



**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY
SOUS RÉSERVE DE MODIFICATIONS**

**STATEMENT BY
AMBASSADOR HENRI-PAUL NORMANDIN
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CANADA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON THE MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE LEAST
DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FOR THE DECADE 2001-2010**

AT THE SIXTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK, 18 SEPTEMBER 2006

**DÉCLARATION DE
L'AMBASSADEUR HENRI-PAUL NORMANDIN
REPRÉSENTANT PERMANENT ADJOINT DU CANADA
AUPRÈS DES NATIONS UNIES**

**À LA RÉUNION DE HAUT NIVEAU SUR L'EXAMEN À MOYEN-TERME DE LA MISE
EN OEUVRE DU PROGRAMME D'ACTION POUR LES PAYS LES MOINS
AVANCÉS POUR LA DÉCENNIE 2001-2010**

**À LA SOIXANTE ET UNIÈME SESSION DE L'ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE
DES NATIONS UNIES**

NEW YORK, LE 18 SEPTEMBRE 2006

Madam President,

Allow me to congratulate you on your election as President of this distinguished body and for the excellent work it has undertaken under your leadership.

Canadians care about bridging the enormous gaps in income, health, education and the quality of life that exist in our interdependent world. Our compassion for people living in poverty is a reflection of values we cherish – humanitarianism, freedom, democracy, rule of law and respect for human rights.

The challenges facing the Least Developed Countries are of great concern to Canada and we welcome the opportunity to exchange views on implementation of the Brussels Program of Action (BPOA).

In the five years since the BPOA was adopted, much has been done. There has been progress in some least developed countries, and a few are close to graduation from LDC status. At the same time much remains to be done and many others remain in grave difficulty.

LDCs have striven to create the best possible environment for growth, development and poverty reduction. We appreciate the assessment by LDCs of the successes and failures of implementation contained in the Cotonou strategy.

Canada like other development partners has mobilized in response to the BPOA: an unprecedented level of our development assistance now goes to the LDCs; we have improved market access – imports from LDCs have recently tripled; and we have accelerated debt relief in support of the LDCs.

Canada continues to focus its assistance in sectors that directly support the MDGs and are of primary concern to LDCs - good governance (including freedom, democracy and human rights), basic education, health (including HIV/AIDS), private sector development, environmental sustainability and gender equality.

Canadians have contributed across the spectrum of BPOA commitments.

We support people-centred development through consultations with governments, civil society, business and people living in poverty when developing our country-programming frameworks;

Canadians are working – and sometimes dying – beside our brothers and sisters in particularly fragile countries Afghanistan and Haiti, for example;

We are actively engaged in aid-for trade initiatives and the Integrated Framework for Trade Related Technical Assistance. We regret the suspension of talks of the Doha development round. We look forward to their speedy resumption as the best way to promote trade as a tool for development in the LDCs.

Despite our collective efforts and renewed sense of partnership, Madam President, there is much room for improvement.

My Government is particularly concerned with aid effectiveness, ensuring that development partners work together with developing countries to get the best possible bang for the development buck.

Further progress will also depend on countries developing the right governance structures to facilitate private sector development; and sufficient respect for human rights and democracy to build confidence in their governments.

In conclusion, Madam President, results have not been as rapid or predictable as we would like them to be, but they will come with determined implementation of the BPOA. It is for this reason that we must continue and accelerate our efforts towards a successful outcome of the BPOA.

We welcome the draft declaration as a positive step on the road to furthering the BPOA and look forward in 2011 to reports of greater progress in the Least Developed Countries.

Thank you.