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MINISTER LANDRY HOLDS CONSULTATIONS IN PREPARATION
FOR THE TORONTO ECONOMIC SUMMIT

The Minister for External Relations and International Development, the Honourable Monique Landry, today met with representatives of Canadian non-governmental organizations to discuss issues of concern to developing countries in preparation for the Economic Summit.

The fourteenth Economic Summit will be hosted by Canada in Toronto, June 19-21. Leaders of the seven largest industrialized democracies - Canada, Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom and USA, and the President of the Commission of the European Communities, - will meet to discuss international economic issues.

In welcoming the participants to the consultations, Mme Landry said, "I have seen the tragedy of human suffering that results from the impact on fragile developing economies of world recessions and an inhospitable external economic environment."

Mme Landry emphasized that the impact of Summit discussions is felt in developed and developing countries alike. She noted that Canada has traditionally played an important role in ensuring that the concerns of developing countries are given prominence at the Economic Summits. "It is critically important that the international community do more to support Africa through this period of adjustment", noted Mme Landry.

Mme Landry convened today's consultations as one measure of her commitment to increasing opportunities for Canadian organizations concerned with development to exchange views and information with the Government. Representatives of Canadian non-governmental organizations, academic and research institutions, as well as business organizations from across Canada attended the day long session.

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Minister for
External
Relations

Ministre des
Relations
extérieures