

**Canada's Statement to the United Nations  
Commission on Sustainable Development – 18th Session**

**Interlinkages and Cross-cutting Issues**

Thank you Mister / Madame Chairperson:

Within the context of CSD-18, Canada has identified four key inter-linkages and cross-cutting issues:

1) Good Governance:

Canada recognizes the fundamental importance of:

- respect for human rights and gender equality;
- respect for and enforcement of the rule of law;
- accountable, transparent, and inclusive public institutions; and
- a commitment to freedom and democracy.

These principles form a basis for eradicating poverty, achieving sustained economic growth, and promoting sustainable development.

Canada actively promotes international tools and initiatives in support of corporate social responsibility such as the UN Global Compact, the IFC Performance Standards, the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, and the Global Reporting Initiative. Canada also participates in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, a mechanism that fosters accountability and revenue transparency.

As an example of turning concepts into action, Canada's new *CSR Strategy for the Canadian International Extractive Sector* addresses the interests of host governments and local communities while establishing standards for industry that are intended to reduce the risks to Canadian operations abroad and enhance the competitiveness of Canadian companies.

2) Information and the role of science, technology and education

The value of evidence-based policy approach is clear – robust scientific findings can point convincingly to the need for immediate action. Scientific and technical knowledge are also important for the establishment of standards, regulatory systems, and monitoring methodologies. While technology is an important source of alternatives and solutions for sustainable development, we cannot presuppose the potential of future innovation to solve all of our development needs.

A significant issue with respect to sustainable consumption and production has been a general lack of access to formal and informal education globally. Canada recognizes this

must be addressed to combat unsustainable patterns of consumption and production. To that end, it is important to note that education and the goal of learning can be conducted through formal and informal channels, and through the sharing of traditional practices.

### 3) Gender Equality

Policies that bring the principle of gender equality into all aspects of social policy will enable all groups in society - in particular the women in our societies - to participate and share in economic and social development. The recognition of women as actors provides women the potential to contribute as active and innovative agents of change within their families, communities and the workplace.

### 4) Green Economy

Environmentally and socially sustainable economic growth is a key challenge that all countries are facing today. The transition to a green economy will require sound national governance and active involvement of civil society. The Green Economy will be based on forward-looking government initiatives, partnerships and international cooperation to advance technology, sound investments as well management practices, and capacity-building activities.