

FOREWORD

By Deborah Turnbull, Chair of CAABWA

Launched in November 2000, the Canadian and African Business Women's Alliance (CAABWA) is making its mark. For the past two years the young organization has been consolidating structures and relationships in Canada and in eight African countries.

Indeed, working with local women entrepreneurs' associations, CAABWA has been carrying needs analysis to determine the capacity and the potential areas for business linkages for African and Canadian women. The local socio-economic conditions, accessibility to resources and information, as well as opportunities to influence the decision-making process determine in large the capacity for establishing business ventures with African women.

CAABWA takes a strong advocacy role for African women in business, facilitating the recognition of the significant role of African women in economic growth, and the potential for growth through participation in global markets.

In Canada, CAABWA has been at the forefront of promoting awareness of the African untapped markets and of the opportunities that exist within the continent. SMEs and individuals are working CAABWA to develop for-profit and non-profit projects for specific African countries. Numerous Canadian companies and African companies rely on CAABWA's due diligence and information services.

Africa is at the focus of the G8 Summit 2002 at Kananaskis. This paper is CAABWA's contribution to Canada's policy development for Africa both for during and for beyond the Summit to benefit not only the women of Africa, but also the African economies that they determine, and to assure the effectiveness of new policies in support of the *New Program for Africa Development*.

Deborah Turnbull