
DFATD AND CCIC-ACF MEETING: A RENEWED DIALOGUE

MEETING NOTES - OCTOBER 30, 2015

Overview

On October 30, 2014, the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (Sub-Saharan Africa Branch) and the Canadian Council for International Co-operation-Africa Canada Forum (ACF) held a half-day joint event bringing together approximately 80 participants (Annex A). This was organized following a meeting held in April 2014 where a few representatives from the two organizations had agreed to renew their dialogue on Africa by organizing a larger joint event. The objective was to promote an open dialogue on Africa issues/priorities and Canadian engagement in the region.

Key elements of the Agenda (Annex B)

DFATD Priorities for Africa

- Overview on Amalgamation and Branch Priorities
- Southern and Eastern Africa Overview
- West and Central Africa Overview
- Pan-Africa Issues and Trade Overview

CCIC – ACF Presentations

- Overview of CCIC-ACF mandate and priorities
- Annual ACF Symposium Debrief: “Building Partnerships to tackle Inequality: opportunities and challenges for African and Canadian CSOs”
- Analysis of ODA to Africa

Pause and networking – Speedy meetings with Country contacts

Group discussions

- MNCH: Mali, Tanzania & S. Sudan
- Food Security: Ghana, Senegal & Pan-Africa Regional
- Education and Child Protection : DRC, Kenya and Mozambique
- Trade & Human Rights
- Africa Mining Vision

Meeting Notes

DFATD Priorities for Africa

Overview of Amalgamation and Branch Priorities - Lise Filiatrault, Assistant Deputy Minister

Following the last meeting with CCIC-ACF in April, DFATD has reorganized the structure in the amalgamated Sub-Saharan Africa Branch with three bureaus that integrate development, political and trade functions. Structurally, the merger is complete; however practical aspects of daily operations are still being fleshed out. Each bureau is headed by a Director-General: Patricia Malikail is heading the Pan-Africa Bureau, which provides operational support functions across the Branch, addresses thematic and policy issues and also acts as the Trade Champion for the Branch. Ken Neufeld is responsible for the West and Central Africa Bureau and Phillip Baker heads the Southern and Eastern Africa Bureau.

While it is still early days, DFATD is beginning to see some benefits of the merger. It is particularly the case in recent high-level events, where DFATD has leveraged the strengths of the three different pillars. For example, both Minister Paradis and Minister Fast spoke at the Africa Business Summit emphasizing the need to address both the economic and social aspects of prosperity. Another example is the MNCH summit, in May, which helped Canada gain international visibility and mobilizes political support for Canada for the ongoing campaign to improve outcomes in maternal and child health.

Africa Branch priorities are interlinked, with a growing emphasis on both the trade-development nexus and the security-development nexus. These two lenses will be applied to DFATD priority thematic areas. Other priorities include themes such as child early and forced marriage, women's empowerment, education and child protection. DFATD will explore how to further develop and expand its work in the thematic area of children and youth.

The Trade Agenda is outlined in the Global Market Action Plan which includes twelve countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The Canadian government will seek to advance Canadian business interests in these countries; DFATD is currently negotiating Foreign Investment Protection Agreements with several of them and will support development investments in many of the same countries

Other areas of focus include extractives, agribusiness, governance and the peace and security agenda. Governance includes promoting values of human rights, democracy and the rule of law, and is a cross-cutting issue in all of DFATD's work. Governance principles are key to addressing security threat such as terrorism, for example in the Horn of Africa. DFATD will continue to support the African Union to increase their institutional capacity around peace and security—this will be critical to long term development in Africa.

Southern and Eastern Africa – Chantal Labelle, Director, South Sudan Program (for Philip Baker)

The Southern and Eastern Africa Bureau's current priorities include: development, trade, peace and security, respect for human rights and good governance. The Bureau covers 26 countries, four of which are development countries of focus: South Sudan, Mozambique, Ethiopia and Tanzania. Peace and security is becoming a greater focus because of its foundation for effective development. The bureau is currently completing MNCH programming in Malawi and continues to support MNCH programming as a focus in a number of countries including Mozambique, Tanzania, and South Sudan. Education is also a focus in a number of countries including Tanzania, Kenya, and Mozambique.

Sustainable Economic Growth is becoming an increasingly important focus. For example, DFATD making links to the agriculture sector through supporting agribusiness and to the extractive sector through partnering with Canadian NGOs for vocational and technical. Strengthening the capacity of governments is a cross cutting theme, except in South Africa, where it is a focus.

Bilateral programming in South Sudan is focused on food security, MNCH and supporting initiatives of reconciliation. Canada supports international efforts and currently has twelve Canadian Armed Forces working with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) to protect civilians and humanitarian workers.

West and Central Africa – Ken Neufeld, Director General

After only a few months, the West and Central Africa Bureau is still working to more fully integrate trade, diplomacy and development in its daily operations. There are advantages to being able to look at issues from an integrated approach and identify opportunities and challenges as a multidisciplinary team.

The West and Central Africa Bureau has three Development Program Directors decentralized on the ground in Accra, Bamako and Dakar. There is also a HQ Division dedicated to bilateral relations and trade. Security issues such as terrorism in Mali and Nigeria, and more recently, a crisis like Ebola have taken a great deal of attention.

In the Region, DFATD aims to strengthen human rights, democracy and improve institutional capacity of our partners on the ground. Country capacity has been key with respect to the Ebola crisis. For example, Mali is a country currently experiencing extreme poverty, but Canada has invested in strengthening the public health system and we have not seen a second outbreak of Ebola in the country. Nigeria and Senegal have also limited the effects of Ebola in their countries.

With respect to Burkina Faso, today there are issues with regards to the government collapse. Future partnerships between the private sector and NGO should be encouraged so that this country can better benefit from its abundance of natural resources, both in extractives and the agriculture sector.

Mali recently hosted an event with the NGO community and the extractive sector looking to develop their Corporate Social Responsibility strategy. The outcome was positive with both actors interested in developing this type of partnership, but realizing it will take time to develop viable plans that can ensure future success.

The following are some examples of priorities in countries covered by West and Central Africa Bureau. Canada's development work in Ghana focuses on water and sanitation. In Senegal, the host of the Francophonie Summit at the end of October, Canada will promote its work in the education sector and sustainable economic growth. In Mali, the bureau focuses its development programming in health, education and collaboration with civil society. In Burkina Faso, DFATD is exploring new opportunities in sectors where it has a comparative advantage. And finally, in Nigeria, DFATD is looking at terrorism and corruption.

Pan-Africa Issues and Trade Overview – Patricia Malikail, Director General

The Pan-Africa Bureau has several parts. One section monitors bigger picture issues such as the Africa Rising Narrative, addresses a variety of thematic issues from constitutional issues to child early and forced marriage, to food security and trade and development.

The Pan-Africa Bureau liaises regularly with their mission in Addis Ababa which maintains regular contact with the AU. The Pan-Africa Regional Programming Division is implemented out of this mission

and has an emphasis on regional economic integration, agricultural support and research with projects that cover more than one country. It also has a special program which looks at the extractive sector and what Canada can do in Africa in relation to natural resource development. This Program helps position ourselves with regards to Africa's priorities for the sector.

As previously mentioned, the Bureau also plays a champion role on Trade. The trade officers for Sub-Saharan Africa are integrated in the two Regional Bureaus. There are six trade officers located in Canada and seven abroad. There is increasing interest in a multisectoral approach to commercial relations in Canada and ramping up what is already being done. Small and medium -sized enterprises are doing important work, bringing a variety of expertise including in renewable energy, solar power, IT, etc. Canada has the expertise and needs to see what it can do to bridge these skills with the needs. Looking at the global economic future in Africa, we can see high growth potential with an increasing demand for investment and expertise in Africa.

Overview of CCIC-ACF Mandate and Priorities – Heather Johnston, Canadian Feed the Children

The ACF is a policy working group that has been active since the year 2000 and currently has over 40 voluntary members. The main goals of the ACF are to provide Canadian civil society with a voice on Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) by sharing information, monitoring Canadian policies toward SSA, engaging in policy dialogue and development, and facilitating a space for collaboration, joint learning and reflection by Canadian civil society organizations (CSOs) active in the region. In addition, the ACF provides opportunities for African civil society to influence our own reflections, policy and programming, through collaborations with African CSOs and bringing partners from Africa to speak with Canadian organizations.

Historically, ACF members have had a rich dialogue between CIDA and DFAIT Africa Branches. The ACF is pleased to see a renewed dialogue with DFATD and is looking forward to making this meeting an annual event. CSOs have many solutions to the challenges that DFATD wants to address. The ACF would like to be seen as a key resource for consultation, leading to constructive dialogue that helps develop viable, equitable solutions to gaps and challenges in current policy and programming approaches.

Annual Africa-Canada Forum Colloquium Debrief: “Building Partnerships to Tackle Inequality: Opportunities and Challenges for African and Canadian CSOs” - Jean Symes - Inter Pares

The Africa-Canada Forum Colloquium debated the Africa Rising narrative and tried to understand it from the perspective of ACF members' partners in Africa, who make up key elements of civil society in Africa. What ACF counterparts in Africa are finding is that an inequality lens offers an appropriate framework to analyze the Africa Rising narrative.

According to economic indicators, Africa's economy is indeed growing faster than the economies of other continents. Africa's workforce will soon become the largest in the world. However, further analysis notes that this growth is not exclusively, but certainly largely, resource extraction -driven. There is very little value addition from within the continent, very limited decent job opportunities and stark inequalities in income, wealth, and access to social services.

In many countries, current growth patterns have actually increased the dependence on the export of primary commodities and minerals, sometimes leading to premature deindustrialization, stagnation of agricultural productivity, massive land acquisitions (“land grabs”) to produce food for export, but not for Africa. “Growth” has therefore often translated into increased food and manufactured goods imports.

African CSOs observe a number of other trends: decreased African ownership of assets; concentration of wealth; shrinking redistribution of the benefits of growth; a “missing middle” between survival entrepreneurship and subsistence agriculture, on one hand, and large business, on the other. Beside the new skyscrapers in many African cities are slums that are growing much faster, and ripe for conflict. These trends are at the heart of a global inequality problem.

Public infrastructure is being aligned to the patterns of growth. Although the idea of structural transformation is often mentioned, key programs such as PIDA (Program Infrastructure Development for Africa) and global negotiations, such as the EPA and other trade and investment negotiations, are not aligned. Rather if you look at a map of where infrastructure is being built, it consists virtually exclusively of roads from inside Africa to ports on the coast to take goods out of Africa. Internal infrastructure and internal policy space are not included on the agenda.

A shift from poverty to inequality lens forces us to look at wealth, and how wealth is created, as well as its concentration and distribution. The Forum reflected on how ACF work can influence more equitable, fair, and well-governed societies, with social, economic and political inclusion, citizenship and accountability as the central goal.

This is where the role of civil society comes in, particularly the people whose development is being supported, and more specifically, organized elements of the society. We often speak of “good governance” without making the connection that no government or governance is good for the people it governs without an organized, informed civil society to hold it to account. There are always accountabilities: the issue is to whom.

There is increasing documented evidence of increasingly restrictive space for civil society operating the world over, despite repeated commitments by governments to create an enabling environment for civil society. Canada is well-positioned to move the agenda forward on this, as Minister Paradis spoke about the importance of an enabling environment in April, an issue that will also feature in the forthcoming CSO Partnership policy. Minister Baird is the Chair on Working Group on CSO and Enabling Environment in the Community of Democracies. Canada is also involved in the Task Team on CSO Development Effectiveness and Enabling Environment.

There are several ways the government can work on opening the space for civil society throughout the world. Firstly, through monitoring restrictive legislation and policies that narrow the space for CSOs operating in countries where DFATD is active, and using diplomatic pressure to try to reverse these trends, as for instance USAID does. Secondly, through institutionalized and regular CSO and government conversations, as well as multi-stakeholder dialogue, both here in Canada and in Africa. Thirdly, through strengthening the capacity of CSOs in Africa to fulfill their various roles, that must include: advocacy, research, policy development, as well as sectoral service delivery (e.g. health and education), which should always be done so as not to replace government, but to ensure the service will be taken over by the government whose obligation it is to provide such services.

Analysis of ODA to Africa - Fraser Reilly-King - Canadian Council of International Cooperation

The Official Development Assistance Accountability Act (ODAAA) is an overarching framework. ODAAA, and the new guidance notes, underscore the importance of taking into account the perspectives of the poor and fulfilling Canada's international human rights commitments.

Canadian aid was on an upward trajectory until 2011/12 (5.51 billion), when it took a dramatic fall in 2013/14 (4.87 billion) following the budget cuts and return of unspent funds to Treasury. Aid has dropped a total of 640 million from 2011/12 to 2013/14 FY.

The amount and percentage of the total funding to Africa increased until 2011/12. It dropped in 2012/13 in terms of net amount, but aid to Asia and Latin America dropped even more; despite these drops, as a percentage of the whole, aid to Africa continues to increase (from 51% to 54%).

Most funding to Canadian CSOs between 2005/06 and 2012/13 has been allocated to programs in Africa.

Funding for all CSOs shows a general upward trend from Partnership Branch and a bigger increase from Geographic since 2009/10. Multilateral Branch shows a slight decline since 2009/10.

Twelve of the top twenty development funded countries are in Africa.

Group Discussions

MNCH: Mali, Tanzania & S.Sudan

DFATD's presentation updated the ACF on Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) progress towards health-related MDGs and provided a summary of Canada's current commitments to MNCH (AHSI, Muskoka, and MNCH). Under the \$2.85 billion Muskoka Initiative, the \$1.1 billion in new and additional funding was guided by: three paths (strengthening health systems, improving nutrition, reducing disease), ten priority countries (Ethiopia, Mali, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Sudan, Tanzania, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Haiti), and eighty percent was allocated to Sub-Saharan Africa countries. The \$3.5 billion in continued MNCH funding announced at the MNCH Summit in May 2014 will continue programming in the three Muskoka paths, including accountability and will also have a strong focus on newborn survival (emphasis on this moving forward) and civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS). At UNGA69 in September 2014, Canada contributed \$200M to a Global Financing Facility in support of Every Woman Every Child as a concrete step towards ending the preventable deaths of women and children, and to build and strengthen civil registration and vital statistics systems.

Participants indicated that Canadian CSO capacity for CRVS is limited compared to organizations such as UNICEF which has the expertise and systems. SSA needs continued investments in strengthening health systems using a continuum of care approach (preventative care, reproductive health, family planning, pre-pregnancy to delivery, immediate postnatal period, and adolescent health). Health systems strengthening requires a combination of interventions at various levels (local to national, both formal and informal), areas (service delivery, human resource management, financing, governance, health information systems, equipment and commodities, advocacy, etc.). Efforts at strengthening health systems requires a

holistic approach, taking measures that will have a long-term and sustainable impact (e.g. nutrition, WASH, environment).

Discussions outlined the challenge of addressing root causes of MNCH status and demonstrating results within timeframes of 2-5 year projects (i.e. reduction of MM rates). Issues related to gender inequality, poverty, malnutrition and women's economic empowerment are difficult to address in highly focused, targeted and short-term programs aimed at reducing maternal, newborn and child mortality. The same challenge exists with health system strengthening – training health workers, working with health training colleges takes time to translate into reduction of key indicators (i.e. MM rates) but is essential for sustainability.

Food Security: Ghana, Senegal & Pan Africa Regional

Three DFATD programs presented an overview of their programming in food security - Ghana, Senegal, and regionally through the Pan-Africa Program.

Maintaining a focus on working with smallholder farmers is critical. Policy and aid interventions on food and agriculture should be guided by small-scale farmers and their organizations in Africa. African farmer organizations have a clear idea of what is needed to meet challenges of today and tomorrow.

Food security interventions need to incorporate agroecology (discipline promoting agricultural systems that are both productive and resource conserving) - what role does/can DFATD play in supporting national policies in agroecology? How can we promote agroecology as a model for development? CCIC is very interested in being consulted on DFATD's revised food security strategy.

DFATD should widen its scope and understanding of "Innovation." Innovation is not limited to technologies and products developed in labs. Policy and aid should seek to support innovations already happening in farmers' fields. Greater focus should be on farmer-led applied research for local adaptation and resilience (e.g. participatory plant breeding, intercropping and soil building methods, and other knowledge-intensive agricultural methods). We need to increase emphasis on "Food Nutrition" rather than only on supplements.

Other issues flagged by CCIC included land grabs, land rights, farmer-led development, and the opportunity for Canada to share expertise in organic farming.

Education and Child Protection: DRC, Kenya and Mozambique

DFATD presented three examples of programming on this theme: Kenya (Education and Child Protection), DRC (Child Protection and sexual violence) and Mozambique (Education).

It remains important for DFATD and CSOs to respect the Paris Declaration Aid Effectiveness Principles and make sure our initiatives are aligned with national plans and country priorities. DFATD should continue to reinforce country's systems with sectoral budget support when possible. In parallel, key Child Protection issues like CEFM, genital mutilation, sexual violence and protection of vulnerable children (child soldiers, artisanal miners, etc.) need to be addressed with a multi-sectoral approach. Canadian and African CSOs are crucial actors working at local levels and with communities to change social norms and promote children's rights.

There is a need to better integrate Child Protection and Education. Interventions/support to education must support child-friendly schools, where students are safe. Children in Emergency situations (i.e. DRC) are particularly vulnerable-- child protection needs to take center stage in education in humanitarian responses. Teacher training, which itself is a focus of Canadian programming, should better address child protection.

A focus on access to quality education for all brings together both education and child protection priorities. The quality of teaching and materials must be addressed at the same time as unsafe / poor conditions in schools, economic hardship that requires children to work rather than attend school, distances to schools, and abuse.

The situation of girls is almost systematically worse and this gap needs to receive more global attention. This is a niche for Canada, as we have been strong supporters of gender equality for years, and we have the expertise to bring innovative solutions.

Children and Youth is a major priority for Canada and we need to find more synergies and work on the nexus between many important social elements that are necessary to ensure a better future for children and youth: MNCH, Education, Child Protection, Nutrition, CEFM, CRVS, and Gender Equality.

Harmonization of donors is important, but we also need to go a step further with harmonisation and coordination of CSOs and multi-stakeholders. Networks and organizations like CCIC are essential partners for increased coherence.

Africa Mining Vision

An overview was provided of the African Mining Vision (AMV), the African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC) and Canada's support and leadership on these important African priorities.

The Canadian government is using the AMV as the framework for engagement in Africa. Although the AMV is considered to be a broad framework with certain international legitimacy, some African civil society partners worry that it will be used selectively. Concerns highlighted include: the AMV will be most effective if it is implemented as a package; there are many different frameworks on mining that overlap; and there is not a clear role for African civil society in the AMV--only governments have signed on. In addition, some gaps have been identified in the AMV, namely: community conflict issues are not addressed: long term environmental impacts are not taken into account: and a human rights framework is not included. The AMV and AMDC are under resourced and lack capacity. It is unclear how the CIIED (now CIRDI), the IGF and others will interact with the AMDC and contribute to its success.

Civil society needs to have the necessary tools, skills and capacity to better engage with both mining companies and their own governments. DFATD can support civil society in a number of ways, including capacity-building to promote more inclusive, consultative governance models for natural resource development in Africa.

DFATD's Extractives Cooperation for Enhanced Economic Development (EXCEED) is the main development program on extractives for Africa.

International Investment Agreements and Human Rights

Preliminary findings of a brief on International Investment Agreements (IIA) and Human Rights, prepared by CCIC's three regional working groups, was discussed. The two main objectives of IIAs are to

promote and protect investment. However, while these agreements ensure very strong protection for investors and their investments, there is no clear evidence that IIAs actually lead to increased levels of investments. Thus while IIAs have clear benefits for international investors, their benefits for developing countries and their citizens are not as straightforward.

Concerns were raised around four key principles of IIAs. The article on ‘fair and equitable treatment’, which is there to guarantee a minimum standard of treatment for investors under international law, is often interpreted broadly in practice and used to protect the “legitimate expectations” of foreign investors. The result is that this article can be used to frustrate or preclude legitimate policy changes by host governments. The article related to ‘national treatment’ states that foreign investors are to be treated no less favorably than local investors. In practice however, this often means that international investors get *better* treatment than local investors. The principle of expropriation in IIAs is of concern because it allows investors to challenge governments, and receive large monetary compensations, in cases where they claim to have been victims of “regulatory expropriations”, which can include cases where the government legislates in favor of public interest. Finally, the “most favored nation” principle often allows investors to “mix and match” provisions from all of the treaties concluded by a state in order to construct the most favourable set of provisions for the investor.

The arbitration process for IIAs also raises substantial concerns for the three regional working groups. The arbitration process lacks transparency and ensures a great deal of rights for investors at the expense of the states’ right to regulate and the human rights of citizens affected by these investments. There is a lack of independence in key decision making roles, where arbitrators and lawyers rotate from one case to another. In addition, the large financial compensations awarded by tribunals have created a “chilling effect”, discouraging states to enact policies that would benefit their citizens.

During the discussion, DFATD noted that Canada should be mindful of the human rights records of countries with which it is pursuing investment treaties. Corporate social responsibility initiatives and NRCAN’s mandatory reporting policies were raised. Legally-binding terms regarding respect for human rights should be considered when negotiating investment treaties to ensure the prevention of human rights abuses by companies operating in developing countries. While the voluntary activities undertaken by Canadian companies are commendable, more needs to be done to ensure adherence to corporate social responsibility and respect for human rights.

It was recommended that the ACF explore the mechanisms of other external processes from the IIAs to address human rights violation claims to gain insight in how different frameworks complement one another. In addition, there is strong interest in the brief containing case studies and a breakdown of claims against Canadian corporations.

Next steps

The presentations and group discussions gave the opportunity to the ACF and DFATD-Africa staff to learn about each other’s priorities and deepen the dialogue on a variety of thematic areas. Most participants really appreciated this meeting and were open to a continuing dialogue. The networking session was also an occasion to explore some country-specific issues and opportunities. The ACF and DFATD agreed to prepare joint meeting notes and maintain working-level institutional relations to build on this renewed dialogue. Both organizations will consider the opportunity to hold another meeting next year to pursue this fruitful discussion.

Annex A

DFATD-CCIC Africa-Canada Forum
30 October, 2014, 13:00-16:30
Room ID-514, Portage Phase III, Gatineau

Objective: To promote an open dialogue between DFATD and CCIC-ACF on Africa issues/priorities and Canadian engagement in the region

AGENDA

- 13:00-13:10 Welcoming remarks and session overview
- 13:10-13:40 DFATD Priorities for Africa
- Overview on Amalgamation and Branch Priorities
 - Southern and Eastern Africa Overview
 - West and Central Africa Overview
 - Pan-Africa Issues and Trade Overview
- 13:40-14:00 CCIC – ACF Presentations
- Overview of CCIC-ACF mandate and priorities
 - Annual ACF Symposium Debrief: “Building Partnerships to tackle Inequality: opportunities and challenges for African and Canadian CSOs”.
 - Analysis of ODA to Africa
- 14:00-14:30 Questions & Answers
- 14:30-15:00 Pause and networking – Speedy meetings with Country contacts
- 15:00-15:45 Group discussions
- MNCH: Mali, Tanzania & South Sudan
 - Food Security: Ghana, Senegal & Pan-Africa Regional
 - Education and Child Protection : DRC, Kenya and Mozambique
 - International Investment Treaties and Human Rights
 - Africa Mining Vision
- Choose one burning comment or issue for continued dialogue per table to share in plenary
- 15:45-16:20 Return in plenary
- 16:20-16:30 Conclusion & Thank You