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## McDOUGALL APPLAUDS START OF CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS IN SOUTH AFRICA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, hailed the launch of multi-party constitutional negotiations in South Africa today. The long-awaited negotiations, known as the Conference for a Democratic South Africa, got under way with representatives of more than 20 political parties in attendance.

"This is an historic day for the people of South Africa. We have always believed that negotiations represent the only path to justice and peace for South Africa," said Mrs. McDougall. "We sincerely hope that steady progress will be realized in the negotiations. And we welcome the spirit of good will and compromise already demonstrated by the participants in these talks."

Mrs. McDougall noted that Canada has played an active role in the run-up to these negotiations by supporting constitutional research and dialogue in South Africa. Canada stands ready to assist the process of negotiations in any way requested by the parties to the Conference.

The two-day Conference for a Democratic South Africa will debate both general constitutional principals and the arrangements that must be put into place to govern South Africa while detailed constitutional negotiations are under way. The next plenary session of the Conference will take place early in the new year.

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