

Ottawa, October 26, 2015

Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister Designate of Canada
Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Mr. Trudeau,

On behalf of the [Canadian Council for International Co-operation](#) (CCIC) and its member organizations, we want to extend our most sincere congratulations to you for becoming Canada's 23rd Prime Minister, and to the Liberal Party of Canada for winning the recent Federal Election with a solid majority.

CCIC is the national umbrella organization that brings together the main Canadian civil society organizations working on global poverty and inequality as well as humanitarian assistance. This includes the eight provincial and regional councils for international development, extending our effective outreach to approximately 500 civil society organizations across the country. Our members work hand in hand with local partners in developing countries and have a sound knowledge of today's challenges in relation to building a fair, equitable and sustainable world for all.

We are very encouraged by many of the [specific commitments you have made](#) and positions you have taken, both before and during the recent election campaign with respect to a number of critical global issues.

We look forward to engaging with you and your government on a new agenda for Canada's role in the world: one that embraces and implements the [Sustainable Development Goals](#); provides more and better aid; recognizes the key role that civil society organizations play in development; and that repositions Canada both as an example and a leader on the global stage, including on climate change at the upcoming Paris meetings.

As the international development sector, we have accomplished a lot in partnership with the Canadian Government in the past: Canada was recognized for its leadership on gender equality, sustainable development, peace building, and for its innovative and inclusive approaches to tackling poverty and promoting social justice. More concretely, working in partnership with the Liberal Party and the other parties in parliament, we established the [Official Development Assistance Accountability Act](#) (2008).

The past decade has been challenging for our sector – as you have recognized in your Party's platform –but our members are strong and resilient and they have invested in recent years on consolidating their links to Canadians, focusing their areas of expertise and diversifying their bases of financial support. As a community we are ready to work together towards rebuilding a positive place for Canada in the world.

We want to suggest that your government move quickly on three specific things so as to start off on the right footing on the international cooperation front:

- The naming of the Advisory Council to the Minister of International Development shortly after the new cabinet is formed;
- The reaffirmation of the commitment to reverse the cuts made over recent years to the Official Development Assistance budget; and
- Moving swiftly to put an end to any and all restrictive measures towards civil society groups in Canada so that they can contribute fully to this new global and national moment.

Mr. Trudeau, you can count on the expertise, experience and dedication of CCIC and the sector we represent to work collaboratively with your government, and more specifically with the new Minister for International Development and the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development.

Once again, we welcome you in your new role and wish you the very best!

Yours sincerely,



Julia Sanchez
President-CEO
Canadian Council for International Co-operation (CCIC)