



**PRESENTATION TO THE
STANDING COMMITTEE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE
PARLIAMENT OF CANADA
BY THE
CANADIAN COUNCIL ON AFRICA (CCAFRICA)**

OTTAWA, JUNE 3 2009

Mr Chairman,
Honorable Members of parliament,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to introduce our delegation:

- Ms Carolyn MacKenzie, Partner, Vice-President, CPCS of Ottawa
- Mr. Robert Blackburn, Senior Vice-President Africa, SNC Lavalin
- Mr. Karl Miville de Chêne, President Contact Monde, Montreal

We want to thank the Committee for giving us the opportunity to discuss Canada's relations with Africa. This question is of great importance to CCAfrica and we think that it is also a major issue for the large number of Canadians working with Africa. We hope that our presentation and the questions and answers that will follow will help the Committee to make specific recommendations to the Parliament.

First, a word about CCAfrica. We were created in 2002 with the Mission to increase economic relations with Africa. We are a not-for-profit national organization with about 150 members. Our list of members includes companies, universities, college and institutions that are concerned with the economic development of Africa. In addition to these, we have a number of Provinces that are members; Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick, and Alberta as well as a number of federal Ministries and Agencies. Our activities include organizing missions to Africa, hosting African delegations coming to Canada, developing seminars and workshops, daily news publications, research papers, etc... Our Mission and activities make us unique in Canada.

Last week you have heard a presentation by a group of 19 Heads of African Diplomatic Missions in Canada, who called "**For a Renewed partnership with Canada**". This is a very honorable reaction that needs to be underlined for its positivism and perspicacity, bringing a message of dynamism and reconstruction. African nations want more of Canada, they want increased diplomatic relations, more economic ties and clearly more countries on the priority list of CIDA. There is a clear signal that the perception of Canada's presence on the Continent is shrinking. A number of very valuable recommendations were suggested that should help the Committee to go forward with recommendations of your own.

CCAfrica shares the concerns of the African Diplomatic Missions. In the last few years, we have clearly observed a trend that indicates that the Canadian government is less and less present in Africa whereas the Canadian population is doing more and more there. The number of Canadian investments (in quantity and value), of Canadian not-for-profit projects, of Canada-Africa partnerships, have never been this high. We are here today to ensure that this concern is communicated clearly to the members of Parliament and that this issue is taken as a priority of the Committee. It is clear that there is a that there is a severe contradiction between Canadians actions and the government decisions and that the Parliament should certainly be informed of such discrepancy, and put in place a moratorium on budget cuts and embassy closings until a comprehensive strategy is developed after appropriate consultations with Canadians.

We want to share our findings within 3 areas of Canada's presence in Africa: diplomatic relations, international trade and official development aid.

Diplomatic relations

A few years ago, the Government of Canada decided to close 2 Embassies: Guinea and Gabon. More recently, there was an attempt to keep Burkina Faso open but without a full time Ambassador, last week there was an announcement about closing our posts in Malawi and Cape Town. Based on informal discussions with people in the know in Ottawa, it is our understanding that this is not the end of Embassies/High Commissions closures in Africa. It would be most valuable for the Committee to enquire in a formal way of the responsible department, about the review process, the targets for each continent and the planned closures over the next 3 years. We are very much afraid that by the end of the closure exercise there won't be many Canadian missions left in Africa.

Canada is proud to be member of the G8, it has fought to become one and was a host for its Summit a number of times. But when it comes to our presence in Africa we are not even close to other G8 nations. We have compiled for this presentation a complete list of the G8 Embassies in Africa which you can find attached to our presentation. With the exception of Japan, we do not fare well at all. France and Germany both have well over double the number of missions that Canada has in sub-saharan Africa. If the trend continues, as expected, we will rapidly become, de facto, a minor player in Africa. Is that the role of a G8 member to be walking backwards while all the others, plus many other countries, are increasing their involvement and developing new relationships with the African continent? A G8 member that shares English and French as official languages, that has a long history of friendship with Africa - an asset that no

other G8 country has - and that has benefited a lot from that long friendship? Is it our role to reduce or even just stabilize the number of our initiatives in Africa? We do not believe so.

When CCAfrica met with the former Minister of International Trade, he asked the following question to 5 representatives of different companies and institutions: What is for you the most important contribution we can make in Africa? The answer was unanimous: representation on the ground. It is clear that Canadians want to see more official Canadian representation in more countries in Africa and not less.

International Trade

When the African ambassadors came last week, they were not only saying "more", they were saying "more economic development". A more prosperous economy is the key to their future. This was also echoed by Minister Oda's speech who has clearly stated that economic development is the second priority of CIDA. Economic development means a number of things: investments, export, import, but also partnerships - such as professional and intense training to potential exporters from Africa so they can do more effective exporting to the Western world , education at the college level for trades - such as training of young people in mining in Tanzania so they can replace the expatriates, development of a curriculum for new programs at the university level in Botswana.

All of these forms of economic development take resources and professionals who are highly knowledgeable about Canada's capabilities and Africa's needs. This knowledge cannot be improvised. You need people that are dedicated precisely to help Canadians and African work together. These people are called Trade Officers. While our investments in Africa have been significantly growing in the recent years, reaching close to C\$21 billion in 2008, the resources and most importantly the human resources dedicated by the government in the trade area have been drastically diminished. Canada has now 25 Trade Commissioners to serve 47 Sub-Saharan countries representing 800 million inhabitants. In Latin America with 13 countries and 300 million people, there are 68 Trade Commissioners. In other words, for a little bit more than a quarter of the countries, in Latin America compared with Africa, and less than half the population there are three times the number of Trade Commissioners. There is something wrong with this picture. Why should we be less present than any other nation competing in Africa? Everybody sees it as the last frontier for economic development, and many sectors are booming, not only natural resources but also infrastructure, power and energy, communications, information technology, agri-food, health, science, education and many others. Why should Canada take a back seat in the development of the future of Africa, one of the major phenomena of the twenty-first century? We congratulate ourselves on being an

exporting nation and a nation that welcomes imports, with examples such as the MAI (Multilateral Access Initiative) that welcome imports from the less developed countries. But it is obvious that resources are not in line with these objectives.

We work very closely with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade on developing our bilateral relationships with countries in Africa. However, it is quite evident to us that the resources and again most importantly human resources allocated to Africa are totally inadequate and will hurt Canada if we don't remedy the situation.

International development

The third element of our presentation concerns Canada's assistance program to Africa. As we heard last week during Minister Oda's speech and question period, we share many concerns with members of the Committee. CCAfrica was very disappointed to learn of the cuts in the number of African priority countries. We were disappointed because we felt that the Government had already achieved its objective of being more focused in 2005 with a more limited number of countries, 25 instead of 69 plus a more concentrated bilateral budget directed to the countries of concentration that went from 20% to 80%. Today, to say that these cuts are directed towards better efficiency sounds redundant since this policy had already been implemented in the past.

If you refer to annex 2 of our presentation, CCAfrica compiled all CIDA grants and contribution over \$25.000 within the last two years. These numbers are available on the CIDA website. We realize that it does not cover the entire \$1.5 Billion, because it does not include all of the grants and contributions given to Multilateral organizations but it is still a very good sample to look at. A number of conclusions can be made on it:

1- Over 90% of the grants and contributions were already allocated to priority countries in 2008, therefore less than 10% to the non-priority countries.

2- You will note that the 6 African countries that remain on the list today received an increase of 143% between 2007 and 2008. Which means that without announcing it, the 2009 list of priority countries was essentially already active in 2008. The African countries that do not remain on the priority countries list experienced a decrease of 64%.

3- It is not possible to reconcile the statement that countries that are not on the list of priority countries should not worry. 7 countries in Africa will receive 80% of the Africa CIDA bilateral aid while the other 40 will get the 20% remaining without any loss to what they were getting before? Bilateral aid is the best representation of the direct activity of a government

towards developing countries. The goal of this policy is not clear. The committee might want to ask experts to come and shed some light on the subject.

We are convinced that the Canadian Council for International Cooperation did its homework before stating that “out of a list of 25 countries, 70% of bilateral aid was going to Africa, with 20 countries on the list, the percentage is slated to be reduced to 35% after 2010” . We must ask ourselves this question: is that what Canadians want to see when they think of CIDA’s mandate which is to help the poorest regions on earth and the ones in the greatest need?

Mr. Chairman and Honorable Members, our purpose is to bring to you a number of alarming signs that if not dealt with in the near future, will create considerable damage to Canada’s reputation, not serve well Canadians both from the private and public sectors and finally will put into question our national commitment to African development. We cannot, without consequence, take for granted our good reputation acquired in the past. We must continue and increase our efforts, presence and initiatives in Africa in the three fronts - diplomatic relations, international trade and official assistance. Canada should take the necessary steps to remain a major partner of the African countries because the continent is changing, it is growing and because it will have a great role in shaping the world tomorrow.

Thank you. My colleagues and I will be pleased to answer your questions.

Lucien Bradet
President, CEO
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ANNEX 1
G8 EMBASSIES IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA (May 2009)

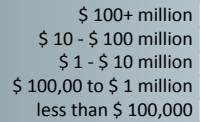
	United States	France	Germany	Russia	United Kingdom	Italy	Canada	Japan
Angola	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Benin	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Botswana	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Burkina Faso	✓	✓	✓				✓	
Burundi	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Cameroon	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Cape Verde	✓			✓				
Central African Rep.	✓	✓		✓				
Chad	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Comoros								
Côte d'Ivoire	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Djibouti	✓	✓		✓				
Equatorial Guinea	✓							
Eritrea	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
Ethiopia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gabon	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Ghana	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Guinea	✓		✓	✓				
Guinea-Bissau		✓		✓				
Kenya	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lesotho	✓							
Liberia	✓	✓	✓					
Madagascar	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Malawi	✓		✓		✓			
Mali	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Mauritania	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Mauritius	✓	✓			✓			
Mozambique	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Namibia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Niger	✓	✓						
Nigeria	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
RD Congo	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Republic of Congo	✓	✓		✓		✓		
Rwanda		✓	✓	✓	✓			
São Tomé and Príncipe								
Senegal	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Seychelles	✓	✓		✓	✓			
Sierra Leone		✓	✓		✓			
Somalia					✓			
South Africa	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Southern Sudan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Swaziland	✓							
Tanzania	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
The Gambia	✓				✓			
Togo	✓	✓	✓					
Uganda		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Zambia		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Zimbabwe		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Total Embassies:	39	38	33	33	24	20	16	7

MONTHLY AFRICAN INDICATORS

CIDA Grant and Contribution Awards Over \$25,000 to Africa

Map Legend

Total Grants and Contributions Amounts



A study of the grants and contributions over \$25,000 awarded to Africa between October 1, 2007 and September 30, 2008 reveals an interesting geographic concentration. Due to a lack of details regarding the recipient countries, we have not included multilateral organisations grants and contributions.

Over 90 % of the total grants and contributions to Africa where given to the 14 development partner countries, of which there are 24 worldwide.

Grants and Contributions Distribution

Development Partner Countries vs. the Remainder of Africa

Total Amount, Percentage and Number of Projects

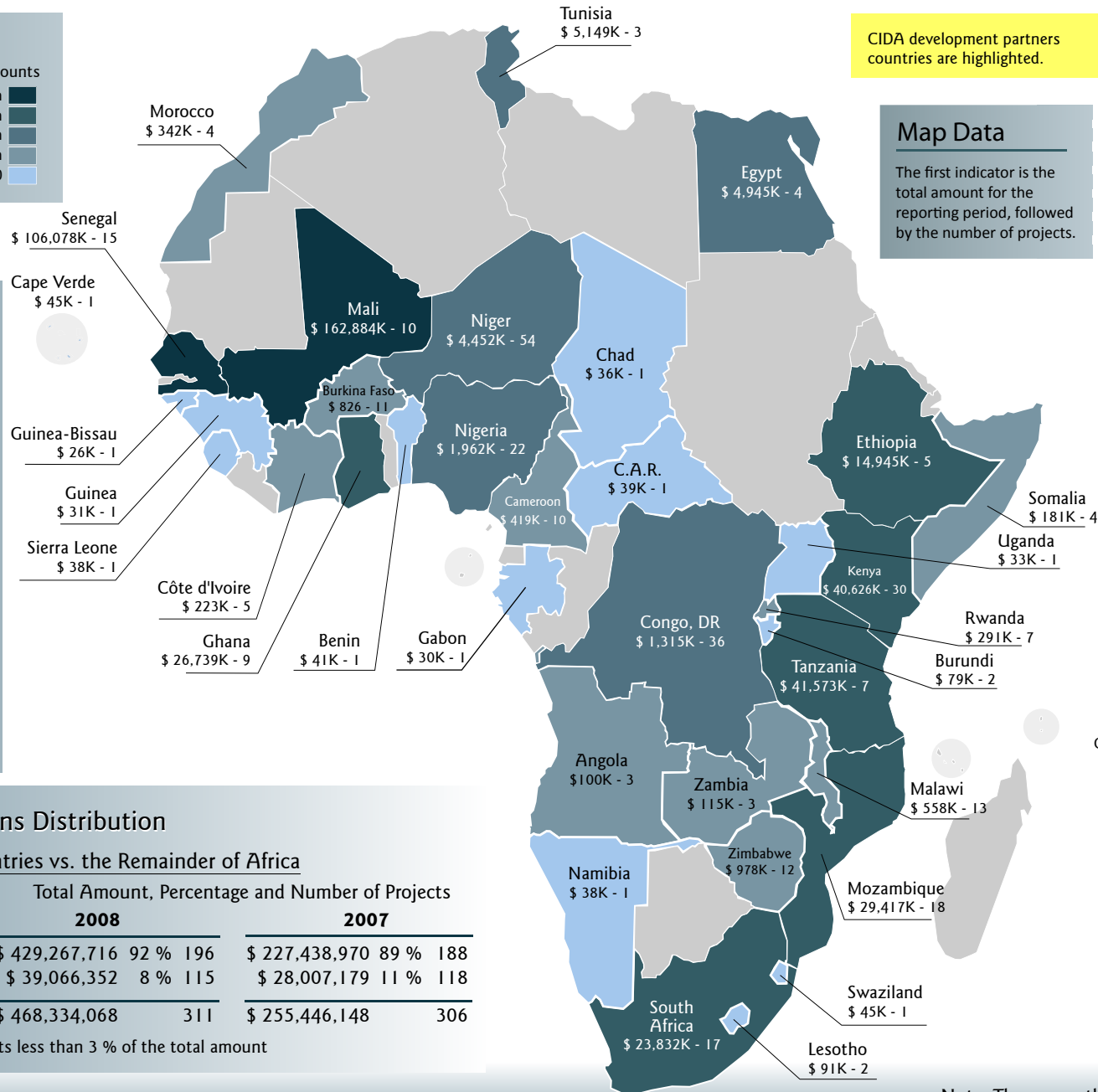
	2008		2007	
Dev. Partner Countries	\$ 429,267,716	92 % 196	\$ 227,438,970	89 % 188
Remainder of Africa	\$ 39,066,352	8 % 115	\$ 28,007,179	11 % 118
Total	\$ 468,334,068	311	\$ 255,446,148	306

Note: Northern Africa represents less than 3 % of the total amount

CIDA development partner countries are highlighted.

Map Data

The first indicator is the total amount for the reporting period, followed by the number of projects.



Total Amount and Number of Projects

Country	2008	2007
Mali	162,884,013	10
Senegal	106,078,944	15
Tanzania	41,573,440	7
Kenya	40,626,139	30
Mozambique	29,417,660	18
Ghana	26,739,439	9
South Africa	23,832,285	17
Ethiopia	14,945,373	5
Tunisia	5,149,000	3
Egypt	4,945,000	4
Niger	4,451,794	54
Nigeria	1,962,925	22
Congo, Dem. Rep.	1,315,121	36
Zimbabwe	978,347	12
Burkina Faso	826,009	11
Malawi	557,561	13
Cameroon	419,288	10
Morocco	342,316	4
Rwanda	291,157	7
Côte d'Ivoire	223,505	5
Somalia	181,048	4
Zambia	114,582	3
Angola	100,679	3
Lesotho	90,933	2
Burundi	79,020	2
Cape Verde	45,100	1
Swaziland	44,688	1
Benin	41,304	1
Central Africa Rep.	39,200	1
Sierra Leone	38,196	1
Namibia	38,000	1
Chad	36,094	1
Uganda	33,000	1
Guinea	31,000	1
Gabon	29,768	1
Guinea-Bissau	26,000	1
Algeria	-	25,000
Botswana	-	41,500
Congo, Republic	-	26,574
Djibouti	-	45,463
Gambia	-	45,000
Liberia	-	45,720