



CANADA

PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE

OTTAWA, K1A 0A2

May 14, 2003

Dear Mr. Smith:

Thank you for your letter of April 14, 2003, reporting on the activities of the Centre for Global Studies related to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

I am encouraged by the commitment of the Centre to the aims and objectives of the NEPAD. It is a pleasure to read about Canadians such as yourselves who are helping to deliver on the new partnership agenda that underlies the NEPAD and the G-8 Africa Action Plan launched at Kananaskis. I fully subscribe to your goal of ensuring strong African ownership of the development agenda, and am delighted that you are associated with other African and international institutions.

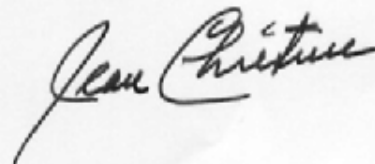
As you rightly point out, the principal challenge at this point is to help translate the promise of the NEPAD into concrete, pragmatic initiatives. This, in fact, was the purpose behind the Canada Fund for Africa, and I am pleased that the \$500-million Fund will have been fully committed by the time the upcoming G-8 Summit is held in France. One of the initiatives currently being implemented is an outreach fund that may be of particular relevance to your African partners in furthering the objectives of the NEPAD. To learn more about this program, I invite you to contact the Canada Fund for Africa Secretariat at (819) 934-1156, or by e-mail at canadafundafrica@acdi-cida.gc.ca.

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I also appreciate your informing me of the current state of the specific proposals you have been developing. The areas you have identified are potentially relevant; however, the principal test will be how the key African institutions related to the NEPAD determine their priorities in relation to the proposals you have formulated. I encourage you in this regard to continue your dialogue with such institutions as the NEPAD Secretariat and the Economic Commission for Africa. I trust that the Canadian International Development Agency and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade will continue to follow your work with interest and will help you make the right contacts as you proceed.

Thank you again for your continued interest in Africa and in Canada's role in supporting the NEPAD and the Africa Action Plan.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jean Chrétien". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.