

**Written Submission for the Pre-Budget
Consultations in Advance of the 2019 Budget**

By: Sheryl Moran, Ottawa

Recommendation

That the Government follow the advice of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development by coming up with a plan to move Canada toward the 0.7% of gross national income target for the Official Development Assistance (ODA) budget envelope by 2030.

Background

I understand that Budget 2019 will focus on productivity and competitiveness. I would argue that my recommendation is in line with this theme given that inclusive growth in the global south is clearly good for all world economies. Indeed, Prime Minister Trudeau stated in the recently issued Voluntary National Review of Canada's implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that:

“We live in a time of great change. An increasingly integrated global economy has created unprecedented growth, but the benefits have not been felt evenly. These shifts present an opportunity for all of us – governments, civil society, businesses and individuals – to work together to shape a better, more equal and more sustainable future for everyone.”¹

I would like to recognize at the outset that the current government has stepped up on a number of international development fronts in the past two years, including:

- hosting the Global Fund (to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria) replenishment conference in September 2016 and continuing to be a major donor to the Fund;
- announcing the Feminist International Assistance Policy in June 2017 intended to align Canada's global priorities with its domestic ones by seeking to eliminate poverty and promote more inclusive growth at home and abroad;
- announcing the doubling of Canada's annual contribution to the Global Partnership for Education in advance of its replenishment conference in Senegal in February 2018;
- being a primary funder of the TB REACH program intended to find millions of missing TB cases so they can be treated, and supporting research institutions searching for new and better ways to diagnose, treat, and care for TB patients;
- on the domestic front, Budget 2018 included funding intended to eliminate TB across Inuit Nunangat by 2030, and reduce active TB by at least 50% by

¹ “Canada's Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Voluntary National Review,” presented July 17, 2018 at the UN High Level Political Forum at https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/20312Canada_ENGLISH_18122_Canadas_Voluntary_National_ReviewENv7.pdf

2025 – hopefully, the Prime Minister himself will take this story to the High Level Meeting on TB at the UN in September as the world cannot come close to eliminating TB by 2030 without strong leadership from many nations;

- providing funding in Budget 2018 to establish an SDG Unit in Stats Canada to coordinate and report on the 2030 Agenda implementation across departments and agencies;
- promising to launch the development of a national strategy on the 2030 SDG agenda on which all civil societies are looking forward to providing input and hoping to see the Government detail its strategy for helping the global south meet the SDGs;
- announcing at the G7 summit that FinDev Canada is partnering with other G7 finance institutions to assemble US \$3 billion by 2020 to invest in business activities in developing countries that benefit women; and
- steering the G7 countries and the World Bank to support the education of women and girls in crisis and conflict situations by committing \$3.8 billion.

And I have not touched on Canada’s role in supporting refugees, helping to eliminate polio, improving Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, and leading the western nations on gender equality in international assistance.

Conclusion

The Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development reflected cross-party support for an ODA increase in its Report tabled in November 2016. The Report noted that:

“While the Committee’s study was about Canada’s countries of focus and its priority themes, testimony suggested that the effectiveness of those approaches should not be viewed in isolation from Canada’s overall budget for development assistance. The volume of that budget is the main factor that will determine the number of countries in which Canada can be a top donor, as well as the range of development sectors in which it can make a significant difference on the ground.”²

² “Development Cooperation for a More Stable, Inclusive and Prosperous World: A Collective Ambition,” *Report of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development*, Tabled on November 3, 2016, p. 19, retrieved at <https://www.ourcommons.ca/Content/Committee/421/FAAE/Reports/RP8476293/faaerp04/faaerp04-e.pdf>

Indeed, the Committee was clear that long-term and other policies will not likely be realized without concomitant funding. Specifically, the Committee recommended that the Government should establish a plan to realize the 0.7% ODA target by 2030, thereby ensuring that Canada will truly be an *effective* global leader in international development well into the future.³

Although the Government did increase ODA in Budget 2018, given the expected growth in our economy, this new money will keep Canada's ODA at a continued historic low of only 0.26 % of gross national income, well behind most other OECD countries.

Canada often leads by example, and inspires other nations to contribute to global health initiatives as well as access to a quality education, especially for girls. That said, it is long past time to step up and provide the necessary funding to match our leadership on the global stage!

"We live in an interconnected world. What happens 'over there' soon impacts us 'over here.' Development brings security, peace and prosperity, and greater security, peace and prosperity 'over there,' brings tremendous benefits to Canadians, such as greater levels of international security, the opening of new markets and business opportunities...

Aid effectiveness requires innovation. We need a bigger aid envelope to create space for the testing of innovation by small, nimble non-governmental organizations, which have shown the greatest capacity to create better outcomes at lower costs...

There is enough money, and the small increase for development in the 2018 federal budget year is welcome. We just have to make it a higher priority. Why should we do that? Because our survival as a human family depends upon it."⁴

³ Ibid at p. 21. See "RECOMMENDATION 7 The Government of Canada should aspire to a plan that would see Canada spending 0.70% of its gross national income (GNI) on official development assistance (ODA) by 2030. The first stage of that plan should see the government spending 0.35% of GNI on ODA in 2020."

⁴ "Bopp and Rudolph: It's in Canada's interest to boost foreign aid", op-ed in Calgary Herald, March 5, 2018 at <https://calgaryherald.com/opinion/columnists/bobb-and-rudolph-its-in-canadas-interest-to-boost-foreign-aid>