

Media release

Canadian international development platform congratulates CIDA for stride forward on transparency

Ottawa, November 29, 2011. The Canadian Council for International Co-operation (CCIC), a national platform of 94 international development organizations, wholeheartedly welcomes the announcement by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) that it has signed on to the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI), a commitment made by CIDA on the eve of the first day of the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF4).

“The International Aid Transparency Initiative is the gold standard of aid transparency, and signing on to this is a real feather in CIDA’s cap,” said Julia Sanchez, President-CEO of CCIC. Many Canadian organizations, as well as other donor countries, have been asking the Canadian government to join IATI. “We welcome this positive step forward in terms of the Agency’s commitment to transparency and accountability.”

The International Aid Transparency Initiative was launched by the United Kingdom at the Third High Level Forum in Accra in 2008. It establishes a set of common international standards for transparency on a range of issues related to aid. These include on aid volume, allocation, results of development expenditure, all conditions linked to disbursements and full and timely information on annual commitments and actual disbursements. The value of IATI comes in this common standard, the open data format in which the information is disclosed, and its comparability - allowing users to download information across a range of countries, manipulate and compare the information.

“This will allow citizens in Canada, and more importantly in countries where CIDA is active,” added Ms. Sanchez, “to hold both donors and partner countries to account for ensuring that aid will bring with it positive development outcomes.”

Canada joins 21 other signatories – donors, partner governments, foundations and civil society organizations, who have signed on and already published information – in a wave of organizations who have committed to IATI just ahead of HLF4.

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For more information on the International Aid Transparency Initiative, visit: <http://www.aidtransparency.net>

For more information on the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, visit:
<http://www.aideffectiveness.org/Busan-HLF4/>