

## Canada-UK Joint Declaration: Review and Refresh

### A significant and successful first year ....

Our meeting today comes one year after the Joint Declaration was endorsed by our Prime Ministers in Ottawa. It delivers on the commitment for Ministers to meet each year to review and report on progress, and to renew objectives for deepening the relationship.

Our strategic partnership is stronger than ever. Over the past year, we have strengthened our co-operation on the wide range of issues within the Joint Declaration, and worked together on new areas.

#### Promoting Economic Growth, Trade and Innovation

We continue to work together to safeguard **our mutual prosperity** in the face of prevailing global economic uncertainty. We continue to press for an ambitious conclusion to the **Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement** negotiations to create new market access opportunities that will expand our already robust trade and investment ties. We are also working in the **G20 to promote stronger, more sustainable and balanced global growth**. In Los Cabos, we also launched AgResult to finance private sector research and development on food security challenges. We will continue to work together in the **G8** during the UK's Presidency in 2013 on our shared priorities, including the G8's continuing accountability effort.

Our Ministers signed a bilateral **Joint Innovation Statement** in May to stimulate partnerships in scientific research and innovation between our two countries. We have already initiated projects as a result, with a focus on the commercialisation of our world-leading research in priority areas such as health, sustainability, renewable energy, clean technologies, advanced manufacturing, and social innovation, to deliver economic benefits to both countries. We continue to work towards meeting the existing **Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**, alongside efforts towards a new, ambitious approach to the post-MDGs framework.

#### Securing our Countries

We have strengthened our alliance on defence and international security. Both our countries committed at Chicago and Tokyo to funding a sustainable and secure future for **Afghanistan**. Our militaries continue to increase **interoperability** through joint exercises, exchanges of personnel and training opportunities, and we are actively exploring ways of deepening this co-operation. We have also signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Defence Material Co-operation, allowing us to increase our collaboration on equipment and logistics. We are exchanging experienced **consular crisis management** officers, with an FCO secondee currently at DFAIT and a DFAIT secondee projected to start at the FCO by the end of 2012.

We are working together on countering global terrorism, including playing leadership roles in the Global Counter Terrorism Forum and collaborating on national listings of terrorist entities.

We continue to co-operate on emerging **cyberspace** issues to empower innovation and prosperity, combat cybercrime, and protect and promote the human rights and responsibilities of citizens around the world. We strongly support the process begun at the London Conference on Cyberspace

to build consensus on the broad principles that will sustain and enhance the prosperity, security and openness of our networked world.

### Promoting our Shared Values

We have worked together to **promote our shared values** of freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law to build stable and inclusive societies around the world. We have worked jointly to modernise the **Commonwealth** through our efforts at the Heads of Government meeting in Perth last October and on the Ministerial Task Force. We have achieved a mandate to strengthen the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group; secured adoption of most of the recommendations from the Eminent Persons' Group report; and drafted a new Commonwealth Charter, which we trust will be adopted by the end of the year. We have increased the number of participants in our **Youth Mobility scheme** to deepen interaction between our young people. And we have promoted **maternal, newborn and child health** through our joint work to deliver Canada's G8 Muskoka Initiative on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, including through the UK-hosted London Summit on Family Planning in July.

We have also worked **in the spirit of the declaration** to expand and enhance our bilateral co-operation in areas not envisaged when the declaration was endorsed. We continue to work closely together to increase peaceful pressure to encourage **Iran** to address substantively international concerns about its nuclear programme. We have promoted the human rights of women and girls, including at the G8 Camp David Summit and the NATO Chicago Summit, as being crucial for all countries' political stability, democratic governance and economic growth, particularly the **prevention of sexual violence**. As a reflection of the closeness of our relationship, the UK has offered Canada **office space** in the British Embassy in Burma, and Canada has reciprocated by offering space in the Canadian Embassy in Haiti.

### **... and the prospect of much more to come**

In our meeting today, we have discussed new challenges and opportunities facing our two countries. In these renewed objectives, we commit ourselves to working together to address these challenges and seize such opportunities, so that our partnership continues to deliver results for both countries.

We have today signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** for Enhancing Mutual Support at Missions Abroad, which sets out in more detail a range of issues on which we will seek to co-operate to increase operational efficiencies and maximise our reach and impact as two vibrant foreign ministries with common goals. These include the development of common services, further co-location and enhanced collaboration on consular services and assistance.

We will collaborate to encourage the UN Security Council to **take firm action**, including tough economic sanctions, to support a **political solution** in **Syria**. We will urge those countries in a position to influence Syria to press President Assad to end the violence and allow an inclusive, Syrian-led political transition to occur. We will also collaborate to ensure full, safe and unhindered access for humanitarian actors to address the urgent needs of those affected by the violence.

In recognition of the pivotal shift taking place in global relations and the emergence of new powers, we will enhance the dialogue between our two ministries on political, economic and strategic issues in the **Asia-Pacific region**, including through participation in November's Canada-UK Colloquium in Vancouver on "The Shifting Centre of Global Gravity: Britain, Canada and the North Pacific".

We will continue to work together with the international community to stabilize **Somalia**, in order to help the people of Somalia build a stable and prosperous country, and help the new Government take ownership of and deliver its priorities. This will include providing support to the development of institutions in Somalia, including possibly in the security and justice sectors. We will also work together to address the threat from piracy.

We will work together to promote and protect the right to **freedom of religion or belief** internationally, including by organising a major conference with faith and civil society leaders in December 2012 at Canada House in London. This freedom is a universal human right and underpins many other rights. As such, it is a key priority for both our governments.

We will continue to press countries around the world to **repeal regressive and punitive laws criminalizing homosexuality**, which are incompatible with fundamental human rights.

We will strengthen international efforts and co-ordination, including at the UN and within the G8, to prevent and respond to **sexual violence in conflict** such as rape as a weapon of war, and to promote accountability, as well as to prosecute perpetrators, both nationally and internationally, and support states to build their capability to tackle such perpetrators.

We will work more closely together in **Haiti** - the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere - building on existing dialogue and co-operation, and with the aim of increasing political stability, good governance and the rule of law. The re-opening of the British Embassy, after a 50-year absence, will mark a new chapter in our joint efforts there.

We will work together to support the current process of political and democratic reform in **Burma**. We recognise the important steps taken so far to resolve many of the international community's human rights concerns, and pledge our continued support to Burma to resolve these issues. We will also encourage responsible investment and an ethical approach to business, particularly in the extractive industries.

We will continue to implement the **Commonwealth** modernisation agenda, including follow-through on the Perth Summit's Eminent Persons Group recommendations, and the adoption of a more streamlined four-year Strategic Plan for the Commonwealth Secretariat, which focuses work around areas of comparative advantage and ensures value for money to donors. We will cooperate closely on shared objectives in the run up to the next Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Sri Lanka in November 2013.

We will facilitate and promote collaboration and information sharing within our **civil nuclear power** generation sectors. This could include the construction and operation of new reactors in both countries; the exploration of the potential for the safe and proper disposition of legacy fissile material through its use in alternative fuels; optimising the management and operation of national nuclear research laboratories; and identifying best practises in safe, efficient and cost-effective decommissioning and waste management capabilities, among other mutually beneficial activities.

In light of the recent report “ International Education: A Key Driver of Canada’s Future Prosperity”, we note our common interest in the internationalization of **Higher Education**, and will work together to encourage and strengthen links between our institutions for higher education, and to promote further and more detailed collaboration and dialogue on education policy research.

Strengthening our Partnership for Results

We will continue to review and report on progress on these objectives annually, so that the Joint Declaration remains a living document reflecting our evolving shared priorities.

Endorsed in Ottawa on 24 September, 2012

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