

Informal side-meeting during the International Conference on Civil Society and Aid Effectiveness

Ottawa, 6 February 08

CSO EFFECTIVENESS IN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

For the International Conference on Civil Society and Aid Effectiveness in Ottawa, CONCORD had invited a number of CSO representatives to an informal side-meeting: participants to the Brussels Workshop on CSO and AE and organisers of other regional consultations. (Participants list is annexed).

The objective of the side-meeting was to explore the possibilities of launching a CSO process to set own principles and develop mechanisms with regards to CSO effectiveness in development cooperation.

During the consultation process of the OECD/DAC Advisory Group (e.a. Brussels, Nairobi, Ottawa), CSOs declared the Paris Declaration not being directly applicable to CSOs. The Brussels Workshop concluded with an expression of interest by CSOs to establish their own set of principles for CSO Effectiveness in Development Cooperation.

The motor behind this proposal is to establish a process which is defined, led and managed by CSOs to set up own principles and explore mechanisms for implementation by 2010.

OUTCOMES OF THE OTTAWA SIDE-MEETING

Participants to the side-meeting discussed the relevance of the proposal, principles of a possible process, priority aspects to be dealt by the process, and agreed to organise a CSO meeting at the end of June 2008 in Paris (tbc, in collaboration with CoordinationSUD). The aim of that meeting would be to

1. draft a CSOs statement for Accra whereby CSOs commit to engage in a process of setting up own principles on CSOs Effectiveness as development actors.
2. further explore a potential agenda for this process beyond Accra

Even though several participants formulated questions which remained open, there was a common understanding that the overall proposal was worth pursuing. The framework of the proposal should contain:

Principles of this process

- It will be an international and inclusive "CSO only" process, but in periodic consultation with other stakeholders, including Donors and Governments
- Ensure a balance between legitimate leadership and ownership within the CSO community
- CSOs' ambitions regarding the outcomes of the process must go beyond principles and existing codes of conduct (examples: peer mechanisms, measurable instruments to hold CSOs mutually to account)
- The process itself must be accountable to CSOs, inclusive but not 'universal', addressing "all the roles of CSOs as development actors" only.
- The Brussels and Nairobi Workshops have identified a coherent and reasonably complete set of principles of CSO Effectiveness. Any future work must build on these principles.
- The process must build on existing experience and expertise in CSOs, networks and platforms
- Capacity building is needed and debates must be facilitated at all levels of CSO coordination
- The process needs to get Development practitioners and managers involved (next to policy experts) and the buy-in of National Platforms and CEOs of individual CSOs.

- If this process is started, CSOs must go through to the "end" (question of credibility)
- *Limit the ecological footprint of the exercise to a necessary minimum [inserted]*

Priority aspects of CSO Effectiveness in Development Cooperation (to be dealt by the process)

- North-South CSO Relationships / Partnership
- Address Northern CSOs responsibilities as 'donors' (upwards accountability, power imbalance, predictability)
- Social Accountability (Downwards accountability, power imbalance, predictability)
- Impact assessment

Leadership of this process

When raising the question of the leadership of this process for the coming months (to be discussed/confirmed at the Paris Meeting), InterAction proposed CONCORD, and CONCORD proposed to share this leadership with InterAction and other national and regional platforms.

----- END OF SIDE-MEETING MINUTES -----

Participants - Ottawa Side Meeting on CSO Effectiveness agenda

Last Name	First Name	Organisation
Barr	Gerry	CCIC
Craviotto	Nerea	Wide Brussels
O'Brien	Paul	Oxfam America
Tomlinson	Brian	CCIC
Kane	Molly	Inter Pares
Lenfant	François	CORDAID / CIDSE
Chidaushe	Moreblessings	NCA
Newman	Leif	Diakonia / APRODEV
Browa	Sylvain	Interaction / USA
Shelton	Todd	Interaction / USA
Hochgesang	Thomas	CBM / VENRO
Koch	Lars Peter	IBIS
Mahmud	Ahmed Swapan	Voice / Aid Accountability Group
Brand Jacobsen	Denisa Georgiana	FOND (Romanian Development NGO Platform)
Steele	Elizabeth	CARE International/CONCORD
Vogt	Andreas	CONCORD
Ingram	George	AED
Rouille D'Orfeuille	Henri	Coordination Sud
Tujan	Antonio	IBON Foundation
Endo	Mamoru	TICAD Civil Society Forum
Honda	Tomoko	JANIC
Hayes	Lucy	Eurodad
Levine	Carlisle	CARE USA
Suyama	Bianca	CARE UK
Perras	Sylvie	CCIC
McGarry	Joanne	Trocaire
Brunelli	Gilio	Development and Peace
Bengoa	Juana	CONGDE Spain
Dereymaeker	Jan	International Trade Union Confederation

