

**Preparatory Process for the
Third International Conference on Financing for Development
Second drafting session**

FfD Second Drafting sessions, 13th of April, UN Headquarters

Intervention by Nicole Bidegain Ponte, Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN), the Women's Working Group on Financing for Development (WWG on FfD) and CSO FfD Group at the session on General views on the zero draft of the Addis Ababa Outcome Document discussion on Section I

My name is Nicole Bidegain, I am part of DAWN, the Women's Working Group on Financing for Development and the CSO FfD group. I would like to highlight the following elements from the Addis Ababa Accord Zero Draft:

First, the global partnership between developed and developing countries should constitute the foundation of the Addis Accord. As many governments and civil society organizations expressed in the previous sessions, there should not be any distortion of the key principles of Global Partnership, International Cooperation and Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR). Thus, new terminology such as "efforts and responsibilities shared by all" (para 8) should be avoided. The draft should stick to agreed commitments that take into account the recognition that the universality of the agenda is only legitimate with differentiation of responsibilities and actionable commitments based on the principle of international cooperation between developed and developing countries.

Second, addressing the failures of the systemic issues in the international financial and monetary system should be at the core of the Addis Accord. The systemic issues we face today are symptomatic of the financialization of economies and nature, where the financial sector has become increasingly important in the generation of profits and more powerful in economic governance. At the bottom, women must bear the burdens of care work amidst market and state failures. We are deeply concerned that the zero draft fell short in providing alternatives to the status quo. Addressing systemic issues is a precondition for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and setting the right financing framework to support the realization of the Post-2015 agenda.

Third, we acknowledge language in paragraph 1 that refers to ensuring “gender equality and protect and promote all human rights, including the right to development”. However, this commitment is not consistently reflected throughout the document. There is a contradicting **tendency towards the instrumentalisation and commodification of women** to improve profitability and competitiveness of business (para 42), as a source of tax (para 20, 22) or to promote market access for financial services (para 41, 42, 43) and ITC (para 103). This instrumentalization is a dangerous departure from recognizing the inherent entitlements of women as full and equal citizens and subjects of human rights.

Fourth, **there is the issue of policy space and the accountability of private business**. Many elements present in the Zero Draft will reduce policy space to fulfil all human rights, including the right to development. We are deeply concerned that the zero draft greatly promotes the role of businesses as ‘partners in the development process’, implying the problematic approach of ‘outsourcing’ government responsibilities for financing for development to the private sector. The document emphasises the need to provide an enabling environment for business without stressing the need of the public sector to regulate the activity of private businesses (para 37) and ensure private sector accountability (para 14). Often an enabling environment for business contradicts and undermines the potential to achieve sustainable development while respecting, protecting and fulfilling human rights, and particularly women’s rights.

Finally, while several member states and civil society organizations recommended to maintain the Monterrey and Doha structure, the current draft doesn’t provide the framework to fulfil the third Financing for Development Conference mandate. **We urge the co-facilitators to capture and reflect in a balanced manner the diverse perspectives and set clear modalities for a transparent and inclusive negotiation process**. We only have three months ahead to ensure that the FfD 3 delivers a comprehensive policy commitment framework to remove global systemic obstacles to advance sustainable, gender just and human rights based development for the next decades.

Thank you very much.
