

April 2005

ACBF AND THE COORDINATING ASSEMBLY OF NGOS IN SWAZILAND SIGN GRANT AGREEMENT

On 23rd April 2005, the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) and the Coordinating Assembly of NGOs in Swaziland (CANGO) signed a Grant Agreement for US\$1 000 000. The signing of the Grant Agreement follows the approval by the ACBF Executive Board in December 2004, at Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe of a funding support for CANGO, an intervention that falls within the Foundation's mandate of professionalizing the voice of civil society as one of the six core competence areas.

The Grant will strengthen the interface between the government of Swaziland and civil society for better policy formulation, implementation and evaluation. Further CANGO will benefit from the Foundation's experience in the implementation of similar projects in Eastern and Southern Africa.

Established in 1983, CANGO is the only recognized body for all non-governmental organizations in Swaziland and its primary goal is to improve the quality of life for all people in Swaziland. In line with CANGO's strategic plan, the Grant will facilitate activities which include strengthening the institutional capacity of CANGO, the promotion of good governance in the NGO sector, promotion of the contribution of NGOs to Swaziland's development, participation of non-state actors in the development policy-making process, as well as promotion of gender sensitivity in the NGO sector by encouraging and equipping NGOs to mainstream gender concerns in development programs.