

BetterAid update

BetterAid is a civil society open platform that has been working on development cooperation and challenging the aid effectiveness agenda since January 2007.

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Civil Society Activities

Global Assembly on CSO Development Effectiveness

The Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness (www.cso-effectiveness.org) held its second and final Global Assembly of the Open Forum on June 28th, 29th and 30th in Siem Reap, Cambodia, in cooperation with Cooperation Committee for Cambodia (CCC).

At this key event, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) from across the globe adopted, in principle, the Siem Reap Consensus on The International Framework for CSO Development Effectiveness, subsequent to making a number of revisions to the draft of the text. The latest draft of the text is available at http://www.cso-effectiveness.org/IMG/pdf/draft_international_framework_for_cso_development_effectivenessv3.pdf,

with the final version expected to be available in three weeks. The statement consolidates a comprehensive two-year global process of more than 70 national consultations with over 3000 CSOs. The Framework is a political statement in view of HLF4 and a reference for CSOs going forward.

During the 2 years of its mandate, Open Forum has facilitated 74 country consultations, 9 regional workshops, and 8 global thematic processes with the

aim to build consensus on principles, guidelines and external conditions for CSO development effectiveness.

Some 230 CSOs and multi-stakeholder representatives from all corners of the world convened in Siem Reap for the Open Forum Global Assembly 2011 - including national and regional CSO platforms, international NGOs, grass roots organizations, and government and donor representatives.

Based on the outcome International Framework for CSO Development Effectiveness, the last six months of the Open Forum mandate will be to facilitate its implementation and advocacy by CSOs at national, regional and international levels towards HLF4 - and beyond.

Read about the outcomes of the event at: <http://www.cso-effectiveness.org/global-assembly-2011,075-.html>.

For more information, visit the Open Forum website www.cso-effectiveness.org or contact the Secretariat at info@cso-effectiveness.org



Women's Organizations' demands for the HLF-4 in Busan

A recent International Women's Organizations Consultation on *Development Cooperation, Women's Rights and Gender Equality* held 9-10 June 2011 in Brussels mobilized almost 70 participants from over 30 different countries around the world to strategize on the feminist vision of the development cooperation agenda towards Busan and beyond. The meeting focused on developing the key demands of women's organizations and gender equality advocates to influence a new, post 2011 Busan agreement so that gender equality and women's rights are at the forefront.

The consultation, supported by the BetterAid platform, was hosted by the WIDE network and organized in cooperation with the Women's Organizations that are part of the BetterAid Coordination Group: AWID, FEMNET, APWLD and Coordinadora de la Mujer from Bolivia. As a second meeting of this scope (the first one being the International Consultation in Ottawa in 2008 on the road to Accra) it has strengthened the feminist movement engagement with the development cooperation agenda, recognizing its political relevance and dimension, and the great impact it has on the lives of women and men on the ground.

Although gender equality and respect for human rights are a cornerstone for achieving enduring impact on the lives of the poor (recognized in Paragraph 3 of the Accra Agenda for Action), the evaluation of the implementation of the Paris Declaration proved that there has been little progress in giving greater priority to the needs of the poorest people, particularly women and girls. Therefore, women's

organizations at the Consultation urged the HLF-4 to move beyond the aid effectiveness approach. The Forum in Busan must fuel concrete actions to shift the traditional economic growth oriented development discourse towards a human rights based development paradigm, which recognizes, promotes and guarantees the exercise of women's rights including, sexual and reproductive rights, values reproductive and care work, solves inequalities, and promotes the empowerment, autonomy and emancipation of women and girls. The realization of women's rights and gender equality together with human rights in general is essential to any development framework, while women must be recognized as actors and subjects of development with feminist movements playing a key role in this process.

The main outcome of the Brussels Consultation is a set of concrete demands for governments around the world and other relevant development partners engaged on the Road to

Busan. Demands are structured under 6 priority themes:

- Renewed development cooperation framework based on human rights
- New equitable development cooperation system working and owned by all, under the United Nations
- Democratic ownership by women, meaningful and systematic participation by civil society including women's and feminist organizations
- Multiple accountability systems for women's rights and gender equality with improved existing monitoring system
- Financing for Development; redistribution of resources and gender equality and women's rights beyond mainstreaming
- Development cooperation to countries in situations of fragility and conflict, acknowledging the disproportional impact of armed conflict on the lives and rights of women and girls

The key demands are now being finalized and will be available shortly at www.betteraid.org. This is the basic tool that can be used and adapted by other groups for advocacy and mobilization. We encourage all stakeholders; donors and recipient governments, other development partners and civil society organizations to take good note of these demands while strategizing and drafting political positions for Busan as well as for other development cooperation debates.

NEW REPORT

WIDE network

EU donors under women's watch

<http://www.betteraid.org/en/betteraid-policy/other-publications/476-womenswatch.html>



Trade unions' messages to Busan: Development Effectiveness needs Decent Work

In preparation for the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, the International Trade Unions Confederation (ITUC) is contributing to debate with the trade union perspective on the issues of aid and development effectiveness.

Trade unions are important partners and actors in development work and debates. Striving for decent work, better livelihoods and environmental sustainability, they are on the forefront of the struggle for the eradication of poverty and social development around the world.

Working closely with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in the framework of the BetterAid Platform and the Open Forum on CSO Development Effectiveness, trade unions have been active players in the aid and development effectiveness debates that rose around the Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action processes. In preparation for the upcoming High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, South Korea, trade unions support the position of the Better Aid Platform as outlined in the paper CSOs on the Road to Busan: Key Messages and Proposals. To fully represent the labour perspective in this debate ITUC has drafted a more detailed statement, elaborated in the paper *"Towards a comprehensive paradigm for decent work and*

development effectiveness".

In relation to the questions of aid and development effectiveness, trade unions are calling in the first place for change in the development paradigm from one built around a narrow neo-liberal concept of economic growth and market governance to a more comprehensive one based on the ideas and values of social justice, fair redistribution and gender equality, leading to a balanced social and economic progress towards decent livelihoods for all.

With a view to the objective of eradication of poverty, trade unions advocate placing the Decent Work Agenda (as defined by the International Labour Organisation) at the heart of all development work with specific targets and actions built around its four pillars: employment, core labour standards, social dialogue and social protection.

Appreciating the progress and commitments made in the Accra Agenda for Action, trade unions stress the importance of full and coherent

delivery of the promises, particularly in the domains of democratic ownership, mutual accountability, ending policy conditionality, untying aid, results-based management and policy coherence, with decent work, core labour standards, gender equality and environmental sustainability being cross-cutting objectives for all criteria.

With support for multi-stakeholder approaches to policy-making and implementation in the domain of development cooperation, trade unions advocate that the *Busan Declaration on Development Effectiveness* should fully take into consideration the *Istanbul CSO Development Effectiveness Principles*, the result of the work of the CSO platforms, as well as the *Trade Union Principles on Development Effectiveness*, a set of principles developed in a year and a half-long process of consultations with trade unions at regional and global level, led by the Trade Union Development Cooperation Network (TUDCN).

More on the perspective of trade unions on the issues of aid and development effectiveness can be found in the *Towards a comprehensive paradigm for decent work and development effectiveness* document and at the ITUC website (www.ituc-csi.org).

Civil society activities

African faith-based groups put forward demands to HLF4

Members of more than 25 church based organisations, civil society organizations and networks from the African continent gathered before the official Review Conference on Aid Effectiveness in Nairobi, Kenya, 28 – 29 April 2011 at the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) conference under the theme “moving from Aid Effectiveness to Development Effectiveness”.

The implementation of the Paris Declaration (PD) and the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) was reviewed, and participants exchanged ideas over the role of the church in development effectiveness and strategized for actions to be carried out for and beyond Busan. The conference resulted in a declaration towards the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF4) calling for the inclusion of CSOs including faith based organizations as members of the national delegations to Busan, and calls on donors to implement a range of aid effectiveness commitments. Read their demands here:

http://www.betteraid.org/en/member-downloads/doc_download/329-the-nairobi-declaration.html



African women’s groups make declaration to Busan

African women’s groups and civil society organizations participated in a regional consultative meeting on aid effectiveness organized by Reality of Aid and the African Women’s Development and Communication Network (FEMNET): *Opportunities and Challenges in the Implementation of the Paris Declaration (PD) and Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) in Africa* held in Yaoundé, Cameroun on 30th – 31st May.

They reaffirmed that if Africa is to see a fundamental change in the quality of life of its citizens, the global aid architecture and its motivation has to shift to be more focused and inclined towards the achievement of development effectiveness that promotes gender equality and women’s rights as central pillars to democratic ownership, good governance, and sustainable development; They noted that the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action have so far failed to address important issues including the empowerment of African women in the socio-economic and political fields, and the aid architecture has remained weak partly due to the disabling macroeconomic frameworks, and poor national accountability systems of Africa governments to their citizens. Participants published a regional declaration following the meeting which includes a shopping list of aid effectiveness commitments that governments and development partners must respect. Read it here:

http://www.betteraid.org/en/member-downloads/doc_download/328-final-declaration-regional-consultative-meeting-june-2011.html

Francophone African CSOs make declaration on Corporate Social Responsibility

Organized by the Dynamics of Civil Society Organisations of Francophone Africa (OSCAF), civil society organizations gathered in Cotonou 14 to 16 June, as part of a Francophone African Regional Workshop consultation and training session on the topic “Coorporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and human rights in Francophone Africa: Strategizing for civil society “. Present were delegates from the Francophone Network for Integrity and Sustainable Development (RefId), trade unions, representatives of organizations to protect and defend the human rights of Francophone African countries and international partners from Switzerland (CETIM), France (FIDH) and Belgium (CSI).

Issues discussed included:

- development policy and the issue of aid for trade;
- Corporate Social Responsibility economic actors (RSAE) and Liability
- Companies in Human Rights (REDHA);
- investment and its relationship with aid and RSAE;
- the Paris Declaration and aid effectiveness and;
- French citizen participation in dialogue on trade issues and global development

Representatives of civil society organizations (CSOs) and their French-speaking African partners present in Cotonou adopted a declaration following the meeting.

Read the full declaration at: http://www.betteraid.org/en/member-downloads/doc_download/350-declaration-de-cotonou-sur-la-rsae-et-lefficacite-de-laide.html

Civil society activities

Korean civil society organizations start thematic working groups and selection process for HLF4 participants

Korea Civil Society Forum on International Development Cooperation (KoFID) is a network of Korean civil society organizations working to make Korean development cooperation more effective. KoFID has 21 members of Korean civil society organizations engaging in service delivery, public awareness, capacity building, and policy advocacy. KoFID actively participates in the two main CSO processes engaging with the HLF-4; BetterAid and Open Forum.

KoFID currently runs five Thematic Working Groups on the following issues: CSO development effectiveness; aid/development effectiveness; human rights and development; gender and development; and health. To send CSO policy recommendations to the HLF-4, Korean civil society organizations engaging in gender, health, human rights and other fields regularly gather to research and discuss on each theme. Results from the working groups' activities will contribute to a common position on each issue. Separately from the Global CSO Selection and Oversight Committee, which leads the selection process for CSOs wishing to represent the region at HLF-4, KoFID will select a total of 30 Korean CSOs to be accredited participants, according to its own selection process. Many NGOs and CSOs from various fields are interested in participating in the HLF4 civil society process in Korea. KoFID will soon set to work on the selection.

Korea's Multi-stakeholder Dialogue on CSO Development Effectiveness

In line with international efforts to increase CSO development effectiveness, KoFID hosted a multi-stakeholder dialogue on the theme: "the role of government and industries for an enabling environment for CSOs." Besides representatives from the Prime



Minister's office, 4 representatives from Governmental Ministries and agencies were invited together with the Federation of Korean Industries. With more than 50 participants from civil society present, participants discussed ways to cooperate with stakeholders dedicated to development assistance, and to create an enabling environment for CSOs. Participants suggested setting up communication channels between multi-stakeholders working on development cooperation in Korea. Panelists admitted the complementary and unique role of CSOs in helping developing countries and agreed the need to open a regular dialogue through various channels.

More and better aid needed to accelerate progress on child survival

For Save the Children, HLF4 provides an opportunity to highlight three key issues; firstly, it provides a platform to demonstrate that when delivered effectively, aid saves children's lives. Second, it is an opportunity to highlight the positive development returns and effective use of aid when invested in children. Thirdly, the case will be made for stronger, more effective mechanisms for mutual accountability, across the international aid environment, but specifically pertaining to aid for health. Poor accountability limits the international development communities' ability to

ensure that global health commitments, like those made as part of the UN Secretary General's Every Women, Every Child Strategy, are met. Without accountability, donors are free to give fragmented, unpredictable aid, thereby jeopardising poor countries' abilities to fund recurrent health expenditures (such as the training of health workers). Pushing for a robust mutual accountability strategy within health is a core aspect of Save the Children's Every One campaign.

Save the Children's health and aid effectiveness research paper's top line objective is to show that mutual accountability, when realised through effective mechanisms and participatory processes, can have very beneficial effects upon the quality and quantity of aid. Save the Children calls for the Busan HLF4 to result in robust, well funded mechanisms for mutual accountability in the health sector. More and better aid will accelerate progress on child survival.

Save the Children and UNICEF are conducting collaborative research which will provide case studies to demonstrate how a focus on children is an effective aid delivery modality.

Save the Children's global Every One campaign: http://www.savethechildren.net/alliance/what_we_do/every_one/index.html

Save the Children on why No Child is Born to Die: <http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/blogs/2011/01/together-we-can-make-no-child-born-to-die-a-reality/>

Civil society news in brief

Development effectiveness in agriculture and rural development

The People’s Coalition on Food Sovereignty (PCFS), and the BetterAid Coordinating Group, organized the International Forum on Aid and Development Effectiveness in Agriculture and Rural Development, on July 4th 2011, in Quezon City, Philippines.

Peasant leaders along with support NGO representatives from Asia, Africa and Latin

America were key participants in the event, and were joined by the representative of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in the Philippines and the Honourable Rafael Mariano of the House of Representatives.

A report from the event will be made available soon.

CSOs launch key asks to Busan, July 7th, Paris

This event will mark the launch of Civil Society’s key asks for the Busan High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness. Over the past several months CSOs from across the global have collaborated to develop the common political statement ‘CSOs on the road to Busan: Key messages and proposals’. It builds on previous CSO positions and demands on the aid effectiveness process and specifies the call to all development actors to fully evaluate and deepen the Paris and Accra commitment; strengthen development effectiveness through practices based on human

rights standards; support CSOs as independent development actors in their own right and commit to an enabling environment for their work in all countries; and promote equitable and just development cooperation architecture. Over 600 CSOs globally have already endorsed the key asks.

Complementing the launch of the CSO Key messages will be the presentation of a recently produced video where civil society voice a wish list for the HLF4, and present of the CSOs views from all over the world in the run up to the event.

Aid transparency campaign launches

The Make Aid Transparent campaign is a coalition of civil society organisations who have come together to call on donors to publish more and better information about the aid they give.

Call on aid Donors to make their aid more transparent and encourage others to do so too.

<http://www.makeaidtransparent.org/>

Latest news on official aid

BetterAid calls on G20 to strengthen international cooperation and development effectiveness

BetterAid called on governments that are part of the G20 Leadership to use the meeting of the Working Group on Development on June 30th-July 1st to strengthen international cooperation and development effectiveness. The meeting, which took place in Cape Town, South Africa, provided a key moment to agree on important and urgent development reforms, including the governance of the system. In the letter, BetterAid highlighted that official development assistance plays an integral

and complementary role to the broader concerns of the G20 development agenda: infrastructure, food security, human resource development and sustainable growth. It also aligns with fulfilling past summit pledges and individual member commitments on aid effectiveness (2005 and 2008). BetterAid called on governments to demonstrate their commitment to these concerns by achieving concrete actions that recognize the importance of the upcoming HLF4 meeting in Busan.

They asked the Working Group to :

- 1 Fully evaluate and deepen the Paris and Accra commitments;

- 2 Strengthen development effectiveness through practices based on human rights standards;
- 3 Support CSOs as independent development actors in their own right, and commit to an enabling environment for their work in all countries;
- 4 Promote equitable and just development cooperation architecture;

Read the full letter at http://www.betteraid.org/en/member-downloads/doc_download/342-betteraid-letter-to-g20june-2011.html

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