

Rethinking Global Development: Five Questions for Canada



Expert Group on **Canada** and the
Future of Development Cooperation

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A new geopolitical and geoeconomic environment for Canada

“Canada is facing challenges unprecedented in our lifetimes. Fundamental change is always unsettling. Yet this moment is ... an opportunity for renewal.

Canada is ready to build a coalition of like-minded countries that share its values, that believe in international cooperation and the free and open exchange of goods, services, and ideas.

Canada is ready to lead.”

Speech from the Throne, May 2025

Multiple vectors are converging

- America First is shattering longstanding norms
- Widespread questioning of post-war development cooperation model
- The dominant power of the “West,” as a dominant and organizing force of world order, is shifting
- The multilateral order that has been key to Canada’s security and prosperity is under enormous strain

Yet the need for international cooperation – to advance Canada’s interests and address global challenges – has not diminished, for economic growth, trade and investment; global disease and pandemic prevention; climate change solutions; the worldwide crisis of displacement ...

Resetting Canada's foreign policy

- All dimensions of Canadian foreign policy must now be rethought
- With a focus on core national interests and values: prosperity, security, sovereignty and democracy.
- Canada's approach to shifting geopolitical and geoeconomic forces of global development is no exception

As Canada comes to terms with this challenging, disruptive global context, how can development cooperation, and relations with emerging and developing economies more broadly, best advance Canada's core interests and values?

How can they contribute to a new, independent foreign policy for Canada?

Today's objectives

- To ground and broaden discussion of the challenges Canada is facing and its approach to development cooperation
- To test and refine the set of specific issues for future discussions and policy briefs
- To inform the direction of travel for upcoming national security and foreign policy reviews

Rethinking Global Development: Five Questions for Canada

1. How does development cooperation advance Canada's interests and values?
2. How does Canada redefine and re-equip itself as a "Global partner rather than a "Northern donor"?"
3. Within development cooperation, what is the optimal approach and toolkit for Canada?
4. What issues, countries or regions should Canada prioritize?
5. Who needs to be involved in resetting Canada's development engagement? Is Canada fit for purpose?

Advancing the discussion

- Are these the right strategic questions?
- What contemporary development challenges:
 - Are most in need of reset? Require new ideas and approaches?
 - Strongly Intersect with urgent Canadian priorities?
 - Are “mutual, shared interest priorities”?
 - Is Canada well positioned to make a distinctive global contribution?
- Who else needs to be part of this discussion?

Session II: Issue-based workshops



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Baseline approach to workshops

- **Goal** Frame key debates, engage top expertise
- **Format** Private 1.5-2hr hybrid (Ottawa + virtual)
- **Participants** Across Ottawa, Canada, & international
- **Process**
 - (1) Short background note
 - (2) Multistakeholder dialogue
 - (3) Summary note published

Deep Dive Workshops slated for 2025

1. Development Finance

2. Haiti

3. Global Health

4. Critical Minerals

Potential Workshops in 2026 ...

- **Trade** and development
- **AI** for development
- **Humanitarian** response
- **Security** and development
- **State effectiveness** and democratic governance
- **Future multilateralism** and global governance
- **Sustainable growth** and shared prosperity
- **Reconfiguring Canadian capabilities** to be Global Partner