**Lack of timely and predictable funding from DFATD having detrimental impact on developing countries as well as Canadian organizations**

**[OTTAWA - June 12, 2014]**A new report launched today by the Canadian Council for International Co-operation (CCIC) and the Inter-Council Network (ICN) of Provincial and Regional Councils for International Cooperation, establishes a direct link between the lack of support and funding opportunities from the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD) over the past three years, and a significantly reduced Canadian presence and impact in developing countries.

“Based on recent statements, we know that Minister of International Development Christian Paradis recognizes the important role that civil society organizations (CSOs) play in poverty reduction and promotion of good governance,” said Julia Sánchez, President-CEO of CCIC. “This report identifies concrete areas where action on the part of DFATD is urgently needed so that CSOs can continue to play that role.”

The report is based on an extensive survey conducted in January 2014 to map the cumulative impacts of changes in funding modalities – as well as the absence of funding - for Canadian CSOs working in developing countries. The results of the survey demonstrate that the absence of diverse and predictable funding from DFATD, as well as opportunities to engage in dialogue with the government on Canada’s priorities, have seriously undermined the capacity of Canadian and local CSOs to respond to pressing needs and challenges in developing countries.

“We work with many smaller, grassroots organizations, who have often developed a niche in development cooperation and are really efficient and creative in what they do”, said Heather McPherson, Executive Director of the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation (ACGC). “In the current context, they have to compete with bigger organizations; we need a funding mechanism that recognizes and responds to a wider range of roles and expertise.”

Key findings of the report point to declining revenues for 44% of organizations. This has in turn translated into fewer projects in developing countries, less communities supported, important reductions in staff and cuts in long standing partnerships.

The report points to the need for a new strategic partnership between the Canadian government and Canadian international development and humanitarian CSOs in order to make Canadian development more efficient, effective and predictable. This includes measures to support revenue diversification among organizations, to generate a range of flexible responsive and directive funding mechanisms for CSOs within DFATD, to re-engage the public around international development, to institutionalize multi-stakeholder dialogue with the government, and to address emerging regulatory challenges for civil society.

Earlier in the week, Minister Paradis launched a consultation on a “Proposed Approach to Effective Development Cooperation with Civil Society.”

"The time has come for the Canadian Government to re-engage with Canadian CSOs and actively support them to realize their unique and diverse roles in combating poverty and inequality" concluded Ms. Sanchez. "We welcome this consultation and plan to build on the findings of this survey report, as well as other work that CCIC is involved in, to secure a more enabling environment for CSOs in Canada and abroad".

The survey was completed by close to 140 organizations across the country, most of them with a long history of working in international development and of collaborating with the Canadian government.

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**Notes:**

**The Canadian Council for International Co-operation (CCIC)**is a coalition of Canadian voluntary sector organizations working globally to achieve sustainable human development since  1968. CCIC seeks to end global poverty and to promote social justice and human dignity for all.

**The Inter-Council Network**is comprised of the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation, l’Association québécoise des organismes de coopération internationale, the Atlantic Council for International Cooperation, the British Columbia Council for International Cooperation, the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation, the Ontario Council for International Cooperation and the Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation.

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