



CCIC VISION STATEMENT

Approved by the CCIC Board of Directors

October 2010

At their October 2010 meeting, the CCIC Board of Directors approved the following vision for the Council based on the recommendations from the Visioning Group. This vision reaffirms the mandate and broad perspectives of the Council but also calls for changes in the way in which the Secretariat and the Council (with its members) will carry out the work of CCIC.

The Council's Mission Statement is reaffirmed:

"CCIC is a coalition of Canadian voluntary sector organizations working globally to achieve sustainable human development. CCIC seeks to end global poverty and to promote social justice and human dignity for all."

The Council's broad vision of development as articulated in the *10 Point Agenda to End Global Poverty and Injustice* is reconfirmed- not as a work plan for the CCIC Secretariat but as a guiding framework for CCIC as a whole and as a situating document to help inform the way in which Council spokespersons characterize the positions of the sector writ large. The *10 Point Agenda to End Global Poverty and Injustice* asserts development in a human rights framework.

A renewed CCIC will:

- **Continue to be acknowledged as a key public voice, representing international CSOs on questions of development effectiveness, the viability and the health of the sector, the role of civil society globally and Canada's role in the world;**
- **Continue to be widely acknowledged as an effective convenor, on issues defined by and relevant to its members;**
- **Continue to be the "go to" source for analysis and information on the "Aid" file;**
- **Have a more active and engaged membership, with a broader and more diverse membership base;**
- **Be sustainable with core functions funded with revenue from members and a diversity of other sources.**

Revenue and resource cuts will mean program changes with significantly less work on the policy and organizational development side but CCIC will also adapt by relying more heavily on members networks and CSO coalitions in which members, and the Council, have been regularly involved where both policy and advocacy work are carried out.

As a pilot initiative, CCIC will create a Policy Advisory Group, drawing on policy active member

organizations and CSO policy coalitions to support a reduced policy and communications team at the Secretariat in their reflections about near term policy and program priorities which are informed by greater member engagement and member perspectives and expertise.

CCIC will seek strategic participation with existing coalitions and reference groups, including, where feasible, tasking policy active members to engage as a link between specific coalitions and the Council and Secretariat.

Consistent with the idea of relying more heavily on member engagement and initiatives **CCIC and the Secretariat remain open to convening “ad hoc” groups of member organizations** to address specific issues identified and defined by members – for example CRA policy, operational issues and challenges at CIDA.

The membership Committee of the Board has been mandated to undertake oversight of compliance with the Code of Ethics. Maintenance of member compliance with the Code of Ethics in coming years is key to CCIC’s identity and role as a central body in the NGO community but fewer resources will be available, in the near term to support the educational work and development of resource materials to support the Code of Ethics program.

To accomplish this oversight role, the Board committee could call as needed for external resources, mostly volunteer, to support their work.

The future work of the Council and Secretariat will place major emphasis on effective external and internal communications. It is key that the Council continues to be a strong voice in public discourse on development cooperation and that it takes special account of the need for enhanced, regular and effective communication with members about the ongoing work of the Secretariat, the ways in which policy and programming priorities are set, and positions taken on public issues.

Three priorities for CCIC action plan in the near and mid-term future are.

- **Sweeping changes now underway at Partnership Branch.** Many members feel the abandonment of key principles of responsive programming and the shift to competition among a very diverse group of NGOs will undermine development effectiveness.
- CCIC contributions to a **wider discourse on “Canada and the World”**, underscoring the complexity of development challenges and the need for government policies beyond aid spending.
- A third area of action imagined as a possibility, and in need of further reflection, might be an investment in promoting **development excellence and involving a forum for peer reflection and exchange** among members and other actors. Here CCIC’s participation in the Open Forum on CSO Development Effectiveness is a real asset. The Council would monitor the Forum over the next 18 months. A members’ forum on development effectiveness would provide a setting that enable the Council to disseminate, test and apply the lessons of the Open Forum.