



CANADA'S COALITION TO END GLOBAL POVERTY  
ENSEMBLE POUR ÉLIMINER LA PAUVRETÉ DANS LE MONDE

# COOPERATIVE LEADERSHIP

CANADA'S CONTRIBUTION TO A FAIRER, MORE  
SUSTAINABLE, AND SAFER WORLD

JULY 2016

## BRIEF



# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT-CEO: CANADA CONTRIBUTING TO A FAIRER, MORE SUSTAINABLE, AND SAFER WORLD

The Canadian Council for International Co-operation welcomes Global Affairs Canada's review of Canada's international assistance framework, the most substantive examination of Canada's international cooperation agenda in over two decades. The review is timely given recent international commitments on key global issues, including financing for development, tackling climate change, and strengthening humanitarian assistance and disaster risk reduction.

As Canada moves to align its efforts with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Agenda 2030), this review offers an opportunity for a fresh vision, innovative approaches, and a renewed and strengthened relationship between government and civil society partners. At the heart of Agenda 2030 and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a recognition that the most pressing challenges of our time are universal, requiring global solutions. These include eliminating deep and persistent poverty and inequality; mitigating and adapting to climate change; protecting ecosystems and biodiversity; responding to the devastating consequences of protracted regional conflicts; and fulfilling the most fundamental human rights, including women's and girls' empowerment and gender equality. The SDGs challenge us all to collaborate globally to achieve a fairer, more sustainable, and safer world, one that leaves no one behind.

In this spirit, CCIC and its member organizations have actively participated in Canada's International Assistance Review process. While the timeframe was short, consultations have been open and informed. We commend the political commitment demonstrated by the participation of Minister Bibeau or her Parliamentary Secretary in all high-level consultations.

While the precise policy outcomes of the review remain unclear, the discussion paper signals several welcome directions. It acknowledges Canada's responsibility and need for policy coherence in realizing important global commitments. It unequivocally commits to a feminist approach, placing gender equality at the heart of Canada's international assistance. It reflects openness to a human rights-based approach to development. It shifts the focus of Canada's development cooperation from poverty alleviation to tackling the structural causes of poverty and inequality, and to reaching the poorest and most marginalized, including in fragile states. It underscores the importance of grounding programming and policy directions in evidence.

CCIC and its members applaud the recognition of the critical role played by Canadian and international civil society organizations, and the need to enhance the government's relationship with its strategic development partners. Looking forward, we hope that a reaffirmed International Development and Humanitarian Assistance Civil Society Partnership Policy, including a comprehensive and public implementation plan, will be central to the government's engagement with civil society.

Our submission builds on this positive ground. We offer concrete recommendations on how Canada can – with a new vision, fresh approaches, renewed partnerships, and a well-defined set of policy outcomes to address current policy and strategy gaps – play a substantial role in building the fairer, more sustainable, and safer world envisioned in Agenda 2030.



President-CEO / Canadian Council for International Co-operation



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The International Assistance Review (IAR) presents a timely opportunity for a fresh take on global development cooperation, as Canada aligns its actions with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Agenda 2030). This agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) recognize the universality and interconnectedness of the most pressing global issues. They challenge us to tackle the root causes of marginalization and inequality, and to work collaboratively at home and abroad.

The Canadian Council for International Co-operation (CCIC) and its members have been actively involved in the IAR process. This submission presents our chief recommendations, building on the many positive directions signalled by Global Affairs Canada in its discussion paper and pointing to some gaps that need to be addressed to ensure a comprehensive and successful approach to Canada's international cooperation efforts in coming years.

## TOWARDS COOPERATIVE LEADERSHIP

### ENSURING A COHERENT POLICY FRAMEWORK

The chief output of this policy review, the most extensive in over two decades, should be a white paper or policy framework that lays out Canada's vision and priorities for development cooperation over the next five years, and identifies the specific strategies, policies and action plans needed to implement that framework. Recognizing that it may take up to two years to fully identify and fill the related policy and strategy gaps, CCIC and its members would welcome ongoing collaboration with Global Affairs Canada to translate an initial vision into a viable and comprehensive Canadian approach to global development cooperation.

#### CCIC PROPOSES THAT THE POLICY FRAMEWORK INCLUDE:

- A new vision to ensure that supporting human rights, a feminist approach, leaving no one behind, and sustainability are priorities across all areas of global development cooperation.
- A holistic "basket" approach to implementation that recognizes the intersectionality and universality of development challenges.
- A coherent and actionable set of policy outcomes to address current policy and strategic gaps.
- A renewed and strengthened partnership between government and civil society, building on the International Development and Humanitarian Assistance Civil Society Partnership Policy.

# PRIORITY AREAS FOR CANADIAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

CCIC proposes six thematic priorities, grouped under three broad outcome areas that reflect the spirit and intent of the SDGs:



## A FAIRER WORLD

- Women's rights and gender equality
- Governance, pluralism, diversity and human rights



## A MORE SUSTAINABLE WORLD

- Climate change adaptation and food security
- Green and inclusive growth and livelihoods



## A SAFER WORLD

- Humanitarian action
- Peace and security

### REFLECTING THE PROPOSED VISION, GLOBAL AFFAIRS CANADA SHOULD IN ALL AREAS OF CANADA'S GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FRAMEWORK AIM TO:

- *Put human rights at the core* by ensuring all areas of cooperation are consistent with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and related international human rights instruments.
- *Apply a feminist approach* by empowering women as agents of change.
- *Leave no one behind* by tackling the root causes of poverty and inequality and focusing on the most vulnerable.
- *Ensure sustainable development* by addressing climate change and preserving ecosystems and natural resources.

## MECHANISMS FOR CANADIAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

### DELIVERING SUSTAINABLE OUTCOMES

Agenda 2030 requires whole-of-Canada collaboration. Government policies should foster an enabling environment that builds on the many strengths of Canada's diverse development community. Respect for development effectiveness principles, responsive programming, transparency and accountability, and public engagement are key to enhancing the impact of Canada's global development cooperation efforts.

### CCIC RECOMMENDS MEASURES THAT WILL HELP CANADA:

- Prioritize development effectiveness and foster innovation;
- Break down bureaucratic and programming silos;
- Strengthen relationships with civil society;
- Enhance transparency and accountability; and
- Strengthen advocacy and public engagement.

## BUILDING A STRONGER FUNDING FRAMEWORK

Canada must commit to predictably and transparently growing its International Assistance Envelope (IAE) to reach 0.7% of Gross National Income. Funding to meet international commitments for climate finance must be new and additional to the IAE and assessed in relation to the principles for effective development cooperation. Canada must increase baseline funding for humanitarian assistance to reflect actual need and address the global funding gap.

As with other donors, Canada must complement official assistance with alternative sources of funding. All sources of development finance must be consistent with the goals of sustainable and inclusive development.

### CCIC RECOMMENDS THAT CANADA:

- Develop policies and strengthen regulation and oversight to align private sector incentives and behaviours with the goals for sustainable development;
- Cooperate with other countries to confront tax avoidance and strengthen tax collection systems in developing countries; and
- Support further research on the role of remittances in tackling poverty.

## CONCLUSION

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Achieving the SDGs demands a transformative change in Canada's vision and approach to global development cooperation. CCIC's submission to the International Assistance Review presents a series of concrete suggestions that would reposition Canada as a leader in tackling the most pressing development challenges of our time. We urgently need to reverse the trend towards deeper inequality; end the gender discrimination that stymies human development; slow the progress of climate change and help the poorest adapt; and stem the human misery resulting from regional instability and recurring cycles of violence.

Achieving the SDGs will demand a whole-of-Canada approach. Civil society strengths in program delivery, in advocacy and in engaging and mobilizing the public will complement the political will and resources that the Government of Canada can invest in the right mix of policies and programs.

As the national voice for the international cooperation sector, CCIC stands ready and committed to work in a strategic partnership with the Government of Canada to elaborate — and implement — a comprehensive and effective framework that will guide Canadian development cooperation over the next five years and enhance Canada's contribution to a fairer, more sustainable and safer world.





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