

# The Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness At a Glance

## What is the Open Forum?

The Open Forum is an international CSO-driven process to define a global development effectiveness framework applicable to civil society organisations (CSOs). To this end, the Open Forum will bring together, in the run-up to the fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in 2011, CSOs, governments and donors in consultations and multi-stakeholder dialogues at country, regional and international levels.

## Three objectives to be achieved by end-2011

1. To build a common understanding of CSO development effectiveness, shared by CSOs from around the world, and to be set out in a holistic **framework including principles as well as implementation guidelines and mechanisms**.
2. To provide a **learning environment on CSO development effectiveness**, so as to facilitate the exchange of good practices and to raise awareness on existing tools and how they contribute to CSO development effectiveness.
3. To build support among governments and donors for an **enabling environment** for CSOs. This should translate into a multi-stakeholder agreement at the next High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in 2011.

## What is CSO development effectiveness?

In their efforts to enhance effectiveness, CSOs have put in place a number of approaches and mechanisms, including working groups to facilitate information exchange, coordination bodies, codes of conduct or standards at platform level, specific evaluation methodologies and funding schemes etc.

For the Open Forum, development effectiveness is promoting sustainable positive change, within a democratic framework, that addresses the causes as well as the symptoms of poverty, inequality and marginalisation, through the diversity and complementarity of instruments, policies and actors.

The Open Forum seeks to shift debates away from a technical agenda focused on (official) aid and its management, to a more **holistic and impact-oriented agenda** which takes into account all CSO contributions to development.

## CSO-driven, but multi-stakeholder ...

Governments and donors determine conditions under which CSOs contribute to development processes, and have hence a great influence on the effectiveness of CSO actions. The Open Forum will therefore seek a dialogue with governments and donors to, among other things, determine **minimum standards for enabling conditions**. At the third High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Accra, governments and official donors committed to support and engage in the Open Forum (Accra Agenda for Action, § 20b).

## Who is invited to get involved?

The Open Forum will bring together in its consultations a variety of different CSOs from the development, relief and other sectors from both the North and the South: NGOs, trade unions, community-based organisations, grassroots organisations, faith-based organisations, social movements etc.

A **Global Facilitation Group (GFG)** of 25 CSOs from all world regions provides leadership to the Open Forum, seeking to ensure the inclusiveness and representativeness of the consultations. The GFG has delegated its day-to-day work to a **Consortium of six CSOs** which are, inter alia, in charge of mobilising CSOs for the Open Forum.

## Activities between now and end-2011

**More than 50 CSO country consultations** to solicit CSOs' inputs into the global framework

**5 regional workshops** to raise awareness, build capacity and/or consolidate CSOs' inputs into the global framework

**4 international consultations** in the following areas: gender and women's rights, CSOs in situations of conflict, social movements of the most marginalised, trade unions

**2 Global Assemblies** in 2010 and 2011 to finalise consensus-building on the intended framework

**Dialogues with official donors, governments** and other stakeholders to build support for an enabling environment (see Accra Agenda for Action, § 20c)

**Research on existing CSO approaches** to define and promote effectiveness

**Biannual GFG meetings** to monitor and draw lessons from the consultations and dialogues

More on [www.cso-effectiveness.org](http://www.cso-effectiveness.org)

## Global Facilitation Group (GFG)

The GFG meets biannually to draw lessons from the consultations and multi-stakeholder dialogues and to set directions for the future agenda. GFG members represent their region/sector in the Open Forum.

<b>Africa</b>	Coordinadora Civil de Nicaragua (CC)
Federation of NGO Platforms of Mali (FECONG)	<b>Middle East and North Africa</b>
African Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD)	Arab NGOs Network for Development (ANND)
Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR)	<b>North America</b>
Network of National NGO Platforms of Western and Central Africa (REPAOC)	InterAction - American Council for Voluntary International Action
<b>Asia</b>	Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC)
South Asian Network for Social and Agricultural Development (SANSAD)	<b>Pacific</b>
IBON International	Australian Council for International Development (ACFID)
Asia Pacific Research Network (APRN)	<b>International CSO networks and NGOs</b>
People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty (PCFS)	Plan International
<b>Europe</b>	CARE International
European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development (CONCORD)	International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)
Nordic+ Group	Action by Churches Together (ACT)
European Union Presidency Group	Caritas Internationalis / International Cooperation for Development and Solidarity (CIDSE)
<b>Latin America and the Caribbean</b>	CIVICUS - World Alliance for Citizen Participation
Asociación Latinoamericana de Organizaciones de Promoción (ALOP)	<b>Women's Organisations</b>
Unión Nacional de Instituciones para el Trabajo de Acción Social Bolivia (UNITAS)	Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APFWLD)

## Consortium of supporting organisations

Each member of the Consortium takes care of a specific world region or sector:

Organisation	Region
All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) <a href="mailto:africa@cso-effectiveness.org">africa@cso-effectiveness.org</a>	Sub-Saharan Africa
Asia Pacific Research Network (APRN) <a href="mailto:asia@cso-effectiveness.org">asia@cso-effectiveness.org</a>	Asia and Northern Africa
European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development (CONCORD) <a href="mailto:europa@cso-effectiveness.org">europa@cso-effectiveness.org</a>	Europe
InterAction – American Council for Voluntary International Action <a href="mailto:pacific@cso-effectiveness.org">pacific@cso-effectiveness.org</a>	North America and Pacific
Latin American Association of Development Organisations (ALOP) <a href="mailto:lac@cso-effectiveness.org">lac@cso-effectiveness.org</a>	Latin America and the Caribbean
CIVICUS – World Alliance for Citizen Participation <a href="mailto:icsoc@cso-effectiveness.org">icsoc@cso-effectiveness.org</a>	International CSO networks and NGOs

For general enquiries: [info@cso-effectiveness.org](mailto:info@cso-effectiveness.org)

Website: [www.cso-effectiveness.org](http://www.cso-effectiveness.org)