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"Creating partnerships for global peace, security and development"

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

CIPP commends Canadian government funding for Palestinian reform and development

The Canadian International Peace Project today welcomed the announcement by Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Maxime Bernier at the Conference of Donors for the Palestinian Territories in Paris. Canada pledged \$300 million in order to increase Canada's level of support for Palestinian reform and development and to promote the peace process.

"I am pleased to announce that Canada will commit \$300 million over the next five years to build security, governance and prosperity," said Minister Bernier.

"To improve security, we will increase our participation in reform of the Palestinian security system in areas including the civilian police, justice and corrections, working in partnership with the United States Security Coordinator and the European Union Coordinating Office for Palestinian Police Support.

"To improve governance, we will support institution-building in the Palestinian Authority and help build a better public service for all Palestinians. We will also work with Canadian and local non-governmental organizations, other actors and the Palestinian Authority to promote tolerance and combat hatred and the incitement of violence.

"And to improve prosperity, we will help to stimulate the Palestinian economy through its private sector.

"Our funding is not unconditional," Minister Bernier further stated. "We will need to see demonstrable progress in negotiations by both sides, as well as progress in Palestinian democratic reforms. As the peace process moves forward, Canada will be there, ready to support the parties in doing the essential work that only they can do to achieve our common goal—a viable Palestinian state that is democratic, accountable, and living in peace and security as a neighbour to Israel."

"We are delighted that Canada continues to demonstrate leadership on the Israeli-Palestinian peace process." stated Mark Persaud, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian International Peace Process. Mr. Persaud further stated, " The fact that the assistance is conditional upon tangible reforms in the areas of security, governance and other areas provides comfort to Canadians who expect wise stewardship of our foreign aid. We expect reciprocal leadership by the Palestinian Authority in improving the lives of ordinary Palestinians and adherence to the conditions and expectations of Canada's generous assistance."

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The Canadian International Peace Project (CIPP) is a novel and unique non-partisan organisation that has brought together diverse groups and individuals to work on issues and projects relating to local, national and international peace, security and development . Through partnership on events and projects, the CIPP fosters mutual respect and sustainable relationships among diverse groups including those in conflict with each other.