

## CSO Nairobi Declaration on the Nairobi HLM 2

We, the Participants at the Pan African CSO conference on “**CSO Preparatory meeting towards the second high level meeting for Nairobi under the theme of “Fast tracking SDG Implementation through Effective Development Co-operation’** held in Nairobi, Kenya on 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> July 2015, have come together as African Civil Society Organisations, including women’s organisations, labour unions, faith based groups, and networks, in the spirit of solidarity and partnership and as key actors in the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation from 35 African countries with over 500 million citizens of Africa to consolidate our position in our preparation to the second High Level Meeting .

Reaffirming that if the citizens of Africa are to see transformational and sustainable change in their quality of life in the Sustainable Development Goals context, the means of implementation and particularly the global partnership for effective development goals (GPEDC) must place gender equality, youth and women’s empowerment, as well as children at the centre of its focus in effective development co-operation.

**Recalling that** the main objective for the adoption of the Busan outcome document was to strengthen political accountability for effective development co-operation and fast track the implementation of the unfinished business of aid effectiveness;

**Supportive** of the collective position under the African political priorities for development effectiveness focused on the critical areas of capacity development, aid effectiveness, South- South cooperation, mobilization of domestic resources for development and innovative financing;

Recalling our position and engagement on Financing for Development and the SDGs as collectively expressed in Entebbe in 2015;

**Concerned** that the current state of the outcome document has failed to address important issues including conflict and political instability, conditionality, debt crisis, illicit financial flows, and domestic accountability;

**Having undertaken** to fully engage the forthcoming second High Level Meeting to promote and champion the interests and concerns of the African citizens, expressed and formed a position on the following:

### **Domestic Resource Mobilization**

1. Recognised Domestic Resource Mobilization as critical part of the future agenda on Financing for Development for all African countries and called for greater country leadership in the development and decision making in country resource mobilisation.

2. Noted that Success in the Domestic Resource Mobilization agenda depended on interrelated matters including greater control of 'fiscal policy space, fighting of terrorism and religious fundamentalism, and good political and economic governance.
3. Noted that prevention of revenue losses to African countries through illicit financial flows out of Africa, systemic corruption and collusion, corporates' tax dodging, harmful and unnecessary tax incentives and treaties was key in boosting Africa's domestic resource mobilisation efforts.

### **Progress on GPEDC**

1. Noted with concern the lack of progress in the use of country systems, untying of aid and aid predictability and called on the development partners to fulfil their commitments with regard to the Busan agreements;
2. Expressed concern over the shrinking space for civil society across the world and urged governments to recognize and promote Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) as critical actors in achieving all aspects of Agenda 2030 and the ambition of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals;
3. Concerned over the voluntary nature of GPEDC despite its importance towards the political accountability among the stakeholders on SDG goal 17;
4. Noted that global partnership was not leading to behavioural change necessary for Africa's transformative agenda and sustainable improvement of its people's livelihood

### **South-South Development Co-operation agenda**

1. Underscored the importance of south – south co-operation in promoting Africa's integration and development;
2. Expressed concern that Africa's development co-operation with major actors in South – South Co-operation outside Africa was leading to new debt build ups, environmental degradation, and exhibiting the traditional north south characteristics, including a lack of domestic accountability and conditionalities;
3. Observed SSC remained at state level with minimal or no input by the citizens - Citizens have been relegated to spectating role and are seen as mere beneficiaries of projects of South-South Cooperation;

### **Our Greatest Challenge – 'Leave No One Behind'**

1. Observed that 'leaving no one behind' remains central to the targeting of development cooperation,
2. Noted with concern that some countries in Africa are graduating to a middle income status, levels of poverty remain high
3. Observed that new challenges including terrorism were exacerbating conflict and fragility in many African countries

4. Urge governments to eradicate hunger and food insecurity call on them to reduce the imports subsidies on food and encourage increased intra-Africa trade in food and agriculture.

### ***Women's Empowerment***

1. Noted the need for a comprehensive approach to women's empowerment that holistically focuses on social, cultural, economic and political empowerment of all women and girls.
2. We noted the need to transform the global financial and fiscal architecture that addresses the issues of illicit financial flows and tax abuse.
3. Observed that progressive taxation is critical to achieving gender equality and women's human rights.
4. Called for public finance allocations and expenditure to be fair, just, equitable, transparent in social economic sectors such as health, infrastructure, education and social protection that impact directly on advancing gender equality, lessening the burden of care work and reducing maternal mortality.

### ***Children in the Development Effectiveness Agenda***

1. Affirmed that investment in children has high economic and social returns which will have future positive outcomes for women and youth and all segments of the human populations

### ***Private Sector and Development***

2. Upheld that provision of essential services such as health, education, housing, water and clean energy remained a core responsibility of the government and not the private sector,
3. Recognised the important role of the African domestic private sector and called for its support domestic private sector including through the creation of enabling environment, facilitation of access to resources and capacity development;
4. Expressed Concern that citizens have not been incorporated in the Public Private Partnership agenda despite its growing influence in the global partnership debate and call for an integrated approach to the Private Public Partnerships, with governments committing resources for facilitating CSO capacity building in contract negotiations and assessment, considering that Civil Society Organisations can play an important role in monitoring the development impact of private sector investments and capital flows;
5. Noted with concern the disconnected nature of private sector investments from the major sectors of the economy, where the majority of the citizens are found;

### ***We demand that African governments and Development partners;***

### ***GPEDC Mandate and Review***

1. To develop a clear theory of change that was in line with promotion of the SDG agenda relevant to Africa's needs, in line with the AU Agenda 2063;
2. Develop minimum criteria for participation and consultation with all stakeholders in the monitoring exercise to strengthen the quality of the country reports;

3. strengthen the country statistical capacity on aid data collection, use and publication;

### ***South - South Co-operation (SSC) and the Global Partnership government stakeholders***

1. Apply the principles of GPEDC in promoting effective development co-operation;
2. Adopt a horizontal approach and have human rights based approach at the core of development co-operation;
3. Develop a monitoring and accountability framework to monitor the progress of the effectiveness of SSC initiatives;
4. Adopt a guideline for SSC Effective development co-operation, reflective of their context and circumstance;

### **Our Greatest Challenge – ‘Leave No One Behind’**

1. Deepen and strengthen inclusive mechanisms for planning, implementation as well as monitoring and evaluation of development plan, making sure that marginalised groups and Citizens are at the core of development co-operation;
2. Develop commitments towards the objective of leaving no one behind as modus operandi for the global partnership for Effective Development Co-operation
3. Develop a monitoring indicator through an updated framework to measure progress on commitments made towards leaving no one behind;

Promote an Eco-system based adaptation that would allow sustainable food and agricultural development.

### ***Private Sector and Development***

Demand that private sector:

1. Pursues the development agenda that put peoples’ rights, as well as social and environmental justice at the fore of its strategy and activities,
2. Promote policies that ensure decent work, based on employment opportunities, respect for labor rights, social protection, social dialogue, sustainable livelihoods be put at the core of private sector’s development agenda;
3. adheres to the principles of democratic ownership, transparency and accountability inclusivity and development results;

### ***Women’s Empowerment***

Change to address systematic and structural power imbalances between countries and within countries.

1. Change of the current economic development model that is based on unsustainable patterns of consumptions and production, privatization of public services, exploitation of women’s labour (unpaid care work, unequal pay, poor working conditions, indecent work) predominantly done by women.

2. Deepen the participation of women and girls as key development actors in the development, review, monitoring and implementation of development policies and create an enabling environment that serves the needs and interests of women and girls.
3. Prioritize financing for gender equality and women's rights including financing Women's Rights Organisations especially from the Global South. This is a key enabler for achieving gender equality, women's human rights and empowerment of women and girls as well as other development goals.

### ***Youth Empowerment***

1. Develop a resolution on supporting young people as partners in development and establishing structures that promote meaningful participation of youth
2. Put in place mechanisms for monitoring progress on measures taken to support youth in development and commitments to the Nairobi HLM2 outcome on youth; Develop trade policies that are responsive to youth entrepreneurs and create enabling environment for them as important development actors;

### ***Children in the Development Effectiveness Agenda***

3. Ensure child sensitive national budgets, through the involvement of Experts on children issues and child focused organizations in the budgeting process;  
Frequently collect collate and make accessible child focused disaggregated data should to all stakeholders

### ***Multistakeholder partnerships and Enabling Environment***

1. Support the call for inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogue linked to a strong enabling legal and regulatory environment for CSOs and noted with concern the shrinking space for CSOs in Africa;
2. Ensure strong legal framework that guarantees public participation and engagement, including CSOs, on laws and public policy making
3. Invite CSO representatives onto advisory, policy and decision-making bodies;
4. Respect the civic space and ensure that CSOs operate freely as independent development actors
5. Ensure diverse representation from the civil society sector, knowing that some countries may currently have such laws and requirements, but there is evidence that they do not adequately implement them;
6. Enable access to information for effective multi-stakeholder dialogue and remove practical road-blocks including institutional processes, capacities, failure to implement the Act, which undermine CSO access to the correct, requested information on a timely basis.

### ***We commit ourselves to the following***

1. Organize impactful event to deliver the Africa Civil Society Common Position for the second High Level Meeting
2. Popularize and strengthen a national platform to monitor the implementation of Nairobi outcome on the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation
3. Strengthen and deepen the implementation of the Istanbul principles to maximize our contribution to development results as independent development actors;