

News Release

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New Fund for Small and Medium-sized Organizations Welcomed by CCIC

The Canadian Council for International Co-operation (CCIC) is pleased that small and medium-sized international development organizations (SMOs) will now have access to targeted long-term predictable funding and support, thanks to a pilot project announced yesterday by the Minister of International Development and La Francophonie. The announcement recognizes that SMOs are valued players in the global development community and make a unique contribution to Canada's footprint overseas.

In her keynote speech at CCIC's Global Impact Soirée, the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau announced the establishment of a new fund for SMOs of \$100 million over five years.

CCIC has been advocating for increased SMO funding since 2014. SMOs have struggled to compete with larger organizations for funding from Global Affairs Canada, especially after competitive funding mechanisms were introduced in 2010. Furthermore, funding to SMOs has declined between 2005 to 2015.

"Small and medium-size organization play an important role in international development, and we therefore welcome this new fund," said Julia Sanchez, CCIC's President and CEO. "We are pleased to see that the new fund aims to be responsive to the needs and priorities expressed by partner organizations who are working on the ground."

The pilot initiative will allow SMOs to pursue a range of thematic programs, respond to emerging issues, increase programming in countries with little Canadian presence, and support programming that supports women's empowerment.

"The Fund will support SMOs to do what they do best," added Sanchez. "Given the size and nature of SMOs, we are calling for the fund to be administered through a decentralized funding mechanism, to ensure effectiveness and flexibility."

The Minister also announced last night that she would soon start a process to update and implement the International Development and Humanitarian Assistance Civil Society Partnership Policy – a policy that was adopted in February 2015, but that has been on hold since the new government took office.

"Civil society groups in Canada were deeply involved in the crafting of the CSO Partnership Policy, and we feel a high degree of ownership over it", added Sanchez. "We are are delighted to hear that the Minister is now ready to see it implemented".

CCIC's Global Impact Soirée, part of Canada's 150th anniversary celebration, highlighted the important role Canada plays in global development and humanitarian assistance.

For more information contact:

Media Relations
Katia Gianneschi
613-231-5561

Katia.Gianneschi@gmail.com

www.ccic.ca

