

CCRDA Response to Canada's International Assistance Policy

June 9, 2017

Canada's much-anticipated new International Assistance Policy was released today, a year after undertaking wide-ranging consultations with Canadians. The CCRDA and many of its members took part in these consultations and discussions arising from them and we are glad to be able to share this much-anticipated new policy with our members in order to continue these conversations.

As Canada's "first feminist international assistance policy," it represents a strong shift in vision and focus, and includes six action areas.

1. Core Action Area: Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls
2. Human Dignity (health and nutrition, education, humanitarian action)
3. Growth That Works for Everyone
4. Environment and Climate Action
5. Inclusive Governance
6. Peace and Security

The Government of Canada has also committed to seeking more effective international assistance through: not limiting aid geographically, but being more strategic in its assistance to ensure the greatest impact; a determined, creative, flexible and rigorous approach; encouraging innovation through research, funding mechanisms, and partnerships; and increasing transparency of activities and results.

As Minister Bibeau wrote in her introductory message, "This policy represents an important step of our journey, but it is far from over: conversation and collaboration will continue as we work to implement this vision." The CCRDA is looking forward to continuing our assistance to our members in their engagement with Global Affairs Canada regarding this new policy framework.

Warmly,

Laura Solberg
CCRDA – Chair
June 9, 2017

[The full policy can be read on the Global Affairs Canada website.](#)

The Canadian Council for International Cooperation's response to the new policy:
http://ccic.ca/media/news_detail_e.php?id=452

Key quotes from the policy:

“Committing to a feminist approach to international assistance represents a significant shift in how we work. A feminist approach is much more than focusing exclusively on women and girls; rather, it is the most effective way to target the root causes of poverty that can affect everyone: inequality and exclusion”

“Canada is adopting a feminist international assistance policy to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as the most effective way to reduce poverty and build a more inclusive, peaceful and prosperous world.”

“Men and boys must also challenge the traditions and customs that support and maintain gender inequalities. Because social norms and gender stereotypes also limit men and boys in their societal and family roles, it is important that men and boys be engaged in the fight for greater gender equality, be given opportunities to advocate for equality, and be encouraged to lead by example in respecting and promoting the interests of women and girls.”

“This new approach will enable Canada to maximize the effectiveness of its international assistance, provide more integrated and responsive assistance, invest in innovation and research, deliver better reporting on results, develop more effective partnerships, and concentrate on those regions of the world where we can make the greatest difference in reducing poverty and inequality, particularly for women and girls.”