

PAN AFRICAN CSO CONFERENCE ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT



7-8TH JULY 2015

IMPERIAL GOLF VIEW HOTEL,

ENTEBBE, UGANDA



List of acronyms

CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FFD	Financing for Development
GNI	Gross National Income
HLP	High Level Panel
IFFs	Illicit Financial flows
MNEs	Multi National Enterprises
MOI	Means of Implementation
NEPAD	The New Partnership for Africa's Development
NDP	National Development Plan
NPA	National Planning Authority
ROA	Reality of Aid Africa Network
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNNGOF	Uganda National NGO Forum

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Foreword

I am delighted to share the report from the preparatory meeting of the Pan African CSO Conference on Financing for Development that took place from the 7-8th July 2015 in Entebbe, Uganda. The meeting brought together about 70 CSOs across Africa to discuss and build consensus on key messages and proposals in preparation for the 3rd UN international Conference on Financing for Development (FFD3) due take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from the 13th to 16th July 2015. The meeting also provided a platform for Pan African CSOs to develop a strategy to influence the outcome of the third FFD and beyond.

The key outcomes from the preparatory meeting are; the need for Africa to exit from Aid, need to promote good governance and accountability, combat corruption, mobilize internal resources effectively and the need for CSOs to unite and increase their capacity as they deliberate and influence issues surrounding financing for development in Africa.

The conference too birthed the “*Entebbe declaration*” which is the African CSO statement to the world leaders that are to meet in Addis Ababa for the 3rd UN International Conference on financing for Development. The declaration not only states the proposals for African Governments but also CSO commitments towards follow up of the Addis Ababa outcome.

Finally I wish to recognize the valuable contribution of Reality of Aid Africa Network towards making the conference a success. I would also like to extend our sincere appreciation to the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic development, Minister for state, Planning and Economic monitoring office of the president, The New Partnership for Africa’s Development and the National Planning Authority for gracing the occasion.



Mr. Richard Ssewakiryanga
Executive Director
Uganda National NGO Forum

1. INTRODUCTION

Over 70 CSO representatives from twenty Five African countries met from the 7th-8th July 2015, in Entebbe, Uganda, to discuss and build consensus on key messages and proposals in preparation for the 3rd UN international Conference on Financing for Development (FFD3) due to take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from the 13th to 16th July 2015. The meeting also provided a platform for Pan African CSOs to develop a strategy to influence the outcome of the third FFD and beyond. The conference was organized by Reality of Aid Africa Network and the Uganda National NGO Forum.

The meeting was officially opened by Hon. Matia Kasaija Minister for Finance, Planning and Economic Development whose remarks were preceded by the following: Welcome remarks by Mr. Richard Ssewakiryanga the Executive Director, Uganda National NGO Forum, Opening remarks made by Vitalice Meja Executive director Africa for Aid Network, and remarks by Head of Capacity Development Division, NEPAD and Mr. Godfrey Okot, Board Member, National Planning Authority

At the end of the two day conference, six round tables discussed different themes as enshrined in the Addis Ababa Accord and key messages and actions for each theme emerged. Also, a declaration was presented, discussed and adopted by the Pan African CSOs in attendance. In the Declaration, CSOs called upon governments to exhibit good governance and accountability, combat corruption, design mechanisms of financing the SDGs, and exercise greater country leadership in the development and decision making in country resource mobilization and allocation.

This report provides a synopsis of the full conference report of the two day proceedings.

1.1 Background to the Conference

The International Conference on Financing for Development marks a turning point in the approach to development cooperation by the international community. It is the main United Nations-sponsored summit-level meeting to address key financial issues pertaining to global development. Two International conferences have been held in Monterrey 2002 and Doha 2008 respectively. The outcomes of these conferences have reflected the global agreement between developed and developing countries in which both recognized their responsibilities in key areas such as trade, aid and debt relief.

The 3rd Financing for Development Conference will take place on 13th-16th July 2015 in Addis Ababa. The conference will bring together heads of state, Ministers of Finance, Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation. The outcome of the Addis Ababa has the potential to be a major stepping stone for the UNGA summit on Post 2015. CSOs have an opportunity to influence the outcome through participation in government delegations around the forth coming conference.

Against this background, Reality of Aid Africa Network and the Uganda National NGO Forum agreed to host the pan African CSO preparatory conference on FFD to build consensus on CSO key messages and proposals for the Addis Ababa outcome document.

2. OPENING SESSION

2.1 Welcome Remarks-Richard Ssewakiryanga Executive Director Uganda National NGO Forum

"...As Pan Africa CSOs, we want to see the agenda 2063 of the African Union implemented... to address the escalating unemployment, abject poverty, famine and mortality rates that stifle development."



Mr Richard Ssewakiryanga emphasizes the need for CSOs to engage governments of Africa in effective financing for Development.

Mr. Ssewakiryanga, the Executive Director of Uganda National NGO Forum stated that the Pan Africa CSO conference is in preparation for the 3rd International Financing for Development Conference that will take place on 13th-17th July 2015 in Addis Ababa. CSOs in Africa needed a process to harmonize the African voice so as to influence the outcomes of the Financing for Development Conference in Addis

Ababa.

He pointed out that while rallying call for Post 2015 development agenda is leaving

no one behind, Africa is still faced with challenges such as inequality amongst men, women and children and to this end, he called upon all stake holders to carefully address this challenge if we are to attain meaningful inclusive development.

Further, Mr. Ssewakiryanga pointed out that CSOs have been following the discourse on financing for Development from Monterrey in 2002, Doha 2008 and the upcoming conference in Addis Ababa which is the first ever in Africa. Over the years, CSO engagement in financing for development processes and development cooperation has caused a paradigm shift. Introducing dynamics such as; debt relief, tax justice and need to address illicit financial flows among others. Hence the efforts of CSOs in these processes should not be undermined in the outcomes of the 3rd Financing for Development Conference. Lastly, he appreciated Reality for Aid Africa Network for partnering with Uganda National NGO Forum to host the Africa CSO preparatory meeting.

2.2 Opening Remarks: Vitalice Meja Executive Director Reality of Aid Africa network

In his remarks, Mr. Vitalice Meja, the Executive Director of Reality of Aid for Africa Network noted that while some progress has been made in the area of Domestic Resource Mobilization, South – South Co-operation, policy and fiscal space within and between African countries, the Monterrey agenda has not yet been fully implemented. New challenges have arisen, and

enormous unmet needs remain for the achievement of sustainable development. These include; increase in population growth rates, widening inequality and climate change among others.

Further, Mr. Meja called for financing for human rights by adoption and enforcement of appropriate laws and policies backed by resources to protect, promote and realize the full range of civil, political, social, cultural and economic rights. He reaffirmed the role of ODA in countries that have limited capacity to raise domestic public resources thus the need for international solidarity in the form of ODA to address financing needs in a post-2015 development agenda.

In addition, he noted that trade relations to promote equality among trade partners, must be reformed to uphold the special and differential treatment of developing countries. Finally, he reiterated that Domestic resources must be complemented by scaled-up and sufficient development assistance if African countries are to attain the post 2015 agenda.



Mr Vitalice Meja stresses the need to embrace a new vision of development financing based on the philosophy of “living well” in community with others and in harmony with nature.

2.3 Key Note Address: Hon. Caroline Okao, Minister of State for Micro Finance, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development

“...The NDPII is the vehicle through which the aspirations contained in the SDGs will be implemented by the different Ministries, Departments and Agencies...”

While representing the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Hon Okao stressed that 2015 is critical year as the United Nations redefines the next global agenda to replace the Millennium Development. The UN General Assembly will meet in September 2015 to adopt the Sustainable Development Goals which will take effect on 1st January 2016. However for the SDGs to be a reality they have to be financed. Hence all stakeholders both government and the Non State Actors should take keen interest in the processes to forge a way forward.

Uganda has actively participated in shaping the global development agenda through a number of processes such as the Rio+20, the Common Africa Position on Post 2015, and the intergovernmental negotiations on developing the Sustainable Development Goals. Uganda launched the National Development Plan II which is fully aligned to the proposed Sustainable development Goals. The NDPII is the vehicle through which the aspirations contained in the SDGs will be implemented by the different Ministries, Departments and Agencies. This portrays Uganda’s commitment to domestication and implementation of the SDGs.



Hon. Caroline Okao, Minister of State for Microfinance delivering the Key note Address

Hon. Okao called upon African CSOs to take stock of the current financing architecture; the use of both domestic and foreign resources, public and private resources and innovative financing mechanisms as they seek to influence the final Addis Ababa Accord. Finally she urged CSOs and other stakeholders to deliberate on the challenges caused by corruption, capital outflows and trade imbalances as these have an adverse impact on financing for development.

2.4 Remarks by NEPAD and NPA Representatives

Ms. Florence Nazare, Head of Capacity Building of NEPAD pointed out that while improving the quality and quantity of finance will be crucial for African governments, it will also be integral for them to optimize the use of their resources so as to attain meaningful and inclusive development. She also stressed the need for CSOs to put in place mechanisms to influence the implementation and compliance of the Addis Accord by the relevant state Institutions across Africa.

Speaking on behalf of the National Planning Authority, Mr. Okoth Godfrey noted that inclusive growth, financial and leadership disciplines at all levels are enablers to development. He therefore reaffirmed the need for CSOs to continuously advocate for good leadership that aims at transparency, inclusiveness and accountability. He also urged them to clearly articulate their priority issues that they will share with the Africa leaders in Addis Ababa.

2.5 Oxfam Statement on Financing for Development

In this statement, Oxfam reaffirmed the need for a radical change in global development finance architecture to make it fair and just. They implored all African leaders to attend the 3rd Financing for Development conference to demand for an ambitious, fair and just outcome that enables inclusive transformation for the world in the post 2015 era. Further the statement called for creation of an intergovernmental body for cooperation in tax to address tax evasion by the Multinational companies and broaden the scope of future tax negotiations to ensure fair share of corporate tax revenues.

As Africa CSOs our role is to speak loud and clear to leaders on the continent and global development community emphasizing that the success in FFD discussions lies in rebalancing the playing field

The statement further articulated that developed countries must re-commit to providing 0.7% GNI as aid to the most vulnerable countries.

However, it should be backed with targets within the time line of the post 2015 development agenda. In addition, increases in international concessional aid and national public spending must be targeted at reducing economic and social inequalities with focus on public services, women and other disadvantaged groups, sustainable agriculture and small-scale food production, and citizens' efforts to hold governments to account. Lastly, Mr. Munyasai, reiterated that the third FFD presents an opportunity for fairer development finance to tackle poverty and inequality globally and as such, CSOs should embrace it and work with their governments to see to it that this comes a reality.

3. STATUS OF FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT AND ILLICIT FINANCIAL FLOWS

3.1 Structure and overview- Stefano Prato managing director SID and co-convener Addis Ababa coordination group

Mr. Sefano Prato started his presentation by highlighting the critical issues that have not been given due consideration in the financing for development process. African countries have



Mr Stefano Prato provides his insights on the FFD negotiation process

experienced massive capital outflows through IFFs, debt servicing and unsustainable economic practices over a long period, therefore efforts to reduce poverty and boost economic growth will be thwarted as income distribution becomes more skewed leading to economic and political instability.

The lack of a policy space to advance the agenda on barriers to social economic transformation as a result global economies continues to assert their powers over the weak

economies.

He acknowledged that the Addis Ababa Accord has the opportunity to tackle the structural injustices in the current global economic system and ensure that development finance is people-centered and protects the environment. However, he was concerned that the agenda does not explicitly address the following; the removal of barriers to social economic transformation; democratization of economic governance, monitoring and financial system is weak, lacks a clear affirmation on women and girl rights, and abdicates the role of the state. Hence he called upon all African CSOs put in place coherent advocacy mechanisms that will ultimately ensure that the above issues are addressed over time.

Sharing his insights on the process, Mr. Stefano pointed out contentious issues that have marred the negotiations. These include; the lack of consensus on the establishment of a

global tax body to combat corporate tax dodging in developing countries; the role of the state in setting the regulatory framework for the private sector remains weak. There is also confusion between financing for the Post 2015 agenda and transformation of the economic financial monetary system and to this end, it is therefore not clear if the Addis outcome document will be the MOI for the post 2015 development agenda. Lastly, he implored CSOs to critically analyze the Addis outcome document and identify key messages for their leaders to take action. He also urged CSOs to tap into the open negotiations, Addis Ababa Civil Society Forum and all side events at the FFD conference to ensure they influence the final outcome of the 3rd FFD.

3.2 High Level Panel Report on Illicit Flows from Africa: Hon. Irene Ovonji Odida, Member of the High Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa

In her opening remarks, Hon. Ovonji stressed that Illicit financial flows (IFFs) out of Africa have become a matter of major concern because of the scale and negative impact on Africa's



Hon. Irene Ovonji, Citizens should be central in the fight against IFFs

development agenda. She therefore called for a binding commitment between developed and developing countries on illicit financial flows as part of the FFD process.

A High Level Panel (HLP) on IFFs from Africa was set up in 2012 to establish IFF nature, scale and effects on development, sensitize different stakeholders and make proposals to curb the vice. According to the Panel Report, Africa lost between \$20 billion in 2001 and \$60 billion in 2010 in IFFs and this has impacted on development through

lost tax revenue and opportunity cost of lost savings and investment. It also noted that ending IFFs in Africa requires political commitment and global consensus among different actor such as African Union, United Nations and World Bank among others.

Transparency is critical to all aspects of IFFs which include declarations of profits, accounting for sales, profits and taxes. African countries need to commit to the various voluntary and mandatory transparency initiatives and mainstream their requirements through legislation and adoption of common standards. Further, the commercial routes of IFFs need closer monitoring as it was noted that MNEs under-declare export quantities of oil, gas, minerals, agricultural goods eg timber, fish. Hence governments should establish or strengthen institutions to address the commercial IFFs drivers.

Corruption remains an integral part of IFFs thus the need for establishment of well resourced national anti-corruption agencies to prevent and prosecute corruption cases. The report pointed out that African countries continue to grant tax incentives in order to attract foreign direct investment. However it is important that these tax incentives are guided by clear cost-benefit

analyses. Finally, Hon. Ovonji appealed to CSOs to make the fight against illicit financial flows a citizen issue so that every African citizen mounts pressure on their government to curb the vice.

3.3 Plenary-Emerging Issues

Need to address corruption

Corruption is one of the greatest contributors of IFFs from Africa and as such, African states need concerted effort in dealing with this scourge in order to put an end on IFFs. The collapse of government systems and institutions also accounts for IFFs and as Pan African CSOs, priority should be in influencing the proper operations of the institutions and systems.

Political will

The African governments have to portray the counter measures they have designed against IFFs as a sign of willingness and commitment to end the IFFs from Africa and citizens across Africa should demand the same from their respective governments.



A participant submits on the need to stop IFFs in Africa

Strengthen the role of Parliament in curbing IFFs

There is need to strengthen legislative measures relating to cross border exchange of tax information, anti laundering and trade invoicing and county by country reporting on IFFs.

Sensitization on IFFs

It is imperative that Citizens across Africa understand the issues around IFFs through massive sensitization so that they can ably engage their governments. They should own the process of curbing the IFFs from Africa by putting pressure on their government to implement policies concerning the same.

Engagement with UN Systems and regional Bodies on IFFs

It should be noted that there are agencies and systems at both International and Regional levels such as the UN systems on IFFs, High level Panel on IFFs and AU that CSOs have to engage with as the platforms not only make key recommendations to the IFFs but also provide space for engagement. CSOs should push for sanctions from the International agencies such as IMF, World Bank against countries that deliberately facilitate IFFs and have ignored putting in place mechanisms to curb the same.

4. GROUP ROUND TABLES

The conference programme provided for round table sessions in six specific areas that will be the focus for the 3rd UN International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa. This was to allow focused discussions that would concretize the key messages and proposals. The roundtables were; Domestic Resource Mobilization, Official Aid Assistance (ODA), Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) & International Private Flows, International Trade, Debt and Debt Sustainability and Systemic Issues. The outcomes of the roundtables informed the Pan African CSO Declaration on Financing for Development

4.1 Domestic Resource mobilization

Participants noted that there is need to ensure Good Governance, transparency and accountability if the domestic resources are to deliver meaningful development. Regarding IFFs, participants called upon governments to put in place mechanisms to ensure that resources lost through IFFs are recovered.

It was further articulated that harnessing human resource capacities by addressing issues pertaining brain drain, transforming the production through revolutionizing industrializations and prioritizing debt servicing to boost local economy will increase domestic resources. African governments should provide leadership in decision making in country resource mobilization and allocation. Lastly, CSOs agreed to strengthen their capacity to engage further on domestic resource related issues so as to liberate Africa from the looming debt.

4.2 Official Development Assistance

The discussion called for a clear timeline on the 0.7% GNI contribution of ODA to developing countries. The participants were also concerned that the discussion on untied aid has lost momentum. In addition, African CSOs pledged to support their governments towards exiting aid dependency. They also recognized the need for transparency and accountability in the use of all public resources including aid. The participants reiterated the need for comprehensive risk analysis of the new aid modalities to ensure that they serve citizen interests.

As a way forward, CSOs called for the popularizing of the declaration at country level and engagement with the relevant authorities to ensure concrete follow up. They recognized the need to kick start an African CSO process on FFD (Loose network) as a way of steadily following up the issues raised. Participation of African CSOs in the existing working groups of CSO Partnership Development Effectiveness and the need to localize Action plans for monitoring progress in various countries were some of the key actions agreed in the discussion.

4.3 Foreign Direct Investments & International Private Flows

Participants observed that private sector has continued to influence political governance especially through funding of political campaigns and as a result policy content is compromised. They were concerned that FDI had remained detached from the major productive sectors of the economy where majority of the citizens are found thus providing weak backward linkages. They noted that Inclusive growth and engagement in productive sector should be encouraged so as to promote equitable resource distribution and economic growth.

Participants reiterated that focusing on job creation will not only increase local revenue but reduce the risks associated with FDI. It was further firmly stated that strong political engagement with leaders and enhancing the capacity of CSOs to engage on issues relating to both public private partnership will be a milestone. They also urged governments to involve CSOs in the public private partnership negotiations and assessment to promote transparency and accountability.

4.4 International trade

They observed the deteriorating terms of trade for Africa with the rest of world and the current trade policy development agenda of free market fundamentalism that has continued to push African governments to open up their under developed market economies to unfair trade. They therefore urged African governments to demand the conclusion of Doha round and ensure that their development interests are fully taken into account. Further, they noted African Governments need to be concerned about the emerging bilateral trade and investment treaties that are slowly eroding Africa's policy space and thus affect future development prospects of Africa.

Lastly, the participants emphasized the need for African states to lobby and negotiate through regional blocs, promote inter regional trade and also the need for CSOs to get involved in negotiating Trade Agreements to ensure equity.

4.5 Debt and Debt Sustainability

It was emphasized that African states should work towards exiting debt by mobilizing local resources effectively to bridge the existing financing gaps. To this end, governments should work towards combating corruption, effective monitoring mechanisms for local resources and putting a cap on the amount African governments can borrow.

Furthermore, the participants affirmed the need for government to strengthen their public debt management mechanisms and capacity of Parliaments to provide oversight over public debt borrowing.

4.6 Systemic Issues

The participants decried the weak representation of Africa in the global financial institutions as a result the global financial reforms for Africa do not reflect the needs and concerns of the Africans. They therefore reaffirmed the need for a timeline on governance reforms for all Economic Institutions so as to achieve meaningful development. The participants also pointed out the influx in migration of workers thus the need for social protection mechanisms to address the economic inequalities faced by citizens in Africa.

Further, the participants emphasized the need for stronger collaborations between CSOs and governments in order to influence development reforms. Africa CSOs committed to further engage with institutions such as ECOSOCC in all processes where possible as well as strengthen established mechanisms such as African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) so as to implement Africa's development agenda.

5. CLOSING SESSION

5.1 Presentation of the Declaration

The CSO African Statement to the 3rd UN International Conference on Financing for Development as outcome of the Conference was read out and discussed by the participants and it laid emphasis on Africa's key priorities for financing. These included; creation of an inclusive and transparent inter-governmental tax body; private sector pursues the development agenda that puts peoples' rights at the centre of its strategy; prudent use of all public resources; demand for the conclusion on the Doha round of negotiations at the WTO and ensure Africa's interest is protected and cancellation of all the odious debts among others. The Statement was fully discussed endorsed by the CSOs and they undertook to widely disseminate it to all key actors at continental level and global level. **(Detailed statement annexed)**

5.2 Closing Remarks: Hon. Henry Banyenzaki Minister of state for Planning and Economic Development-Office of the President

"...If our governments deliver their commitments...Africa will be a paradise..."

Having welcomed the Pan African CSOs to Uganda, Hon. Banyenzaki noted that the conference was timely and critical as the world prepares for the new development framework. He appreciated the role of civil society in the development especially in articulating citizen concerns and providing services in the hard to reach areas. He therefore called upon governments to work together with CSOs to deliver Africa from hunger, poverty and inequalities.



Hon. Banyenzaki appreciates the role of CSOs in the development of Africa

Commenting on the SDGs, he observed that one of the major constraints to the MDGs was the lack of knowledge and ownership of the Goals. Hence African governments should ensure that their development plans are aligned to the SDGs and CSOs should continuously raise awareness on the SDGs with the populace. Further Hon. Banyenzaki emphasized the need for a monitoring framework to closely monitor the implementation of the SDGs in the next 15 years to address global injustices and inequalities.

Further, Hon. Banyenzaki decried the escalating levels of aid dependency in Africa that have destroyed its independent muscle and turned it into a "begging" continent. Therefore urged African leaders to build effective administrations; raise their own revenues to finance their development needs and, in turn, become more accountable to taxpayers for their performance.

In his conclusion, he called upon CSOs to ensure that the Addis Ababa outcome is people centered in order to achieve the global agenda of *"leaving no one behind."*

5.3 Side Events

At the conference, ROA and UNNGOF held side events to further emphasize the key messages by the Pan African CSOs on financing for development all in the bid for better development of Africa. These side events included; the press-conference and the Finance our future campaign sign up to build pressure on our government to deliver on their promises, tackle tax injustice and fund climate change interventions.



Participants append their signatures to the "Finance our future" campaign banner

6. CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

The conference provided a platform for African civil society to consolidate all the key messages and proposals from the various consultations across Africa and develop a strategy to influence the outcome of the Addis Conference and beyond. The conference participants committed themselves to the following broad actions in the immediate and post Addis;

- Organize impactful event to deliver the Africa Civil Society Common Position for the Addis Conference.
- Popularize and strengthen a national platform to monitor the implementation of Addis Ababa outcome on the Financing for Development Agenda.
- Focus on civil society sustainability and advocate for a conducive operating environment for CSOs.

- Fully collaborate with our governments to build a better future for Africa with the implementation of the Post 2015 Agenda.

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: ENTEBBE DECLARATION

The Pan African CSO Statement on Financing for Development

Entebbe Uganda on 7th – 8th July 2015

We, the Participants at the Pan African CSO conference on “Financing for Development held in Entebbe, Uganda on 7th – 8th July 2015

Having come together as African Civil Society Organisations, women’s organisations, youth organisations, labour unions, faith based groups, and networks, in the spirit of solidarity and partnership and as key actors on financing for Development from 25 African countries with 500 million citizens of Africa to consolidate our position in preparation for the Third United Nations Conference on Financing for Development;

Reaffirming that if Africa is to see fundamental change in the quality of life of its citizens in the post 2015 agenda, the means of implementation and particularly financing for development must promote gender equality and women’s empowerment, transparency and accountability and sustainable development financing;

Supporting the African common position for the post 2015 agenda and the subsequent formulation of a common African position paper focused on the critical areas of capacity development, aid effectiveness, South-South cooperation, mobilization of domestic resources for development and innovative financing;

Supportive of the collective position under Addis Ababa Co-ordinating Group, and the African Consensus on Aid and development effectiveness;

Concerned that the current state of the outcome document has failed to address important issues including the empowerment of African women, illicit capital flows, deadlines on 0.7 GNI, intergovernmental tax regulatory body, terms of trade, debt crisis, enabling environment for civil society organisations, and domestic accountability;

Recalling the main objective for the adoption of the Monterrey consensus in 2002 and the Doha Declaration in 2008 was to accelerate the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015 and convinced that the same spirit should apply to the Post 2015 Development Agenda;

Undertook to fully engage United Nations Financing for Development conference to promote and champion the interests and concerns of the African citizens.

Exchanged views and formed a position around the following:

Domestic Resource Mobilisation

Domestic Resource Mobilization is a critical part of the future agenda on Financing for Development for all African countries. We therefore call for greater country leadership in the development and decision making in country resource mobilisation and allocation.

Success in the Domestic Resource Mobilization agenda in African countries depends on interrelated matters including greater control of ‘fiscal policy space’ to run their economies.

The centrality of good political and economic governance as a prerequisite for success of the domestic resource mobilization is certain.

Prevention of revenue losses to African countries through illicit financial flows out of Africa, servicing of illegitimate debts, systemic corruption and collusion, corporates’ tax dodging, harmful and unnecessary tax incentives and treaties is key in boosting Africa’s domestic resource mobilisation efforts.

We support the creation of an inclusive and transparent inter-governmental tax body to oversee a just and development oriented tax regime.

We recognize the importance of structural transformation in our economies and call upon the African governments to mobilize and harness human resource capacities to benefit Africa by tapping into the potential of the youth and Africans in the Diaspora and mitigating brain-drain.

Domestic and International Private Sector and International flows

We recognise the important role of the domestic private sector and call for its support through the creation of an enabling environment, facilitation of access to resources and capacity development.

We note with concern that while Foreign Direct Investment has been embraced as an important tool for Africa’s transformative development, it had remained disconnected from the major productive sectors of the economy where majority of the citizens are found. African governments are yet to take steps to implement necessary legal and regulatory reforms for championing their economic and social interests in their investment policies.

We call for the promotion of democratic ownership, transparency and accountability, inclusivity and development results from the guiding pillar for Public Private Partnership (PPP) and blended financing.

We reiterate the role of the state in the investment in infrastructure, clean energies and clean technologies and call on the governments of Africa to exercise caution in developing PPP arrangements on the provision of social services and public goods. Provision of essential services such as health, education, housing, water and clean energy must be the core responsibility of the government.

We demand that the private sector pursues the development agenda that puts peoples' rights, as well as social and environmental justice at the fore of its strategy and activities. Policies that ensure decent work based on employment opportunities, respect for labour rights, social protection, social dialogue and sustainable livelihoods must be adhered to.

We express concern that citizens have not been incorporated in the Public Private Partnership agenda. We call for an integrated approach to the PPP with governments committing resources for facilitating CSO capacity building in contract negotiations and assessment. We believe that civil society can play an important role in monitoring the development impact of private sector investments and capital flows.

We call on Governments to promote and financially support Civil Society engagements including cultural and social exchanges, and recognize their key role in the implementation and monitoring of programs and policies.

International Public Finance

We express our concern towards the failure of the developed economies to meet their international commitment of 0.7 GNI to the Official Development Assistance. We call on the Third Financing for Development Conference to set deadlines towards meeting the target. We support the commitment of African Governments to work towards exiting aid dependency. Development assistance remains a strong complementary and not a substitute for domestic public finance.

We emphasize the adherence to the principles of transparency and accountability in the use of public resources including aid resources. Domestic accountability should form the core of governments' responsibility towards their citizens.

We call for the prudent use of public resources including aid and urge African governments to invest official development assistance in productive sectors. This will strengthen efforts towards economic sustainability. Investment of international public resources in partnership with the private sector must have necessary safeguards that protect citizens.

We appreciate the use of innovative financing models like green bonds, global funds, GAVI funds and climate change funds. We call for the removal of ambiguous and non-transparent criteria for negotiating such funds as well as minimising of the risks associated with these new aid modalities.

We welcome the efforts to increase the quality and impact of development cooperation through the development effectiveness principles as promoted by the Global Partnership for Development Cooperation (GPEDC), United Nations Development Cooperation Forum, the Busan Outcome Document, Africa Platform for Development Effectiveness of AU/NEPAD and the Civil Society Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE). However, legitimate intergovernmental space should be created to formalize such important global outcomes within the UN framework.

International and Regional Trade

We note with concern the deteriorating terms of trade for Africa with the rest of world and urge African governments to demand for the conclusion on the Doha round of negotiations at the World Trade Organisation and ensure Africa's interest is protected.

We welcome the growth in the intra African trade and call for strengthening of inter and intra-regional trade partnerships through elimination of non-trade barriers, free movement of labour and removal of stringent visa requirements to promote cross border traders.

We urge the governments to strengthen their capacity for trade negotiations, develop partnerships with African CSOs in negotiations and the use of trade as a tool for development including through backward and forward linkages. We urge governments to support CSO initiatives towards capacity building and monitoring of trade protocols.

Public Debt

We call on African governments to take urgent steps towards the cancellation of all the odious debts and to repudiate all illegitimate debts acquired through irresponsible and opaque processes. We urge them to emulate the steps taken by the government of Greece and her citizens to demand a fair and just debt workout mechanism.

We note with concern the re- emerging debt crisis in many African countries particularly the domestic debt and urge for prudent and responsible borrowing.

Debt sustainability and management framework need to inform future debt undertaking on behalf of our citizens. We call for an inclusive and transparent debt management mechanism that guarantees participation of citizens in borrowing and debt audits. The role of Parliament in public debt borrowing must be strengthened.

We urge the African governments to strengthen their capacity in public debt management including institutional, regulatory and policy reforms. Laws governing fiscal policies that curtail irresponsible spending of public resources are proposed. We insist that caution should be exercised in the use of the IMF and the World Bank's tools for debt sustainability analysis.

We note that conditionalities continue to exacerbate debt crisis and call for their total and immediate elimination. We urge the governments to strengthen partnerships with civil society organizations in calling for the establishment of a multilaterally agreed legal system for sovereign debt work out mechanisms.

Systemic Issues

We express concern of the weak representation of Africa in key global institutions including the IMF and World Bank in spite of their level of influence in African economic policy frameworks. We urge for their immediate reform to reflect the needs of their client base majority of who are found in Africa.

We welcome the new global financial institutions including those emerging under the South – South Co-operation and the BRICS framework. South-South financial institutions have the potential of undoing some of the unfairness that stems from international financial governance. We urge African governments to explore and utilise opportunities emerging from these institutions. We call on African governments to strengthen regional trading blocs and continental institutions including the NEPAD Agency, the African Monetary Fund and the African Investment fund to secure and implement Africa’s development agenda.

We note with concern the threats posed to the migrants both within and outside Africa. We demand for the protection and guarantee of rights of every migrant worker. We call on the African governments and the world at large to create social protection mechanisms to ensure that people are kept within the economic sector as active participants and address the financial inequality that are faced by many vulnerable citizens of Africa and allow people to sustainably survive in the global economy.

We as Civil society are ready and positioned to collaborate and will seek to develop new forms of collaboration with our governments to influence key issues. There is need to build on networking, collaboration and partnership through engaging citizens and bringing them on board to influence their parliaments and other government leaders.

We welcome the adoption of new forms of Information, Communication and Technology in monitoring operations of Financing and of Multinational Corporations.

We commit ourselves to the following

- Organize impactful events to deliver the Africa Civil Society Common Position for the Addis Conference.
- Popularize and strengthen a national platform to monitor the implementation of Addis Ababa Accord on the Financing for Development Agenda.
- Focus on civil society sustainability by building and strengthening our capacity and working to see a more enabling operating environment.
- Fully collaborate with our governments to build a better future for Africa with the implementation of the Post 2015 Agenda with an action plan.
- A Program of Action to take these commitments forward once the Addis outcome is adopted

We appreciate the participation and contribution of the Government of Uganda and the NEPAD agency towards the success of the conference.