

06 May 2015

H.E. Mr. Geir O. Pedersen, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Norway to the United Nations, 825 Third Avenue, 39th Floor, New York, NY 10022.

H.E. Mr. George Talbot, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Guyana Permanent Mission to the United Nations, 801 2nd Avenue #501, New York, NY 10017.

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

Cc:

Office of the President of the General Assembly

Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York

Non-Governmental Liaison Service of the United Nations

UNDESA Financing for Development Office

Re: Civil Society Participation in the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and its preparatory process

Dear Co-Facilitators,

We, the undersigned members of the Addis Ababa CSO Coordinating Group (ACG), representing 21 organisations, federations and networks from diverse regions and constituencies, would like to express our appreciation for the efforts made by the Office of the President of the General Assembly (OPGA), the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS), and the UNDESA Financing for Development Office (FFDO) to ensure open, transparent and inclusive participation of civil society in the past UNGA Public Hearings on Financing for Development (8-9 April).

However, we would like to express our concern regarding the limited participation of Member States during the Civil Society Hearings on Financing for Development (9 April). As stated on prior occasions, dialogue with civil society needs to be an integral part of the process rather than a separate and extraordinary event. Not only does this provide for more effective participation, but it also makes it easier for Member States to attend a session as part of the ordinary programme without needing to dedicate additional days in their already dense agenda of existing commitments. Thus, the Addis Ababa CSO Coordinating Group sincerely hopes this would be the spirit with which the process towards the Third Conference on Financing for Development will continue. We are therefore deeply encouraged by the stated openness to observers of the upcoming additional consultations (May 11-15) and hope this approach will be maintained for the following sessions, too.

The Addis Ababa Coordinating Group would also like to express its sincere thanks to you, in your capacity as Co-Facilitators, for having kept the space open for civil society during the recently concluded Second Drafting Session. We also appreciated your reassurances during the April 17 morning briefing regarding the continued space for civil society to constructively engage in the process. Despite this, significant uncertainties remain regarding the upcoming steps on the road to the Addis Ababa Conference. We would therefore like to reiterate the call on your support to ensure: (1) timely access to information and documentation as the process moves forward (i.e.

compilation of Member States comments, new FfD outcome drafts, etc.); (2) participation of civil society with observer status to the additional session for consultations in late May and June; and, (3) space and voice for civil society during the next Drafting Session(s).

We also understand that the Draft Resolution on the Further Modalities of the Addis Conference has been adopted as submitted by the OPGA and further consultations are ongoing regarding the preliminary conference programme. We would therefore like to use this occasion to seek your reassurance regarding the following key issues:

1. **The openness of the main conference venue to the participation of civil society:** We are concerned with the risk of limited access to the main conference venue and the possibility of a separate location to be established for civil society attendance (while webcasting remains essential for all those that would like to follow the event from remote locations);
2. **Appropriate space provided in the main plenary programme to convey the views emerging from civil society:** We are reassured to hear that proper space seems to be provided to civil society in the opening day programme and would hope this is retained in successive versions of the agenda. We are also pleased to inform you that preparations are underway for a two-day pre-conference CSO Forum in Addis Ababa in order to review and articulate the final statements by civil society on the conference outcomes and their follow-up as well as plan our future engagement in the continued FfD process. Despite this collective substantive convergence of the civil society messages, we also believe that civil society should be allowed to express its many diversities in the identity of the plenary speakers and strongly hope that they would not be requested to converge in one single person;
3. **Secure and significant spaces during the roundtables:** We are deeply concerned with the notation “up-to-six representatives” being used to define the number of civil society seats in the roundtables and would strongly urge for firmer commitment on the spaces available. We would also request that roundtables truly allow time for interactive discussions and strongly hope that time and moderation modalities would be designed to be conducive to this objective. In addition to roundtable participants, we believe that civil society should be able to provide at least one panelist in each of the roundtables;
4. **Side events in the main conference venue:** We are pleased to inform you that the CSO Group is coordinating its applications for side events in order to ensure convergence and respect the logistical limitations offered by the venue. We would hope that our coordination efforts be recognized and proper space in the main conference venue, as opposed to decentralized locations, be provided for those events that will be submitted collectively by CSO FfD Group.

Lastly, allow us to use this opportunity to recall that the Addis Ababa CSO Coordination Group was formed in October 2014 through an open, inclusive and transparent process within the Civil Society FfD Group*. The composition of the coordinating group takes into full consideration regional, gender and constituency balance (including the Major Groups’ constituencies). The ACG has been functioning fully and effectively to facilitate broad CSO participation in all FfD

meetings which have taken place up until now. It has done so by ensuring dissemination of information across CSO networks and platforms, organizing the democratic and transparent selection of CSO speakers, coordinating civil society messages and responses through an inclusive process, and most recently, promoting common fundraising efforts to ensure strong participation of Southern civil society in the lead up to, as well as at the actual Addis Conference in July 2015. It is particularly remarkable that, thanks to effective coordination, a comprehensive [“CSO Collective Assessment of FfD Zero Draft”](#) was produced as an input to the Second Drafting Session, as so was before in reaction to the [FfD Elements Paper](#).

The undersigned members of the Addis Ababa CSO Coordinating Group remain at your disposal to discuss these recommendations and other issues to facilitate our meaningful and full engagement in the preparatory process and at the Conference itself.

With warmest regards,

The Addis Ababa CSO Coordination Group

Martin Hojsik, ActionAid

Martin Tsounkeu, Africa Development Interchange Network

Josephine Kamel, African Women Economic Policy Network

Fanwell Bokosi, Afrodad

Jean Saldanha, CIDSE

Jesse Griffith, Eurodad

Jennifer del Rosario-Malonzo, IBON International

Eva Friedlander, International Women's Anthropology Conference

Matt Simonds, ITUC

Lidy Nacpil, Jubilee South Asia Pacific Movement on Debt and Dev

Eric LeCompte, Jubilee USA

Carlos Bedoya, Latindadd

Aashish Khullar, MGCY- IMCS Pax Romana

Daniel LeBlanc, NGO Committee on FfD

Vitalice Meja, Reality of Aid Africa

Catharina Bu, Save the Children

Roberto Bissio, Social Watch

Stefano Prato, Society for International Development

David Hillman, Stamp Out Poverty

Bhumika Muchhala, Third World Network

Nerea Craviotto, Women's Working Group on FfD

*The CS FfD List has been active since the Doha review conference in 2008. It is an open virtual list containing upwards of 300 organizations (500 individual members) with the single criterion for membership being representation of a Civil Society Organization. Note that NGLS and UN DESA have circulated on more than one occasion information on how to join this list and information is publicly available on the UN FfD website.