

Press Release, August 7th 2009



The New Africa

Redrawing the Blueprint for the
Canada-Africa Partnership

Conference - Ottawa, October 2-3, 2009



LLOYD AXWORTHY & JEAN-LOUIS ROY TO CO-CHAIR CCAFRICA'S "THE NEW AFRICA" CONFERENCE

(Ottawa) - Canadian Council on Africa (CCAfrica) President Lucien Bradet is very pleased to announce that two distinguished Canadians with exceptional international reputations and experience have agreed to co-chair an important Ottawa conference in the fall. "The New Africa: Redrawing the Blueprint for the Canada-Africa Partnership" will bring together Canadian stakeholders in Canada-Africa relations—including scholars, policy-makers, NGO and Diaspora representatives, business leaders, and others—to reassess the direction and substance of those relations given Africa's current challenges and evolution in the global economy.

The Honourable Lloyd Axworthy, who during a long career in academia and politics served as Canadian Foreign Minister and is currently President of the University of Winnipeg, remains actively involved in international initiatives. Dr. Jean-Louis Roy served many years as Secretary General of the *Agence de la Francophonie*, as President of Rights and Democracy, and has held various posts in media, academia, and the civil service in Quebec.

"Africa faces considerable challenges after fifty years of independence," said Dr. Axworthy. "A realistic assessment is needed of both challenges and opportunities in the New Africa, and how Canadians, working together with government, can develop real partnerships there."

"Africa has become one of the main crossroads of the world. Major countries without exception are following one another and trying to consolidate their links there. Africa holds large reserves of the most sought after resources. It is a locus of experimentation and as well as major political, economic, and cultural changes; Africa's population will reach 1.3 billion within 20 years. Canada should not ignore these globalization trends that include those African countries that are the only areas of economic growth in the Francophonie," explain Dr Roy. "The visions many Canadians have of Africa are too often not reflective of what is actually going there. It is a vast continent of 53 countries and we must tailor our policies and activities to better use and coordinate available resources in a way that leverages our own strengths and capabilities."

The conference takes place in Ottawa, 2-3 October, at the Château Laurier. Partners are the Institute of African Studies (Carleton), the African Diaspora Association of Canada, and *Embassy Magazine*.

Visit the conference website for additional biographical and conference information:

http://www.ccafrica.ca/2009/new_africa/new_africa.php

- 30 -



For more information, please contact:

Lucien Bradet, President

Canadian Council on Africa

Tel: (613) 565-3011 Cell: (613) 612-3011

Email: Lucien.bradet@ccafrica.ca Web: www.ccafrica.ca