



## **For Immediate Release**

### **The Mosaic Institute Hosts Director of the Darfur Development Initiative in Ottawa**

Ottawa -- July 9, 2008. The Mosaic Institute hosted David L. Phillips, director of the Darfur Development Initiative (DDI) at Columbia University, at two meetings in Ottawa today. The first meeting was with Canadian government officials, while the second featured the Canadian NGO community.

The first meeting, held at the offices of the Sudan Task Force at Foreign Affairs Canada, also included representatives from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The second meeting was convened at the Faculty of Law at the University of Ottawa, and featured numerous Canadian NGOs active in Darfur.

Mr. Phillips, an expert on U.S. foreign policy and development issues who has served as a senior advisor to the UN and other multilateral agencies, tabled the Darfur Development Dossier, which has been developed by the DDI under his direction. The dossier outlines project-specific opportunities for investment in the water, health, agriculture, and energy sectors in the Darfur region of Western Sudan.

"Since the historic economic marginalization of Darfur is one of the prime sources of unrest, the development dossier concludes that sustainable peace will require solutions to the development crisis alongside strategies that address immediate security and humanitarian needs during the early recovery phase," Phillips said. "The Darfur development strategy takes into account competition over water resources for agriculture, livestock, and human consumption in proposing projects to address the needs of traditional farming communities in the South, northern pastoralists who migrate seasonally, and Darfuris who share rangelands, woodlands and water sources."

During his remarks at the two meetings, Phillips highlighted the significance of Canada's role as a major donor to Sudan. "Alongside the US and Norway, Canada is a leading source of aid and technical support to the people of Darfur," he said. "Given the current international climate, Canada is in an ideal position to act as the lead coordinator of the main to donor countries to ensure that security and development efforts are advanced in tandem."

Phillips also highlighted the importance of appointing a Darfur Development Coordinator within the government of Canada so that the issue can be addressed across departments and with greater efficiency and effectiveness. "In the absence of such special coordinators, various government departments often act as isolated silos. Alongside a whole of Sudan approach, we need a whole of government approach," he said.



"We are very pleased to host David Phillips in Ottawa," said Vahan Kololian, chairman of the Mosaic Institute. "His leading work at the Darfur Development Initiative shows that development and security issues cannot be viewed in isolation and that remedies to one must also take the other into account."

A poll commissioned by the Mosaic Institute last year found that significant majorities of Canadians support Canada's concerted efforts in addressing the conflict and difficult humanitarian conditions in Sudan's Darfur region.

Preliminary information on the Darfur Development Dossier can be found at the website below. Full details will be made available on August 1st.

<http://hrcolumbia.org/darfur/dossier.htm>

The Mosaic Institute is a Toronto-based organization, whose aim is to harness Canadian diversity for international peace and development.

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