Who are the main actors in Canada’s development cooperation?

**PM provides strategic direction; GAC drives development policy**

Prime Minister (PM) Trudeau, head of the Liberal Party, sets high-level development policy priorities. Under the PM’s leadership, Global Affairs Canada (GAC), the governmental department in charge of foreign affairs, also steers development policy. GAC comprises three formerly separate departments and thus falls under the leadership of three ministers: the minister of foreign affairs, the minister of international development and la Francophonie, and the minister of international trade.

GAC is headed by the minister of foreign affairs, currently Chrystia Freeland (Liberal Party). With oversight from the foreign minister, the minister of international development and la Francophonie, Maryam Monsef (Liberal Party; also Canada’s minister of women and gender equality), sets development policy and makes funding recommendations to the Cabinet. The deputy minister of international development, Diane Jacovella, manages GAC’s development policy units and budget allocation.

Relevant units within GAC are: 1) the Global Issues and Development Branch, which manages multilateral policies and contributions; 2) four geographic branches managing country programs; 3) the Strategic Policy Branch, and 4) the Partnerships for Development Innovation Branch, responsible for partnerships with civil society organizations (CSOs) and the private sector. The International Development Research Centre (IDRC), headed by President Jean Lebel, is a key vehicle of Canada’s development cooperation, and is mandated to support research, tools, and leadership to address development problems. The government ap-
points the board, which along with the Centre Management Committee guides the direction of the center. The Management Committee includes four regional directors and directors from main program focus areas.

Export Development Canada (EDC). Canada’s state-owned export credit agency, is mandated to support trade between Canada and other countries and promote Canada’s competitiveness in the international marketplace. Currently led by Mairead Lavery, EDC is mandated to support trade between Canada and other countries and promote Canada’s competitiveness in the international marketplace.

In 2018, the Canadian government created FinDev Canada, a development finance institution, capitalized with CAD300 (US$231 million). FinDev Canada is a wholly owned subsidiary of EDC and aims to be financially sustainable by generating returns on loans and investments while producing favorable economic and social impacts in the communities where its clients operate. It is currently managed by Paul Lamontagne. Its chief investment officer is Suzanne Gaboury. So far, it has made a US$20-million investment in Climate Investor One’s (CIO) Construction Equity Fund to support the transition to renewable energy in emerging markets, as well as a US$10 million investment in M-KOPA, a leading Kenya-based solar energy company.