CONFÉRENCE DES ÉVÊQUES CATHOLIQUES DU CANADA
CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

Development and Peace
CARITAS CANADA

Joint Statement
by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops
and the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace – Caritas Canada

The Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace – Caritas Canada (CCODP) together with the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) are involved in an ongoing review of a number of Development and Peace partners. As Canada's national Caritas organization, and entrusted with a specific mission and mandate by the Bishops of Canada, Development and Peace recognizes the importance of ensuring its own work and that of its direct partners is not in contradiction to the principles and values of Catholic social and moral teaching. This is expected of all Church organizations and agencies.

With the authorization of the CCCB Permanent Council and the CCODP National Council, the basic research for the review is being undertaken by a team of CCCB as well as CCODP staff and advisors. The review team reports to five Bishops who constitute the CCCB Standing Committee for Development and Peace, as well as to members of the National Council who serve on the corresponding CCODP Standing Liaison Committee. The Bishops of Canada at their recent September 2018 Plenary Assembly were united in their desire for the review of CCODP to continue in order to address and rectify a number of questions which have been raised over the years concerning CCODP partners and the process used to select and evaluate them.

Both the CCCB and the CCODP agreed that the initial findings of the review would need verification, further reflection, contextualization, and discussion. It was also agreed that these initial findings would not be made public until a thorough and detailed examination was complete. In fact, the initial findings were the result of a process marked by integrity, diligence and professionalism.

It is regrettable that unauthorized and incomplete data was released in a recent media report without the consent of either the CCCB or the CCODP. The concern shared by both the CCCB and the CCODP is that the premature publication of information risks undermining the joint process, the results of the review prior to its completion, and inaccurately casting a negative or false light on the international partners, the CCODP, as well as the CCCB.

26 November 2018