

The AUCC is a trusted partner of the Government and I fully intend to continue our unique collaboration. I am pleased to announce today a \$10-million extension to the University Linkage Program with China, with the AUCC as the executing agency. I am also pleased to announce that the consortium formed by the AUCC and the Association of Community Colleges of Canada [ACCC] has been selected as the executing agency for a human resources development program in Tunisia worth \$15 million.

These are hard times for governments and universities. We have all had very difficult decisions to make. I want to ensure you that universities and colleges continue to be our partners. You have a unique role to play in the development and conduct of our foreign and aid policies. We must look even closer at sharing our resources, at pooling our energies, at helping each other achieve our goals. We can't afford to disperse ourselves. We must devise common strategies. We must diversify our partnerships.

I think that our new Foreign Policy Statement gives us the opportunity to do just that.

Thank you.