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## MULTILATERAL SOLUTIONS, CANADA, AND THE EU

### WHAT ARE MULTILATERAL SOLUTIONS?

In today's world, many countries face the same problems. Sometimes a few countries face a serious problem and other countries decide to help them out. When countries work together to solve international problems they are using a **multilateral** approach. In other words, they agree that there is a problem and they work together, co-operate, to solve it. The opposite of a multilateral (co-operative) approach is a **unilateral** approach. A unilateral solution is where one country acts alone rather than with other nations.

### WHAT KINDS OF PROBLEMS REQUIRE MULTILATERAL SOLUTIONS?

To find out what kinds of problems are solved multilaterally, visit the United Nations homepage, [www.un.org](http://www.un.org). Through the U.N., countries try to solve a range of problems, such as human rights violations, child poverty, and disease. The U.N. is the biggest example of a multilateral body because almost every nation on Earth participates in its activities.

**CANADA AND THE EU** both favour multilateral approaches to solving international problems. As an example, both partners worked hard to ban the production and use of **land mines**. At the U.N. in 2003, they voted the same 95% of the time. In each of the joint declarations made by the two governments, the need for the international community is always stressed.