

Statement by Christian Aid representative Matti Kohonen on behalf of the wider Civil Society Group at the Second drafting session on the outcome of the Third Financing for Development, New York, April 13 2015

Thank you Mr. Co-Facilitator. My name is Matti Kohonen, I work Christian Aid, and I also speak on behalf of the wider civil society group.

Let me also first take the moment to thank the hard work by the co-facilitators to create the Zero Draft of the Addis Ababa outcome document. We feel that there is now an urgency with just three months to go to achieve something truly transformational that challenges not only each other but also ourselves to build a consensus that enables us to deliver the money we need to build the world that we want.

Therefore, as it is imperative to remind ourselves of the values and principles of the Global Partnership for Development on the centrality of the role of the State as duty bearers within a rights-based framework still remains critically relevant and we feel needs to be urgently strengthened in current Zero Draft in light of the principle of international solidarity, which are enshrined in the Millennium Declaration, the Rio+20 outcome document; and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is vital that governments not only engage in partnership CSOs, trade unions, parliamentarians, private sector, philanthropy, local authorities, youth and the women's groups among other actors, but that this does not lessen the primacy of the universality of the State's duty to tackle inequality, provide decent jobs, achieve gender equality, protect the environment and ensure no harm is done by any actor's own actions.

However, we also need to use a lens of different rights and responsibilities of States, which recognises the Right to Development as one of the key principles underpinning the duty of States to cooperate with each other and their respective people in four key areas.

1. This is especially the case in the case of the accountability of the private sector, in recognising a corresponding harm that has and will be done without ex-ante assessments of the impact of public-private financing arrangements – such as blending and leveraging – including their potential for imposing unsustainable debt burdens or contingent liabilities. Concrete principles are needed to govern such instruments.

2. Similarly, assessment of the entire private sector's contribution to sustainable development does not end in cases where public funding is used – and indeed I welcome that the Zero Draft proposes mandatory integrated reporting on financial, environmental, social and governance issues is critical for large enterprises, but it would need to have a timeline and a relevant UN framework. Overall the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights should be mentioned, which outline both State duties and business sector accountability.

3. One of the key ways in which the responsibility of States to other States and people has been reflected in the Global Partnership for Development is to provide 0.7 per cent of the Gross National Income as development assistance. While some progress has been made in some places, which we will always recognise, we expect Addis Ababa conference to reaffirm and deliver this commitment with clear time-lines, along with other responsibilities to deliver on aid quality commitments.

4. The responsibility of States to other States is in no way limited to international aid, as we also make spillovers assessments of tax policies and practices, and address harmful flow of illicit financial flows, and we welcome IFFs being gradually addressed through public country-by-country reporting on companies and automatic tax information exchange in the Zero Draft as a key outcome, but we ask that there should be clear time-lines that ensure their gradual reduction in agreed time-lines within UN-led process.

It is indeed the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities as CBDR embodies all of these concepts of universality, differentiation and responsibility in combination, recognising the differentiation in the historical and current policies and practices of States and the financial resources that they command.

Through this recognition the outcome of the Addis Conference will be consistent with a process of social, economic and environmental transformation that recognises and fulfils the rights and responsibilities of all States for development and to fulfil in the fullest extent the Global Partnership for Development and for this process to be fully realised there needs to be an independent yet linked follow-up of the Financing for Development (FfD) with respect to the Sustainable Development Goals.

I thank you Mr. Co-facilitator.