

I- DIRECTORY OF CANADIAN EXPERTISE (ORGANIZATIONS)

African Environmental and Human Development Agency (AFRIDA)

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Organization's mandate/goals:

AFRIDA is a non-governmental organization committed to improving the quality of life in African mining communities through research and community led initiatives in health, environment and human rights programs. Headquartered in Nigeria, with an international office in Canada, AFRIDA was formed in 1996 in response to the needs of several resource bearing communities in Nigeria, who are confronted with health problems, wars and conflicts, and environmental degradation associated with the presence of extractive industries in their communities. Its programs provide health and development services to these communities, conduct scientific research to document the health, environmental and human rights impact of mining and thus promote environmental justice. AFRIDA also works to reduce the prevalence and use of small arms in these communities. AFRIDA disseminates its empirical findings to African and North American advocacy groups, educational institutions, faith-based groups, corporations and governments to raise public awareness and communicate to the broader public, nationally and globally, about the impact of mining on communities, and secure support for national and global regulatory action to protect their interests.

Areas of expertise relevant to 2001 UN Conference on Small Arms:

Human and Social Development

– Promote respect for human rights

AFRIDA has participated in various conferences such as CIPA, Couchiching, IANSA and various others speaking out about human rights issues encountered in the Niger Delta of Nigeria.

– Teaching conflict and violence prevention

AFRIDA is presently involved in a conflict prevention program with ERA in the Niger Delta of Nigeria.

– Develop public education programs to enhance efforts to counter SALW proliferation and the development of gun cultures

AFRIDA has a Small Arms Proliferation Awareness Program for Nigerian Journalists.

– Eradicating poverty

AFRIDA has set up micro-credit schemes for women in conflict areas of the Niger Delta.

Working with Vulnerable Groups

– Advocacy

Dr. Wiwa has traveled throughout the world advocating for the respect for environmental and human rights by transnational corporations and governments, and building awareness on the impact of the proliferation of Small arms.

– Addressing women's needs

AFRIDA sponsors reproductive health programs and micro-credit schemes in conflict areas of the Niger Delta in Nigeria.

Health

– Medical assistance and training

Through its Inadum Medical Center in Nigeria, AFRIDA assists victims of gun violence by providing medical equipment and personnel.