

Feedback by Civil Society on the FfD Informal Substantive Sessions and Input on Modalities of
Negotiation Sessions and CSO Forum

13 January 2015

H.E. Mr. Geir O. Pedersen
Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. George Talbot
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Guyana to the United Nations

Co-Facilitators for the Third International Conference on Financing for Development

Your Excellencies,

**Re: Feedback on the organisation of Informal Substantive Sessions and inputs on Modalities of
Negotiation Sessions and CSO Forum in Addis**

We, members of Civil Society from around the world would first of all like to thank you for efforts made to include members of civil society in all the informal substantive. We also acknowledge the support provided by UN-NGLS and the Financing for Development Office.

We appreciate the exchanges of views at the meetings organised with civil society and the private sector. This letter builds upon letter of the Addis CSO Coordination Group addressed to you on 15 October 2014 on modalities for CSO participation in the Third Financing for Development Conference and issues raised at the meeting with civil society and the private sector on 10 December 2014. It sets out our evaluation of the organisation of the Informal Substantive Sessions in November and December 2014. We would also like to provide our input into the discussion on modalities of the negotiation sessions and the organisation of the CSO Forum in Addis Ababa.

1. Comments on the Informal Substantive Process:

- CSOs invested considerably to travel to New York through their own budgets or through donor support. There was an extensive internal process to ensure coherence and coordination of our messages. It is discouraging that in many sessions civil society speakers were only invited to raise a question or comments oftentimes at the end. In many of these cases, it prevented effective panel engagement and panelists were not able to respond to questions CSOs raised. For example, the limited time allotted to the CSO speaker in Session 2 on 9 December on "International Tax Cooperation" prevented him from clarifying inaccuracies in the statements made by the panelist from the OECD. It was also unclear whether civil society would be given the opportunity to speak during all sessions in which space was dedicated to the reading of statements;
- We were also concerned by the lack of systematic civil society representation in the panels during many of the informal substantive sessions in December. While we did point out that panels during the informal substantive sessions in November were too long and prevented

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meaningful interaction, we did not expect this remark to be considered as a recommendation to drop civil society representation from the panels. The December sessions continued to have very long panels and in most sessions without civil society representatives at all or with a single speaker from civil society in panels with speakers who in many cases were explicitly biased towards their institutional perspective;

- In addition, we would like to highlight the fact that gender equality and inequalities were issues hardly brought to the discussions by the selected panelists. Gender inequity is the most persistent form of social and economic inequality and it is therefore regrettable that most panelists did not speak about them;
- We welcome moderated discussions, particularly when the moderator is able to effectively balance panel discussion and engagement from the floor. We believe that a principle criteria for the selection of the moderator must be a degree of neutrality with respect to Member States and other stakeholders. Failure to ensure such a profile resulted in moderation that revealed a bias in the selection of stakeholder speakers from the floor in the first session on 11 December "Closing data gaps and strengthening statistical capabilities";
- We are concerned that the time-management and the ordering of sessions reflected a lack of perspective of desired result. Organising three very significant substantive themes on one day (9 November) and the lack of adequate time for statements resulted in sessions where important substantive issues could only be named without being discussed in more detail.

2. Modalities for further engagement in negotiation sessions and the CSO forum:

- We support the scheduling of the Civil Society Informal Interactive Session on 4-5 March 2015;
- We call for CSOs to continue to be given speaking slots in each session during the negotiation process. Given the different configuration and dynamic exchanges we can expect to take place during such a process, and the fact that this is an intergovernmental negotiation, we understand that it is at the discretion of the chair to determine how many times CSOs will be able to intervene in a given session. We request that CSO interventions not be limited beforehand to less than three and, to the extent possible, be based on CSO speaker requests for the floor. To make interventions targeted and relevant, civil society should be allowed to be present in the room during the negotiations and generally all sessions held. The Biodiversity Conference and its preparatory process represent good practice which should be followed in this regard;
- We request support in our efforts to reach out to civil society at large, particularly in the South, to actively engage in the process. A well-resourced Trust Fund will be critical to enable meaningful and consistent CSO engagement, particularly from the South. We request a transparent dialogue on the composition of the Trust Fund and the allocation of finance for CSO participation in the preparatory process and in Addis Ababa;
- We call for adequate guarantees that all documents prepared will be simultaneously and systematically shared with civil society, starting with the draft of the "FfD elements" paper;

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- We call for civil society to continue to be given at least three speaking slots in each session during the negotiation process. Civil society should be allowed to be present in the room during the negotiations. The Biodiversity Conference and its preparatory process represent good practice which should be followed in this regard. Other UN conferences, such as the Rio+20 prep coms held in NY from January-June 2012, were also open and transparent to civil society;
- Civil Society accreditation for the negotiation sessions and the Addis Ababa Conference should be open and not restricted to only ECOSOC accredited organisations;
- Civil Society should have full ownership, through self-organized leadership, in shaping all aspects of the CSO Forum, from agenda to scheduling, speakers, events, logistics and so on. The CSO Forum should be a central part of the Addis conference. We look forward to working with all necessary parties to ensure that member states, policymakers and UN and other International Organisation officials attend the Forum. Adequate funding should be made available for the CSO Forum.

Civil Society is deeply committed to ensure that the Third Financing for Development Conference maintains the ambition that led up to the Monterrey Consensus: to ensure a truly inclusive, transparent and participatory forum within the UN, where significant and systemic issues of financing for development can be dealt with, engaging all stakeholders. We are convinced that the role that we play, both in New York and at country level, inside and outside the formal and informal spaces are equally critical to this success. Indeed, we are the actors responsible for ensuring that the voices, priorities and outcries of the global grassroots, social movements and the world's citizens are not only heard and respected, but also integrated into the Third Financing for Development Conference with integrity. We look forward to being fully and effectively engaged in this process. In this regard, we specifically request your feedback to this letter.

Sincerely yours,

The signatory organizations and networks

International & Regional Organizations and Networks

ActionAid International
Africa Development Interchange Network (ADIN)
Africa Monitor
African Women Economic Policy Network (AWEPON)
Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD)
Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW)
Caribbean Farmers Network
CIDSE
CIVICUS
CONCORD Europe
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd
CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE)

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Development Alternatives with Women for a New era (DAWN)
Education International
EURODAD
Federation International des Femmes Carrieres Juridiques
FEMNET
FIAN
Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) Europe
Global Foundation for Democracy and Development
Health Innovation in Practice (HIP)
Health Prior 21
Healthy Caribbean Coalition
Helen Keller International (HKI)
IBFAN-GIFA
IBON International
Indigenous World Association
Institute for Transportation & Development Policy
Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of Social Solidarity Economy (RIPESS)
International Alliance of Women (IAW)
International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN)
International Budget Partnership (IBP)
International Council of Women (ICW)
International Diabetes Federation (IDF)
International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC)
International Federation of Business and Professional Women
International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)
International Presentation Association (IPA)
International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)
International Women's Anthropology Conference
Jubilee South Asia Pacific Movement on Debt and Development (JSAPMDD)
Latin American and Caribbean Council of AIDS Organizations (LACCASO)
Loretto Community
Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY)
Medical Mission Sisters
Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI)
Mouvement International de la Jeunesse Agricole et Rurale Catholique (MIJARC)
NGO Committee on FfD
Oxfam
People's Health Movement
Programme on Women's Economic Social and Cultural Rights (PWESCR)
Public Services International
Reality of Aid Africa
Red Educacion Popular entre Mujeres a. latina y el Caribe (REPEM)
Red Latinoamericana Sobre Deuda, Desarrollo y Derechos - LATINDADD
Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary
Salesian Missions
Singing Across Borders
Sisters of Charity Federation
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur

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Society for International Development (SID)
Someday Is Now International
Tebtebba
The Hunger Project
Third World Network (TWN)
Third World Network Africa (TWN-A)
Transparency International
UNANIMA International
United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)
World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA)
World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous Peoples (WAMIP)
World Council of Churches
World Forum of Fisher People (WFFP)
World Heart Federation

National Organizations & Networks

11.11.11 - Coalition of NGOs, unions, movements and solidarity groups in Flanders; Belgium
Aboriginal Rights Coalition-Australia; Australia
ACT - Alliance for the Control of Tobacco Use; Brazil
African Life Center; United States
Alnawatef Cooperative; Jordan
ANAFA; Senegal
APAGOLF; Honduras
Asociación Latinoamericana de Organizaciones de Promoción al Desarrollo (ALOP); Mexico
Assembly of the Poor; Thailand
Associação de Cooperação com a Guiné-Bissau; Portugal
Associação de Defesa do Património de Mértola; Portugal
Associação para a Cooperação Entre os Povos (ACEP); Portugal
Associação para o Planeamento da Família; Portugal
Association pour le developpement et de la promotion des droits humains; Mauritanie
Banka BioLoo; India
BOND; United Kingdom
Bread for the World; United States
Breastfeeding Association of Zambia; Zambia
Campaign for Human Rights and Development International; Sierra Leone & UK
Canadian Community Economic Development Network (CCEDNET); Canada
Centre for Health, Education, Training and Nutrition Awareness (CHETNA); India
Centre national de coopération au développement (CNCD) 11.11.11; Belgium
Centro de Mujeres Candelaria; Bolivia
Centro para la autonomía y desarrollo de los Pueblos Indígenas (CADPI); Nicaragua
Childlink Foundation; Ghana
Christian Aid; United Kingdom
CODR UBUNTU; Burundi
Community of Hope Agriculture Project; Liberia
Concord Sweden; Sweden

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Consumers Association; India
Dana and Qadisiyah Local Community Cooperative; Jordan
DENKO; Mali
DESECE; Kenya
Diverse Voices and Action for Equality - DIVA for Equality; Fiji
ECOS - Cooperativa de Educação, Cooperação e Desenvolvimento; Portugal
Ecumenical Academy Prague; Czech Republic
EDUCON; Czech Republic
Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights Organization; Egypt
El Poder del Consumidor AC; Mexico
Emda Network Organisation; Luxembourg-Netherlands
ENGENHO & OBRA; Portugal
Equidad de Género: Ciudadanía, Trabajo y Familia; Mexico
EquityBD; Bangladesh
Eurosolar; Czech Republic
Federation of Environmental and Ecological Diversity for Agricultural Revampment and Human Rights
(FEEDAR & HR); Cameroon
FIVAS; Norway
Foro Ciudadano de Participación por la Justicia y los Derechos Humanos (FOCO); Argentina
Freedom from Debt Coalition (FDC) Philippines; Philippines
Fundacion Etnica Integral; Dominican Republic
Fundación Jubileo; Bolivia
Gestos; Brazil
Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) Kenya ; Kenya
Gram Bharati Samiti (GBS); India
HRIDAY; India
HUMANA Fundación Pueblo para Pueblo; Spain
Humanitaire Plus; Togo
Indigenous Bubi People of Bioko Island; Equatorial Guinea
Infant & Pediatric Nutrition Association of the Philippines; Philippines
Institute of Law & Economics; Jamaica
Instituto Marquês de Valle Flôr; Portugal
InterAction; United States
Inter-Faith Action for Peace in Africa (IFAPA); Uganda
Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environment Nepal (JVE NEPAL); Nepal
Jubilee Debt Campaign (UK); United Kingdom
Jubilee USA Network; United States
Justice, Development and Peace Commission; Nigeria
Kehys - Finnish NGDO platform to the EU; Finland
Kepa; Finland
Kevoy Community Development Institute (KCDI) Jamaica; Jamaica
KULU-Women and Development; Denmark
Ligar a Vida - Associação de Gestão Humanitária para o Desenvolvimento; Portugal
Maa Civil Society Forum; Kenya
Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology; Germany

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Mexican Action Network on Free Trade (RMALC); Mexico
Missão Saúde para a Humanidade; Portugal
Movimiento Salvavidas; Mexico
National Confederation of Dalit Organisations (NACDOR); India
New Rules for Global Finance; United States
Nigeria Network of NGOs; Nigeria
Obra Missionaria de Acao Social/Leigos Boa Nova; Portugal
ONG Association Jeunesse Action Développement; Mauritanie
ONGD Mundo A Sorrir; Portugal
Pactes Européens; France
Plataforma 2015 y más; Spain
Prisma; Peru
Proyecto AliMente; Mexico
Red Integrando a México; Mexico
Reseau Musonet/Point focal FEMNET; Mali
Rural Area Development Programme (RADP); Nepal
Scaling Up Nutrition Civil Society Alliance-Kenya; Kenya
SEATINI Uganda; Uganda
Servicios Ecumenicos para Reconciliacion y Reconstruccion; United States
Slovak NGDO Platform; Slovakia
SNV - Netherlands Development Organisation; Netherlands
Social Watch Italian Coalition; Italy
Sociedad Chilena Enfermedades Respiratorias; Chile
Sol sem Fronteiras; Portugal
Stamp Out Poverty; United Kingdom
STOPAIDS; United Kingdom
Terra Nuova; Italy
Thai Poor Act; Thailand
Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development; Uganda
UNITAS-Unión Nacional de Instituciones para Trabajo de Acción Social; Bolivia
United Methodist Women; United States
WEEL; Liberia
WEMOS Foundation; Netherlands
Youth for Community Academic and Development Services (YOCADS); Liberia
Zimbabwe United Nations Association (ZUNA); Zimbabwe