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CANADA INVITED TO PARTICIPATE AS OBSERVER AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN ETHIOPIA

The Minister for External Relations and International Development, the Honourable Monique Landry, announced today that Canada has accepted an invitation to participate as an observer at Ethiopia's National Conference, which begins July 1st in Addis Ababa.

"After closely monitoring the situation in the Horn of Africa and holding two round tables which discussed the problems of famine, humanitarian assistance and movement towards a transitional government in Ethiopia, Canada is delighted to have the opportunity to observe the proceedings of the National Conference," stated Mrs. Landry. "We hope that, with the future of the country in mind, all parties and factions will work to develop a consensus that will lead Ethiopia towards democracy, unity and lasting peace."

The purpose of the Conference is to lay the foundation for the establishment of a broadly based transitional government that will organize multi-party, democratic elections within one year.

The Canadian delegation will be headed by Canada's Ambassador to Ethiopia, Mr. Francis Filleul. Other observers include representatives of all permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, G-7 countries, other donor countries, neighbouring nations of Ethiopia, the Organization of African Unity and the European Community.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office
External Affairs and International Trade Canada
(613) 995-1874

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