

# Year in Review 2000–2001

## Mobilizing African Civil Society for a New Partnership for African Development

a message from the President of Partnership Africa Canada

African heads of state launched the *New Partnership for Africa's Development* in Abuja, Nigeria, in October 2001. The *New Partnership for Africa's Development* deals with the future of Africa — of our economies, our societies and our relations with the rest of the world. This important document, however, has been prepared without the involvement of African civil society, a situation that we must urgently remedy. I invite you, therefore, to join with African civil society actors, in your country and elsewhere, and begin a dialogue between us and our respective governments on the major issues contained in the *New Partnership for Africa's Development*.

During the coming months, the *New Partnership for Africa's Development* will feature prominently in several major international events, where our voices must be heard. The next summit of the G8, which will take place in Canada in June 2002, will have on its agenda a discussion on Africa, during which G8 leaders will give an official response to the *New Partnership for Africa's Development*. This meeting constitutes an important milestone that we cannot ignore. In July 2002, the inaugural Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union will take place in South Africa, and in September 2002, there will be the final review of the UN-NADAF (Africa) programme at the UN Headquarters in New York.

What is at stake? What sort of contribution can we make at this eleventh hour? In my opinion, our contribution can be made in the following ways:

- Our objective must be to make sure that Africa masters its vision of development, that is to say that we recognize the complex links between economic, social and ecological factors. We must understand the interdependence of these factors and ensure the sustainable involvement of the different actors in the process — the State, civil society and the private sector, not forgetting the question of gender.



Jacqueline Nkoyok

- We must lay the foundations for controlling Africa's development, that is to say we must take initiatives starting with what Africa possesses — its natural and human resources — develop them and cooperate with the rest of the world on the basis of these gains.
- We must make people aware and proud of traditional African values — solidarity, sharing, responsibility — which will give another vision of Africa's democracy, a vision of good governance and solidarity.

African civil society organizations, in collaboration with civil society in Canada and in other rich countries, should insist on this vision and make the rich countries share it. Here is how we might do this.

- We should develop a deep analysis of this vision during national and sub-regional consultations.
- We should organize a dialogue with African governmental institutions so that our concerns will be taken into account through the African Development Bank, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization for African Unity/African Union.

We should, in collaboration with civil society groups in Canada and in the other G8 countries, advocate so that Africa is able to plan its development with its peoples.

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In order to do that, it is necessary to:

- Reduce the debt burden, and especially the harassment by the Bretton Woods institutions.
- Help good management happen by involving civil society in negotiating loans, managing development assistance and monitoring public expenditure (participatory observation).
- Lay the foundations for participation by people in planning development and in executing and evaluating programmes.
- Demand a favourable international environment at the level of the UN, World Trade Organization, governments and multinationals.

Given that these things are complex, we must organize meetings to reflect on them. In addition, we must give as much information as possible on Africa's thorny problems to the youth in Africa, who will be tomorrow's leaders, and to the youth in the rich countries. We must give them the possibility to speak out about Africa's problems and about international relations in order to create a more just and a more democratic world.

Let us take up the challenge and mobilize at the national and international levels, so that the voice of Africa's civil society can be heard. Let us work together and organize activities in our respective countries. Let us dialogue with our governments and with our friends in the North, who are ready to lobby their respective governments. I hope that you will be able to respond to this call for mobilization.

Jacqueline Nkoyok  
Executive Secretary, CONGAC, Cameroon  
President of Partnership Africa Canada



*Abu Brima*

## Out of the frying pan

The Campaign for Just Mining in Sierra Leone began as an initiative of the Network Movement for Justice and Development (NMJD) on January 12, 2000 with the launching in Freetown of the Partnership Africa Canada study into the Sierra Leone diamond

trade, *The Heart of the Matter — Sierra Leone, Diamonds and Human Security*. A Task Force coalesced under the Civil Society Movement of Sierra Leone (CSM-SL), which has taken the campaign across the country to all provinces, districts and, soon, chiefdoms. If anything, this campaign has facilitated civil society coalition building at all levels, beyond traditional lines, and sustained the engagement of the general public. For once, civil society in Sierra Leone has a project, a long-term engagement that is more challenging and its outcome more rewarding. Civil society organizations have gained a lot more relevance working on this issue and, for the first time, the diamond question has become a public affair in Sierra Leone that is talked about without fear.

The Campaign for Just Mining was launched in the wake of flagrant cease-fire violations by the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), direct and arrogant support of the RUF by the Charles Taylor government of Liberia, double standards on the part of the Heads of States of some ECOWAS member countries, a weak UN Peace Keeping Force and a general lack of confidence in the peace process among the populace. At that time, people did not realize that 'we were being fried with our own oil', meaning that our diamonds were the fuel for the war which had caused so much death, suffering and destruction for the past 11 years.

Aiming to do everything possible to end diamond related conflict in Sierra Leone and everywhere else, the battle has been fought in close collaboration with Partnership Africa Canada, the International Peace Information Service (Antwerp) and a host of other interested and committed individuals and organizations. The Campaign for Just Mining has taken the form of sensitization and education, research and documentation, policy analysis and debate, consultations and meetings, workshops and seminars, mobilization and coordination, collaborative networking, publicity in print and electronic media, as well as lobbying

# half way through the journey

and press releases/statements. The campaign has been mounted at all fronts — community (local), national, sub-regional as well as international, ensuring that all stakeholders and actors are identified, roles analysed and measures taken to deal with them.

After many meetings, consultations and conferences with the government institutions or organs responsible for the mining sector, such as the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources, the Government Gold and Diamond Office and others, government officials have come to recognize and accept, under tremendous pressure, the important role of the Campaign for Just Mining. Joint-training and equipment have been provided for the Mines Monitoring Officers, the government has approved and started releasing the Community Development Fund (0.75% of the 3% taxes the government gets from sales of diamonds) to mining communities (about US\$ 85,000 was disbursed in 2001), and the government has agreed to reform mining policies and practices with input from the Campaign for Just Mining, which recently presented a position paper to the Ministry of Mines on the reform of the mining sector. Never before has the government had so close a collaborative relationship with civil society on a sensitive issue like this one. It is history in the making.

## Diamonds and the peace process

In May 2000, once the general public in Sierra Leone knew that the diamond factor was the main stumbling block to the peace process, civil society in collaboration with the Parliament demonstrated against the RUF, which led to the arrest of Foday Sankoh, the RUF leader, and many of his commanders. This brought to light further truth about the diamond factor, and rallied the international community firmly behind Sierra Leone leading to the improvement in the UN Peace Keeping Force, the robust role of the British Government and the increased commitment of the international community. The Abuja Peace Accord, and the various tripartite meetings that finally saw the completion of disarmament, are a result of the people's resolve after the May 8th Freetown demonstration and increased confidence in the peace process.

As the way to peace became clearer, the political scene became more promising with more political parties registering. A National Consultative Conference on "Peace and Democracy in Sierra Leone — the way forward" was held,

which signalled the governance framework of the country, with elections set for May 2002.

Admittedly, a lot has been attained in the two years of the campaign, but the difficulties faced and lessons learnt pose serious challenges for the future control, management and trade in diamonds as it directly affects peace, governance, security and stability. Some of the challenges on the journey ahead would be:

- The mining policies of Sierra Leone need to be radically reformed to reflect local and indigenous ownership, with a review of leases, participatory and depoliticized decision making, corporate responsibility, beneficiation schemes for communities and miners, the cooperation of key line ministries such as the ministries of Mines and Mineral Resources, Environment, Agriculture & Forestry, the implementation of the Environmental Protection Act, and effective collaboration between the government and civil society working on this issue.
- The Campaign for Just Mining itself needs now to be more rooted in the chiefdoms and communities so that the capacity of the people can be enhanced to understand policies and laws, make demands, negotiate from a position of strength, lobby and advocate for their rights. In other words, there is need for the establishment of a National Platform of Mining Communities by the Campaign for Just Mining. Support from partners is a critical factor and a reduction in support at this stage will leave the job half done.
- A coalition of civil society movements at the regional level would be an important factor in maintaining and monitoring these questions. As is already known, many of the ECOWAS leaders had conflicts of interest with respect to the war in Sierra Leone. Without a countervailing power or force at the regional level it becomes impossible to lobby, advocate and move issues further. We would have arrived much earlier where we are now if we had a layer of organized civil society at the regional level.
- The UN Security Council must be made to oversee and monitor the role and work of regional groupings. Sanctions and punitive measures need to be imposed on States or their leaders that undermine the security, peace and governance of their neighbours directly or indirectly e.g. by the use of mercenaries, mineral extraction or trade etc., as has been the case with Liberia, Burkina Faso and other countries.

- The amount of destruction that took place in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea was only possible with support and collaboration from individuals, companies, agencies and countries involved in the diamond and arms business. Sierra Leone and its people need to be compensated by those countries that allowed their people and companies to commit such acts of terror. The international community should not let them go unpunished. It is clear that the proceeds from the Sierra Leone diamonds were used by terrorists.
- It became clear that it was only when the diamond issue was handled that a resolution of the conflict was possible. Resources are the machinery of war and certainly diamonds have proven that in Sierra Leone, Angola, Liberia and Congo. Adequate protection for its minerals — their extraction, trade and processing — is critical to Sierra Leone's development. This is a case for the UN Security Council.
- The Kimberley Process is nearing conclusion and already we NGOs have raised concerns about the extent to which the decisions can be binding on all, whether effective monitoring can be enforced and whether violators will be punished without delay. The UN must not drag its feet on this as the survival, security and governance of nation states hinges on it. I trust that the powerful nations have learnt enough lessons to enable them see far and take decisions for the good of all, especially for poor and impoverished mineral producing countries like Sierra Leone.

In conclusion, let me add that at the moment civil society in Sierra Leone is key to peace, security, democracy and governance. Strengthening it through concrete programmes like the Campaign for Just Mining is instrumental to laying the foundation for long-term development.

Abu A. Brima, National Coordinator  
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*This programme is assisted by Partnership Africa Canada with support from the Canadian International Development Agency*

## Kimberley Process

The Kimberley Process refers to a series of intergovernmental meetings initiated by the Government of South Africa in May 2000 in an effort to deal with the issue of conflict diamonds. The process involves producer and importing countries, the diamond industry and some NGOs. The UN General Assembly mandated the Kimberley Process in December 2000 to establish an international certification scheme for rough diamonds.

Partnership Africa Canada was invited to join this process at the outset and has made a significant contribution to discussions. At the same time, PAC and other NGOs have been critical of the slow pace of discussions and the unwillingness of some governments to take the process to its logical and necessary conclusion. Some observers, however, stress the fact that they have never seen an industry change so much in such a short time. The Kimberley Process is expected to finally complete its work in early 2002.

Further information on the Kimberley Process can be found on our web site, particularly in the news bulletin *Other Facets* and in the Resources section.

## Sierra Leone Web

The Sierra Leone Web ([www.sierra-leone.org](http://www.sierra-leone.org)) has developed into an indispensable source of information on the many facets of Sierra Leone for people within Sierra Leone and internationally. Journalists, policy-makers, politicians, NGOs and individuals rely on its trustworthy news to understand and follow what's happening on a daily basis in Sierra Leone. During Sierra Leone's conflict, combatants on all sides have considered it an objective source of information. It is considered by many as a unique tool for peace and development. Partnership Africa Canada has been able to assist the Sierra Leone Web through support from the Canadian International Development Agency.

# Statement of Revenue and Expenditure for 2000-2001 at March 31, 2001

Revenue	2001	2000	Expenditure	2001	2000
Canadian International Development Agency	\$205,414	\$283,275	Program	\$126,000	\$142,015
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade	58,730	31,740	Special initiatives	10,625	37,376
Department for International Development (U.K.)	13,466	—	Special projects	217,052	185,938
MacArthur Foundation	8,203	—		<hr/>	<hr/>
Interest	2,263	2,614	Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	(\$1,373)	—
Membership fees	950	1,600			
Non-government organizations	61,935	44,867			
Other	1,343	1,233			
Total	<hr/> \$352,304	<hr/> \$365,329			

*A complete version of the Audited Statements by McIntyre and McLarty is available from Partnership Africa Canada*

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### Colours of Africa

Partnership Africa Canada has joined several NGOs in the Ottawa region in establishing an annual festival of African cinema, which takes place each April in Ottawa. Showcasing recent, award-winning feature films by African film directors, the festival now occupies an important place in the cultural calendar of the capital region. The festival is organized in collaboration with *Vues d'Afrique*, Montreal.

The Colours of Africa film festival aims to provide people with the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of contemporary life and art in Africa. Reaching people through cinema is an excellent way to achieve this, particularly when the films are made in Africa, by African film directors, and when some of these film directors are available during the festival to discuss their work with audiences and the media. Information about the festival is available on our web site.



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Visit the PAC Web Site at:

[www.partnershipafricacanada.org](http://www.partnershipafricacanada.org)

See the Resources section for a selection of recent reports and documents on African issues from a wide variety of sources.

## Acknowledgements

PAC works closely with many organizations and individuals in Africa, in Canada and internationally. The following list includes the names of organizations and institutions with which PAC collaborated closely in 2000-2001.

African and Canadian member organizations of PAC  
A-Dialogue (Canada)  
Amnesty International (Canada)  
Canadian Council for International Cooperation  
Canadian International Development Agency  
Canadian Peacebuilding Coordinating Committee  
Council of Churches in Sierra Leone  
CRDA (Ethiopia)  
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (Canada)  
Development and Peace (Canada)  
Economic Commission for Africa  
Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development (Canada)  
Network Movement for Justice and Development (Sierra Leone)  
International Peace Information Service (Belgium)  
Rights and Democracy (Canada)  
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Sudan Inter-Agency Reference Group (Canada)

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CUSO  
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