

Civil society interventions on International Public Finance

Statement delivered by Ms. Mareen Buschmann, Policy Adviser, Bond and Caritas Internationalis

Thank you Mr. Co-Facilitator, to address the session. My name is Mareen Buschmann and I work for the UK National Platform Bond, and I also speak on behalf of the wider civil society group.

As we have clearly heard in the last few days more and better Official Development Assistance has a crucial and irreplaceable role to play to achieve sustainable development. We now need to focus our efforts to deliver a sufficiently ambitious outcome, including concrete next steps and measurable timelines so we can deliver the finance we need to build the world that we want.

I would like to address 3 specific points in 2 paragraphs.

First, regarding paragraph 6:

We welcome the clear and unambiguous commitment to the 0.7% aid target and the call for timetables. We suggest strengthening this commitment further by:

Encouraging all donor countries by the end of 2015 to establish concrete timetables at the national level which outline clearly how and where they will gradually increase their assistance to deliver 0.7% no later than 2020.

Whereas ODA needs to focus on eradicating poverty and tackling inequalities everywhere, including in Middle Income Countries, we also support one of the main asks by LDCs themselves and would encourage adding that developed countries must also commit to provide at least half of their official development assistance to LDCs.

added value whenever international public finance is diverted from more direct interventions to blending with or leveraging private finance.

Finally, also related to paragraph 58:

When modernizing the ODA definition, we'd suggest specifying ~~that~~ ODA needs to be

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Statement delivered by Corina Rodríguez Enríquez, Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN)

Thank you Mr Co-Facilitator,

My name is Corina Rodríguez Enríquez, I am part of Development Alternatives with Women wider CSO group on FfD.

I would like to make three comments

To start with, we consider that a stronger focus is needed on enabling policy space to develop, drive and implement national development strategies in an inclusive and democratic way. Developing countries cannot bear the conditionalities of aid that hijack their policy space to pursue sustainable, equitable and gender development patterns.

Therefore we support the reference to full untying aid in Paragraph. 7.2. However, explicit commitment to set up adequate accountability and follow up mechanisms should be added. Otherwise it will remain rhetoric. We also believe on the need for a call for
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Finally, we are also concerned that multi-stakeholders partnerships in specific areas such as health, education and food are included in the draft, in Paragraphs 69, 70 and 71. Instead, we consider that States should call for establishing a UN led governance framework of open, transparent, and participatory oversight, monitoring and review of any partnership developed within the framework of the UN. It should set criteria for eligibility and dismissal,

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Statement delivered by Cristina Diez, Director and UN Representative, International
Movement ATD Fourth World

Thank you Mr. Co-facilitator. My name is Cristina Diez, I work for the International Movement ATD Fourth World, I also speak on behalf of a wider civil society group and my statement complements and build upon the statements my colleagues from civil society have already delivered.

Para 57

Although we welcome the emphasis on reaching the poorest in paragraph 57, we find that wording in this vein misses the most excluded in ~~LDC~~ countries. Thus we propose:

...We encourage developed countries to target ODA to the poorest and those most in need [ADD: in every country] taking into consideration agreed spending requirements to end poverty and invest in people...

We would also like to point out that better reporting and use of disaggregated data by income, gender, disability, age, race and ethnicity in ODA disbursement would greatly improve the impact of ODA. Also, ~~sub~~national targeting would much more effectively reach the lowest quintile of the population.

Para 60:

In paragraph 60 we would like to propose the following language:

We reaffirm the importance of meeting in full existing commitments under international conventions, including on climate finance and other key global challenges. [ADD:][We reiterate existing commitments in line with CBDR and historical responsibility

We would like to propose the following language to strengthen the paragraph:

In the second sentence... We encourage additional countries ~~to voluntarily join in implementing~~ [ADD to implement] the agreed mechanisms... [ADD at the end of the paragraph] Furthermore, we urge that part of the resources raised through innovative mechanisms are invested toward solving specific and pressing social and environmental issues, making sure to reach the poorest and those most in need in all countries

Para 63

It is critical to align the work of development banks and International Financial Institutions with human rights standards under a “do no harm” approach.

At the end of the sentence about the safeguards of the MDBs we suggest to add [ADD] without producing negative effects or harm to affected communities and consistent with human rights principles and obligations under international law

ODA has contributed to a disproportionate emphasis on hard infrastructure spending. This has often come at the expense of agriculture, public services, social protection and other social investments that have a direct positive impact on the lives of the poorest populations.

Thank you co facilitator