

# Development Calendar

<http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/CIDAWEB/acdicida.nsf/En/NAT-2283451-HXC>

**Date:** February 1-7, 2009

**Event:** [International Development Week](#)

**Location:** Canada

**Description:** The theme of the 19<sup>th</sup> annual International Development Week (IDW) is *Development for Results*. This theme reflects the commitment of the Government of Canada—and CIDA—towards achieving more effective aid. The effectiveness of aid is measured first and foremost in real outcomes and tangible results, which make a significant difference in the lives of people who receive Canadian assistance. IDW provides a unique opportunity for the Government of Canada and Canadian organizations and individuals to publicize progress achieved and lessons learned in international development. You can consult IDW event calendar [by date](#) or [by province](#). You can also [add your own event to the calendar](#).

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**Date:** February 20, 2009

**Event:** [World Day of Social Justice](#)

**Location:** Worldwide

**Description:** In November 2007, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed February 20 as World Day of Social Justice. The day is to be observed for the first time in 2009. The observance of the day should contribute to the further consolidation of the efforts of the international community in poverty eradication, promotion of full employment and decent work, gender equity, and access to social well-being and justice for all.

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**Date:** February 21, 2009

**Event:** [International Mother Language Day](#)

**Location:** Worldwide

**Description:** International Mother Language Day was proclaimed by UNESCO's General Conference in 1999. All actions to promote the dissemination of mother

tongues will serve not only to encourage linguistic diversity and multilingual education, but also to develop a fuller awareness of linguistic and cultural traditions throughout the world and to inspire solidarity based on understanding, tolerance, and dialogue.

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**Date:** March 5-7, 2009  
**Event:** [Rethinking Extractive Industry: Regulations, Dispossession and Emerging Claims](#)  
**Location:** York University  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
**Description:** This conference responds to growing public debate as well as academic, industry, and policymaker interest in the consequences of the rapid growth of mining and petroleum industries in Canada and elsewhere in the world. [CIDA supports the participation of delegates](#) at this event.

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**Date:** March 8, 2009  
**Event:** [International Women's Day](#)  
**Location:** Worldwide  
**Description:** Since International Women's Year in 1975, March 8 has been celebrated as International Women's Day "to commemorate the historic struggle to improve women's lives." It is celebrated around the world at the local and national levels. Canada has played an important role in advocating for and implementing commitments to women's rights and equality between women and men.

<http://www.un.org/events/women/iwd/2008/>

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**Date:** March 15-19, 2009  
**Event:** [Looking Back, Thinking Ahead: Using Research to Improve Policy and Practice in Women's Health](#)  
**Location:** The Westin Nova Scotian  
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada  
**Description:** The purpose of the conference is to offer researchers, policymakers and community members the opportunity to reflect on past achievements and

learnings in the area of women's health research and policy, and to exchange knowledge, ideas and perspectives about the future of women's health research and policy. New work highlighting indigenous women's health—both in Canada and internationally—will cut across conference themes and inform topic areas. [CIDA supports the participation of delegates](#) at this event.

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**Date:** March 20, 2009  
**Event:** [International Day of la Francophonie](#) (French only)  
**Location:** Worldwide  
**Description:** Since 1990, French-speaking people on all continents celebrate the Journée internationale de la Francophonie on March 20. This special day highlights the French language, which unites 200 million speakers throughout the world, in addition to reaching 870 million people living in the 70 member states and governments of the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie.

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**Date:** March 21, 2009  
**Event:** [International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination](#)  
**Location:** Worldwide  
**Description:** The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed annually on March 21. On that day, in 1960, police opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration in Sharpeville, South Africa, protesting the apartheid "pass laws". Proclaiming the day in 1966, the United Nations General Assembly called on the international community to redouble its efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination.

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**Date:** March 22, 2009  
**Event:** [World Water Day](#)  
**Location:** Worldwide  
**Description:** The international observance of World Water Day (WWD) is an initiative that grew out of the 1992

United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro. This year, WWD will highlight transboundary waters.

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**Date:** March 24, 2009

**Event:** [World TB Day](#)

**Location:** Worldwide

**Description:** World Tuberculosis (TB) Day 2009 celebrates the lives and stories of people affected by TB: women, men and children who have taken TB treatment; nurses; doctors; researchers; community workers— anyone who has contributed towards the global fight against TB. [CIDA and the fight against tuberculosis](#).

**Date:** April 4, 2009

**Event:** [International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action](#)

**Location:** Worldwide

**Description:** The United Nations General Assembly declared April 4 the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action to create an opportunity to sustain public awareness about the problem of landmines and explosive remnants of war, and the international effort to eliminate them. [CIDA and landmines](#).

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**Date:** April 7, 2009

**Event:** [World Health Day](#)

**Location:** Worldwide

**Description:** World Health Day marks the founding of the World Health Organization and is a yearly opportunity to draw worldwide attention to a subject of major importance to global health. This year's theme is "Save lives. Make hospitals safe in emergencies. [CIDA and health](#).

**Date:** May 3, 2009

**Event:** [World Press Freedom Day](#)

**Location:** Worldwide

**Description:** Throughout the world, May 3 serves as an occasion to inform the public of violations of the right to freedom

of expression and as a reminder that many journalists brave death or jail to bring people their daily news.

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**Date:** May 10-15, 2009  
**Event:** [Child Rights in Practice: Measuring our Impact](#)  
**Location:** Whistler, British Columbia, Canada  
**Description:** The International Institute for Child Rights and Development (IICRD) is hosting a week of interactive training on children's rights. Topics to be addressed in plenaries and workshops include measuring the impact of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. [CIDA supports the participation of delegates](#) at this event.

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**Date:** May 15, 2009  
**Event:** [International Day of Families](#)  
**Location:** Worldwide  
**Description:** The annual observance reflects on the importance of the family as the basic unit of all societies and promotes awareness of issues related to families.

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**Date:** May 21, 2009  
**Event:** [World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development](#)  
**Location:** Worldwide  
**Description:** The World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development provides an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the values of cultural diversity and to learn to live together better. UNESCO continues to promote greater awareness of the crucial relationship between culture and development and the important role of information and communication technologies in this relationship.

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**Date:** May 22, 2009  
**Event:** [International Day for Biological Diversity](#)  
**Location:** Worldwide  
**Description:** The theme for the International Day on Biological

Diversity (IBD) in 2009 is “invasive alien species” (IAS)—one of the greatest threats to biodiversity, and to the ecological and economic well-being of society and the planet.

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**Date:** May 29, 2009

**Event:** [International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers](#)

**Location:** Worldwide

**Description:** The International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers is to be observed annually to pay tribute to all the men and women who have served and continue to serve in United Nations Peacekeeping operations, for their high-level of professionalism, dedication and courage, and to honour the memory of those who have lost their lives in the cause of peace.

**Date:** June 5, 2009

**Event:** [World Environment Day](#)

**Location:** Worldwide

**Description:** World Environment Day is one of the principal vehicles through which the United Nations stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and enhances political attention and action. [CIDA and the environment](#).

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**Date:** June 17, 2009

**Event:** [World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought](#)

**Location:** Worldwide

**Description:** The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is celebrated all over the world every year on June 17 to highlight the urgent need to curb the process of desertification and to strengthen the visibility of this serious drylands issue on the international environmental agenda. [CIDA and land degradation](#).

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**Date:** June 20, 2009

**Event:** [World Refugee Day](#)

**Location:** Worldwide

**Description:** For years, many countries and regions have been

holding their own refugee days and even weeks. One of the most widespread is Africa Refugee Day, which is celebrated on June 20 in several countries. As an expression of solidarity with Africa, which hosts the most refugees, and which traditionally has shown them great generosity, the United Nations General Assembly decided that, from 2001, June 20 would be celebrated as World Refugee Day.

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**Date:** June 26, 2009

**Event:** [International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking](#)

**Location:** Worldwide

**Description:** The United Nations General Assembly decided to observe June 26 as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking as an expression of its determination to strengthen action and cooperation to achieve the goal of an international society free of drug abuse.

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**Date:** July 4, 2009

**Event:** [International Day of Cooperatives](#)

**Location:** Worldwide

**Description:** The International Day of Cooperatives is celebrated on the first Saturday of July every year. Its aim is to increase awareness about cooperatives and to highlight the complementarity of the goals and objectives of the United Nations and the international cooperative movement. The United Nations has recognized and reaffirmed that cooperatives have an important role to play in economic, social, and cultural development, particularly by providing a suitable framework for facilitating the mobilization of human, financial, and other resources.

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**Date:** July 11, 2009

**Event:** [World Population Day](#)

**Location:** Worldwide

**Description:** For the past 20 years, countries around the world have been observing World Population Day on July 11 to raise public awareness and draw policymakers'

attention to population issues such as poverty, reproductive health, education, and HIV/AIDS.

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**Date:** August 9, 2009  
**Event:** [International Day of the World's Indigenous People](#)  
**Location:** Worldwide  
**Description:** In 1994, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed August 9 as the International Day of the World's Indigenous People. There were many reasons for this decision, but the fundamental motivation was the Assembly's recognition of the need to place the United Nations clearly and strongly behind the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples, in order to put an end to their marginalization, their extreme poverty, the expropriation of their traditional lands and the other grave human rights abuses they have faced and continue to encounter.

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**Date:** August 12, 2009  
**Event:** [International Youth Day](#)  
**Location:** Worldwide  
**Description:** International Youth Day gives the world an opportunity to recognize the potential of youth, to celebrate their achievements, and plan for ways to better engage young people to successfully take action in the development of their societies. It presents a unique opportunity for all stakeholders to rally together to ensure that young people are included in decision making at all levels.

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**Date:** September 8, 2009  
**Event:** [International Literacy Day](#)  
**Location:** Worldwide  
**Description:** Literacy is a cause for celebration since there are now close to four billion literate people in the world. However, literacy for all—children, youth and adults—is still an unaccomplished goal and an ever-moving target. Lessons learned over recent decades show that meeting the goal of universal literacy calls not only for more effective efforts but also for renewed political will and for doing things differently at all

levels, locally, nationally, and internationally. [CIDA and education](#).

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**Date:** September 15, 2009  
**Event:** [International Day of Democracy](#)  
**Location:** Worldwide  
**Description:** Throughout history, democracies have flourished, been threatened or dismantled, and re-emerged in societies all over the world. In 2007, the United Nations acknowledged the resilience and universality of the principles of democracy by declaring September 15 the International Day of Democracy.

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**Date:** September 21, 2009  
**Event:** [International Day of Peace](#)  
**Location:** Worldwide  
**Description:** The International Day of Peace was established in 1981 by the United Nations as an annual observance of global non-violence and ceasefire. Every year, people in all parts of the world honour peace in various ways on September 21.

**Date:** October 1, 2009  
**Event:** [International Day of Older Persons](#)  
**Location:** Worldwide  
**Description:** In 1990, the United Nations General Assembly designated October 1 the International Day of Older Persons. In 2002, the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Assembly on Ageing adopted the *Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing* to respond to the opportunities and challenges of population ageing in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and to promote the development of a society for all ages.

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**Date:** October 2, 2009  
**Event:** [International Day of Non-Violence](#)  
**Location:** Worldwide  
**Description:** Since 2007, the International Day of Non-Violence is marked on October 2, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, leader of the Indian independence movement

and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence. The International Day is an occasion to "disseminate the message of non-violence, including through education and public awareness".

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**Date:** October 5, 2009  
**Event:** [World Habitat Day](#)  
**Location:** Worldwide  
**Description:** The United Nations has designated the first Monday in October every year as World Habitat Day to reflect on the state of human settlements and the basic right to adequate shelter for all. It is also intended to remind the world of its collective responsibility for the future of the human habitat.

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**Date:** October 14, 2009  
**Event:** [International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction](#)  
**Location:** Worldwide  
**Description:** The United Nations General Assembly designated the second Wednesday of October as International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction, to promote a global culture of natural disaster reduction, including disaster prevention, mitigation, and preparedness. [CIDA and crises, conflicts and natural disasters](#).

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**Date:** October 16, 2009  
**Event:** [World Food Day](#)  
**Location:** Worldwide  
**Description:** World Food Day was proclaimed in 1979 by the United Nations Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). It marks the date of the founding of FAO in 1945. The aim of the day is to heighten public awareness of the world food problem and to strengthen solidarity in the struggle against hunger, malnutrition, and poverty. [CIDA and food aid](#).

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**Date:** October 17, 2009  
**Event:** [International Day for the Eradication of Poverty](#)  
**Location:** Worldwide

**Description:** The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty has been observed every year since 1993, when the United Nations General Assembly designated this day to promote awareness of the need to eradicate poverty and destitution in all countries, particularly in developing countries; a need that has become a development priority.

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**Date:** October 24, 2009

**Event:** [United Nations Day](#)

**Location:** Worldwide

**Description:** The anniversary of the entry into force of the United Nations Charter on October 24, 1945 has been celebrated as United Nations Day since 1948. It has traditionally been marked throughout the world by meetings, discussions, and exhibits on the achievements and goals of the United Nations Organization.

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**Date:** October 24-30, 2009

**Event:** [Disarmament Week](#)

**Location:** Worldwide

**Description:** The annual observance of Disarmament Week, which begins on the anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, was called for in the Final Document of the General Assembly 1978 special session on disarmament. States were invited to highlight the danger of the arms race, propagate the need for its cessation and increase public understanding of the urgent tasks of disarmament.

**Date:** November 6, 2009

**Event:** [International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict](#)

**Location:** Worldwide

**Description:** In 2001, the United Nations General Assembly declared November 6 of each year as the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict. In taking this action, it considered that damage to the environment in times of armed conflict impairs ecosystems and natural resources long after the period

of conflict, often extending beyond the limits of national territories and the present generation.

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**Date:** November 16, 2009  
**Event:** [International Day for Tolerance](#)  
**Location:** Worldwide  
**Description:** In 1996, the United Nations General Assembly invited Member States to observe the International Day for Tolerance on November 16, with activities directed towards both educational establishments and the wider public. This action came in the wake of the United Nations Year for Tolerance in 1995.

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**Date:** November 20, 2009  
**Event:** [Universal Children's Day](#)  
**Location:** Worldwide  
**Description:** On December 14, 1954, the United Nations General Assembly recommended that all countries should institute a Universal Children's Day, to be observed as a day of worldwide fraternity and understanding between children, and as a day of activities that promote the well-being of children around the world. [CIDA and children's protection](#).

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**Date:** November 25, 2009  
**Event:** [International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women](#)  
**Location:** Worldwide  
**Description:** In 1999, the United Nations General Assembly designated November 25 as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and invited governments, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations to organize activities designated to raise public awareness on that day about the problem.

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**Date:** December 1, 2009  
**Event:** [World AIDS Day](#)  
**Location:** Worldwide

**Description:** In 1988, the United Nations General Assembly expressed deep concern at the extent of the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) pandemic. Noting that the World Health Organization had declared December 1, 1988, as World AIDS Day, the General Assembly stressed the importance of observing that occasion. Today, more than 41 million people are living with HIV/AIDS. [CIDA and HIV/AIDS](#).

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**Date:** December 5, 2009

**Event:** [International Volunteer Day](#)

**Location:** Worldwide

**Description:** International Volunteer Day offers an opportunity for volunteer organizations and individual volunteers to make visible their contributions, at local, national, and international levels, to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

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**Date:** December 9, 2009

**Event:** [International Anti-Corruption Day](#)

**Location:** Worldwide

**Description:** In 2003, the United Nations General Assembly designated December 9 as International Anti-Corruption Day. This decision was taken in order to raise awareness of corruption and of the role of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in combatting and preventing it.

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**Date:** December 10, 2009

**Event:** [Human Rights Day](#)

**Location:** Worldwide

**Description:** The promotion and protection of human rights has been a major concern for the United Nations since 1945, when the organization's founding nations resolved that the horrors of the Second World War should never be allowed to recur. Respect for human rights and human dignity "is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world," the General Assembly declared three years later in the Universal

Declaration of Human Rights. In 1950, all states and interested organizations were invited by the General Assembly to observe December 10 as Human Rights Day.

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**Date:** December 11, 2009

**Event:** [International Mountain Day](#)

**Location:** Worldwide

**Description:** International Mountain Day is an opportunity to create awareness about the importance of mountains to life, to highlight the opportunities and constraints in mountain development and to build partnerships that will bring positive change to the world's mountains and highlands. It was the United Nations General Assembly who designated December 11, from 2003 onwards, as International Mountain Day. This decision results from the success of the International Year of Mountains in 2002.

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**Date:** December 19, 2009

**Event:** [United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation](#)

**Location:** Worldwide

**Description:** In 2003, the United Nations General Assembly decided to declare December 19 United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation. The Assembly also urged all relevant United Nations organizations and multilateral institutions to intensify their efforts to effectively mainstream the use of South-South cooperation in the design, formulation and implementation of their regular programs and to consider increasing allocations of human, technical and financial resources for supporting South-South cooperation initiatives.

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**Date:** December 20, 2009

**Event:** [International Human Solidarity Day](#)

**Location:** Worldwide

**Description:** Convinced that the promotion of the culture of solidarity and the spirit of sharing is important for combatting poverty, the United Nations General

Assembly proclaimed December 20 as International Human Solidarity Day. In the Millennium Declaration, world leaders identified solidarity as one of the fundamental values essential to international relations in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.