factors. The program works with the collaboration of provinces, territories, Statistics Canada, Canadian Institutes for Health Information (CIHI), health professional organizations, and major non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Its focus is on building a national comprehensive chronic disease surveillance system that supports governments and NGOs in making effective investments in prevention.

The program analyses and interprets data on trends for all chronic diseases using available data on deaths from Statistics Canada, hospitalizations from CIHI, and prevalence of chronic disease and risk factors from Statistics Canada surveys. It collects, analyses and interprets new data for priority conditions including: cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, chronic respiratory diseases, arthritis and other bone and joint conditions, mental illness, and neurological conditions. The program provides easy access to publicly-available data so that health departments, health professionals, researchers, and health charities can customize data analysis according to needs.

COMMITMENT

We commit to strengthening actions aimed at reducing drug abuse and illicit drug use, with particular regard to prevention, education, treatment, rehabilitation and reincorporation into society, with public awareness campaigns to assist in reducing the demand for illicit drugs. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 30)*

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada's National Anti-Drug Strategy (NADS) addresses illicit drug use across the country in order to promote healthier and safer communities. Components of the strategy include a mass media drug prevention campaign to discourage young people from using drugs, and funding of community-based prevention initiatives.

An element of the NADS is a Treatment Action Plan with five goals: to promote collaboration with provinces and territories to support drug treatment systems and services where gaps exist; to enhance treatment and support for Aboriginal populations; to support addiction research; to provide extra-judicial diversion and treatment programs for young offenders with drug-related problems; and to develop new tools to refer youth at risk to treatment programming.

The Government of Canada provides \$59 million per year through the National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program (NNADAP) to support 54 treatment centres, as well as drug and alcohol prevention services in over 500 First Nations and Inuit communities across Canada.

COMMITMENT

We commit to improving the health of our people through the renewal of primary health care and access by the population to comprehensive health care and health services, as well as to essential medicines. We therefore commit to take the necessary actions, in accordance with the laws, needs and capabilities of each of our countries, bearing in mind the Health Agenda for the Americas 2008-2017, the 2005 Declaration of Montevideo on the New Orientations for Primary Health Care, and the 30-15 Buenos Aires Declaration of 2007, as appropriate. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 31)*

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada is committed to sustaining and renewing the health care system, including through:

- » accelerating primary health care renewal so that citizens routinely receive needed care from multidisciplinary organizations or teams;
- » facilitating access to an appropriate health care provider 24 hours a day, 7 days a week;
- » accelerating the development and implementation of electronic health records, including e-prescribing and telehealth;
- » increasing emphasis on health promotion, disease and injury prevention, and chronic disease management; and
- » facilitating coordination with other health services.

Canada is also committed to providing high-quality health care to First Nations people and Inuit. Nurses and home care workers are examples of the health staff working with Aboriginal communities.

COMMITMENT

We commit to improving the nutritional levels of all the people of the Americas by 2015 and to the full implementation of the PAHO Regional Strategy on Nutrition in Health and Development 2006-2015. We will continue to promote the integration of nutrition into social and economic policies and plans and to reduce nutritional deficiencies through prevention and treatment strategies, including those targeted at the control of obesity and nutrition-related diseases. We also commit to increase awareness and educate our populations about the importance of diet and physical activity. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 32)*

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada's *Pan-Canadian Healthy Living Strategy* focuses on healthy eating, physical activity, and their relationship to healthy weights. Canada published an annual report on the implementation of the strategy, as well as a nutritional best practice guide entitled *Bringing Health to the Planning Table - A Profile of Promising Practices in Canada and Abroad*.

Canada produces *Physical Activity Guides* for children, youth, the general population and seniors that communicate Canada's physical activity guidelines and provide information about how to be active. The Government of Canada also funds ParticipACTION's physical activity awareness campaign.

To promote healthy eating among Aboriginal people, Canada has adapted *Canada's Food Guide* to create a special *Food Guide for First Nations, Inuit and Métis* which includes current information on eating well and incorporating "country foods" or traditional diets. The publication is available in Inuktitut, Ojibwe, Plains Cree and Woods Cree.

COMMITMENT

We recognise that nutrition is important in combating poverty, hunger and chronic malnutrition for children, especially those under age five, and vulnerable groups. We consider it a high priority to address the issue of nutrition through the joint efforts of the public and private sectors, civil society and communities. We call upon international organisations where appropriate to continue to support national efforts to confront malnutrition and promote healthy diets. (*Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 33*)

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada promotes nutritional programs aimed at vulnerable groups, such as through the Public Health Agency of Canada's community-based children's programs - the Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program (CPNP) and the Community Action Program for Children. CPNP funds community-based groups to support pregnant women facing conditions of risk.

Canada supports and promotes breastfeeding as the optimal means to provide nutritional, immunological, and emotional nurturing to infants. The Government of Canada is supportive of the work of the Breastfeeding Committee for Canada to implement the WHO-UNICEF Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative in Canada.

The First Nations and Inuit component of the Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program is a community-based program with a goal of improving maternal and infant nutritional health with a particular focus on those at high risk. It supports activities related to nutrition screening, education and counselling; maternal nourishment; and breastfeeding promotion and support. This program primarily targets pregnant women and women with infants up to twelve months of age in First Nations and Inuit communities.

At the international level, the Canadian International Development Agency contributes to efforts to fight malnutrition, for example, through support for the Government of Bolivia's national nutrition program. This project addresses vitamin deficiencies and aims at strengthening health facilities and the capacities of health personnel.

COMMITMENT

We reaffirm our commitment to the implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005) to prevent the international spread of diseases such as pandemic influenza, yellow fever, dengue, malaria and others, and we commit to establish in our countries the basic capacities needed for surveillance and for responding to events that could constitute public health emergencies of international concern. We request that PAHO work with and support the countries, in accordance with the functions entrusted to it in the IHR (2005), in the areas of public health emergency prevention, control and response, particularly with respect to epidemics. (*Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 34*)

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada acknowledges the complexity involved in meeting commitments outlined in the International Health Regulations (IHR) and is committed to advancing progress both domestically and internationally. Canada has a detailed plan for implementing the IHR across federal and provincial/ territorial jurisdictions, through a network of IHR Champions representing each affected federal department and all 13 provinces and territories.

Capacity assessments have been completed for surveillance and response, as well as at five identified points of entry: three international airports and two marine ports. The findings of the assessment indicate that Canada meets the minimum core capacity requirements of the IHR. However, Canada's approach is to go beyond the minimum requirements and further strengthen the public health system.

Canada provided various forms of assistance to help countries in Latin America and the Caribbean implement IHR, including:

- » Support from the Canadian International Development Agency to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to strengthen member countries' pandemic readiness and address H1N1.
- » Provision of diagnostic support, and deployment of field epidemiologists by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) to assist Mexico in responding to H1N1.
- » Technical assistance from PHAC to help assess Guyana's core capacities for surveillance and response.
- » Provision of expertise from PHAC to support Caribbean states in implementing IHR in national legislation; and
- » Participation in the Global Health Security Action Group (GHSAG), and hosting of GHSAG working groups to improve co-ordination of GHSAG activities and the IHR to better support implementation efforts of the World Health Organization.

COMMITMENT

We are committed to meeting the Millennium Declaration objective of halting and beginning to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015 through, inter alia, identification and implementation of strategies to scale up towards the goal of universal access to comprehensive prevention programmes, treatment, care and support. We will promote scientific research and social awareness geared towards producing safe and high quality medicines and supplies with the aim of increasing access to treatment. We will implement the Regional HIV/STI Plan for the Health Sector 2006-2015, in coordination with PAHO, UNAIDS and other relevant institutions. We commit to strengthening public policies aimed at reducing the incidence of mother-to-child transmission of HIV to less than 5% by 2015. We reiterate our commitment to participating in and strengthening the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, including through resource mobilisation. (*Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 35*)

IMPLEMENTATION

The Federal Initiative to Address HIV/AIDS, The Canadian HIV Vaccine Initiative (CHVI) and strategies of provinces and territories are all part of Canada's response to HIV/AIDS. The Federal Initiative comprises the national surveillance system, funding for scientific research, and support for the HIV prevention and social awareness work of community organizations and national non-governmental organizations. The CHVI invests in developing new HIV prevention technologies, including vaccine research and development. Canada's publicly-funded health care system means that treatment is available for those who know their HIV status. Canada is developing a renewed prevention framework to address the ongoing challenge of new infections.

The Federal Initiative provides funding to community organizations across the country to improve access to more effective HIV/AIDS prevention, diagnosis, care, treatment and support for the eight key populations most affected by HIV/AIDS in Canada – gay men and men who have sex with men, people who use injection drugs, Aboriginal peoples, people in prisons, women, people from countries where HIV is endemic, youth at risk and people living with HIV/AIDS. In fiscal year 2008-2009, 35 national level projects and 139 community-level projects were supported with actual spending totalling \$21.7 million.

At the international level, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) is providing support over three years (2008-2010) to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Canada's Access to Medicines

Regime (CAMR), which came into force in May 2005, is part of Canada's support to increasing action to provide much needed medicines in the fight against HIV/AIDS in the developing world. CIDA also provides support to specific projects on HIV/AIDS, such as contributing to UNICEF's work on the Municipal Services for Adolescent Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention project in Honduras.

Indigenous Peoples

COMMITMENT

Recognizing the diversity and the traditional and ancestral nature of the cultures, histories and demographic, socio-economic and political circumstances of indigenous peoples, we reaffirm our commitment to respect their rights and we will promote the successful conclusion of negotiations on the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples is essential for their existence, welfare, and integral development. In accordance with the domestic laws of each State, we will promote the exercise of their rights, their full participation in national activities and the creation of the conditions that allow them to overcome poverty, social exclusion, and inequality. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 86)*

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada recognizes the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous persons and the collective rights of indigenous peoples, as expressed in a variety of international instruments and in Canada's constitutional and legal frameworks. Canada considers such recognition of great importance to indigenous peoples' social, cultural, economic and political development, and to equitable inclusion in countries' sustainable development.

Canada was pleased to provide substantial support to the Third Indigenous Leaders Summit of the Americas which informed the Fifth Summit of the Americas. Canada supports constructive measures to strengthen indigenous peoples' participation in the programs and policies of the OAS, and the enjoyment of human rights and improved well-being in member countries.

Canada participated in discussions on the draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and funded the participation of Indigenous representatives from Canada.

Canada remains committed to achieving progress by working in partnership with First Nations, Métis and Inuit organizations as well as other levels of government to address key issues such as education, skills development, employment, health care, housing and access to clean drinking water.

Labour

COMMITMENT

Reaffirming our commitment to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, we will continue to promote the creation of more opportunities for decent work in the formal sector. We will enforce our domestic labour laws to provide for acceptable conditions of work and safe and healthy workplaces, free from violence, harassment and discrimination. We will promote continuous training programmes in collaboration with workers' representatives and the private sector as appropriate, with the goal of generating the necessary technical skills to enable workers to respond to the demands of the labour market. We therefore call upon the Ministers of Labour, within the context of the OAS Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labour (IACML), in collaboration with their workers' and employers' consultative bodies and with the support of the ILO, as appropriate, to endorse, at the 16th IACML to be held in 2009, a work programme that advances these objectives. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 15)*

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada promotes the creation of opportunities for decent work through the negotiation of free trade agreements and through the funding of labour-related technical cooperation programs. Canada negotiates labour cooperation agreements with its free trade partners in order to promote respect for fundamental labour rights and principles and support decent work in the context of trade liberalization.

In 2009, Canada launched the International Program for Professional Labour Administration (IPPLA), a program co-funded by the Labour Program and the Canadian International Development Agency. IPPLA will increase the capacity of Labour ministries and their social partners in the Americas.

Through its membership and active participation in the ILO, Canada negotiates international labour standards that support the Decent Work Agenda and the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.

Canada co-chairs the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labour (IACML)'s working group on the promotion of decent work. The Plan of Action adopted at the 16th IACML gives follow-up to the objectives found in paragraph 15 of the Port of Spain Declaration.

Canada delivers a suite of programs in conjunction with provincial governments to increase the level of skills in the labour force. These programs include Employment Benefits and Support Measures through the Employment Insurance Program, Labour Market Agreements, Targeted Initiative for Older Workers and Labour Market Agreements for Persons with Disabilities. Skilled trades and apprenticeship are also supported to meet the growing demand for certified and mobile skilled workers.

COMMITMENT

We will adopt the necessary policies and regulations with the support of the ILO, IDB, World Bank and other regional bodies as appropriate to facilitate and promote the movement of enterprises and workers from the informal to the formal sector, without adversely affecting the rights of workers. (*Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 16*)

IMPLEMENTATION

The Skills and Employment Branch of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada is working to ensure current employment programs remain relevant and reflective of labour market realities in Canada. This is achieved through multilateral partnerships (provincial, territorial, and private-public relationships) to assist targeted groups such as unemployed older workers, youth and persons with disabilities, with employment transitions. To advance this objective, efforts are also made to ensure labour market efficiency through adequate skills-matching between job seekers and employers.

On an international level, Canada is an active member of the International Labour Organization (ILO), and in June 2009 adopted the ILO's Global Jobs Pact, an instrument designed to guide national and international policies aimed at stimulating economic recovery, generating jobs and providing protection to working people and their families. The pact calls on governments and organizations representing workers and employers to work together to collectively tackle the global jobs crisis through policies in line with the ILO's Decent Work Agenda.

The Global Jobs Pact is of particular relevance to the objective of paragraph 16 of the Port of Spain Declaration as it proposes measures and policies to protect persons and families affected by the crisis, in particular the most vulnerable, and those in the informal economy by strengthening social protection systems to provide income support and sustain livelihoods as well as security of pensions.

COMMITMENT

We reiterate our commitment to protect all people, particularly women, children and adolescents, from all forms of trafficking in persons and sexual and economic exploitation, and to provide protection and attention to the

victims. We call on Ministers responsible for education, labour, social development, security and justice to adopt coordinated national strategies to prevent and eradicate the worst forms of child labour by 2020 at the latest, in accordance with the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit in Mar del Plata, Argentina, and in accordance with national legislation, and to develop innovative strategies to bring children and adolescents who are victims back into healthy learning environments. We also reiterate our commitment to eliminate forced labour before 2010. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 18)*

IMPLEMENTATION

The Government of Canada is committed to the protection of children and the elimination of harmful child labour. All Canadian jurisdictions have legislation protecting children from economic exploitation and hazardous work. In addition, Canada works in collaboration with its international partners, including the International Labour Organization (ILO), to combat child labour internationally.

Canada has signed labour cooperation agreements with its free trade agreement partners that include commitments to the elimination of child labour and the effective enforcement of labour laws, and is providing technical assistance to developing country partners to help them realize these commitments.



1- Women working in El Salvador. [credit: Gaston Gauvin] 2- Canada's Governor General, Michaëlle Jean, meets with Mayan women's collective Fortaleza de la Mujer Maya (FOMMA) in Mexico to learn about their efforts to promote labour rights.

COMMITMENT

We recognise that micro, small and medium-sized enterprises constitute a strategic force to generate new employment, improve the quality of life, and have a positive impact on development and economic growth while promoting equity and social inclusion. We also recognise the contribution to the economy and to the creation of decent work by productive organisations, in accordance with each nation's characteristics, such as cooperatives and other production units. In this context, we call on international and regional financial institutions, as appropriate, to increase their efforts to promote our economies' development and growth by increasing lending and significantly expanding access to credit by 2012. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 20)*

IMPLEMENTATION

Following up on Prime Minister Stephen Harper's announcement at the Summit of the Americas in Trinidad and Tobago, Canada temporarily increased its callable capital at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) by US\$4 billion. This measure significantly bolstered the IDB's ability to promote regional economic growth by enhancing access to credit in the Americas.

Migration

COMMITMENT

We reaffirm the importance of fully protecting the human rights of migrants, regardless of their immigration status, and observance of the labour laws applicable to them, including the principles and labour rights embodied in the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work. (*Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 17*)

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada is committed to the full respect of human rights for all, regardless of individual immigration or other status, and has laws, programs and legal mechanisms to provide for such protection. Labour legislation and policies are largely a provincial jurisdiction, albeit guided by Canadian law and international commitments. Canada's Temporary Foreign Worker Program is the subject of reviews and improvements to ensure integrity and protection of labour and other rights.

Social Development

COMMITMENT

We therefore renew our commitment to all the peoples of the Americas to improve the quality of their lives by strengthening inter-American cooperation and, with the support of the institutions of the United Nations, the inter-American system and other relevant regional institutions, to further complement our efforts to ensure greater opportunities for decent work; to improve nutrition and access to health, quality education and housing; to promote adequate and sustainable access to energy, food and water; and to manage our environment responsibly. (*Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 4*)

IMPLEMENTATION

Human Resources and Skills Development Canada supports Canadians in making choices that improve their quality of life. This support includes contributions to community organizations working with elders and children across the country.

Health Canada establishes policies, sets standards and provides advice and information on the safety and nutritional value of food. It also promotes the nutritional health and well-being of Canadians by collaboratively defining, promoting and implementing evidence-based nutrition policies and standards. It administers the provisions of the *Food and Drugs Act* that relate to public health, safety and nutrition and evaluates the safety, quality and effectiveness of veterinary drugs.

In the Americas, Canada is committed to focusing its international assistance efforts on reducing poverty and inequity. Through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Canada is working with a wide variety of partners to contribute to enhanced social, economic, political and environmental conditions for all peoples of the Americas, especially vulnerable populations, and women and youth. For example, in 2009 CIDA contributed to the World Food Programme's efforts to reduce child and maternal malnutrition in Honduras.

COMMITMENT

We are aware that, notwithstanding the gains made since the Fourth Summit of the Americas, deep inequalities continue to exist in our countries and in our region. In response, we will continue to develop and implement social protection and inclusion policies and programmes that give priority to those living in conditions of poverty and vulnerability in our societies, and we will continue to promote access to education, health, nutrition, energy, basic social services and to opportunities for dignified and decent work. At the same time, we will stimulate income growth and better income distribution, increase productivity, and protect workers' rights and the environment. (*Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 8*)

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada is committed to reducing poverty both in Canada and the Americas, and to supporting vulnerable populations.

To promote respect for fundamental labour rights and decent work in the context of trade liberalization, the Labour Program of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada negotiates labour cooperation agreements in parallel to free trade agreements. The Labour Program also promotes the creation of opportunities for decent work through labour-related technical cooperation programs, such as the *International Program for Professional Labour Administration* (IPPLA). Launched in 2009, IPPLA will increase the capacity of labour ministries and their social partners in the Andean, Central American and Caribbean regions.

Through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Canada is delivering international assistance to reduce poverty and inequality, and improve the lives of the most vulnerable. For example, CIDA supports the Centre for Occupational Education in Peru in improving the level of education and the employment prospects of disadvantaged adults, particularly women, living in the District of Chinchá.

COMMITMENT

To strengthen our efforts to reduce social disparities and inequality and to halve extreme poverty by the year 2015, we commit to exchange information on policies, experiences, programmes and best practices. We therefore support the establishment of an Inter-American Social Protection Network in order to facilitate this exchange. (*Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 9*)

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada is committed to reducing poverty, inequality and social disparities in Canada and the hemisphere. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) supports a range of organizations working to reduce poverty and inequality in the Americas. Canada supports the Inter-American Social Protection Network, such as through fostering exchanges between various government departments contributing to social protection, both domestically and internationally.

COMMITMENT

We instruct our Ministers, in particular those responsible for finance, planning and social development, to initiate or strengthen the review of national social protection, inclusion and poverty eradication programmes, if deemed necessary, in order to increase efficiency and effectiveness, reduce duplication, identify gaps at the national level and optimise the use of resources. We also instruct the Ministers to share the experiences and best practices that emanate from these reviews at the Second Meeting of Ministers and High Level Authorities of Social Development scheduled to take place in Colombia in 2010, with a view to identifying opportunities for increased multilateral cooperation in the area of social development. We call on the OAS, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and other relevant regional and sub-regional development and financial institutions to support these efforts within the scope of their mandates. (*Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 10*)

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada is committed to social development, reduction of poverty and addressing inequality both domestically and in the region.

The basic principles of Canada's health care system are universal coverage for medically necessary health care services provided on the basis of need, rather than the ability to pay. Among other activities, Health Canada's responsibilities for health care include setting national principles for the health care system through the Canada Health Act and delivering health care services to specific groups (e.g., First Nations and Inuit).

In 2009, as part of its commitment to aid effectiveness, CIDA announced priority themes for its international assistance. These themes are stimulating sustainable economic growth, securing the future of children and youth, and increasing food security.

CIDA supported the participation of several Caribbean delegations in the Second Meeting of Ministers and High Level Authorities of Social Development in Cali, Colombia in July, 2010.

COMMITMENT

We reiterate our support for the objectives of the Social Charter of the Americas and its Plan of Action, which seek to offer all of our citizens more opportunities to benefit from sustainable development with equity and social inclusion. We encourage the OAS to conclude the drafting of these instruments and will endeavour to conclude negotiations and adopt these documents before the end of 2009. (*Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 84*)

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada participated in discussions with other countries on the Social Charter of the Americas, chairing the Social Charter Working Group for six months between 2008 and 2009. More broadly, Canada is committed to enhancing the social, economic and political conditions of the peoples of the Americas. Primarily through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Canada supports sustainable development of the hemisphere reducing poverty and inequality, and building effective, efficient and accountable hemispheric institutions. For example, Canada has supported the work of the International Labour Organization in Colombia aimed at preventing the recruitment of children and adolescents into the worst forms of child labour, and helping withdraw children who have already been recruited.

COMMITMENT

We also commit to continue exploring ways in which our governments can build, strengthen and maintain alliances with all sectors of society, especially the business, labour and academic sectors, in order to harness the expertise and resources that exist within these sectors, and to develop and implement effective, practical and sustainable strategies and cooperation to achieve our national and hemispheric development goals. Considering that the contribution of science, technology and innovation is crucial for attaining the objectives of this Declaration, strategic initiatives to better mobilise these resources of the region should be formulated (*Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 95*)

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada is committed to reducing poverty and inequality both in Canada and in the rest of the hemisphere. The Government of Canada recognizes the importance of working closely on this issue with other levels of government as well as non-state actors. Domestically, Health Canada's scientific expertise contributes to decisions about health standards, health policy, regulations and health programs. It also allows Health Canada to anticipate and respond to health risks, verify the safety and effectiveness of drugs, food, medical devices and other therapeutic products, and help Canadians make informed decisions about their health.

Canada's Sector Council Program allows for the establishment of national partnership organizations among business, labour and educational stakeholders. These partnerships operate at arms' length from the Government of Canada and are a platform for stakeholders to share ideas, concerns and perspectives about human resources and skills issues and find solutions that benefit their sector. As an example, in 2009, the Canadian Steel Trade and Employment Congress successfully negotiated a highly innovative, cost-shared Workforce Development Initiative aimed at promoting skilled trades and greater access, enrolment and completion of steel trade apprenticeship programs with the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.

At the regional level in 2009, the Canadian International Development Agency and the Labour Program of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada co-financed the International Program for Professional Labour Administration (IPPLA). This is a three-year capacity-building project aimed at helping countries in the Andean, Caribbean and Central American regions strengthen and modernize their labour policies and labour administration to reach internationally recognized core labour standards. Activities undertaken as part of the IPPLA could include collaboration on policy or legislative development and research exchanges, as well as initiatives aimed at increasing dialogue between governments, employees and employers.

Youth and Childhood

COMMITMENT

We reiterate our commitment towards families and society to protect the rights of children and adolescents, including the right to education, the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and the entitlement to special care and assistance, in order to promote their social well-being, protection and integral development. (*Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 19*)

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada continues to advance children's rights and well-being domestically, and also provides support for related initiatives throughout the Americas. Each year, Canada celebrates National Child Day on November 20th to raise awareness about children's rights and the United Nations Convention of the Rights on the Child (UNCRC) in Canada. National Child Day 2009 celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the UNCRC.

On November 20, 2009, Canada submitted its combined third and fourth report to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, which included reporting on compliance with the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict.

Canada supports several federal children's programs aimed at vulnerable populations. These initiatives include the Community Action Program for Children, the Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program, the Aboriginal Head Start in Urban and Northern Communities and the Nobody's Perfect Parenting Program, which has been shared with countries in the Americas and is being implemented in Chile.

COMMITMENT

Considering that young people are integral to development in our societies, we commit to continue investing in our young people by implementing policies and programmes aimed at: expanding their economic opportunities; providing access to comprehensive education and training for in-demand skills; opening avenues for leadership; and promoting healthy lifestyles. We therefore reaffirm our commitment to the 2008 Declaration of Medellin on Youth and Democratic Values. (*Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 39*)

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada provides support for initiatives aimed at improving educational and economic opportunities for young people throughout the Americas.

In 2009 the Public Health Agency released the Chief Public Health Officer's Report on the State of Public Health in Canada 2009: *Growing Up Well – Priorities for a Healthy Future*, which focused on how childhood experiences influence the health of Canada's children during childhood and throughout life.

COMMITMENT

Considering the importance of child protection public policy and legislation in our Hemisphere, as well as the need for institutions at the state level to channel these efforts, we reaffirm the relevance of strengthening the institutions that work with children, and improving their linkages to the inter-American system, and in particular the system for the promotion and protection of human rights, as appropriate. Taking into consideration national circumstances, we will continue to encourage efforts to ensure that child protection systems facilitate family, community and social environments that are free from violence and abuse and promote comprehensive development of the child, adolescent and the family environment with special emphasis on the most vulnerable sectors of our societies. In this sense, we support the organisation of the XX Pan American Child Congress, to be held in Lima, Peru from September 22 to 25, 2009. (*Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 87*)

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada sent an official delegation, including two youth delegates, to the Pan-American Child Congress in Lima, Peru in September, 2009. Canada continues to support the implementation of the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child domestically, and throughout the Americas through collaboration with the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN). Canada works with the IIN in developing policies and programs that effectively address and protect the rights of children and youth. Canada supports Child Rights Education for Professionals (CRED-PRO) which provides educational programs on children's rights to professionals working with children. CRED-PRO pilot projects have been launched in Colombia, Uruguay, Chile and Argentina.

Canada supports policy and program initiatives to reduce family violence through its Family Violence Initiative. In 2009, the Public Health Agency of Canada organized events that facilitated knowledge exchange and contributed to the identification of gaps, priorities and promising prevention practices in child emotional maltreatment and family violence in Aboriginal communities.

The Public Health Agency represents Canada as a founding member of the World Health Organization (WHO) Violence Prevention Alliance. The Agency participated in the WHO Milestones meeting of a Global Campaign for Violence Prevention held in Geneva in September 2009.



SUMMIT FOLLOW-UP

COMMITMENT

We applaud the commemoration of the bicentennial of the independence of Latin American countries and the work being undertaken jointly by those countries for their celebration, recognizing that their independence has played a key part in shaping the contemporary world and that it will remain relevant in shaping the world of the future. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 96)*

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada joins with the other countries in the hemisphere in marking this important milestone.

COMMITMENT

We call upon the institutions of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG) to further strengthen their commitment and to develop coordinated programmes of action aimed at achieving the goals for the Americas set out in this Declaration. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 93)*

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada supports increasing the alignment and effectiveness of inter-American institutions and processes, foremost among which are the OAS and the Summit of the Americas. Canada supports the work of the Joint Summit Working Group, which was created to ensure relevant inter-American institutions shared information and developed common approaches to implementing the direction set by hemispheric leaders at the Summit of the Americas. Through its engagement at the OAS and with the members of the Joint Summit Working Group, Canada will continue to promote co-ordination between these institutions in implementing summit commitments.

COMMITMENT

We recognise that the issues of human prosperity, energy security and environmental sustainability are closely intertwined and that an integrated, coherent policy framework is essential to the achievement of the commitments we have made here to the people of our Hemisphere. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 89)*

IMPLEMENTATION

On March 3, 2010, Canada's Speech from the Throne addressed the linkages between energy, prosperity and the environment:

“Our energy resource endowment provides Canada with an unparalleled economic advantage that we must leverage to secure our place as a clean energy superpower and a leader in green job creation. We are the world's seventh largest crude oil producer with the second largest proven reserves. We are the third largest natural gas producer, the third largest hydroelectric generator, the largest producer of uranium, and by far the largest supplier of energy resources to the world's largest marketplace. To support responsible development of Canada's energy and mineral resources, our Government will untangle the daunting maze of regulations that needlessly complicates project approvals, replacing it with simpler, clearer processes that offer improved environmental protection and greater certainty to industry.

Our Government will continue to invest in clean energy technologies. It will review energy efficiency and emissions-reduction programs to ensure they are effective. And it will position Canada's nuclear industry to capitalize on the opportunities of the global nuclear renaissance – beginning with the restructuring of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited.”

COMMITMENT

In order to strengthen ministerial participation in and continuity with the Summits of the Americas Process, improve the implementation of our decisions at this Fifth Summit, and increase our accountability to the people of the Americas, we call on the technical secretariats of all inter-American Ministerial Meetings to inform their Ministers and high level authorities of the mandates arising from this Summit and to initiate strategic actions, by the end of 2009, to facilitate the implementation of our commitments. We further commit to convening the Summit of the Americas on a regular basis and no later than every three years.

(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 90)

IMPLEMENTATION

In keeping with Canada's Americas Strategy, and its emphasis on effective multilateralism, Canada promotes closer integration between the Summit process and OAS institutions and ministerial meetings. Since the 2009 Summit of the Americas, Canada participated in seven ministerial meetings to advance hemispheric co-operation in thematic and technical areas and implement specific thematic objectives related to Summit commitments.

COMMITMENT

Our countries will aim to continue to provide annual national reports to the OAS on the actions and progress made towards achieving the specific objectives set at the Summits of the Americas. In addition, we instruct the General Secretariat of the OAS, in accordance with its central role in supporting the implementation of Summit mandates and in coordination with the members of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG), to provide a comprehensive report to the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG), annually, on the actions and progress made at all inter-American Ministerial Meetings towards supporting Summit objectives. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 91)*

IMPLEMENTATION

Canada regularly publishes reports on the implementation of commitments undertaken at the Summit of the Americas. At Inter-American Ministerial meetings, Canada works with other delegations to follow up on the implementation of relevant Summit commitments.

COMMITMENT

We instruct Ministers of Finance or pertinent authorities to convene a meeting in 2010 to address regional financial and economic issues. In that context, we request that they continue to explore ways to ensure that international financial institutions, regional development banks, and other international bodies take due account of the Summit mandates in their lending policies and technical assistance programs for the Hemisphere. We will also continue to strengthen the mechanisms to build strategic alliances within our countries among relevant ministries with responsibility for implementing commitments and mandates contained in this Declaration. To that same end, we will continue to strengthen the capacities of our national authorities to use technical cooperation resources more effectively, with the aim of fulfilling Summit objectives. *(Port of Spain Declaration Paragraph 92)*

IMPLEMENTATION

Finance Canada officials engaged with counterparts in March 2010 in a preparatory meeting for the 3rd annual Meeting of Finance Ministers of the Americas. The finance ministers' meeting took place in Lima, Peru, from May 27-28, 2010, with participation from international financial institutions and regional development banks. Minister Flaherty delivered a lead presentation at the session on the integration of regional trade and infrastructure. He also engaged in sessions on sustainable growth policies, stimulus plans and exit strategies. At the closing May 28 joint press conference by Minister Flaherty and Peruvian host Finance Minister Araoz, Minister Flaherty announced that Canada would host the 4th Meeting of Finance Ministers of the Americas, in March 2011, during the Annual Meetings of the Inter-American Development Bank in Calgary, Alberta.