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## Budget 2018 invests in Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy

Following on Finance Minister Bill Morneau's commitment that the 2018 federal budget would be gender-responsive, the Canadian Council for International Co-operation is encouraged that today's budget includes a commitment to increase Canada's international assistance by \$2 billion over five years, which works to ensure that women and girls around the world are not left behind.

### Background:

- In June 2017, the Government of Canada announced a new **Feminist International Assistance Policy** that focuses on advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls to eradicate global poverty. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau gave the Minister of International Development and La Francophonie Marie-Claude Bibeau a mandate to deliver this ambitious and important policy – and has now committed some of the funds needed to make the policy successful.
- Canada's international assistance contributions to help the world's most vulnerable people are increasingly necessary as global challenges are growing. Today's increase in Canada's **International Assistance Envelope (IAE)** is a small step in the right direction towards the 15% annual increase over the next ten years needed to meet Canada's global share.
- After five years, Canada's **Official Development Assistance (ODA)** as a proportion of Gross National Income (GNI) will remain unchanged at 0.26. With a more significant increase in Budget 2019, Justin Trudeau can substantially improve Canada's performance, and make a meaningful difference for the world's poorest people, including women and girls.
- For the past five years, Canada's international assistance budget has been inconsistent and unpredictable. With today's budget, the Government of Canada is beginning to demonstrate leadership and commitment to global development and humanitarian assistance, including a predictable timetable of increases to the IAE and a substantially higher baseline budget to help address growing global humanitarian needs. **Budget**



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**2019** presents an opportunity for the Prime Minister and this government to truly #BringCanadaBack.

- Today's investments in **new mechanisms** to facilitate private sector contributions to development are welcome. Looking forward, the government must ensure that these investments have a positive impact on sustainable development. ODA remains essential, as the most direct source of financing to ensure that no one is left behind in global development.

“Last summer, Canada announced a ground-breaking Feminist International Assistance Policy that seeks to end poverty by investing in women and girls. This ambitious policy requires ambitious investment, and with Budget 2018 Canada has taken an important first step. We want to see this policy – which has the potential to be transformative – succeed. We are pleased to see that the Government of Canada recognizes that it will take more than good intentions to make that happen.”

**Julia Sánchez**, President-CEO  
Canadian Council for International Co-operation