

Summit on Canada's Global Leadership Outcome Document

The Summit on Canada's Global Leadership was held in Ottawa on November 27-28, 2019.

This document summarizes ideas and reflections raised during those two days. It includes a section building on the initial vision statement presented at the opening of the Summit, followed by a suite of specific and non-exclusive ideas for action that expand significantly beyond the annex to the initial vision statement. However, as indicated below, this document is distinct in purpose and structure from the initial vision statement and other Summit materials.

The initial vision statement presented areas of common ground in the international affairs community to inform Summit discussions. Drawing on the expertise and insights of the 500 participants at the Summit, this document expands the range of options for implementing a bold vision of a globally engaged Canada. The content below reflects the trends and intersections of participant comments and feedback. As such, these are not necessarily points of consensus among the members of the advisory committee that generated the initial vision statement, Summit organizers, or Summit participants. This summary does not represent the full depth and breadth of the Summit; it primarily reflects the perspectives of those who gave feedback, who were predominantly though not exclusively from the international development and humanitarian sectors. However, it does aim to indicate the main lines of discussion during the Summit and provide a basis for further reflection in support of developing a robust and ambitious Canadian foreign policy. While this document is framed as themes and actions for the Government of Canada, Summit participants urged civil society and private sector actors to embrace and encourage similar priorities and approaches in their own work.

Themes for Canada's Global Leadership

1. Feminist leadership

- Women's rights and feminist approaches should be at the core of Canada's foreign policy vision, with a gender equality lens as a cross-cutting thread and focus running through all other policy elements (partnerships, root causes and durable solutions, coherence, etc.). This will require formalizing, i.e. putting in writing, a feminist foreign policy with an integrated human rights approach to global engagement. In doing so, Canada would draw on and reinforce the language and substance of the Feminist International Assistance Policy across Canada's foreign policy (diplomacy, development, trade and security), recognizing that gender and intersectional equality benefit all people.

2. Climate leadership

- Canada must acknowledge and address the existential climate crisis across policy and programming – including by linking domestic and global climate action to inclusive economic growth in a just transition and fair international trade. This will entail setting firm, ambitious and dated targets that – among other measures – systematically wind down Canada's production and consumption of fossil fuels and provide adequate support and substitution for those most severely impacted by this change. Canada must make its fair-share contribution to global climate finance, including equal shares to mitigation and adaptation.

3. *Human rights leadership*

- Canada's foreign policy should be framed through a human rights-based approach. This framing – which is consistent, complementary, and integral to the feminist approach outlined above – requires nuance and caution. Engagement in and support for a rules-based international order is beneficial and desirable (only) insofar as those rules and that order improve human life and livelihoods and uphold human rights. And while formal opportunities for protected peaceful dissent can be important and useful, calls for such provisions must never be allowed to undermine broader free expression as a human right.

4. *Leadership in Indigenous reconciliation*

- Indigenous issues are international issues. There is a greater need for Canadian leadership, nationally and globally, on ensuring that good practices of diplomacy and partnership are practiced throughout relations with Indigenous peoples as with other nation-to-nation relations. Canada's commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires coherent policy approaches aiming to leave no one behind at home and abroad.

5. *Leadership in partnerships*

- Partnerships are about listening to and working directly with others throughout the design and implementation of foreign policy initiatives. Canada should be seeking to understand others and deliver what they need rather than assuming their needs and wants. This is just as important in the context of collective security as it is in terms of trade agreements and development cooperation. More nuanced partnerships, rooted in mutual understanding, will be more successful ones.
- As a fundamental tenet of foreign policy, Canada must keep its own commitments, such as its funding commitments to Official Development Assistance and collective peace and security, as well as the holistic implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, its bilateral and multilateral trade agreements, its aid effectiveness commitments, and its ratification of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Canada should diversify its international relations with partners – considering diplomacy, trade, security, and development cooperation dimensions – rather than pursuing single-issue bilateral relationships. This will see Canada take an integrated coherent approach to foreign affairs – just as it must do at home in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Canada should strive to engage the broadest possible range of Canadian citizens and Canadian civil society groups in Canada's global partnerships, including by leveraging local expertise in Canadian communities for people-to-people and intercultural relations – recognizing and utilizing the value-add of Canada's multicultural and multilingual identity.

6. *Leadership in accountability*

- Canada should draw on and publicly highlight good practices outside Canada – showing leadership by touting others' successes as well as its own. A significant dose of humility is in order when considering Canada's performance in policy and programming relative to others in both the Global North and Global South. Canada's expectations of its global partners should be expectations it holds domestically as well – including around its core foreign policy principles of human rights, inclusion and gender equality.

Actions to Demonstrate Canada's Commitment

1. *Ensuring Reflection and Innovation*

- Strike a Joint Committee of the House of Commons and Senate to review Canadian foreign policy and programs to ensure coherence with a robust vision for Canada's global role.
- Require Sustainable Development Goals analysis (à la GBA+) in Memoranda to Cabinet and Treasury Board submissions across all federal government departments, to ensure implementation of Canada's commitments across domestic and international policy.
- Establish the structures and systems necessary to implement integrated programming in the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, rooted in a gender- and age-responsive framework.

2. *Building Credibility on Feminist and Human Rights Approaches*

- Regulate Canadian corporations and supply chains globally, e.g. by ensuring the Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise has the power they need to hold companies accountable, and by requiring companies that do business in Canada to identify, prevent, respond to and report their human rights impacts in Canada and around the world.
- Enhance Canadian participation and contributions in peacekeeping, peacebuilding, and international election monitoring.
- Actively support and fund grassroots human rights organizations, networks, and movements – especially those led by and/or representing women, LGBTI+ people, youth, Indigenous peoples, informal workers, and other marginalized groups – to help counteract the global closing of civic space.
- Lead a multilateral initiative to establish a Global Children's Advisory Council that would ensure the perspectives and voices of children and youth, including those living in fragile contexts, are considered in decisions affecting them.
- Provide bold diplomatic leadership to ensure that humanitarian assistance is not impeded, including in the contexts of unilateral sanctions and anti-terror regulations, by supporting Canadian and other organizations providing humanitarian assistance.
- Anticipate and evaluate the impacts of sanctions and other forms of diplomatic leverage, recognizing the often unequal impact of such measures on women, children, and other marginalized and/or vulnerable groups, and ensuring that the focus at all times is on upholding the sanctity of human life
- Work to build the capacity of the government and its partners in trade, security, diplomacy, and development to address, prevent and raise awareness of sexual misconduct.
- Emphasize poverty eradication and reduction of inequalities in its global economic agenda, including international trade and the just transition associated with strong climate action, recognizing that people experience unequal and sometimes contradictory outcomes from global economic growth and trade – in both formal and informal economies.

- In line with a long-term approach grounded in intergenerational equity, prioritize initiatives that reduce barriers (e.g. child marriage) and increase opportunities (e.g. access to quality education) for young people globally.
- Adopt an integrated policy approach to addressing forced migration, which considers root causes and approaches forced migration from humanitarian, development, diplomatic, and immigration perspectives as part of a coherent foreign policy response, in support of implementation of the Global Compacts for Refugees and on Migration.

3. *Strengthening Sustainable Security*

- Ensure that every Canadian military deployment on peacekeeping, stabilization, or peace enforcement operations includes a governance development component to help build sustainable local capacity for peace and security.
- Lead a multilateral effort on arms control, upholding international law of armed conflict, and nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament – starting by signing and ratifying the 2017 UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.
- Prioritize peacebuilding in Canada’s foreign and security policy with coherent approaches engaging defence and diplomacy personnel in collaboration with civil society peace movements and actors – including through mechanisms in accordance with Canada’s National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security and other support for women, peace and security and youth, peace and security agendas in Canada and globally.

4. *Supporting Effective Partnerships*

- Facilitate dialogue and exchange between civil society, the private sector and government – at national and global levels – to promote and protect civic space and support effective development.
- Ensure that its regulatory regime (e.g. direction and control rules for civil society organizations) supports effective and equitable global partnerships.

