

The topic of this preparatory Roundtable is good governance – one of the areas identified by African leaders in the *New Africa Initiative* (NAI) as key to African future. Lee set out two goals for the discussion:

1. To build partnerships and to promote networking among experts and NGOs engaged in African studies/issues.
2. To create a loose group on which the CCFPD could draw on for advice and expertise for the National Forum. The group could help generate discussion questions, identify key issues, and recommend possible participants for the National Forum meetings.

Participants were encouraged to think about questions including: What should be the Canadian priorities? What are the key good governance issues? How can Canadians best contribute to strengthening democracy on the continent?

2. Outlining the New Africa Initiative (The New Partnership for Africa's Development)

Malinda Smith (Athabasca University) outlined the NAI. The NAI grew out of a merger of the Millennium Partnership for the African Recovery Programme (MAP) and Omega Plan. The Initiative is a pledge by African leaders to:

3. Eradicate poverty – including a commitment to achieve and sustain an average gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate of above 7% per annum for the next 15 years.
4. Extricate Africa from the malaise of underdevelopment and exclusion in a globalising world (recognising the failure of post-colonial leadership *as well as* the negative impact of colonialism and structural adjustment programmes).
5. Develop a new partnership between Africa and the international community (especially the industrialised countries, including Canada), while rejecting dependency through aid or marginal concessions. The Initiative recognises the importance of both internal and external commitments. The NAI states:¹

The programme is a new framework of interaction with the rest of the world, including the industrialised countries and multilateral organisations. It is based on the agenda set by African peoples through their own initiatives and of their own volition, to shape their own destiny.

In order to fulfil their pledges, the African leaders take joint responsibility to:

- strengthen mechanism for conflict prevention
- to promote and protect democracy and human rights
- to restore and maintain macroeconomic stability
- to institute transparent legal and regulatory frameworks for financial markets
- to revitalise and extend the provision of education, technical training and health services
- to promote the role of women in social and economic development

¹See: [Http://www.g8.gc.ca/July-21-01-1b-e.asp](http://www.g8.gc.ca/July-21-01-1b-e.asp) p. 6.