

Canada's Feminist international assistance policy – Presentation to the DCED Annual Meeting 8th June 2018

- **Published exactly a year ago. Canada's International Assistance Policy defines a vision for a feminist international assistance that also supports the human dignity of the poorest and most vulnerable people and contributes to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.**
- **Canada will further seek to strengthen its partnerships – including multi-stakeholder partnerships -- with a broad range of civil society organizations, philanthropic foundations, multilateral institutions, private sector investors, and country partners.**
- **One core action area:**
 1. **Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls**
- **Five other action areas:**
 1. **Human dignity (Health and Nutrition; Education; Humanitarian action)**
 2. **Environment and climate action**
 3. **Inclusive governance**
 4. **Peace and Security**
 5. **Growth that works for everyone**

Growth That Works for Everyone (GROWE)

Canada will focus its efforts on three paths to action:

- **Path to Action 1: Advancing women's economic rights and leadership**
- **Path to Action 2: Promoting inclusive markets and entrepreneurship**
- **Path to Action 3: Promoting financial security and resilience**

Path to Action 1: Advancing women's economic rights and leadership

Canada's objective in this path is to foster legal, regulatory and policy environments that support gender equality and the participation of women in economic decision-making.

This could include actions targeting:

- Better work conditions**
- Labour-protection research and policy reforms**
- Equal pay for equal work and access to non-traditional occupations**
- Private-sector implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the UN Global Compact, and the Children's Rights and Business Principles**
- Equitable access to, and control over, land, natural resources, property and assets**
- Sexual and gender-based violence and sexual harassment in the workplace**
- Human-rights analyses, multi-stakeholder consultations and gender-impact assessments**
- Access to childcare, while encouraging men to share in domestic, child and elderly care and other unpaid household work.**

Path to Action 2: Promoting inclusive markets and entrepreneurship

Canada's objective in this path is to help individuals and enterprises particularly those led by women become more competitive and innovative, increase their employment and market opportunities, shape markets that are economically and environmentally sustainable, and work better for the poorest and most vulnerable, especially women and youth.

This could include actions targeting:

- Women's economic empowerment including women's entrepreneurship, financial inclusion, access to decent work including through corporate gender equality mainstreaming as well as supplier diversity and procurement**
- Formalization of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises**
- Capacity building of institutional structures supporting entrepreneurship**
- Access to capital particularly for rural transformation, renewable technologies, value addition in the natural-resource sector and investments in quality infrastructure**
- Progressive trade**
- Multi-stakeholder partnerships involving blended finance and impact investment.**

Path to Action 3: Promoting financial security and resilience

Canada's objective in this path is to help the poorest and most vulnerable, particularly women, escape extreme poverty by meeting their basic material needs and building their economic resilience through improved access to financial services.

This could include actions supporting:

- Social-protection programs, such as cash transfers**
- Coordinated, time-bound, multi-sectoral intervention packages (graduation programs)**
- The economic integration of Indigenous Peoples, migrants, internally displaced persons, and refugees**
- Access to financial services and technologies, as well as to programs that facilitate access to savings or remittances**
- Insurance products to address emergencies**

Innovative Finance and Partnerships

Recent developments:

FinDev:

- Canada's Development Finance Institution, operational February 2018
- Capitalized at \$C300M
- Subsidiary of Canada's export credit agency EDC

2018 Budget announcements – next 5 years:

- a) Innovative Finance (\$C1.5 Billion) and ,
- b) Sovereign Loans (\$2B) for middle and upper middle income countries

New authorities for conditional and unconditional repayable contributions

G7 Presidency initiatives:

- Gender partnership blended finance fund – Canadian contribution of \$C300M (announced May 25, 2018).