



**CIVIL SOCIETY PARALLEL CONFERENCE  
ON AID EFFECTIVENESS**

**31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST AND 1<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2008**

**GHANA COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS CONFERENCE CENTRE  
ACCRA, GHANA**

**RAPPORTEUR-GENERAL'S REPORT**

**PREPARED FOR THE  
GHANA CIVIL SOCIETY AID  
EFFECTIVENESS FORUM (GCSAEF)**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PREPARED FOR THE GHANA CIVIL SOCIETY AID  
EFFECTIVENESS FORUM (GCSAEF) BY AKUNU DAKE

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The International Steering Group (ISG) of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) organised a CSO Parallel Forum to the Third High Level Forum (HLF 3) Conference on 31<sup>st</sup> August and 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008 at the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons in Accra. The conference which was supported and hosted by the Ghana Civil Society Aid Effectiveness Forum (GCSAEF) was to create space for CSOs to voice their development concerns on the Paris Declaration (PD) as regards aid architecture and Aid-Effectiveness, ensure CSOs engagement on the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) and also provide the platform to showcase their work at a Market Place. In addition, it was to enable CSOs to prepare for their participation at the Round Tables in the HLF 3 which took place in Accra from 3rd to 5th September, 2008.

Over 600 representatives from 325 CSOs and 88 countries participated in the Accra Civil Society Parallel Conference - a culminating forum of preparatory and interventionist activities by CSOs since donor country members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's Development Assistance Committee (OECD DAC), developing countries and multilateral institutions signed the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness in 2005. (See **Appendix 1** for the List of Participants)

Deliberations were carried out in plenary and roundtable sessions as well as in "Village Voices" fora and this offered the opportunity for CSOs to debate their actions on aid reform and also enabled them to finalize their recommendations to the HLF 3.

The conference was held in two frames; the first day of the conference which was internal was devoted to CSO preparatory work for the HLF 3 and the second day which was opened to the public included a Press Conference, the Launch of AID 2008 Reality Report as well as the presentation of ONE Award.

The preparatory roundtable workshops covered the following key discussion issues of the HLF 3:

- Country Ownership
- Harmonization
- Managing for Results and Development Impact
- Alignment
- Making Mutual Accountability Real
- Applying a Sectoral Approach
- The Role of Civil Society
- Aid Effectiveness in Fragile States and Conflict Situations
- The Changing Aid Architecture

There were 24 Village Voices workshops meant to create a broad range engagement with donors and governments.

## **2.0 OPENING PLENARY OF THE CSO PREPARATORY SESSION**

In his welcome statement Siapha Kamara (SEND Foundation) noted that, the impressive infrastructural development in and around Accra and the consistent economic indicators of development for the past six years have not translated into actual elimination of poverty and unemployment, the provision of adequate social amenities, fostering gender equity or narrowing the inequality gaps. The good news, though, is that there are vibrant and active civil society groups that are spearheading the struggle to overcome these challenges through their various networks at the local, district, regional and international levels.

He intimated that, through the evaluation workshops at the district, regional and national levels, the challenges confronting the poor since the implementation of the Paris Declaration in Ghana were determined. The main conclusion of the report, suggests that the issues of gender, environment and production for the domestic markets and local industries are least favoured by international development aid.

He expressed the hope that the Accra Conference would offer the platform for the strengthening of existing networks and energize new alliances to ensure that the critical issues of social justice and gender equality, sustainable livelihood and food security, human rights, good governance and accountability, environmental protection, access to clean and safe drinking water and proper shelter for the poor continue to become the actual pillars of determining the efficacy of international development aid.

Cecilia Alemany (Association of Women's Rights in Development – AWID) mentioned that only 14 CSOs from OECD and non OECD member States were present when the Paris Declaration (PD) was signed in 2005. There was need for a new framework to change aid relationships and to make it more accountable. She noted that, whilst they could agree on the principles, there were immense challenges about implementation.

She stated that, it was at the Nairobi World Social Forum that a group decided to strategize on how to deal with this new framework on aid. Independent groups were working on these issues and it was at the beginning of 2007, through an OECD initiative that an Ad Hoc group started working concretely towards HLF 3.

On his part, Charles Mutasa (AFRODAD) indicated that the Advisory Group embarked on wide consultation on key stakeholders and partners on how aid could be made more effective.

Some of the issues raised by the CSOs included:

- Making sure that the process went beyond aid effectiveness to development effectiveness.
- Employing innovative and visionary ideas.
- Ensuring democratic ownership based on the actual needs of beneficiaries of projects.
- Participation of CSOs in practical and not cosmetic ways.
- That the CSO-AfDB meeting in Rwanda was to examine particularly the Accra Agenda and feed into it.
- Meetings on a diversity of domains in agriculture, climate, gender, debt, democratic ownership, labour etcetera in relation to aid effectiveness.
- At least 80 participants from the CSO Forum will participate in the HLF 3 in order to advocate the concerns of the CSOs to the Ministerial Plenary and other fora of the HLF.

Bakary Doumbia (FECONG) stated the CSOs decided to carry out a global independent process on improvement of aid effectiveness. These were motivated by the following considerations:

- That the PD focuses on aid effectiveness and does not take into account development effectiveness.
- That harmonization with government priorities and alignment to these priorities as captured in the fundamental principles of the PD are not compatible with civil society which considers diversity and autonomy as an advantage and not as a drawback.
- The application of the PD to CSOs will reduce them to the role of donors and service providers whereas they are multi dimensional development actors.
- The CSOs view that the Paris Declaration could not apply to them as they exercise a lot of development roles and are not only donors and service providers. They however lauded the spirit of the signatories of the PD for improving their efficiency including the management of technical aspects of their work.

He mentioned that, finally the process was embodied in the final draft of the AAA, which will cover the period from January 2009 to December 2011 and shall bring together all CSOs around the world.

He concluded by enumerating the key objectives of the Open Forum for CSOs Effectiveness as follows:

- Develop a worldwide appropriate inclusive and participatory process that is gender-sensitive with equal representation from the North and South;
- Deepen knowledge and build capacity among CSOs regarding their effectiveness as development actors;
- Deepen their knowledge and understanding for consensus building on guiding principles as development actors.
- Adapt and develop standards to implement according to national, regional and sectoral contexts;
- Create a political dialogue with donors and governments for the recognition of the voice and specific roles of CSOs as development actors.

Liz Steele (CONCORD), a co-discussant outlined some of the core principles underpinning the CSO effectiveness process as follows:

- It is an open, inclusive and transparent process and as such it is credible and accountable. It captures country-based sectoral/thematic regional and global processes involving CSOs from the North and South.
- Diversity – as diverse actors operating in very different contexts, the Open Forum ensures that no single international “code of conduct” is imposed but that a learning space and process is evolved where CSOs would agree on working tools and mechanisms to be used at local, national/regional levels and to which CSOs can be held accountable.
- Multi-stakeholder appropriate – it is important to interact with all stakeholder groups, engage donors, governments and communities throughout the process.

Yao Graham (TWN) and Lucy Hayes (EURODAD) presented the **CSO Draft Statement**, stating that draft statement which has been on their website for a while now was a summary of key demands made to serve a number of purposes. The Statement was finalised the following day and presented to the media and to the Ministers at during the HLF 3.

### **3.0 KEY ISSUES FROM ROUNDTABLE PREPARATORY WORKSHOPS**

The Roundtable Sessions were organised to enable Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to prepare for their participation at the Roundtables of the High Level Forum III which were devoted to the following:

- Country Ownership
- Harmonization
- Managing for Results and Development Impact
- Alignment
- Making Mutual Accountability Real
- Applying Sectoral Approach
- The Role of Civil Society
- Aid Effectiveness in Fragile States and Conflict Situations
- The Changing Aid Architecture

The essential thrust of the Roundtable discussions espoused the urgent necessity for human rights, gender equality, decent work and environmental sustainability to be made explicit objectives of aid. Secondly, that, development aid should be seen in its symbiotic relationship and interaction with trade, debt, domestic and international resource mobilization and the international governance system.

The emergent key issues were as follows:

#### **3.1 Country Ownership**

- CSOs encounter problems when engaging as CSOs in development advocacy or service delivery due to restrictive or even repressive policies and actions from governments aimed at limiting or even squeezing them out of existence.
- The situation is even acute in fragile states where the exercise of democratic ownership has become increasingly difficult. Testimonies from Darfur and Mauritania illustrate by its very denial the need for a rights based and effective enabling environment.
- Parliaments and media are fundamental actors and CSO allies within the democratic ownership paradigm, although they often face the same problems of involuntary compliance with ruling powers or are unable to act as CSOs.
- There is also the issue of failing capacity which is recognized as one of the main challenges for CSOs with respect to democratic ownership.
- Full transparency and accessibility of information is also a fundamental concern and should be taken up under the commitments of the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA)
- The need to create and ensure the development of a rights based enabling environment for democratic ownership should be raised forcefully at the HLF. This should be done within the context of adopting clear definitions and measurement instruments that allow CSOs to make the national democratic ownership operational.

- It is also to be noted that only a rights based ownership approach will allow meaningful and genuine partnerships and consultations.
- Further, the enabling environment for democratic ownership should be based on the broad international development agenda and not by World Bank driven indicators and measurement instruments.
- There are internationally recognised and adopted standards and statutes on key concerns of gender equality, environmental sustainability, labour and decent work.
- The international rights framework includes obligations for States to consult and engage critical stakeholders and social partners on development policies for poverty eradication. This also implies the conferring of rights which empower CSOs to full and sustained participation in development policy-making.
- There is therefore the obligation to broaden the scope of the measurement instruments, both in the content and in its institutional ownership. CSOs should therefore move away from the World Bank approach and rather gravitate towards an inclusive international framework that allows all stakeholders, including the specialized agencies, to participate in their own right in monitoring democratic ownership.
- Conventions, monitored by the diversity of specialized agencies should form part of that framework. International agreements and conventions such as Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Platform for Action; the ILO conventions 87 and 98 on Freedom of Associations and the right for collective bargaining and the ILO Decent Work Agenda are important references. The UN Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the framework of the UN Charter on Human Rights and other International Conventions and agreements also offer empowering provisions and monitoring indicators.

### **3.2. Harmonization**

Harmonization was defined as an old concept of the Paris Declaration. It is essentially to reduce transaction cost. Nordic countries are very interested in harmonization among themselves. Germany for example is interested in budget support but keen to guard against corruption and graft. Donors have generally been concerned with self protection. African governments generally have no policy in place and the framework is therefore not taken into consideration in dealing with the concerns for accountability and transparency.

The essential challenges identified were:

- Capacity problems in the Ministries of Finance.
- Donors have developed a coherent framework of coordinating themselves
- There is no linkage to national budgets and donors are those who are manning the process,
- Donors creativity and flexibility are affected

- Donors gang up against poor countries for failing to improve their systems and this puts pressure on recipient countries
- It has an effect on CSOs funding
- Budget support is very problematic.

The recommendations made were the following:

- Allow countries to choose between GBS and SWAPs
- Put in place a national observatory to monitor how this is working
- Joint donor –government agreement should be encouraged
- Need to have security in harmonization.
- Harmonize CSOs work
- Aid should not linked to a government
- Take into account the concern of women in PD
- CSOs should create a network that should benefit them in AEA and should find innovative ways of ensuring that their views are incorporated.
- HRs are key to this approach
- Budget support should not be one size fits all.
- Budget support should not be mixed with harmonization
- Syndication of donors can be problematic.
- Naming and shaming could be useful with the use of data.
- Southern governments should strengthen institutions that work with donors
- Institutionalizing is a necessity
- The agenda on harmonization should be clear
- There should be a differentiation between loans and grants
- Strengthen the role of CSOs and their funding in the national context to assist governments for innovative ideas and approaches.
- National government and Donor priorities should be clearly defined
- More dialogue between government and CSOs is required in the harmonization process
- Harmonization is dependent on other pillars and so it is important to get the other frameworks right.

### **3.3 Managing for Results and Development Impact**

Managing for Development Results is probably the most important and neglected aid effectiveness debate.

Messages for the HLF were the following:

- Development results from aid must be measured against aid recipient's priorities and views based on democratic ownership and in line with international commitments like the MDGs, International Human Rights Law, Beijing Platform for Action, CEDAW, UN and the ILO.

- Aid must be monitored at the country and international levels in a transparent and participatory manner with the involvement of all stakeholders including vulnerable groups
- Where necessary, capacity building should be available to enable all stakeholders to participate fully in the process
- Aid must also be monitored in an independent and non-discriminatory manner and must avoid being overly bureaucratic
- Results must be assessed over a long-time frame to enable outcomes to be fully captured and realised

### **3.4 Alignment**

It was noted that the HLF roundtable will address questions around 4 key themes:

- alignment to policies and objectives
- alignment to time horizons (predictability);
- alignment to country systems
- alignment to markets (tied aid)

The key issues covered under the Alignment principle were:

- Use of country systems,
- Predictability,
- Technical Assistance,
- Tied aid,
- Use of Parallel Project Implementation Units and aid recorded on budget.

Messages to the Roundtable on Alignment were as follows:

- Political recognition that ownership and alignment are inseparable issues. and Need to emphasise that progress on alignment cannot occur without progress on ownership.
- On Tied aid and Technical Assistance, it is to be noted that whilst progress has officially been recorded, in reality the real lack of progress is holding back genuine alignment
- Reporting by donors on alignment has been misleading on a number of areas and this must be addressed.
- Use of country systems is key to ownership and what we see are donor governments failing to use systems on the basis of their quality. Whilst a number of partner countries have registered real improvements to their PFM and procurement systems, this has not been matched by use of those systems by donors.
- There is the need to see more concrete commitments on all alignment targets including untying food aid and Technical Assistance, commitments to make 100% of Technical Assistance fully owned by partner country governments (already an additional EU commitment); default use of country systems by donors and explanation of why those systems are not used on the basis of

quality (an EU recommendation), coupled with commitments to help governments improve their systems if increased quality are needed; commitments to provide aid on a 3-5 year basis.

### **3.5 Making Mutual Accountability Real**

Issues to be raised at the HLF Roundtable were as follows:

- Accountability is the most crucial in the evaluation process.
- There must be mutual accountability between Governments, CSOs and the people at all levels. The Paris Declaration does not capture all dimensions and moreover does not contain mechanisms to make developing countries apply it at all levels of government. Donors are accountable to their tax payers and National Governments to the media, CSOs and the people.
- Accountability calls for transparency and openness
- Vertical accountability should be reversed in favour of downward accountability
- Information is critical, transparent, holistic for accountability
- Accountability should be broadened to cover not only the political leadership but also the private sector including international multinational corporations
- There is the need to move from the neocolonial accountability to a point where accountability is to the people and this is where the CSOs need to play a critical role.
- There must be an internationally agreed standard, a normative framework
- The way to implement MA in developing countries should be defined for all the actors at national level, social actors, to include all developing partners
- Commitments should be measurable
- There must be rules and procedures to govern the process and actors held accountable like at the WB, IMF, OECD monitoring mechanisms to ensure effectiveness of programmes
- Inclusive frameworks evolved should recognize current power imbalances that take into account downward accountability to ensure inclusiveness and to take marginalized groups into account.
- Accountability is multidimensional; countries in the North are to account for the billions of dollars stashed in their banks; multinationals exploiting African mineral resources must be held accountable and the contracts signed with nations be made available to CSOs etcetera
- This calls for capacity building at country level
- PD is not a commitment. Amendments should be made to take actors to task.
- Timeframes should be set for achievement of targets and access to information bills passed to enable the constituents have the requisite information
- Concrete steps have to be taken regarding power relations between donors and recipients and between Governments and citizens
- Aid can never be better and therefore exit strategies need to be designed to enable countries to come out of the syndrome

### **3.6. Applying Sectoral Approach**

The following issues were raised to guide the interventions on the HLF Roundtable:

#### **On Ownership:**

- The sector level is seen as the place where multi stakeholder collaboration can take place. The development of programmes and sectoral strategies should go beyond governments (donors and recipients) to fully integrate CSOs as development actors.
- Sector wide needs assessment should inform the formulation of development priorities at the national level.

#### **On Capacity building and institutional development:**

- Capacity building and institutional development at the sector level should be longer term and demand-driven, and also target CSOs as key partners.

#### **On Increased Sectoral Investments:**

- ARD is in need of significant financial resources to provide basic science and human services, build roads, and develop other key infrastructures and institutions.
- Direct budget support is not a one size fits all mechanism. Sectoral approaches should pay close attention to the overall development finance debate.
- Harmonization, alignment, and division of labor among donors should not lead to the creation of “orphan sectors”. These principles should also be attentive to country priorities –that is, the right to food self-sufficiency – and to the needs and priorities of all stakeholders, including CSOs.
- Sectoral approaches should use a mix of funding/aid instruments to achieve sustainable results across each sector and prevent intra-sectoral disparities; i.e., Health.

#### **On Gender:**

- Gender priorities should be mainstreamed across all sectors, given gender’s multiplying effect on poverty reduction programmes.
- Sector level priorities, strategies, and programmes should integrate the voices and concerns of disadvantaged groups and communities such as youth, indigenous, and ethnic minorities.

- Pay attention to non-sector specific policy reform and conditionalities that could affect sectoral development, that is, Structural Adjustment.

### **3.7 The Role of Civil Society**

Issues to be raised at the High Level Forum included the following :

- Stressing the strength of CSOs in its diversity and the importance of addressing issues in their country and regional context – such as issues affecting CSOs in new members of the EU and the former Soviet Union, or CSOs representing people who have been systemically and socially excluded such as the interests of disabled people.
- Stress the roles of CSOs in development effectiveness, making the connections between aid, trade and debt, including resource outflows from developing countries.
- Stress the fundamental importance of the enabling environment related to the policies of donor governments and developing country governments for civil society to be as effective as development actors as possible. Full transparency is a key enabling condition for all aspects of CSO effectiveness. But we also acknowledged that many of our governments, in the South but also in the North, put major restrictions on CSOs (e.g. security legislation) and sometimes attack human rights defenders, trade unionists, and leaders of peoples organizations.
- CSO legitimacy and accountability. Need to approach these issues with acknowledgement that they are important ones for CSOs to address, but that CSOs should also do so from strength arising from the experience in communities, in national and international advocacy.

### **3.8 Aid Effectiveness in Fragile States and Conflict Situations**

The recommendations for the HLF were:

- Donors should identify causes of conflicts and adopt conflict prevention approaches and should reach all who have been affected or further marginalised by conflict
- Empower women and civil society with skills for conflict prevention and conflict. This should therefore include gender specific framework and to implement resolution 1325.
- Develop monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for gender equality
- Broader question of aid to States that foster conflict within and across countries.
- Pressing beyond the Donors to stop aid when it is financing militarization and is used as a threat to security
- Be careful about the use of ‘voluntary’ in the AAA
- Develop mechanisms to remove administrative rigidity in delivering aid in transitional and post conflict situation
- Make provisions for programmes targeted at employment creation and delivering of services before state building to prevent further conflict
- Reconstruct the traumatized individuals, not just the state infrastructure.

- Women are universally the greater victims of conflict. from a labour perspective women are forced into dangerous and degrading human conditions so donors and other actors should implement their commitments to human rights and gender equality especially, CEDAW, BPA etcetera.
- On the monitoring and implementation under section E, we should remove 'on voluntary basis' and use a stronger language
- Make provisions to prevent the militarization and the securitization on aid in the context of fragile states
- Include reference to existing human rights and humanitarian law frameworks and transitional justice instruments.
- Make clear distinction between military and humanitarian actions

### **3.9 The Changing Aid Architecture**

Main points for the roundtable on International Aid Architecture should echo the following among others:

- At Country level we need tripartite monitoring with donors, governments and civil society.
- Transparency is crucial – need to make information about aid public to citizens
- Should not lose gender aspect in new aid architecture: root gender in the process.
- We need to shift the aid reform process to a more inclusive institution (not the OECD).
- CSOs need enabling environment/ more space to hold governments to account.
- Global Funds need better governance, stronger capacity building and impact evaluation processes
- Need for regional institutions to take stronger role in aid processes.
- Need to bring other actors into overall aid framework
- South-South cooperation has clear benefits, but lacks funding mechanisms.
- Southern governments and countries to take more control, accept more responsibility for management of aid. Donors should end conditionality regimes and support southern plans.

### **4.0 CLOSING THE CSO PREPARATORY SESSION**

The speakers were Kumi Naidoo (CIVICUS) and Wahu Kaara (KENDREN).

Kumi Naidoo expressed his appreciation to GCSAEF for the good work done in hosting the CSO Forum. He also thanked the delegates for their patience and understanding particularly in accommodating the challenges that confronted the conference on the first day.

Wahu Kaara (KENDREN) on her part said what the Forum had witnessed in the day would be in vain if participants were not able to multiply these voices. The issues that were discussed were about power and resources and these are political questions with implications for the destiny of humanity. She implored participants to be strategic and seek better aid, economic liberation, environmental justice and an end to poverty. Aid, trade and debt are one and the same and must be defined from the perspective of the poor and marginalized, she concluded.

## **5.0 PUBLIC SESSION – OFFICIAL OPENING**

The session was chaired by the Kumi Naidoo (CIVICUS).

Dr. Esi Sutherland-Addy, the chair of the GCSAEF questioned the effectiveness of the PD which is undermined by political and technical constraints and hoped that the Forum will provide the framework for the debate on the Declaration.

She stated that Ghana has over a year traversed an extensive phase of consultations involving about 900 persons based on a set of carefully developed criteria among which was a deliberate self- introspection within Civil Society. The purpose was to determine what role Civil Society needed to play to ensure Aid Effectiveness in Ghana.

She observed that, worrying gaps were revealed in key areas such as democratic ownership, accountability, environmental impact and on social systems of policy decisions and this raised serious questions about the contribution of Government and donors.

She asserted that the bottom line is not the refinement of the PD or the architecture of the delivery but the commitment needed for action to improve the lot of humanity.

On his part, Tony Tujan, Chairperson of the CSO International Steering Group compared the 14 CSOs in HLF 2 in 2005 and the 800 CSOs in Accra in 2008 and stated that, this was certainly an improvement but was also quick to note that more complex issues of aid, trade and debt have been put on the table.

He referred to behavioural and attitudinal change and made the demand that everyone stresses and commits to maximum reform for aid effectiveness while bearing in mind the politics of the aid system and be circumspect about what is achievable in Accra. This makes it imperative for CSOs to do more, in terms of lobbying and to protest against governments and donors who do not have the poor in their hearts and minds and who have empires to protect.

In his keynote address, Honourable Kwadwo Baah-Wiredu, the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning of Ghana, speaking on his own behalf and on behalf of the President of Ghana, expressed his belief in mutual responsibility and appealed to donors to improve the basic principles that all stakeholders agreed on. He stated that

the political will to develop our societies exists as a social contract signed by governments to improve what others have done.

## **6.0 PUBLIC SESSION – SPEAKERS PLENARY**

The session was chaired by Kumi Naidoo (CIVICUC) and Fathima Burnad (SRED). The Honourable Mary Robinson, Chair, Council of Women World Leaders and Former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights stated that mutual accountability is the weakest component of the principles from Paris to Accra and there is therefore the need to think innovatively about it.

She noted that 2008 is the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human Rights which is sadly being celebrated in a world situation with indices of a \$2 a day scenario, increasing child mortality, poverty and the high cost of food. She echoed Nelson Mandela's advice that there is the need to listen to those who are invisible, those who are silent and those who have no voices.

In his presentation Honourable Jan Cedergran, Chair of the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness OECD/DAC posited that aid effectiveness and the Paris agenda are important because they are political and not necessarily technical nor procedural. Aid is not a goal in itself but must be linked to its development effect of reducing poverty and improving the livelihoods of poor people and promoting gender equality, human rights, environmental sustainability and democratic societies. It is about politics and requires the involvement of all stakeholders in the developmental arena.

Honourable Jan Cedergran noted that, Civil Society has earned the pride of place as a development actor with clout even within the AG. He was also of the opinion that traditional power relations are going to be affected profoundly as a result of the presence of China, India and non DAC-donors, which are mobilizing resources and private capital into Africa and there is therefore a strong need for CSOs to engage these actors to secure national ownerships and avoid fragmentation of aid.

He stated that many delegates may be disappointed about the HLF III AAA because it has to be consensus statement; a compromise document that does not leave important players outside. Secondly, Accra is just one stop on a long road ahead focused on the future and thirdly, the recognition of the role of Civil Society will have a strong long term political influence both in donor and partner countries.

The Honourable Rafael Mariano Chair, Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (Philippine Peasant Movement), Member, House of Representatives of Philippines lauded the role of CSOs in pushing for human rights and development as a core issue, and that the plight of the world's vast peasantry must be the focus as 3 out of every 4 people in the underdeveloped countries live in the rural areas and depend directly and indirectly on agriculture for their livelihood. Ineffective aid thus affects millions of poor rural peasants and billions of impoverished people across the globe.

He recognized the limitations of the PD and called for more democratic ownership and for economies to serve the people rather than profits. The “Aid effectiveness agenda” must focus on promoting democratic, equitable and sustainable development. It is also a welcome idea that the quality of aid has been an issue in the process. Aid is not charity and it should be directed to where people actually need it at the rural communities, he asserted.

He recognized the limitations and narrowness of the PD in the objectives and mechanisms for development. It gives scant attention to human rights, gender equality, social justice and sustainable development and focuses on official institutions which have no place for civil society, he said.

## **7.0 PRESENTATION OF KEY MESSAGES FROM CSO STATEMENT ON AID EFFECTIVENESS**

Roberto Bissio of the ISG presented the key messages contained in the CSO Statement stating that the Paris Process looks like a failure and Accra should provide a way for a change in the implementation and the definition of “effectiveness” by setting new targets and indicators. Donors have not delivered on their commitments and need to evolve detailed plans on how to achieve the targets.

He highlighted the following as being areas by which the Accra HLF will be judged as a credible process:

- Rewriting the definition of ownership so that communities, all stakeholders become part of the process of ownership.
- Time-bound and monitorable targets.
- Ambitious targets for technical assistance to ensure that technical assistance is demand-driven and effective at capacity building.
- A commitment from donors and recipients to make the aid system more accountable through greater transparency, communication of information to the public and the establishment of independent and citizen-led monitoring and evaluation systems.

On Key Messages of CSOs Effectiveness Exploration Forum, Justin Kilcullen (CONCORD) presenting for The Global Facilitation Group was of the opinion that the PD though insufficient, could be engaged on CSOs’ own terms and not ignored.

It was noted that Paris is not a global tool, and that, there is the need for the CSOs to develop their own process reflecting their distinct role and values and emphasizing ‘development effectiveness’ and not aid effectiveness.

He indicated that, the most important aspect is the governance of the process.

## 7.1 CSO STATEMENTS

The **International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)** Statement noted that the Accra HLF took place against the background of a critical global crisis in the area of food, energy, debt, financial market slowdown which threatens to plunge the world into a deeper impoverishment. This, the statement attributed to wrong policy arrangements and choices and failure on the part of donor countries to meet binding commitments and developing countries failing to do more. It also recognized that the PD is just a first step in the establishment of a framework for aid management.

The Statement appealed to both multilateral and bilateral donors to support ILO decent work strategies and country programmes and recognized the centrality of decent work for poverty eradication.

The Statement of the **Accra Women's International Forum** noted that out of the 1.4 billion persons living under the poverty line of USD 1.25, the majority are women and children.

It mentioned the essential need to analyze the implication of aid effectiveness agenda for the advancement of gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment, and to consider how future aid management will tackle this fundamental issue. It drew attention to the political contexts of development policies and the neo-liberal model that is consistently failing to deliver the promised results of growth for all but rather is perpetuating a syndrome of social exclusion, injustice and increasing inequalities.

It also expressed concerns about the negative impacts of privatization of basic services, climate change and food security which continuously undermine sustainable development.

The **Joint Ecumenical Message** for the Accra HLF noted that inclusion and participation are indispensable ingredients of any development policy. The effectiveness of aid should primarily be measured in terms of sustained and positive impact on poverty eradication, respect of human rights, and justice for all.

It stated that Churches and faith-based organizations are working to ensure that the common good of all people is achieved.

The Statement therefore makes the call for the need to have meaningful engagement of all stakeholders; for national policy to be influenced by the community level actions and for Donors and recipient Governments to make concrete commitments to greater transparency as well as have the responsibility to promote inclusive frameworks to ensure proper accountability systems at all levels.

## **8.0 PRESS CONFERENCE**

Representatives of the ISG and the GCSAEF addressed a Press Conference at which the CSO Statement was also presented.

## **9.0 VILLAGE VOICES**

The Village Voices engagement fora provided opportunity for a wide range of issues and concerns which CSOs have been engaged on in the aid effectiveness agenda. See **Appendix 2** for the detailed listing and abstracts that informed the discussions at the various Village Voices Sessions

## **10.0 CLOSING PLENARY AND PRESENTATION OF ONE AWARD**

The session chairs were Jan Dereymaeker (ITUC) and Fathima Burnad (SRED)

Edith Jibunoh, Africa Outreach Manager of One Award said it was a challenge selecting a winner because of the exceptionally high standard of the applications submitted. Many organizations were considered among which are:

1. KDF of Uganda (Water and Sanitation)
2. SEND Foundation (social development project on the MDGs and monitoring of essential services)
3. Association of Edible Organization of West Africa (on food fortification, a staple product intended to be popularized in all ECOWAS member countries).
4. France Africa – Documentation on AIDS, TB, Malaria

Dr. K.Y. Amoako presented the award to the winner Development Communications Network based in Lagos, Nigeria, whose primary focus is actively engaging the media in the development process with strong emphasis on science and public health journalism.

## **11.0 CLOSING SESSION**

In her closing remarks, Marta Lago (International Gender Trade Network) said that, Latin America rejected the whole concept of aid as it favoured a top-bottom approach to development. For centuries their resources had been exploited and carted away and rain forests destroyed, thus endangering food security. The development model in Third World countries is subordinated to the neo-liberal globalization which has created a cheap salaries syndrome and deepened inequalities with people living in abject poverty while the opposite is increasing revenues and profits of transnational companies. She advocated for wealth distribution otherwise, development, growth and wealth will become empty and hollow concepts.

Yao Graham (TWN) noted that the meeting took place against the backdrop of a situation of deepening food crisis, international economic recession, North-South inequities, trade injustice and increased debt burden, the increasing role of Bretton Woods Institutions in the affairs of independent sovereign states, cheap returns and profits from extractable and other resources for transnational corporations, climate change, and the general deteriorating conditions of life of the poor, women and children.

He indicated that any discussion of aid effectiveness has therefore to be situated in the discussion of the politics of aid. While examining the issue of aid dependence, there is the need to properly situate the expectations and look beyond the possibilities of Accra. He asserted that, the OECD framework is not representative enough and developing countries should be committed to multilateralism as a line of pursuing development financing.

He advocated the need to push hard to achieve results in terms of the trade justice, debt eradication, food security, gender equality and women's empowerment, climate justice and international and national resource mobilization agenda so as to pale aid into insignificance.

# **CIVIL SOCIETY PARALLEL CONFERENCE ON AID EFFECTIVENESS**

**31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST AND 1<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2008**

**GHANA COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS CONFERENCE CENTRE  
ACCRA, GHANA**

## **RAPPORTEUR-GENERAL'S REPORT**

**PREPARED FOR THE GHANA CIVIL SOCIETY AID  
EFFECTIVENESS FORUM (GCSAEF) BY AKUNU DAKE**

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The International Steering Group (ISG) of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) organized a CSO Parallel Forum to the Third High Level Forum (HLF 3) Conference on 31<sup>st</sup> August and 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008 at the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons in Accra. The conference which was supported and hosted by the Ghana Civil Society Aid Effectiveness Forum (GCSAEF) was to create space for CSOs to voice their development concerns on the Paris Declaration (PD) as regards aid architecture and Aid-Effectiveness, ensure CSOs engagement on the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) and also provide the platform to showcase their work at a Market Place. In addition, it was to enable CSOs to prepare for their participation at the Round Tables in the HLF 3 which took place in Accra from 3rd to 5th September, 2008.

Over 600 representatives from 325 CSOs and 88 countries participated in the Accra Civil Society Parallel Conference - a culminating forum of preparatory and interventionist activities by CSOs since donor country members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's Development Assistance Committee (OECD DAC), developing countries and multilateral institutions signed the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness in 2005. (See **Appendix 1** for the List of Participants)

Deliberations were carried out in plenary and roundtable sessions as well as in "Village Voices" fora and this offered the opportunity for CSOs to debate their actions on aid reform and also enabled them to finalize their recommendations to the HLF 3.

The conference was held in two frames; the first day of the conference which was internal was devoted to CSO preparatory work for the HLF 3 and the second day which was opened to the public included a Press Conference, the Launch of AID 2008 Reality Report as well as the presentation of ONE Award.

The preparatory roundtable workshops covered the following key discussion issues of the HLF 3:

- Country Ownership
- Harmonization
- Managing for Results and Development Impact
- Alignment
- Making Mutual Accountability Real
- Applying a Sectoral Approach
- The Role of Civil Society
- Aid Effectiveness in Fragile States and Conflict Situations
- The Changing Aid Architecture

There were 24 Village Voices workshops meant to create a broad range engagement with donors and governments.

## **2.0 OPENING PLENARY OF THE CSO PREPARATORY SESSION**

The opening plenary of the CSO preparatory session was co-chaired by Jorge Balbis (ALDP) and Nurgul Djanaeva (FWN).

Jorge Balbis traced the process to Accra indicating that a network of CSOs and several others have been working assiduously towards the CSO parallel conference. Nurgul Djanaeva emphasized the significance of women's issues, which should not be ignored and that is the reason why over 200 women from across the globe are represented at the Forum to convince the leaders to include women's issues in the outcomes. She acknowledged the international meeting of women as well as of Trades Unions that had been held in Accra the previous day as key to the strategic preparatory effort to the CSO conference.

In his welcome statement Siapha Kamara (SEND Foundation) expressed the delight of the GCSAEF in hosting the Conference in Accra, the capital city of Ghana with a population of two million inhabitants which he described as the “Political Mecca” of Africa. Accra, he asserted, has served as a platform for the crystallization of ideas, strategies and energies of African militants, activists and leaders in their struggles for political emancipation and the wellbeing of humanity.

He noted however that, the impressive infrastructural development in and around Accra and the consistent economic indicators of development for the past six years have not translated into actual elimination of poverty and unemployment, the provision of adequate housing, access to clean drinking water, fostering gender equity or narrowing the inequality gaps. The good news, though, is that there are vibrant and active civil society groups that are spearheading the struggle to overcome these challenges through their various networks at the local, district, regional and international levels.

He intimated that, it was through the collaborative efforts of these organisations and their international partners that the GCSAEF was born. Through the evaluation workshops at the district, regional and national levels, the challenges confronting the poor since the implementation of the Paris Declaration in Ghana were determined. He emphasized the main conclusion of the report, which suggests that the issues of gender, environment and production for the domestic markets and local industries are least favoured by international development aid.

Concluding, Siapha Kamara was of the hope that the Accra Conference would offer the platform for the strengthening of existing networks and energize new alliances to ensure that the critical issues of social justice and gender equality, sustainable livelihood and food security, human rights, good governance and accountability, environmental protection, access to clean and safe drinking water and proper shelter for the poor continue to become the actual pillars of determining the efficacy of international development aid.

In her **Introduction to the Process: Road to Accra, HLF III and the International CSO Process** Cecilia Alemany (Association of Women's Rights in Development – AWID) mentioned that only 14 CSOs from OECD and non OECD member States were present when the Paris Declaration (PD) was signed in 2005. There was need for a new framework to change aid relationships and to make it more accountable. She noted that, whilst they could agree on the principles, there were immense challenges about implementation.

She stated that, it was at the Nairobi World Social Forum that a group decided to strategize on how to deal with this new framework on aid. Independent groups were working on these issues and it was at the beginning of 2007, through an OECD initiative that an Ad Hoc group started working concretely towards HLF 3.

The International Steering Group emerged at the Nairobi and there developed a strategic relationship with the DAC's Working Party. The group reviewed the PD based on the principles of Monterrey signed in 2002 in which there was the need for a strong political commitment towards aid and investment. The process of dialogue was engendered for two different groups to address key concerns on a common platform dubbed Better Aid and this culminated in the adoption of 16 recommendations on the Framework.

She observed that, unlike the World Bank's approach of using certain evaluation and monitoring tools on debt, poverty reduction, and international financing, the PD was narrow in approach as regards implementation and monitoring at the country level. This therefore necessitated a critical engagement on the principles themselves and how they are to be monitored.

Secondly, Cecilia Alemany indicated that the PD Framework was donor-driven and developing countries' perspectives were not taken into account. There was therefore the need for an equitable method, elimination of conditionalities and the need for open spaces for the CSOs. The donor community wanted a discussion of the CSO's

recommendations on aid effectiveness in a broader framework responsive to human rights, gender equity and environmental sustainability. There was therefore a strong push from outside to create the needed balance in the process to make it more transparent, inclusive, participatory and accountable.

She informed the conference that, thus, 80 CSO representatives (as compared to 14 in 2005) from all over the world would be accredited participants in HLF 3 but was quick to add that being there does not necessarily mean they could change the agendas. She added that the HLF 3 will have the following programme structure; a market place, roundtables and ministerial plenary

On his part, Charles Mutasa (AFRODAD) stated that, the challenge of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2000 was how to finance development in Third World countries. In 2002, a financing for development conference was held in Mexico and the focus was on financial and technical cooperation for development. In 2003, the first HLF was held in Rome with an emphasis on harmonization of donor policies and procedures. This was followed in Marakesh with a conference on the management of development issues.

He observed that, in all these efforts, the CSOs have embarked on economic justice campaigns and sought to deepen aid effectiveness from their perspective and to shape the discourse on these development agendas. HLF 2 saw the signing of the PD and brought together 60 partner countries and 30 development agencies culminating in the adoption of the 5 pillars.

The essential critique of the PD was that CSO's were not effectively involved. This led to the establishment of the Advisory Group in 2007 comprising three donor institutions, three partner countries and three CSOs each from the North and South. The mandate of the Group was to prepare proposals for consideration at the HLF 3 and also to facilitate a multi-stakeholder participation including Governments, CSOs, development

partner and aid agencies on how to make aid effective as well as ensure the role of CSOs in this process.

In carrying out this task, the Advisory Group took into consideration; concepts, issues, syntheses, case studies on good practices and embarked on wide consultation on key stakeholders and partners on how aid could be made more effective.

Some of the issues raised by the CSOs included:

- Making sure that the process went beyond aid effectiveness to development effectiveness.
- Employing innovative and visionary ideas.
- Ensuring democratic ownership based on the actual needs of beneficiaries of projects.
- Participation of CSOs in practical and not cosmetic ways.
- That the CSO-AfDB meeting in Rwanda was to examine particularly the Accra Agenda and feed into it.
- Meetings on a diversity of domains in agriculture, climate, gender, debt, democratic ownership, labour etcetera in relation to aid effectiveness.
- At least 80 participants from the CSO Forum will participate in the HLF 3 in order to advocate the concerns of the CSOs to the Ministerial Plenaries and other fora of the HLF.

On **CSOs, Aid Effectiveness and the CSOs Effectiveness Process**, Bakary Doumbia (FECONG) stated that the reflections on the effectiveness of CSOs took place at national, regional and international levels through the initiative by the Advisory Group on CSOs and Aid Effectiveness. During the consultations, especially at Ottawa, the CSOs decided to carry out a global independent process on improvement of aid effectiveness. These were motivated by the following considerations:

- That the PD focuses on aid effectiveness and does not take into account development effectiveness.

- That harmonization with government priorities and alignment to these priorities as captured in the fundamental principles of the PD are not compatible with civil society which considers diversity and autonomy as an advantage and not as a drawback.
- The application of the PD to CSOs will reduce them to the role of donors and service providers whereas they are multi dimensional development actors.
- The CSOs view that the Paris Declaration could not apply to them as they exercise a lot of development roles and are not only donors and service providers. They however lauded the spirit of the signatories of the PD for improving their efficiency including the management of technical aspects of their work.

He mentioned that, finally the process was embodied in the final draft of the AAA, which will cover the period from January 2009 to December 2011 and shall bring together all CSOs around the world.

He concluded by enumerating the key objectives of the Open Forum for CSOs Effectiveness as follows:

- Develop a worldwide appropriate inclusive and participatory process that is gender-sensitive with equal representation from the North and South;
- Deepen knowledge and build capacity among CSOs regarding their effectiveness as development actors;
- Deepen their knowledge and understanding for consensus building on guiding principles as development actors.

- Adapt and develop standards to implement according to national, regional and sectoral contexts;
- Create a political dialogue with donors and governments for the recognition of the voice and specific roles of CSOs as development actors.

Liz Steele (CONCORD), a co-discussant outlined some of the core principles underpinning the CSO effectiveness process as follows:.

- It is an open, inclusive and transparent process and as such it is credible and accountable. It captures country-based sectoral/thematic regional and global processes involving CSOs from the North and South.
- Diversity – as diverse actors operating in very different contexts, the Open Forum ensures that no single international “code of conduct” is imposed but that a learning space and process is evolved where CSOs would agree on working tools and mechanisms to be used at local, national/regional levels and to which CSOs can be held accountable.
- Multi-stakeholder appropriate – it is important to interact with all stakeholder groups, engage donors, governments and communities throughout the process.

In addressing why the Open Forum engagement is important for CSOs, she intimated that, there is the need to learn from existing initiatives to advance the process. A lot more actions are however needed to ensure impact on the underlying causes of poverty and social inequality and these can be done through partnership.

Concluding Liz Steele suggested that, the process is an opportunity for dialogue at national, regional and international level to promote aid effectiveness.

Yao Graham (TWN) and Lucy Hayes (EURODAD) presented the **CSO Draft Statement**, stating that draft statement which has been on their website for a while now was a summary of key demands made to serve a number of purposes. The statement would be presented to the Ministers at their dinner during the HLF 3. The draft is to be subjected to scrutiny by participants and final statement is to be presented at a Press Conference the following day.

Tony Tujan (IBON) and Jasmine Burley (CONCORD) introduced the **CSO Parallel Roundtable Preparatory Workshops** and offered the guidelines for the discussions at the workshops. They suggested that the Roundtables are a democratic way of arriving at CSO positions on the key Roundtable themes and encouraged participants come up with sharp key political messages that can be presented at the HLF 3.

### **3.0 KEY ISSUES FROM ROUNDTABLE PREPARATORY WORKSHOPS**

The Roundtable Sessions were organized to enable Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to prepare for their participation at the Roundtables of the High Level Forum III which were devoted to the following:

- Country Ownership
- Harmonization
- Managing for Results and Development Impact
- Alignment
- Making Mutual Accountability Real
- Applying Sectoral Approach
- The Role of Civil Society
- Aid Effectiveness in Fragile States and Conflict Situations
- The Changing Aid Architecture

The essential thrust of the Roundtable discussions espoused the urgent necessity for human rights, gender equality, decent work and environmental sustainability to be made explicit objectives of aid. Secondly, that, development aid should be seen in its

symbiotic relationship and interaction with trade, debt, domestic and international resource mobilization and the international governance system.

The emergent key issues were as follows:

### **3.1 Country Ownership**

Chair: Vagan Berthelsen (Alliance 2015)

Presenter: Emmanuel Akwetey (IDEG)

Rapporteur: Jan Dereymaeker (ITUC)

- CSOs encounter problems when engaging as CSOs in development advocacy or service delivery due to restrictive or even repressive policies and actions from governments aimed at limiting or even squeezing them out of existence.
- The situation is even acute in fragile states where the exercise of democratic ownership has become increasingly difficult. Testimonies from Darfur and Mauritania illustrate by its very denial the need for a rights based and effective enabling environment.
- Parliaments and media are fundamental actors and CSO allies within the democratic ownership paradigm, although they often face the same problems of involuntary compliance with ruling powers or are unable to act as CSOs.
- There is also the issue of failing capacity which is recognized as one of the main challenges for CSOs with respect to democratic ownership.
- Full transparency and accessibility of information is also a fundamental concern and should be taken up under the commitments of the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA)
- The need to create and ensure the development of a rights based enabling environment for democratic ownership should be raised forcefully at the HLF. This should be done within the context of adopting clear definitions and measurement instruments that allow CSOs to make the national democratic ownership operational.
- It is also to be noted that only a rights based ownership approach will allow meaningful and genuine partnerships and consultations.

- Further, the enabling environment for democratic ownership should be based on the broad international development agenda and not by World Bank driven indicators and measurement instruments.
- There are internationally recognized and adopted standards and statutes on key concerns of gender equality, environmental sustainability, labour and decent work.
- The international rights framework includes obligations for States to consult and engage critical stakeholders and social partners on development policies for poverty eradication. This also implies the conferring of rights which empower CSOs to full and sustained participation in development policy-making.
- There is therefore the obligation to broaden the scope of the measurement instruments, both in the content and in its institutional ownership. CSOs should therefore move away from the World Bank approach and rather gravitate towards an inclusive international framework that allows all stakeholders, including the specialized agencies, to participate in their own right in monitoring democratic ownership.
- Conventions, monitored by the diversity of specialized agencies should form part of that framework. International agreements and conventions such as Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Platform for Action; the ILO conventions 87 and 98 on Freedom of Associations and the right for collective bargaining and the ILO Decent Work Agenda are important references. The UN Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the framework of the UN Charter on Human Rights and other International Conventions and agreements also offer empowering provisions and monitoring indicators.

### **3.2. Harmonization**

Chair: Gwen Berge (ACT/NCA)

Presenter: Peter Lanzet (FED)

Rapporteur: Charles Mutasa (AFRODAD)

- Harmonization was defined as an old concept of the Paris Declaration. It is essentially to reduce transaction cost. Nordic countries are very interested in harmonization among themselves. Germany for example is interested in budget support but keen to guard against corruption and graft. Donors have generally been concerned with self protection. African governments generally have no policy in place and the framework is therefore not taken into consideration in dealing with the concerns for accountability and transparency.

The essential challenges identified were:

- Capacity problems in the Ministries of Finance.
- Donors have developed a coherent framework of coordinating themselves
- There is no linkage to national budgets and donors are those who are manning the process,
- Donors creativity and flexibility are affected
- Donors gang up against poor countries for failing to improve their systems and this puts pressure on recipient countries
- It has an effect on CSOs funding
- Budget support is very problematic.

The recommendations made were the following:

- Allow countries to choose between GBS and SWAPs
- Put in place a national observatory to monitor how this is working
- Joint donor –government agreement should be encouraged
- Need to have security in harmonization.
- Harmonize CSOs work
- Aid should not linked to a government
- Take into account the concern of women in PD
- CSOs should create a network that should benefit them in AEA and should finds innovative ways of ensuring that their views are incorporated.
- HRs are key to this approach

- Budget support should not be one size fits all.
- Budget support should not be mixed with harmonization
- Syndication of donors can be problematic.
- Naming and shaming could be useful with the use of data.
- Southern governments should strengthen institutions that work with donors
- Institutionalizing is a necessity
- The agenda on harmonization should be clear
- There should be a differentiation between loans and grants
- Strengthen the role of CSOs and their funding in the national context to assist governments for innovative ideas and approaches.
- National government and Donor priorities should be clearly defined
- More dialogue between government and CSOs is required in the harmonization process
- Harmonization is dependent on other pillars and so it is important to get the other frameworks right.

### **3.3 Managing for Results and Development Impact**

Chair: Hetty Kovach (OXFAM)

Rapporteur: Cecilia Alemany (AWID)

Managing for Development Results is probably the most important and neglected aid effectiveness debate.

Messages for the HLF were the following:

- Development results from aid must be measured against aid recipient's priorities and views based on democratic ownership and in line with international commitments like the MDGs, International Human Rights Law, Beijing Platform for Action, CEDAW, UN and the ILO.

- Aid must be monitored at the country and international levels in a transparent and participatory manner with the involvement of all stakeholders including vulnerable groups
- Where necessary, capacity building should be available to enable all stakeholders to participate fully in the process
- Aid must also be monitored in an independent and non-discriminatory manner and must avoid being overly bureaucratic
- Results must be assessed over a long-time frame to enable outcomes to be fully captured and realised

### **3.4 Alignment**

Chair: Justin Kilcullen (CONCORD)

Presenter: Paul O'Brien (OXFAM)

Rapporteur: Jasmine Burnley (CONCORD)

It was noted that the HLF roundtable will address questions around 4 key themes:

- alignment to policies and objectives
- alignment to time horizons (predictability);
- alignment to country systems
- alignment to markets (tied aid)

The key issues covered under the Alignment principle were:

- Use of country systems,
- Predictability,
- Technical Assistance,
- Tied aid,
- Use of Parallel Project Implementation Units and aid recorded on budget.

Messages to the Roundtable on Alignment were as follows:

- Political recognition that ownership and alignment are inseparable issues. and Need to emphasise that progress on alignment cannot occur without progress on ownership.

- On Tied aid and Technical Assistance, it is to be noted that whilst progress has officially been recorded, in reality the real lack of progress is holding back genuine alignment
- Reporting by donors on alignment has been misleading on a number of areas and this must be addressed.
- Use of country systems is key to ownership and what we see are donor governments failing to use systems on the basis of their quality. Whilst a number of partner countries have registered real improvements to their PFM and procurement systems, this has not been matched by use of those systems by donors.
- There is the need to see more concrete commitments on all alignment targets including untying food aid and Technical Assistance, commitments to make 100% of Technical Assistance fully owned by partner country governments (already an additional EU commitment); default use of country systems by donors and explanation of why those systems are not used on the basis of quality (an EU recommendation), coupled with commitments to help governments improve their systems if increased quality are needed; commitments to provide aid on a 3-5 year basis.

### **3.5 Making Mutual Accountability Real**

Chair: Rene Grotenhuis (CARITAS)

Rapporteur: Nerea Craviotto (WIDE)

Issues to be raised at the HLF Roundtable were as follows:

- Accountability is the most crucial in the evaluation process.
- There must be mutual accountability between Governments, CSOs and the people at all levels. The Paris Declaration does not capture all dimensions and moreover does not contain mechanisms to make developing countries apply it at

all levels of government. Donors are accountable to their tax payers and National Governments to the media, CSOs and the people.

- Accountability calls for transparency and openness
- Vertical accountability should be reversed in favour of downward accountability
- Information is critical, transparent, holistic for accountability
- Accountability should be broadened to cover not only the political leadership but also the private sector including international multinational corporations
- There is the need to move from the neocolonial accountability to a point where accountability is to the people and this is where the CSOs need to play a critical role.
- There must be an internationally agreed standard, a normative framework
- The way to implement MA in developing countries should be defined for all the actors at national level, social actors, to include all developing partners
- Commitments should be measurable
- There must be rules and procedures to govern the process and actors held accountable like at the WB, IMF, OECD monitoring mechanisms to ensure effectiveness of programmes
- Inclusive frameworks evolved should recognize current power imbalances that take into account downward accountability to ensure inclusiveness and to take marginalized groups into account.
- Accountability is multidimensional; countries in the North are to account for the billions of dollars stashed in their banks; multinationals exploiting African mineral resources must be held accountable and the contracts signed with nations be made available to CSOs etcetera
- This calls for capacity building at country level
- PD is not a commitment. Amendments should be made to take actors to task.
- Timeframes should be set for achievement of targets and access to information bills passed to enable the constituents have the requisite information
- Concrete steps have to be taken regarding power relations between donors and recipients and between Governments and citizens

- Aid can never be better and therefore exit strategies need to be designed to enable countries to come out of the syndrome

### **3.6. Applying Sectoral Approach**

Chair: Marielle Hart (Stop AIDS Alliance)

Presenter: Sarojeni Rengan

Rapporteur: Sylvain Browa (InterAction)

The following issues were raised to guide the interventions on the HLF Roundtable:

#### **On Ownership:**

- The sector level is seen as the place where multistakeholder collaboration can take place. The development of programmes and sectoral strategies should go beyond governments (donors and recipients) to fully integrate CSOs as development actors.
- Sector wide needs assessment should inform the formulation of development priorities at the national level.

#### **On Capacity building and institutional development:**

- Capacity building and institutional development at the sector level should be longer term and demand-driven, and also target CSOs as key partners.

#### **On Increased Sectoral Investments:**

- ARD is in need of significant financial resources to provide basic science and human services, build roads, and develop other key infrastructures and institutions.
- Direct budget support is not a one size fits all mechanism. Sectoral approaches should pay close attention to the overall development finance debate.

- Harmonization, alignment, and division of labor among donors should not lead to the creation of “orphan sectors”. These principles should also be attentive to country priorities –that is, the right to food self-sufficiency – and to the needs and priorities of all stakeholders, including CSOs.
- Sectoral approaches should use a mix of funding/aid instruments to achieve sustainable results across each sector and prevent intra-sectoral disparities; i.e., Health.

**On Gender:**

- Gender priorities should be mainstreamed across all sectors, given gender’s multiplying effect on poverty reduction programmes.
- Sector level priorities, strategies, and programmes should integrate the voices and concerns of disadvantaged groups and communities such as youth, indigenous, and ethnic minorities.
- Pay attention to non-sector specific policy reform and conditionalities that could affect sectoral development, that is, Structural Adjustment.

**3.7 The Role of Civil Society**

Chair: Antonio Tujan (IBON)

Rapporteur: Brian Tomlinson (CCIC)

Issues to be raised at the High Level Forum included the following :

- Stressing the strength of CSOs in its diversity and the importance of addressing issues in their country and regional context – such as issues affecting CSOs in new members of the EU and the former Soviet Union, or CSOs representing people who have been systemically and socially excluded such as the interests of disabled people.

- Stress the roles of CSOs in development effectiveness, making the connections between aid, trade and debt, including resource outflows from developing countries.
- Stress the fundamental importance of the enabling environment related to the policies of donor governments and developing country governments for civil society to be as effective as development actors as possible. Full transparency is a key enabling condition for all aspects of CSO effectiveness. But we also acknowledged that many of our governments, in the South but also in the North, put major restrictions on CSOs (e.g. security legislation) and sometimes attack human rights defenders, trade unionists, and leaders of peoples organizations.
- CSO legitimacy and accountability. Need to approach these issues with acknowledgement that they are important ones for CSOs to address, but that CSOs should also do so from strength arising from the experience in communities, in national and international advocacy.

### **3.8 Aid Effectiveness in Fragile States and Conflict Situations**

Chair: Garth

Presenter: Una Kumba Thomson

Rapporteur: Barth

The recommendations for the HLF were:

- Donors should identify causes of conflicts and adopt conflict prevention approaches and should reach all who have been affected or further marginalized by conflict
- Empower women and civil society with skills for conflict prevention and conflict. This should therefore include gender specific framework and to implement resolution 1325.
- Develop monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for gender equality
- Broader question of aid to States that foster conflict within and across countries.
- Pressing beyond the Donors to stop aid when it is financing militarization and is used as a threat to security

- Be careful about the use of ‘voluntary’ in the AAA
- Develop mechanisms to remove administrative rigidity in delivering aid in transitional and post conflict situation
- Make provisions for programmes targeted at employment creation and delivering of services before state building to prevent further conflict
- Reconstruct the traumatized individuals, not just the state infrastructure.
- Women are universally the greater victims of conflict. from a labour perspective women are forced into dangerous and degrading human conditions so donors and other actors should implement their commitments to human rights and gender equality especially, CEDAW, BPA etcetera.
- On the monitoring and implementation under section E, we should remove ‘on voluntary basis’ and use a stronger language
- Make provisions to prevent the militarization and the securitization on aid in the context of fragile states
- Include reference to existing human rights and humanitarian law frameworks and transitional justice instruments.
- Make clear distinction between military and humanitarian actions

### **3.9 The Changing Aid Architecture**

Chair: Nikolas Roseveare (BOND)

Rapporteur: Jesse Griffiths (Action Aid)

Main points for the roundtable on International Aid Architecture should echo the following among others:

- At Country level we need tripartite monitoring with donors, governments and civil society.
- Transparency is crucial – need to make information about aid public to citizens
- Should not lose gender aspect in new aid architecture: root gender in the process.

- We need to shift the aid reform process to a more inclusive institution (not the OECD).
- CSOs need enabling environment/ more space to hold governments to account.
- Global Funds need better governance, stronger capacity building and impact evaluation processes
- Need for regional institutions to take stronger role in aid processes.
- Need to bring other actors into overall aid framework
- South-South cooperation has clear benefits, but lacks funding mechanisms.
- Southern governments and countries to take more control, accept more responsibility for management of aid. Donors should end conditionality regimes and support southern plans.

#### **4.0 DISCUSSION OF THE CSO DRAFT STATEMENT**

The session was moderated by Yao Graham (TWN), Lucy Hayes (EURODAD) and Cecilia Alemany (AWID)

They presented the key comments made by participants as follows:

- Enabling conditions for CSOs should be stressed
- Ownership and conditionality should be clarified.
- Reference should be made to the Paris Monitoring Survey.
- Aid modalities have gone in different directions that support ownership and accountability.
- Need to recognize the political dynamics of negotiations. Many more commitments need to be added to the PD.

The following points were made during the open discussion:

- A participant expressed regret that the Steering Committee had not done enough and wondered how they were selected. He alleged that the process has not been open and transparent.
- While 70% of the population is employed in agriculture, the industry was given only a 4% proportion in the Statement.
- Another participant suggested that the phrase “lifting people out of poverty” should be taken out.
- The position of workers is fundamental but has not been emphasized in the Statement; better working conditions for workers are a priority and should have been underscored in the statement.
- Sources of funding of aid should have been indicated.
- The Francophone participants indicated that their contributions to the Statement were not captured. They proposed the setting up of a National Observatory to monitor the effectiveness of aid at national level to which CSOs could contribute if their institutional capacities were strengthened. Beyond Accra, sub-regional observatories should be put in place.
- Concerns were expressed about corruption and misapplication of funds as major drawback to development; the issue is not aid effectiveness but who has access to these funds and how they are used.
- Aid effectiveness should be limited to aid financing to cover agriculture, education and infrastructure.
- Budget support is not the best option for fragile states.

- Decentralization of aid financing should be considered; it is usually directed at the capital cities to the detriment of the countryside/rural areas.
- A participant expressed dissatisfaction with the Statement and cited lack of time at the workshops to come out with concrete proposals for the thematic and roundtable discussions.

## **5.0 CLOSING THE CSO PREPARATORY SESSION**

The speakers were Kumi Naidoo (CIVICUS) and Wahu Kaara (KENDREN).

Kumi Naidoo expressed his appreciation to GCSAEF for the good work done in hosting the CSO Forum. He also thanked the delegates for their patience and understanding particularly in accommodating the challenges that confronted the conference on the first day.

Wahu Kaara (KENDREN) on her part said what the Forum had witnessed in the day would be in vain if participants were not able to multiply these voices. The issues that were discussed were about power and resources and these are political questions with implications for the destiny of humanity. She implored participants to be strategic and seek better aid, economic liberation, environmental justice and an end to poverty. Aid, trade and debt are one and the same and must be defined from the perspective of the poor and marginalized, she concluded.

## **6.0 PUBLIC SESSION – OFFICIAL OPENING**

The session was chaired by the Kumi Naidoo (CIVICUS).

On behalf of the GCSAEF, Dr. Esi Sutherland-Addy - who is the chair of the Forum - officially welcomed the delegates and thanked the participants for their invaluable

contributions and for their tolerance in the face of the logistical challenges of the conference.

She summed up the purpose of the meeting as being the scrutiny of the credibility of the PD and the need for all stakeholders including donors to recommit themselves to action. Quoting a Ghanaian adage by Okyeame Boafo Akuffo of Akropong in the Eastern Region of Ghana, she said “If you indeed claim that you are sacrificing a live bird to the sky god, why don’t you release it and let it soar? Why should you deliberately continue to hold on to its legs? How do you expect it to reach the sky?” She, thus, rhetorically questioned the effectiveness of the PD which is undermined by political and technical constraints and hoped that the Forum will provide the framework for the debate on the Declaration.

She stated that Ghana has over a year traversed an extensive phase of consultations involving about 900 persons based on a set of carefully developed criteria among which was a deliberate self- introspection within Civil Society. The purpose was to determine what role Civil Society needed to play to ensure Aid Effectiveness in Ghana.

She observed that, worrying gaps were revealed in key areas such as democratic ownership, accountability, environmental impact and on social systems of policy decisions and this raised serious questions about the contribution of Government and donors.

Dr. Sutherland-Addy informed the Forum that, Civil Society was invited to make inputs into the Ghana Government process and the lessons learnt must be distilled and the momentum gathered sustained.

In conclusion, she asserted that the bottom line is not the refinement of the PD or the architecture of the delivery but the commitment needed for action to improve the lot of humanity.

She thanked the International Steering Committee and CSOs for entrusting this parallel Conference to the Ghana Committee noting that much impetus had been gained for the transformation of the PD.

On his part, Tony Tujan, Chairperson of the CSO International Steering Group restated the objectives of the public session as follows:

- Consolidate or preparations for a more effective participation and intervention in the HLF.
- Strengthen dialogue, exchange and learning from CSO experiences and perspectives on aid effectiveness.

He referred to the finalized CSO Statement considered the previous day which embodies the shared views, analyses and proposals for a meaningful outcome of the Accra HLF.

He said the public session is meant to develop dialogue and exchange through plenary inputs from other stakeholders, sectors, themes and processes through simultaneous events.

Comparing the 14 CSOs in HLF 2 in 2005 and the 800 CSOs in Accra in 2008, he stated that, this was certainly an improvement but was also quick to note that more complex issues of aid, trade and debt have been put on the table.

He indicated that, much has changed on the road to Accra. CSOs have strongly mooted the agenda for better aid and through the different consultations, researches and advocacies that have carried out, it can be said that aid can work and must be used effectively.

Tony Tujan referred to behavioural and attitudinal change and made the demand that everyone stresses and commits to maximum reform for aid effectiveness while bearing

in mind the politics of the aid system and be circumspect about what is achievable in Accra. This makes it imperative for CSOs to do more, in terms of lobbying and to protest against governments and donors who do not have the poor in their hearts and minds and who have empires to protect.

He reminded participants that, the Forum is to prepare for the HLF and there is therefore the need to deepen the dialogue.

He expressed his thanks to Governments and donors who provided support to the CSOs on the road to Accra and also for bringing them to the conference.

He also expressed his appreciation to the GCSAEF and the people who moved the process around 100 organizations and the ISG who did not depend on outside donors but used their own resources to make the meeting a reality.

In his keynote address, Honourable Kwadwo Baah-Wiredu, the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning of Ghana, speaking on his own behalf and on behalf of the President of Ghana, thanked the Advisory Group, the International Steering Group and the Ghana Aid Effectiveness Forum for the efforts they had expended on the road to Accra.

He said the Government of Ghana appreciates the efforts of CSOs in working towards aid effectiveness. He expressed his belief in mutual responsibility and appealed to donors to improve the basic principles that all stakeholders agreed on. He stated that the political will to develop our societies exists as a social contract signed by governments to improve what others have done.

He concluded by saying that the doors of his Ministry are open to ideas on improving the living conditions of the people. He expressed his readiness to work together with CSOs to achieve the desired goals.

## **7.0 PUBLIC SESSION – SPEAKERS PLENARY**

The session was chaired by Kumi Naidoo (CIVICUC) and Fathima Burnad (SRED)

The Honourable Mary Robinson, Chair, Council of Women World Leaders and Former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights stated that mutual accountability is the weakest component of the principles from Paris to Accra and there is therefore the need to think innovatively about it. She recognized the important fora held on the road to Accra. These include the Dublin I meeting which focused on cross-cutting issues of human rights, gender equality and environmental sustainability reflected in the AAA and the Dublin II DFID meeting in London whose central themes were gender empowerment, mutual accountability and also underscored the importance of human rights.

She noted that 2008 is the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human Rights which is sadly being celebrated in a world situation with indices of a \$2 a day scenario, increasing child mortality, poverty and the high cost of food. She echoed Nelson Mandela's advice that there is the need to listen to those who are invisible, those who are silent and those who have no voices.

The Honourable Mary Robinson made reference to the launch last year in South Africa under the patronage Nelson Mandela, Kofi Annan, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Graca Machel of the organization "Every Human Has A Right" which is also dealing with the issue of aid effectiveness among others and advised all to join in the campaign against human rights violations by and encouraged participants to visit the website [www.everyhumanhasrights.com](http://www.everyhumanhasrights.com) She also indicated that her own NGO, Realising Rights, is leading research into aid effectiveness.

She informed the Forum that, the ILO and the Government of Liberia are meeting next month on the ILO project on decent work in Liberia. This is taking forward the issue of decent work and linking it to the MDGs and asked that the AAA must be linked to the MDGs. She also agreed with Tony Tujan and also called for attitudinal and behavioural change.

In his presentation Honourable Jan Cedergran, Chair of the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness OECD/DAC posited that aid effectiveness and the Paris agenda are important because they are political and not necessarily technical nor procedural. Aid is not a goal in itself but must be linked to its development effect of reducing poverty and improving the livelihoods of poor people and promoting gender equality, human rights, environmental sustainability and democratic societies. It is about politics and requires the involvement of all stakeholders in the developmental arena.

He asserted that, it is also about mobilizing resources and ensuring their rational use to reduce poverty and ensure development. The attainment of results will determine if aid volumes should increase, thus a linkage must be made between Accra and Doha on financing for development.

He indicated that the PD came about because trade methods were not effective . It was therefore designed to increase cooperation between the North and the South hence its perspectives was on ownership, results and mutual accountability.

Honourable Jan Cedergran noted that, CSOs became obvious actors in this context leading to the creation of the Advisory Group and the ISG as a multi-stakeholder platform. He also informed the Forum that, over the period of 18 months, dialogues, seminars and workshops were organized in different parts of the world involving thousands of participants and organizations and noted that this would not have happened 10 years ago.

Civil Society has earned the pride of place as a development actor with clout even within the AG. Synthesis report presented in Accra and the diverse opinions expressed at the conference will therefore provide a very solid basis for future work and cooperation, he asserted.

He was also of the opinion that traditional power relations are going to be affected profoundly as a result of the presence of China, India and non DAC-donors, which are mobilizing resources and private capital into Africa and there is therefore a strong need for CSOs to engage these actors to secure national ownerships and avoid fragmentation of aid.

He stated that many delegates may be disappointed about the HLF III AAA because it has to be consensus statement; a compromise document that does not leave important players outside. Secondly, Accra is just one stop on a long road ahead focused on the future and thirdly, the recognition of the role of Civil Society will have a strong long term political influence both in donor and partner countries.

He advised CSOs to stay engaged, keep the long term vision alive through lobbying governments in the North and South and promoting continual partnership.

The Honourable Rafael Mariano Chair, Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (Philippine Peasant Movement), Member, House of Representatives of Philippines thanked the organizers for giving him the opportunity to speak on behalf of Philippine Peasant Organizations (KMP), the Asian Peasant Coalition (APC) and his party Group Anakpawis (Toiling Masses).

He informed the meeting that, KMP brings together millions of peasants and rural people engaged in genuine agrarian reform and national industrialization. The APC has a membership of 15 million in 9 Asian countries.

He lauded the role of CSOs in pushing for human rights and development as a core issue, and that the plight of the world's vast peasantry must be the focus as 3 out of every 4 people in the underdeveloped countries live in the rural areas and depend directly and indirectly on agriculture for their livelihood. Ineffective aid thus affects millions of poor rural peasants and billions of impoverished people across the globe.

He recognized the limitations of the PD and called for more democratic ownership and for economies to serve the people rather than profits. The “Aid effectiveness agenda” must focus on promoting democratic, equitable and sustainable development. It is also a welcome idea that the quality of aid has been an issue in the process. Aid is not charity and it should be directed to where people actually need it at the rural communities, he asserted.

He debunked policy conditionalities directed to “free market” and “globalization” trends leading to the collapse of agricultural economies and fledging industrial establishments in hundreds of underdeveloped countries. Small peasants and workers have suffered displacement, falling incomes, loss of livelihoods and deeper poverty whilst big foreign powers with subsidized farms, advanced factories and surplus capital have profited hugely. He noted that, the total effect of farm trade liberalization measures is to create food insecurity in developing countries.

He strongly suggested that, ownership without democracy is ownership that strangles development explaining that the wealthy and elite own all the means of production with the consequent injustice in agrarian reform and acquisition as well as the marginalization of the poor who have no opportunity to discuss the aid regime and how they will benefit.

Honourable Rafael Mariano also noted that, CSOs are vital agencies, who by virtue of their strength and links at the grassroots can move things forward, but Parliament is an additional arena for unleashing the battle and an important venue for demanding accountability and transparency.

He recognized the limitations and narrowness of the PD in the objectives and mechanisms for development. It gives scant attention to human rights, gender equality, social justice and sustainable development and focuses on official institutions which have no place for civil society, he said.

Concluding, he indicated that, the forum offers the opportunity to seek ways and means of ensuring that aid genuinely serves its declared objectives of combating poverty and promoting peace and development and to deepen partnerships and reach mutual understanding out of diverse perspectives.

## **8.0 PRESENTATION OF KEY MESSAGES FROM CSO STATEMENT ON AID EFFECTIVENESS**

Roberto Bissio of the ISG presented the key messages contained in the CSO Statement stating that the Paris Process looks like a failure and Accra should provide a way for a change in the implementation and the definition of “effectiveness” by setting new targets and indicators. Donors have not delivered on their commitments and need to evolve detailed plans on how to achieve the targets.

He indicated that, the HLF 3 is expected to deliver real commitments to address issues not adequately dealt with in the PD. Donors must untie aid and improve the medium-term predictability of aid (suggesting between 3 – 5 years while reducing the burden of conditionality. Governments must also increase the democratic accountability and transparency of their use of aid resources.

He highlighted the following as being areas by which the Accra HLF will be judged as a credible process:

- Rewriting the definition of ownership so that communities, all stakeholders become part of the process of ownership.
- Time-bound and monitorable targets.
- Ambitious targets for technical assistance to ensure that technical assistance is demand-driven and effective at capacity building.

- A commitment from donors and recipients to make the aid system more accountable through greater transparency, communication of information to the public and the establishment of independent and citizen-led monitoring and evaluation systems.

He asked what changes are expected in the AAA and noted. He was not optimistic and suggested very little in respect of decent work, gender and social equality, cultural rights, environmental sustainability and equal participation of all parties.

He also affirmed that the principle of democratic ownership should be the basis of aid and there is the need for quality space and that decentralization and national priorities should be supported by donors.

He stressed that donors should not operate according to their own parochial interest for the benefit of their nations and businesses and that conditionalities should be eliminated as they constitute a hindrance to development.

He concluded that aid will be ultimately judged as it brings positive changes in the lives of poor and vulnerable.

On Key Messages of CSOs Effectiveness Exploration Forum, Justin Kilcullen (CONCORD) presenting for The Global Facilitation Group was of the opinion that the PD though insufficient, could be engaged on CSOs' own terms and not ignored.

He informed the meeting that, stakeholders raised a lot of concerns about aid effectiveness and under the umbrella of the Advisory Group a process began to explore the issue. A series of meetings took place in 2007 culminating in the Ottawa Global Meeting in February, 2008 with 70 representatives from Civil Society in attendance. At this meeting a decision was made to launch a CSO Forum on Development Effectiveness.

In June, 2008, an exploratory meeting was held to define this process and this led to the establishment of an OPEN FORUM FOR CSO DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS to run from January 2009 to December 2010. It was noted that Paris is not a global tool, and that, there is the need for the CSOs to develop their own process reflecting their distinct role and values and emphasizing 'development effectiveness' and not aid effectiveness with 5 key directions.

He indicated that, the most important aspect is the governance of the process. To date, CONCORD has facilitated the process and it is now CSO Global Facilitation Group made up of 25 CSO nominated members based on regions, national and international, gender-balanced representative bodies.

Justin Kilcullen admitted that, there are challenges as it was an ambitious process. Being a multi-stakeholder process, it is able to engage governments. They do recognize that many Governments view CSOs as potential opposition engaged in back door nefarious activities and can be looked at with suspicion in a heightened security environment.

The second challenge, he mentioned, was in relation to Beijing 2011 and how to include all stakeholders to shape the Agenda and move it from aid effectiveness to Development effectiveness. The CSO engagement with the PD has already had a significant influence on that process and this new initiative can move the debate to an entirely new level.

The final challenge he identified was how to engage the CSO community in this process since it was a day by day activity.

## **8.1 CSO STATEMENTS**

The **International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)** Statement presented by its representative stated that the Accra HLF took place against the background of a critical

global crisis in the area of food, energy, debt, financial market slowdown which threatens to plunge the world into a deeper impoverishment. This, the statement attributed to wrong policy arrangements and choices and failure on the part of donor countries to meet binding commitments and developing countries failing to do more. It also recognized that the PD is just a first step in the establishment of a framework for aid management.

The statement agreed that aid should just be one element in a broad development framework that takes into consideration key financing instruments including debt cancellation, trade and investment.

It declared that the Doha process on financing for development is a holistic process and aid effectiveness should converge with the Doha agenda.

The Statement suggested that democratic country ownership will continue to be undermined by tied aid and conditionality and accountability requirements should apply to both donors and recipients. In fostering democratic ownership, governments have a cardinal role to play by creating the enabling environment for organized social labour movements by adhering to internally agreed standards on human rights, labour rights, gender equality and environmental sustainability.

It suggested a proper focus on the decent work agenda through the involvement of socially responsible local entrepreneurs in donor supported infrastructure projects and general budget support within the context of national democratic ownership while addressing gender-related issues regarding labour and youth unemployment and underemployment.

It asserted the essential position of trade unions as development actors in their own right as enshrined in Conventions 87 and 98 on freedom of association and the right to bargain for trade unions to play their role in poverty reduction and development.

The Statement finally appealed to both multilateral and bilateral donors to support ILO decent work strategies and country programmes and recognized the centrality of decent work for poverty eradication.

The Statement of the **Accra Women's International Forum** read by its representative indicated that officials attending the Accra HLF cannot ignore the failure of their development policies and practices, particularly those related to gender equality and women's empowerment. It noted that out of the 1.4 billion persons living under the poverty line of USD 1.25, the majority are women and children.

It mentioned the essential need to analyze the implication of aid effectiveness agenda for the advancement of gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment, and to consider how future aid management will tackle this fundamental issue. It drew attention to the political contexts of development policies and the neo-liberal model that is consistently failing to deliver the promised results of growth for all but rather is perpetuating a syndrome of social exclusion, injustice and increasing inequalities.

It also expressed concerns about the negative impacts of privatization of basic services, climate change and food security which continuously undermine sustainable development.

The Statement noted that, compared to 2005 when the PD was gender blind, there are improvements as suggested in the AAA text which emphasizes the central place of poverty reduction, human rights, gender equality and environment sustainability. It however notes that, it fails in explicitly recognizing to allocate resources to bind support from the donor community. It expressed reservation about qualifying language and the lack of new targets and condemned the culture of existing targets being monitored by indicators defined by the World Bank which have been contested by CSOs and women's organizations.

It forcefully states that the vision is a world where aid is no longer necessary, where transformed relations of power and democratic redistribution of wealth continually challenges norms and structures of injustice and war and rather creates new forms of relations based on respect, solidarity and justice for all. Aid must be delivered to catalyze sustainable dynamics of social organizations and strengthen local productive structures in the face of globalization.

The specific recommendations it makes include the following:

- The recognition of gender equality, environmental sustainability, and respect of human rights as cornerstones for development.
- To align the PD implementation with internationally agreed development goals
- To deliver donors' commitment to increase Official Development Assistance (ODA) to 0.7% of their GNP in addition to debt relief, and should be in the form of grants and not loans
- To provide transparent information on ODA allocations
- Donors and governments to ensure that special funds are available for women's rights organizations and that mechanisms are put in place to ensure the funds reach these organizations
- To recognize the importance of UNSCR 1820
- To integrate a strategic plan for financing gender equality and women's empowerment
- To define democratic and participatory ownership as a vector principle in the implementation of the PD
- To enhance capacity building measures related to women institutions and other bodies that promote gender equality and women's rights
- To remove economic policy conditionalities that have negative impact on people, particularly women
- To measure development results within the Paris framework by adopting the existing reporting and monitoring systems for human rights compliance
- To measure outcomes on gender mainstreaming and gender specific social and other domains

- To pay special attention to the needs and rights restitution of victimized women in fragile states and in depressed communities
- To promote the use of mix of funding mechanisms to ensure progress of women's rights and empowerment

The **Joint Ecumenical Message** for the Accra HLF presented to the Forum noted that in line with the theological affirmation that all persons are created in the image and likeness of God, aid for development must contribute to the advancement of both the individual and shared responsibility. Inclusion and participation are therefore indispensable ingredients of any development policy. The effectiveness of aid should primarily be measured in terms of sustained and positive impact on poverty eradication, respect of human rights, and justice for all.

It stated that Churches and faith-based organizations are working to ensure that the common good of all people is achieved. It further noted that, even as the PD calls for systematic involvement of broad range of development partners, the experience with their constituencies reveals the inadequacy of interaction and awareness of the PD principles and commitments and the lack of formalized instruments of participative monitoring and influencing of strategies that are being rolled out.

The Statement therefore makes the following recommendations:

- The need to have meaningful engagement of all stakeholders
- The need for national policy to be influenced by the community level actions and desires and for African leaders to engage their citizenry as co-creators of good governance
- Donors and recipient Governments must make concrete commitments to greater transparency, ensure access to information and for governments and donors to be accountable
- Donors and recipient Governments have the responsibility to promote inclusive frameworks to ensure proper accountability systems at all levels and that they

should adopt internationally agreed best practice through policy monitoring tool kits that can be used as a guideline for mutual accountability at the country level

## **9.0 PRESS CONFERENCE**

Emmanuel Akwetey (IDEG), one of the presenters at the Press Conference noted that, the media could play a key role in educating the people of Ghana and across the world. Aid relates to people in different ways as “it could be for water, sanitation, for health or education”.

Antonio Tujan, Chairperson of the CSO International Steering Group expressed his fears about the PD and with the concern if “The Paris process looks like a failure?” He indicated that the 2008 Paris Survey shows that donors have a long way to go in delivering their promises and pledges. The HLF 3 was a critical opportunity to push and advocate the issues well beyond Accra. The Accra meeting must deliver measurable and time-bound commitments to address the issues not properly addressed in the PD.

He added that, “Donors must commit to improve the monitoring of aid effectiveness by adapting existing Paris indicators and by integrating new indicators from the AAA by 2009 by supporting independent and citizen-led monitoring and evaluation systems and by agreeing an inclusive evaluation process to assess the impact of Paris on poverty reduction, gender equality, human rights and environmental sustainability.”

Cecilia Alemany (AWID) pointed out that the PD was “gender blind” but the AAA had moved away from that. She expressed her concern about the statistics that more than half of those living below the poverty line are women and expressed the need to ensure that human rights and gender equality did not form part of the conditionality of aid.

Lucy Hayes (Reality of Aid) called for the commitment to broadening the definition of ownership so that citizens, civil society organizations and elected officials are central to the aid process. She also called for time-bound and monitorable targets to stop short

term aid and to continue to ensure that aid is committed for at least 3-5years by 2010, as well as to reduce the burden of conditionality by 2010.

## 10.0 VILLAGE VOICES

The conference fanned out into Village Voices Sessions. These were engagement fora where independently organized workshops showcased the wide range of issues and concerns which CSOs have been engaged on in the aid effectiveness agenda. The sessions were as follows:

### First Session:

WORKSHOP	OGANISER
1. On emerging aid architecture: focus on China	AFRODAD, DIAKONIA
2. Making aid accountable: church perspectives on development and aid monitoring	SECAM, AACC, ACT Development, Caritas Internationalis, CIDSE
3. Aid for Trade	IBON, APRN
4. Feeding Africa with better agriculture	PCFS, PAN-Africa
5. Beyond aid dependence	CIVICUS, AAI, South Center, ITUC
6. The role of media in setting and implementing development priorities and objectives	ISG
7. Corruption and aid	Christian Aid
8. Gender equality and aid effectiveness: what is at stake	WIDE, AWID, FEMNET, NETRIGHT, FES
9. Decent work at the heart of sustainable development effectiveness	ITUC
10. CSOs and aid effectiveness: recognition of role and voice of CSOs	CCIC, AG on Civil Society and Aid Effectiveness
11. ROA 2008 REPORT: Aid effectiveness, democratic ownership and human rights	Reality of Aid
12.The International faith-based and community initiative: growing partnerships in development	POSDEV-Ghana, USAID

## Second Session:

WORKSHOP TITLE	ORGANISER
1. Civil society views on their role in a context of growing budget support	REPAOC, OXFAM International
2. Aid effectiveness in least developed countries, and in the South Asia region	LDC Watch, SAAPE
3. Global vertical programmes - A tale of too many funds?	EURODAD
4. CSOs facing the challenge of development effectiveness - introduction to the global CSO effectiveness, and exploratory debate on a vision on development effectiveness	CONCORD
5. Debt crisis and aid effectiveness	IBON, ROA-Asia, AFRODAD
6. Climate change funding and development assistance	APRN, AidWatch, IBON
7. Hearing Aid Booklet: Engaging local CSOs in aid effectiveness in Ghana	Action Aid Ghana
8. Aid effectiveness: what has happened for women in Africa?	AWDF, NETRIGHT, FEMNET, WILDAF
9. What is good and effective aid for agriculture and rural development	More and Better
10. Publish what you fund	UKAN, Action Aid, Data One, Tiri, Access Info
11. Outcome and Impact of the IAASTD - the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development	PAN International
12. Principles of successful partnerships in relief and development programmes	INTERACTION

See **Appendix 2** for the detailed listing and abstracts that informed the discussions at the various Village Voices Sessions

## 11.0 CLOSING PLENARY AND PRESENTATION OF ONE AWARD

The session chairs were Jan Dereymaeker (ITUC) and Fathima Burnad (SRED)

As explained, The ONE Campaign is an advocacy organisation that combines policy analysis, lobbying, media work and popular mobilisation to persuade donors to adopt policy changes that are likely to lead to poverty reduction especially in Africa. The work is carried out in collaboration with musicians such as Bono and Bob Geldof. The focus is on aid quality, quantity, trade and debt cancellation among others.

The objective is to lend support to individual campaigners in African Civil Society in their individual fight against poverty, when such efforts give hope and inspiration to the organisation. The bottom line is a search for innovation, impact, accountability, partnership and coordination; in short, things that make development effective.

Edith Jibunoh, Africa Outreach Manager of One Award said, it was a challenge selecting a winner because of the exceptionally high standard of the applications submitted. Many organisations were considered among which are:

- KDF of Uganda (Water and Sanitation)
- SEND Foundation (social development project on the MDGs and monitoring of essential services)
- Association of Edible Organization of West Africa (on food fortification, a staple product intended to be popularized in all ECOWAS member countries).
- France Africa – Documentation on AIDS, TB, Malaria

On this note Dr. K.Y. Amoako was invited to present the award to the winner. He expressed his long association with ONE and its previous incarnation DATA and how proud he was to be a member of ONE's Policy Advisory Board. He expressed his singular pleasure in presenting the 2008 ONE Africa Award to the Development Communications Network.

The award, the first of its kind went to the Development Communications Network based in Lagos, Nigeria, whose primary focus is actively engaging the media in the development process with strong emphasis on science and public health journalism.

In his response, Akin Jimoh of Development Communications Network expressed his appreciation and that of his network saying that the Award is for all assembled in the auditorium because "We are ONE". He called the attention of participants to the large number of women who lose their lives every 15 seconds in Nigeria in the process of giving life. Funds are provided to achieve the MDGs but women and children die on daily basis. He expressed his thanks to ONE stressing that, it was not a celebration but a clarion call to do more. He thanked the other four selected organisations as well as CSOs stating that a lot would be learned from them and so they should open their doors to every journalist.

## **12.0 CLOSING SESSION**

In her closing remarks, Marta Lago (International Gender Trade Network) said that, Latin America rejected the whole concept of aid as it favoured a top-bottom approach to development. For centuries their resources had been exploited and carted away and rain forests destroyed, thus endangering food security. The development model in Third World countries is subordinated to the neo-liberal globalization which has created a cheap salaries syndrome and deepened inequalities with people living in abject poverty while the opposite is increasing revenues and profits of transnational companies. She advocated for wealth distribution otherwise, development, growth and wealth will become empty and hollow concepts.

She noted that, the type of development on the aid agenda does not deal with trade and trade-related issues which are critical for the empowerment of women. She asserted that, subsidies for agriculture in the North are creating distortions and called for coherence in all areas of international cooperation. Expounding the issue further, she indicated that, the most explicit example of incoherence is the unevenness between the volume of aid projects carried by OECD countries and the volume of subsidies these same countries provide to sustain their agriculture. This creates distortions that hinder local producers' capacity to achieve sustainable development in Southern countries with implications for food security. Women, as the main food provider for families, are the most affected by this problem.

Concluding, Marta Lago stated that, these incoherencies create a cycle of dependency to aid projects by local communities, as they will not be able to face an unjust structure autonomously. The demand for sustainable projects that seek a future where no aid is necessary should be the flagship of the work of the work of CSOs, she asserted.

Yao Graham (TWN) noted that the meeting took place against the backdrop of a situation of deepening food crisis, international economic recession, North-South inequities, trade injustice and increased debt burden, the increasing role of Bretton Woods Institutions in the affairs of independent sovereign states, cheap returns and profits from extractable and other resources for transnational corporations, climate change, and the general deteriorating conditions of life of the poor, women and children.

He indicated that any discussion of aid effectiveness has therefore to be situated in the discussion of the politics of aid. While examining the issue of aid dependence, there is the need to properly situate the expectations and look beyond the possibilities of Accra. He asserted that, the OECD framework is not representative enough and developing countries should be are committed to multilateralism as a line of pursuing development financing.

He advocated the need to push hard to achieve results in terms of the trade justice, debt eradication, food security, gender equality and women's empowerment, climate justice and international and national resource mobilisation agenda so as to pale aid into insignificance.

He expressed his thanks to the International Steering Group who conceived the idea of the road to Accra, the SEND Foundation, the delegates, the volunteers, interpreters and the staff at the College of Surgeons and Physicians, and to all his colleagues who brilliantly chaired the various sessions. On behalf of the GCSAEF, he apologized for any limitations and lapses that might have occurred.

**CIVIL SOCIETY PARALLEL CONFERENCE  
ON AID EFFECTIVENESS**

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**VILLAGE VOICES  
FIRST SESSION**

*Appendix 2*

<b>WORKSHOP TITLE</b>	<b>ORGANISER</b>
<p>1. Civil society views on their role in a context of growing budget support</p> <p>This event aims to explore the implications for civil society of the fact that a growing number of donors are giving an increasing amount of their aid as direct budget support to governments, and explore what this means for civil society's ways of working and positions? What can civil society do to make budget support work? What approaches are some organisations taking now, and how are they taking action to ensure that budget support is effective in terms of reducing poverty and inequality, promoting gender equality and guaranteeing human rights?</p>	<p>REPAOC, OXFAM International</p> <p>Contact person: Caroline Pearce: <a href="mailto:cpearce@oxfam.org.uk">cpearce@oxfam.org.uk</a></p>
<p>2. Aid effectiveness in least developed countries, and in the South Asia region</p> <p>A panel of experts representing LDCs will critique on development aid from the LDC perspective. The participants will brainstorm on the issues and concerns related to aid effectiveness in LDCs. Broader interaction will follow the panel presentation. Common understanding will be developed among the participants.</p> <p>A panel of experts will discuss the issues and concerns related aid effectiveness in the South Asia region. Broader interaction will follow the panel presentation. Common understanding would be developed among the participants. Follow-up workshops will be organised in respective South Asian countries in future</p>	<p>LDC Watch, SAAPE</p> <p>Contact persons:</p> <p>Arjun Karki: <a href="mailto:akarki@ldcwatch.org">akarki@ldcwatch.org</a> or <a href="mailto:akarki@rm.org.np">akarki@rm.org.np</a></p> <p>Netra Prasad Timsina: <a href="mailto:ntimsina@gmail.com">ntimsina@gmail.com</a></p>
<p>3. Global vertical programmes - A tale of too many funds?</p> <p>The workshop will examine the pros and cons of channeling aid through global vertical funds. Global funds have mushroomed in particular in the health centre in recent years. And the demand for more aid to agriculture has prompted some to advocate for new global funds to this sector. Taking the learning from the health sector, the session will compare the benefits and challenges of using global vertical funds to these very different sectors.</p>	<p>EURODAD</p> <p>Contact person: Lucy Hayes: <a href="mailto:lhayes@eurodad.org">lhayes@eurodad.org</a></p>

<p>4. CSOs facing the challenge of development effectiveness - introduction to the global CSO effectiveness, and exploratory debate on a vision on development effectiveness</p> <p>Following recent consultations held under the auspices of the Advisory Group on Civil Society and Aid Effectiveness, civil society organisations (CSOs) have acknowledged the need to give leadership in improving their own effectiveness as development actors. CSO representatives have therefore created the <u>Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness</u> as a means to advance debates towards agreeing on a CSO-suitable global effectiveness framework. This framework should include global principles for CSO effectiveness, guidance on how to implement these principles in specific contexts and a vision on development effectiveness that is relevant not only to civil society, but also to official donors and governments. The Global Facilitation Group for the Open Forum would like to take advantage of the large number of CSO representatives present in Accra to disseminate information and to actively involve relevant stakeholders in this process.</p> <p>The session will include an introductory presentation of the process and give participants the opportunity to ask questions, to provide general comments and to highlight their priorities. Its main objective is to disseminate information on the process and to gather feedback.</p> <p>The session will also be on the planned vision on development effectiveness that will be one key outcome of the process. This session should be created as an open debate to get a sense of the key issues and challenges that development stakeholders deem relevant as concerns development effectiveness. The final output should be a set of elements/topics for consideration in future debates on the vision.</p> <p>The session should allow for a first reflection on how a multi-stakeholder declaration on development effectiveness (envisaged for the 2011 High-Level Forum in Beijing) could look like.</p>	<p>CONCORD</p> <p>Contact person: Andreas Vogt: <a href="mailto:avogt@concordeurope.org">avogt@concordeurope.org</a></p>
<p>5. Debt crisis and aid effectiveness</p> <p>Debt remains a severe problem for underdeveloped countries and their citizens over two decades since the explosion of the debt crisis in the early 1980s. Among the areas to be explored are how ineffective ODA has long been contributing to the debt problem and the escalation of the debt crisis and underdevelopment in recipient countries, how the debt problem caused by ODA loans has been used by donors to impose</p>	<p>IBON, ROA-Asia, AFRODAD</p> <p>Contact persons: Jose Africa <a href="mailto:sonnyafrica@ibon.org">sonnyafrica@ibon.org</a> Meja Vitalis <a href="mailto:vitalis@afrodad.co.zw">vitalis@afrodad.co.zw</a></p>

<p>neoliberal policy conditionalities which sustain and deepen the conditions of underdevelopment which created the vulnerability to debt in the first place, and how the Paris Declaration and aid effectiveness agenda can be improved to take up debt-related aid concerns according to a development, human rights, gender and social justice framework.</p> <p>Aid effectiveness debate cannot take place in vacuum. Key components of debt and development need to be part and parcel of this debate even though this has not been the case. This activity will take a format of a conference. Short presentations will be made followed by one hour deliberation. It will seek to introduce new nuances to the debate around aid effectiveness. The main target for the conference will be the CSOs, governments and multi lateral organizations.</p>	
<p>6. Climate change funding and development assistance</p> <p>To bridge the gap between climate change and development entails the need to place climate change into international aid efforts. The failure to extend “support” could mean disastrous effects for the majority poor especially in the developing countries.</p> <p>In spite of the increasing aid flows to climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, contentious issues arise, such as the need to integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation into national policy-making and planning, etc.</p> <p>The G8’s all-out support for the World Bank’s Climate Investment Fund (CIF) sounds an alarm bell. Under close scrutiny, in spite of the recent revisions in its proposals, the CIF undermines the UNFCCC negotiations for climate change aid and creates parallel structures for financing adaptation and mitigation efforts within a process that is dominated by the G8.</p> <p>Climate change aid should go where it is needed the most and should be spent consistent with national development policies and programs.</p>	<p>APRN, AidWatch, IBON</p> <p>Contact persons:  Ava Danlog <a href="mailto:adanlog@ibon.org">adanlog@ibon.org</a>  Rosario Guzman  <a href="mailto:rguzman@ibon.org">rguzman@ibon.org</a>  Flint Duxfield  <a href="mailto:flint@aidwatch.org.au">flint@aidwatch.org.au</a></p>
<p>7. Hearing Aid Booklet: Engaging local CSOs in aid effectiveness in Ghana</p> <p>The “Hearing Aid Project in Ghana”. The Paris Agenda will have a profound significance for the conditions under which development cooperation is run. It has however been criticized for not paying enough attention to the role played by Civil Society in terms of participation and influences on development cooperation. Civil Society</p>	<p>Action Aid Ghana</p> <p>Contact persons:  Saani Yakubu:  <a href="mailto:adwoa.klubitse@action.org">adwoa.klubitse@action.org</a>  Adelaide Decker:  <a href="mailto:Adelaide.Decker@actionaid.org">Adelaide.Decker@actionaid.org</a></p>

<p>Organisations should have a strategic role in the Paris Agenda's continued development, implementation and evaluation. Ghana and most of its development partners have signed to the Paris Declaration and are currently collaborating to implement the declaration. However, discussion on the implementation of the Paris Declaration in Ghana has most often been a donor-government affair notwithstanding the direct impact the Paris Declaration has on the lives of ordinary Ghanaians. ActionAid together with Swedish Christian Social Democrats (Broderskap) would like to launch a book on Engaging Local Civil Organisation on Aid Effectiveness in Ghana.</p>	
<p>8. Aid effectiveness: what has happened for women in Africa?</p> <p>This theme seeks to examine the aid effectiveness agenda and the extent of change in the lives of African women. This is important given the persistence of poverty and underdevelopment on the continent. It is expected that the activity will enable us to critically examine the five (5) principles of the Paris Declaration and its implications on the lives of women in Africa. It will enhance awareness on the Aid Effectiveness agenda and enable us strengthen our coalition building efforts across boundaries to advocate for greater gender justice beyond Accra.</p>	<p>AWDF, NETRIGHT, FEMNET, WILDAF</p> <p>Contact person: Patricia Blankson Akakpo: <a href="mailto:netright@twnafrica.org">netright@twnafrica.org</a></p>
<p>9. What is good and effective aid for agriculture and rural development</p> <p>More and Better is deeply concerned with the quality of aid that is delivered to the developing countries and from its constitution in 2003 is highly committed on this issue. As an international campaign comprising more than 50 civil society organizations, NGOs and social movements from different countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America, Europe and USA the More and Better organizes every year a global general meeting or regional meetings in order to evaluate, discuss and improve common goals and principles on which our common work is based. The side event of the More and Better campaign aims to discuss the gaps to fill, biases to correct and outstanding challenges by drawing lessons from the experiences of developing countries and will be open to any organizations from the South or from the North willing to join us.</p>	<p>More and Better</p> <p>Contact person: Alessandra Sgro: <a href="mailto:scretariat@moreandbetter.org">scretariat@moreandbetter.org</a></p>
<p>10. Publish what you fund</p> <p>"Publish What You Fund – Because Knowledge is</p>	<p>UKAN, Action Aid, Data One, Tiri, Access Info</p>

<p>Power”. A coalition of Northern and Southern CSOs will be launching a ‘Publish What You Fund’ campaign to promote transparency of international aid in Accra in September. Transparency is a pre-requisite for aid to be accountable and effective. It is key to recipient country governments – timely and comprehensive information on aid flows and forward plans is essential for effective budgeting and long-term investment in the basic services which are needed by the poorest people. Without transparency of aid, recipient countries cannot take the ownership and leadership of development that is needed to make aid work. Transparency is also important for civil society. The public availability of accessible and accurate information on aid makes it possible for citizens in recipient countries to participate in decision-making and to hold governments accountable for how aid is spent on the ground. Transparency in the aid system makes it possible to publicly monitor and scrutinise aid, and helps in the fight against corruption.</p>	<p>Contact person: Martin Tisne: <a href="mailto:martin.tisne@tiri.org">martin.tisne@tiri.org</a></p>
<p>11. Outcome and Impact of the IAASTD - the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development</p> <p>The objective of the workshop is to enable the participants to be informed of the key findings of the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD) and their potential implications for improved donor decision-making, aid effectiveness, poverty reduction and sustainable development. The IAASTD is a multi holder activity which has achieved well balanced conclusions endorsed by 58 governments and released worldwide on April 15. The IAASTD—consisting of one global and five regional reports—concluded that industrial agriculture practices and related policies and investments have degraded the natural resource base on which human survival depends, weakened social structures and now threaten water, energy and climate security. The IAASTD lays out specific and concrete options for change, including redirecting donor aid and investments towards agro-ecological farming, increasing support for small-scale farmers (not only technologically, but also in terms of fostering local institutions, markets, infrastructure, educational opportunities, supporting local/Indigenous knowledge, etc) and establishing more equitable trade arrangements.</p> <p>The workshop will facilitate discussion among decision makers and CSO participants on these key findings and provide an opportunity for participants to evaluate, strategize and prioritize amongst the shifts in agricultural</p>	<p>PAN International</p> <p>Contact persons: Sarojeni Rengam: <a href="mailto:sarojeni.rengam@panap.net">sarojeni.rengam@panap.net</a> Simplice Davo Vodouhe: <a href="mailto:dsvodouhe@yahoo.com">dsvodouhe@yahoo.com</a></p>

<p>policies and investments considered likely to achieve more equitable and sustainable development., The workshop will present results from the IAASTD process overall , with a particular emphasis on African countries.</p>	
<p>12. Principles of successful partnerships in relief and development programmes</p> <p>The international aid system now recognizes and even encourages “partnerships,” but provides little to no real guidance on how to equitably create and function in a partnership. “Partnership” is a term with many meanings and forms—from alliances to contracts to grantor-grantee relationships. Often times, “partnership” brings together parties with very different objectives, resources and incentives around shared goals and equitable allocation of authority, efforts and resources. This workshop will use a Partnership Assessment and Monitoring Tool (PAT) developed in collaboration with African CSOs to discuss methodologies on how to evaluate and improve the quality of both bilateral (between two organizations) and multilateral (among a network of organizations) partnerships.</p>	<p>INTERACTION</p> <p>Contact persons:  Sylvain Browa:  <a href="mailto:sbrowa@interaction.org">sbrowa@interaction.org</a>  Kimberly Darter:  <a href="mailto:kdarter@interaction.org">kdarter@interaction.org</a></p>

**VILLAGE VOICES  
SECOND SESSION**

<b>WORKSHOP</b>	<b>ORGANISER</b>
<p>1. On emerging aid architecture: focus on China</p> <p>Aid effectiveness debate is currently focused within and among the members of the OECD and the developing countries. There are however new major players in the development co-operation who are outside the OECD framework. Their impact in aid effectiveness will key and therefore needs to be put in focus. This activity will take a format of a conference. Short presentations will be made followed by one hour deliberation. It will seek to introduce new nuances to the debate around aid effectiveness. The main target for the conference will be the CSOs, governments and multi lateral organizations.</p>	<p>AFRODAD, DIAKONIA</p> <p>Contact person: Meja Vitalis: <a href="mailto:vitalis@afrodad.co.zw">vitalis@afrodad.co.zw</a></p>
<p>2. Making aid accountable: church perspectives on development and aid monitoring</p> <p>The Paris Declaration calls for the systematic involvement of “a broad range of development partners when formulating and assessing progress in implementing national development strategies.” The panel will present examples of multi-stakeholder mechanisms for holding donors and governments to account.</p> <p>The panel will emphasise the importance of ensuring broad participation in the monitoring of government policies and the need for strong citizen representation. Three cases of good practice will be presented from the experience of ecumenical partners in Africa who are working together to monitor government policies, promote parliamentary scrutiny of national spending and engage with citizens to ensure that they understand their democratic rights.</p>	<p>SECAM, AACC, ACT Development, Caritas Internationalis, CIDSE</p> <p>Contact person: Firmin Adjahossou: <a href="mailto:fadjahossou@yahoo.fr">fadjahossou@yahoo.fr</a></p>
<p>3. Aid for Trade</p> <p>The workshop is about “aid for trade” understood as the range of official development assistance (ODA) aimed at enabling developing countries to more fully participate in and benefit from the global trading system. This trade-related aid covers the range of possible kinds of ODA including technical assistance, infrastructure, industrial development and even policy reforms.</p> <p>The activity is a conventional workshop with inputs from resource persons followed by a facilitated discussion. It aims to deepen understanding of “aid for trade” from a</p>	<p>IBON, APRN</p> <p>Contact person: Jose Africa: <a href="mailto:sonnyafrica@ibon.org">sonnyafrica@ibon.org</a></p>

<p>more critical and people-centered perspective. Among the areas to be explored are the role of trade in domestic economic development, overall “aid for trade” trends in ODA and international development policy agendas, economic and geopolitical considerations underlying “aid for trade”, the impact of “aid for trade” programs given current economic conditions in the global trading system and within developing countries, and the possibilities for more effective “aid for trade” in itself as well as in the context of a more meaningful “trade for development” framework.</p>	
<p>4. Feeding Africa with better agriculture</p> <p>In the last few months the food crisis has affected millions of people, particular in Africa. A recent WFP report warns that 14 million people in East Africa are in dire straits and will require food aid. The crisis is sharpening the contradictions: while the agribusinesses TNCs have increased their profits tremendously, the poor in all countries are being forced into starvation. It is also clear that we are suffering 2 decades of neglect of agriculture especially the reduction of spending on agriculture and the multilateral and bilateral donors have cut their spending on agriculture of almost 85 percent overall and 50 percent in sub-Saharan Africa in particular. But Africa can feed itself. The small farmers in Africa mostly women are the key to food production and agroecological solutions are crucial for rural people’s livelihoods. The workshop will share and discuss strategies to enhance Africa’s food production capacity with agricultural policies and practices that can feed Africa.</p>	<p>PCFS, PAN-Africa</p> <p>Contact person: Sarojeni Rengam: <a href="mailto:sarojeni.rengam@panap.net">sarojeni.rengam@panap.net</a></p>
<p>5. Beyond aid dependence</p> <p>CSOs have long called for the aid reform process to be moved to a more representative institution in which both donors and southern countries have an equal stake and one that provides oversight and also complements the processes housed in OECD which is effectively the organisations of donors. In order for any discussions to be inclusive and representative, a strong role for civil society, local governments, parliamentarians and other stakeholders must be ensured.</p> <p>CSOs also express the need to position aid and aid effectiveness in the broader challenge confronting donors and developing countries today to find a way in which aid itself can contribute to the end of aid. In other words, we must go beyond the rhetoric around ‘country ownership’ to find forms of international cooperation that support</p>	<p>CIVICUS, AAI, South Center, ITUC</p> <p>Contact person: Henri Valot: <a href="mailto:henri.valot@civicus.org">henri.valot@civicus.org</a></p>

<p>developing countries to achieve more self-sufficient financing of their own growth strategies, their own natural resources and their own public policies.</p> <p>This workshop on existent Development Policy coherence mechanisms intends to cover the CSO engagement with the various existing fora such as OECD/DAC, UN DCF and UN FfD. It will review the quality and the effectiveness of this engagement and will attempt to highlight the major CSO demands to these fora.</p>	
<p>6. The role of media in setting and implementing development priorities and objectives</p> <p>(this was a new slot that was decided late and I didn't get the abstract – but this was the media forum?? Henri, do you remember the discussion with Sylvain regarding this?)</p>	ISG
<p>7. Corruption and aid</p> <p>Aid can be highly effective, totally ineffective, and everything in between, depending on a number of factors, including the quality of policy-making and institutions in recipient countries. It estimated that one percent of GDP in development aid can reduce poverty and infant mortality by one percent in a country with sound management, i.e. good policies and institutions. There have also been suggestions that in countries with poor management, the amounts of aid have not had the desired effects on the levels of economic growth. There are several channels through which the effectiveness of aid is undermined, including corruption. A Christian Aid panel of discussants will discuss this and related issues and make suggestions on what donors should be doing to reduce corruption in development assistance and what developing countries should do to promote transparency and accountability in respect of development assistance. A report of the panel discussion will be compiled and disseminated.</p>	<p>Christian Aid</p> <p>Contact person: Babatunde Olugboji: <a href="mailto:BOlugboji@christian-aid.org">BOlugboji@christian-aid.org</a></p>
<p>8. Gender equality and aid effectiveness: what is at stake</p> <p>The current coalition of women's rights organisations believe there is no aid effectiveness without development effectiveness and that human rights, gender equality and environmental sustainability are crucial to development effectiveness. Their current status of cross-cutting issues within the Paris Declaration marginalized them (similar in the Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development), letting them as an accessory issue to</p>	<p>WIDE, AWID, FEMNET, NETRIGHT, FES</p> <p>Contact persons: Nerea Craviotto: <a href="mailto:nerea@wide-network.org">nerea@wide-network.org</a> Rosetta Olympio: <a href="mailto:rosettaolympio@fesghana.org">rosettaolympio@fesghana.org</a> Kathrin Meissner: <a href="mailto:kathrinmeissner@fesghana.org">kathrinmeissner@fesghana.org</a></p>

<p>development and aid effectiveness. Aid effectiveness without gender equality and women's empowerment perspective will not be effective and will not contribute to reduce poverty and inequality and achieve the MDGs. The objective of this session will be to: (1) <b>'Enlarge the picture'</b>: Share our respective knowledge and analysis around the aid effectiveness process, already looking beyond Accra, in terms of what is at stake, what are the opportunities and how to mobilise; and, (2) <b>'Present the results of the Women's Forum in Accra'</b> (30<sup>th</sup> August 2008)</p>	
<p>9. Decent work at the heart of sustainable development effectiveness</p> <p>The Decent Work Agenda includes 4 pillars: respect of Human Rights (a rights based development); the promotion of full employment; social inclusion based on social security and social protection policies and social dialogue as democratic decision making instrument and ownership instrument. As a trade union movement, we experienced in many parts of the world the sustainable character of this approach when it comes to social, economic and democratic development. The UN, including of Decent Work as MDG 1b, has recognized this. The workshop is to give insight on the Decent Work Agenda and to discuss about the contribution of the Decent Work approach on development effectiveness.</p>	<p>ITUC</p> <p>Contact person: Jan Dereymaeker: <a href="mailto:jan.dereymaeker@ituc-csi.org">jan.dereymaeker@ituc-csi.org</a></p>
<p>10. CSOs and aid effectiveness: recognition of role and voice of CSOs</p> <p>This workshop will focus on the outcomes of the multi-stakeholder Advisory Group on Civil Society and Aid Effectiveness (AG). CSOs from the North and the South participated in the AG, which was mandated by donors and governments in the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness to advise on ways to strengthen the recognition of CSOs as development actors and to improve the understanding of the applicability and limitations of the Paris Declaration for addressing issues of aid effectiveness of importance to CSOs. CSOs are important development actors in their own right. In strengthening their various roles, CSOs can contribute to an enriched aid effectiveness agenda in ways that democratize country ownership of aid and lead to development outcomes for those living in poverty and marginalized by current development paths. The multi-stakeholder Advisory Group on Civil Society and Aid Effectiveness (AG) published and widely circulated its Synthesis of Findings and</p>	<p>CCIC, AG on Civil Society and Aid Effectiveness</p> <p>Contact persons: Brian Tomlinson: <a href="mailto:btomlinson@ccic.ca">btomlinson@ccic.ca</a> Goran Eklof: <a href="mailto:goran@context.nu">goran@context.nu</a></p>

<p>Recommendations in advance of the Accra High Level Forum. This workshop will discuss these findings and their relevance to the outcomes of the Accra High Level Forum. It will lead to increased understanding of the work of the Advisory Group, the relevance of its findings for strengthening the recognition of the roles and voice of CSOs as development actors, and future CSO engagement with development effectiveness.</p>	
<p>11. ROA 2008 REPORT: Aid effectiveness, democratic ownership and human rights</p> <p>Reality of Aid (RoA) 2008 report profiles voices from the ground – often unheard in international debates - of the major challenges that aid still needs to make it effective at responding to the claims of poor people. In the RoA 2008 Report, it was concluded that the reality of aid in 2008 continues to fail in promoting human development for the eradication of poverty based on the core values of human rights, democracy, gender equality and environmental sustainability. This is in spite of the appearance of progress in the form of high-profile debt cancellations, new aid pledges, and the signing of the Paris Declaration on aid effectiveness. The Reality of Aid 2008 Report launch will highlight country cases, evidence and opinions from organisations operating on the front lines of development policies around the world about the current reality of aid policies and their outcomes.</p>	<p>Reality of Aid  Contact person:  Josephine Dongail:  <a href="mailto:jdongail@realityofaid.org">jdongail@realityofaid.org</a></p>
<p>12. The International faith-based and community initiative: growing partnerships in development</p> <p>The workshop will focus on ways to further increase partnerships with small NGOs in particular, highlighting a Ghanaian best practice example of collaboration among CSOs. It will provide insight on USAID's (or the U.S. Government's) International Faith-Based &amp; Community Initiative and how U.S. donor agencies such as USAID are working to expand partnerships with CSOs through grants and funding opportunities.</p>	<p>POSDEV-Ghana, USAID</p> <p>Contact person:  Terri Hasdorff:  <a href="mailto:Thasdorff@usaid.gov">Thasdorff@usaid.gov</a></p>