



Ottawa
June 28, 2010

Hon. Beverley Oda
Minister of International Cooperation
200 Promenade du Portage
Gatineau, Quebec
K1A 0G4

Dear Minister,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Partnership Africa Canada, we are writing to express our deep concern at the news that CIDA's funding for the Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC) may not be renewed. We ask that this decision be urgently reconsidered.

The Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC) has played a pivotal role in support of Canadian international cooperation organizations since its creation more than forty years ago. If today, Canada is blessed with a wide range of dynamic and influential NGOs, a good deal of the credit must go to CCIC.

One needs look no further for proof of CCIC's relevancy and importance than the fact that its membership of some 100 organizations form the best of Canada's international cooperation agencies. Coming together under the CCIC umbrella has helped these organizations develop in a number of ways. Through training programmes and the development of policies for non-profit organizations working internationally, CCIC has ensured over the years that its members operate in a professional and ethical manner. The added value of CCIC's work is incalculable.

CCIC has also been an invaluable partner for CIDA as the main interface with Canadian NGOs operating overseas. As such, CCIC has provided a platform where dialogue can occur, where policies can be explained and discussed, and where differences can be aired in a constructive manner. Without such a strong and efficient platform, CIDA and other government departments will lose a privileged partnership with Canadian civil society.

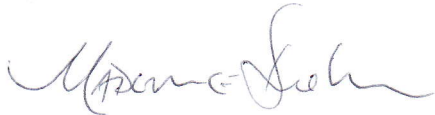
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In our international development work today, CIDA and Canadian NGOs place a special emphasis on support for the creation of civil society networks and coalitions in developing countries. Our hope is that these structures will help foster dialogue between civil society and the governments of these countries around the many challenges facing them.

Canada already has a preeminent NGO coalition – CCIC. In previous years, in countries such as the United Kingdom, there were no such NGO forums and many looked to Canada with admiration for the role played by CCIC and its special relationship with CIDA. It took many years to build this relationship and we consider it very important to protect such a mechanism, which has contributed significantly to Canada's positive image in development circles.

Taking into consideration all of these factors, we respectfully ask you to ensure that CIDA funding for CCIC continues at a level that allows the organization's ongoing and very important work to be sustained. If this does not happen, we feel strongly that Canada's international development programme will be much diminished.

Yours sincerely,



Madelaine Drohan
President of the Board of Directors

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cc. Hon. Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Foreign Affairs