

# **PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

between

**AUSTRALIA'S  
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE (DFAT)**

and

**CANADA'S  
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT  
(DFATD)**

## **Introduction**

1. Australia and Canada ('the Participants') have a mature and highly productive bilateral relationship which extends across a diverse policy agenda, including foreign affairs, security, trade and investment, and international development.
2. Emerging global development challenges demand innovative approaches and agile partnerships. By working together, Australia and Canada have the potential to extend their global reach and influence the global development agenda. Through collaboration, both countries can achieve action on issues including: economic growth for development; innovative financing; and global development norms, systems and architecture.
3. In 2014, during meetings between Australian and Canadian officials, it was mutually decided the existing 2011 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on International Development Cooperation will be replaced by a new Partnership Arrangement. Hereby, the MOU is replaced by this Partnership Arrangement, which is intended to reflect not only new administrative arrangements for the management of international development cooperation in both countries, but also the evolving donor relationship, changes in the international development landscape, and thus mutual priorities.
4. This Partnership Arrangement outlines the principles and objectives for future collaboration and reaffirms the basis for ongoing dialogue and cooperation between DFAT and DFATD. This Partnership Arrangement is not a treaty and is not governed by international law.

## **Partnership Principles**

5. The Partnership will be guided by the following principles:
- a) an emphasis on pursuing cooperation opportunities that are of mutual benefit and result in positive outcomes that could not have been achieved by either Australia or Canada working alone;
  - b) a commitment to open communication at all levels and to create professional relationships characterised by respect, honesty and trust;
  - c) a shared commitment to increasing transparency and accountability;
  - d) a commitment to more coherent, coordinated donor approaches (e.g. joint analytical and evaluation work, sharing results frameworks, harmonising results in key sectors or countries, joint reporting); and
  - e) development assistance focused on countries based on their alignment with Australian and Canadian national interests.

## **Strategic Objectives**

6. Australia and Canada are both committed to:
- a) reducing poverty and improve the quality of people's lives in developing countries through promoting sustainable economic growth;
  - b) action on global poverty within the international development architecture and other global development fora;
  - c) pursuing highly effective and efficient development programs;
  - d) working to improve the effectiveness of multilateral organisations;
  - e) working together where it is practical and beneficial to do so, including through delegated cooperation and co-financing of development programs; and
  - f) continuing to build on our organisational and shared strengths.

## **Priority Areas, Coordination and Implementation**

7. Australia and Canada share a range of development priorities in common. These priorities form the basis of ongoing collaboration and coordination in pursuit of our shared objectives. At annual development dialogues or senior-level meetings, DFAT and DFATD officials will have the opportunity to review and update the priorities as necessary. These will be set out as Annex A to this Partnership Arrangement.



### **Accountability, Monitoring and Assessment**

8. To ensure accountability for results, all cooperation activities under this Partnership Arrangement may be subject to evaluation, monitoring and assessment, the details of which would be set out in separate arrangements to be negotiated and mutually decided by the Participants.

### **Funding**

9. This Partnership Arrangement does not create a commitment or obligation of specific funds or resources by the Participants.
10. The cooperation activities pursuant to this Partnership Arrangement will be undertaken through joint contribution by Canada and Australia. Participants' contributions will be detailed and documented in separate arrangements, the terms of which will be negotiated and mutually decided by the Participants. Activities will be carried out with full respect of each Participant's domestic laws and international obligations.

### **Duration**

11. This Partnership Arrangement will come into effect on the date of the last signature [should the Arrangement not be signed at the same time] on the two original copies, and will supersede any pre-existing arrangements between the Participants.
12. Either Participant may suspend or end this Partnership Arrangement, in whole or in part, by providing at least six months advance written notice to the other Participant of its decision to do so.

### **Amendment**

13. This Partnership Arrangement, including Annex A thereof, may be modified at any time by an exchange of letters between the Participants.

### **Dispute Resolution**

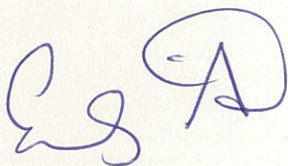
14. Any dispute which arises out of the interpretation or application of this Partnership Arrangement will be resolved through amicable consultations and negotiations between the Participants.

## **Status of Arrangement**

15. This Partnership Arrangement is a document which embodies the understandings of DFAT and DFATD and does not create legally binding rights or obligations. This Partnership Arrangement is not a treaty and is not governed by international law.

SIGNED in Gatineau on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of April 2015.

**For the Department of  
Foreign Affairs and Trade**



**Mr Ewen McDonald  
Deputy Secretary**

**For the Department of Foreign  
Affairs, Trade, and Development**



**Mr Malcolm Brown  
Deputy Minister of  
International Development**



## DFAT-DFATD Partnership Arrangement on International Development

### ANNEX A: Shared Priorities

DFAT and DFATD will maintain this list of shared priorities as a tool to guide ongoing cooperation. It will be regularly reviewed and updated by both Participants through annual development dialogues or other senior-level meetings.

For 2015, DFAT and DFATD decided upon the following **four priorities**:

- Pursue **sustainable economic growth and development**, including through innovation, leveraging the private sector, aid for trade, infrastructure development and enhancing developing **countries' capacity to manage their extractives sectors**.
- Work together on **global health issues**, such as maternal, newborn and child health, health security, malaria, immunization, nutrition, and strengthening health information systems, including civil registration and vital statistics.
- Promote **gender equality** and the **empowerment of women and girls** in developing countries and within global development agendas.
- Coordinate on **global development policy agendas**, including the G20 development agenda, the post-2015 development framework and development finance mechanisms.

In addition to the priorities listed above, both agencies have a broader range of shared development and partnership objectives on which they could consider expanding collaboration. Where appropriate, collaboration under these objectives will be considered by both Participants as opportunities arise. They include, but are not limited to:

- a) Improve access to quality, **inclusive education**;
- b) Coordinate assessment tools to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of **multilateral and global organisations**;
- c) Support enhanced engagement with **civil society** organisations and share best practices;
- d) Improve **disaster management, preparedness and response capabilities** of developing countries and regional/international partners;
- e) Explore opportunities for **joint programming and delegated cooperation in countries and regions of mutual interest**;
- f) Collaborate to enhance both countries' capacity for **evidenced-based policymaking and program delivery**;
- g) Share policy and operational lessons learned on the **integration of development work into our respective foreign ministries**.