



ONTARIANS & THE WORLD

UNIVERSALITY MATTERS

OCIC AGM &
Symposium
2016

Shared Leadership: Defining Priorities for Collective Action

Background: Parallel roundtable sessions will offer an opportunity for Symposium participants to provide input on Global Affairs Canada's review of international assistance, as well as OCIC initiatives aimed at deepening engagement of Ontarians in international cooperation by better understanding and collaborating with diaspora communities, municipalities, colleges and universities. Participants will participate in two of eight 40-minute discussion sessions of most interest to them.

Global Affairs Canada Review of International Assistance Consultation topics include:

- the health and rights of women and children
- clean economic growth and climate change
- governance, pluralism, diversity and human rights
- peace and security
- responding to humanitarian crises and the needs of displaced populations
- delivering results by improving effectiveness and transparency, innovation and partnerships

OCIC Consultation topics include:

- diaspora communities in Ontario
- Ontario municipalities, colleges and universities

Key objectives of these Consultation sessions include:

- to solicit inputs from participants that will inform OCIC's submission to the Global Affairs Canada International Assistance Review
- to solicit inputs from participants that will inform OCIC's research and potential for deepened engagement with diaspora communities, municipalities, colleges and universities in Ontario

Structure: Thematic rapporteurs and table moderators will lead participants through a structured 40-minute discussion, based on the questions provided. Participants will then move to their next theme, receive an overview of the key points raised, and then have the opportunity to build on the previous groups' contributions.

Following the two roundtable discussions, thematic rapporteurs will synthesize participant contributions in brief summary presentations in plenary, followed by a summary of key messages by Shannon Kindornay, and closing remarks on the process by ADM Elissa Golberg.

Global Affairs Canada Consultation Questions

Background: See Global Affairs Canada's International Assistance Review Discussion Paper for details on each thematic consultation area: <http://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/assets/pdfs/iar-consultations-eai-eng.pdf>.

Consultation questions include:

1) The health and rights of women and children

- Building on the Government of Canada's commitment to a feminist approach and support for the gender equality goal of the 2030 Agenda, where should Canada focus its international assistance efforts in this area? Can Canada take advantage of specific opportunities to demonstrate new or continued leadership on women's empowerment and gender equality?
- How can Canada's efforts to support well-being and empowerment better benefit children and youth, including in the education sector?
- What strategic role can Canada play in advancing health-related SDGs to improve the health of women and girls, including adolescents, in particular their sexual and reproductive health and rights?

2) Clean economic growth and climate change

- Where has Canada added value in promoting clean sustainable economic growth?
- How can Canada support developing countries to mitigate and adapt to climate change?
- Are there niche areas within climate and environment (e.g. water, biodiversity, land use, agriculture, energy) where Canada could further focus its international assistance?

3) Governance, pluralism, diversity and human rights

- How can Canada best help implement Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda—to promote peaceful and inclusive societies, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels?
- How can Canada promote inclusion, advance respect for diversity and uphold human rights?
- In what areas of governance can Canada's international assistance have the most impact?

4) Peace and security

- What specific strengths should Canada build upon to respond to peace and security challenges?
- How can Canada align its international assistance efforts in peace and security with international approaches, including the 2030 Agenda?
- What kind of international assistance partnerships should Canada pursue to achieve its peace and security goals?

5) Responding to humanitarian crises and the needs of displaced populations

- How can Canada support needs-driven, effective and timely responses to humanitarian crises with predictable yet flexible support?

- How can Canada better support the protection of vulnerable populations in crises and strengthen respect for humanitarian principles?
- How can we facilitate more comprehensive and coordinated responses to better meet the needs of populations affected by crises and optimize the impact of humanitarian, development and peace and security initiatives?

6. Delivering results by improving effectiveness and transparency, innovation and partnerships

- What concrete steps could Canada take to make its international assistance delivery approaches and mechanisms more efficient, effective and innovative? How can we promote greater coherence between our development, trade and diplomacy efforts?
- How can Canada foster development innovation?
- Which organizations, communities, coalitions or partnerships should Canada work with? How best can we work with them to deliver our international assistance objectives?
- How can we engage a wider range of partners to leverage the resources and expertise necessary to achieve the sustainable development goals?
- How can we enhance broader engagement of Canadians in our international assistance efforts?
- Are there additional tools or mechanisms that Canada should add to enable it to deliver international assistance more innovatively? How can current approaches and mechanisms be strengthened?

OCIC Consultation Questions

7. Collaborating with cultural communities (diaspora) in Ontario

Background: In 2015, OCIC held a consultation in partnership with the Global Affairs Canada (then DFATD) to build a shared understanding of the range of international cooperation activities and efforts being undertaken by and with cultural community groups; to gain insights on the interests of cultural community groups to work with others on international cooperation issues; and to identify opportunities for deeper engagement. The consultation report showed that there is significant opportunity to further engage with cultural community groups in international cooperation. See OCIC's full report: <http://ocic.on.ca/content/cultural-communities-sustainable-development-consultation>

A number of principles were identified to inform further engagement. These include ensuring *voice, participation and inclusivity* in collaborations from the onset; *transparency* in engagements; working through *partnership* with different stakeholders; *differentiation* in approaches and mechanisms to engage cultural community groups, recognizing their diversity; use of cultural community *knowledge and evidence-based approaches* in collaborations; and the use of approaches to harness the *innovation* of cultural community groups in addressing sustainable development challenges.

The consultation identified ways to harness the financial, individual, and knowledge-based contributions of cultural communities. With respect to finance, the report called for the establishment of flexible, responsive, well-structured, transparent, long-term and predictable funding mechanisms; the use of tax incentives and expansion of match funding to move beyond humanitarian crises to support sustainable development efforts; provision of support to develop the capacity of smaller cultural community groups to access government funding; and develop creative funding mechanisms with different levels of

government and across government departments to enable cultural community groups to better leverage finance and combine domestic and international engagements.

To support individuals' contributions, the report called for continued support to volunteer-sending programs and use of information and communication technology to promote engagement by cultural communities, and the promotion of brain circulation by extending scholarships and promoting educational exchanges.

To harness the knowledge-based contributions of cultural community groups, the report called for the facilitation of long-term research partnerships, and inclusive consultations on development and foreign policymaking.

- Are the principles and approaches outlined in the cultural community report still relevant, particularly in light of the Global Affairs Canada consultation?
- In what ways does your organization engage with cultural community groups in international cooperation? What key lessons have you learned that should inform OCIC's submission to Global Affairs Canada?¹
- What opportunities do you see for further engagement with cultural community groups, particularly in light of the Sustainable Development Goals?
- Following from above, do you see opportunities for broader collaboration in partnership with municipalities, colleges and/or universities?

8. Engaging Ontario municipalities, colleges and universities

- Are you, or are you aware of any municipalities, colleges and/or universities that are significantly engaged in international cooperation (alone or with civil society organizations) and if so, how?
- In what ways does your organization engage with municipalities, colleges and universities?
- What would you like to do more of or differently going forward, and in light of the Sustainable Development Goals?
- What opportunities exist for individual partnerships and for larger, more collective efforts?
- What key points from the discussion should inform OCIC's submission to Global Affairs Canada?

¹ Note the following relevant consultation questions:

- Which organizations, communities, coalitions or partnerships should Canada work with? How best can we work with them to deliver our international assistance objectives?
- How can we engage a wider range of partners to leverage the resources and expertise necessary to achieve the sustainable development goals?
- How can we enhance broader engagement of Canadians in our international assistance efforts?