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MINISTER VÉZINA SALUTES 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY (OAU)

The Minister for External Relations and International Development, the Honourable Monique Vézina, today conveyed Canada's congratulations to the countries of Africa celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

"I am very pleased to add Canada's voice to those recognizing this important date in Africa's history and to renew Canada's commitment to co-operate with African nations to face the challenges of the 1990s," said Mrs. Vézina, who attended an event marking this date, sponsored by the Ambassadors and High Commissioners of OAU states.

The Minister indicated that, despite budgetary restraints, Africa remains a prime geographic focus for development and continues to receive 45 percent of Canadian bilateral assistance.

Canada continues to promote the strengthening of democratic institutions and the peaceful settlement of conflicts in Africa. Canadians have participated in nearly 20 electoral missions in the last two years, and contribute to United Nations peacekeeping operations in Somalia, Angola, Mozambique and the Western Sahara.

Canada is encouraged by the evolving situation in South Africa, where a transitional government could be installed shortly. Canada's efforts, combined with continuing

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