



## **MOVING FROM AID EFFECTIVENESS TO DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS**

### **THE NAIROBI DECLARATION**

We, members of more than 25 church based organisations, civil society organizations and networks from the African continent gathered before the official Review Conference on Aid Effectiveness in Nairobi, Kenya, 28 – 29 April 2011 at the AACC conference under the theme “**moving from Aid Effectiveness to Development Effectiveness**”. We reviewed the implementation of the Paris Declaration (PD) and the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA), exchanged ideas over the role of the church in development effectiveness and strategised for actions to be carried out for and beyond Busan.

The conference was a follow up consultation on the Church Leader’s Consultation on Aid Effectiveness in May 2008 and the ecumenical delegates at the CSOs forum on Aid Effectiveness meeting in August 2008<sup>1</sup> and was held with the vision that a human rights approach including the right to development, promotion of democratic and local ownership through inclusive citizen engagement are key to the refocusing of the aid effectiveness debate.

We view aid for development as aid that promotes the integrity of creation, social justice, sharing, participation of all stakeholders, responsible stewardship, upholding of the rule of law, democracy, good governance, respect for human dignity, gender equality and accountability at all levels.

Our engagement on aid effectiveness processes is rooted in the scriptures, its mission, its involvement in lives of communities and its long history in aid for holistic development. This is evident in our contribution towards development in such areas as education, health, environment and rural development. Our role as a major provider of social services, political advocacy and the upholding of human dignity on the continent is immense. We appreciate the support that the global partners have so far given in the pursuit of these objectives by various actors. In future, we envisage a situation where the support of development partners and the donor community towards the government is based on participatory consultation, especially with all the

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<sup>1</sup> Among the recommendations agreed to included the need for advocating for broadening of the debate beyond aid effectiveness to development effectiveness and development sustainability

stakeholders in the country where aid is directed. The conditionality for the aid should be embedded in just and equitable conditions as well as consideration of the recipient's objectives.

We recognize our role in the conscientization, the provision of moral and ethical guidance as well as being the custodian of reparation, peace building, social stabilization and reconciliation especially in fragile situations.

We recognize development as horizontal and bottom up rather than top down as it has been. We demand that "development effectiveness" be measured in its contribution to sustained reduction of poverty and inequalities; and its support of human rights, democracy, environmental sustainability and gender equality". It must be a transformational development that is based on the theological affirmation that all persons are created *in the image and likeness of God* (Genesis 1:27) with the potential to live just, humane and dignified lives in sustainable communities.

It is with this in mind that we call upon governments to effect the inclusion of CSOs including faith based organisation as members of national delegation to Busan and declare the following:

### **1. Endorse the democratic ownership principle of development effectiveness**

**We demand** that Citizens must be put at the centre of all development programmes and projects. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> High Level Forum in Accra, the outcome document elaborates country ownership of development policies and programs not simply as government ownership, but as inclusive democratic ownership. Democratic ownership should recognise the importance of citizen organization as full and active participants in all development processes. Processes and institutions that mobilise and transform the voices of the hundreds of millions of citizens across the continent into meaningful and relevant development agenda should be created.

### **2. Improve the Operating Environment of CSOs<sup>2</sup> in Africa**

African governments are enacting stringent laws and regulations to manage civil society. **We are concerned** that autocracy is becoming a common feature of many national states and democratization deficits are emerging. This has led to strained relationships in some countries and even situations of extreme frustration that have culminated in citizen uprisings. CSOs call governments to guarantee the participation of CSOs in development processes through an inclusive multistakeholder process where space is provided to support citizens to give their opinion as well, enabling their right to raise grievances and seek redress.

### **3. Strengthen policy formulation and implementation processes**

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<sup>2</sup> The term CSOs is defined as including all non-state development actors including faith based organizations (FBOs).

We challenge the African Governments to endeavour to bridge the gaps between policy formulation and implementation using the multi-stakeholder approach. The implementation of the spirit of the AAA in the policy formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation should be entrenched at the national level. Clear mechanisms for accountability, listing of the duties and rights of the different actors in the policy planning and implementation are paramount.

#### **4. Support domestic accountability**

Domestic accountability remain paramount both in the context of aid effectiveness and development effectiveness. **We call** on the governments of Africa to put Citizens as the focus of accountability! Governments should build rights based institutions and systems which promote domestic accountability across and among different actors. The APRM provides an unprecedented opportunity to strengthen accountability and spur cross learning process across the continent. This should be harnessed.

#### **5. Recognize and Promote CSO development effectiveness principles**

**We affirm our commitment to the Istanbul Principles** which include Mobilization of our constituents to be involved in collaboration and networking, Accountability and transparency, local resource mobilization, constructive engagement with national governments **and encourage** African Governments to recognize the 8 principles on CSO development effectiveness which call for among other things: Respect and promote human rights and social justice, Embody gender equality and equity while promoting women and girl's rights, Promote Environmental Sustainability, Pursue equitable partnerships and solidarity and Create and share knowledge and commit to mutual learning

#### **5. Generate and strengthen domestic revenue mobilization**

**We urge** African governments to develop policies that generate and strengthen domestic revenue mobilization and build a system for sustainable revenue mobilization for the future. African governments should identify the means to recoup the revenue losses caused by the recession and rectify the underlying weaknesses in tax policy and administration that have retarded progress over recent decades.

### **KEY MESSAGES TO DONORS**

#### **1. Accelerate the implementation of the AAA and any other agreed aid architecture**

**We call upon donors** to commit to accelerate and redefine the implementation of the AAA and any agreed aid architecture within a multi-stakeholder framework. We recognize that the AAA has important statements of good intent that should not end with the 4<sup>th</sup> High Level Forum and be promoted beyond Busan. These include but are not limited to engagement with all development actors, including recognition of CSOs as development actors in their own right, the centrality of gender equality, human rights and environmental sustainability, the use of country systems, elimination of conditionality, and promotion of transparency and mutual accountability.

## **2. Establish a multi-stakeholder monitoring, evaluation and reporting mechanism of the PD Successor**

Studies and consultancies in the run up to the 4<sup>th</sup> High Level Forum including the independent evaluation of the PD and the Monitoring and evaluation survey studies give undue advantage to development partners in the area of knowledge creation. **We demand** that donors commit to establishment of a multi-stakeholder monitoring, evaluation and reporting mechanism to the successor to the Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action.

## **3. Commitment to alignment and use of local technical assistance**

**We call upon** donors to use country systems and also ensure that they use local technical assistance as the default option. We welcome the emphasis in the PD on building capacities as an important part of development effectiveness

## **4. Call to donors to create an enabling environment for CSOs to achieve development effectiveness.**

Donors should commit to better understand and recognize the roles of CSOs as development actors and as part of the international aid architecture and therefore create an enabling environment for their operation. Basket funding of CSOs could be a means towards this, but care must be taken that the rights of CSOs to criticize government and donor policies and advocate for issues should not be compromised in the funding allocation process. In this context, the diversity of CSOs should be recognized, respected and promoted.

## **5. Call to donors to meet the 0.7% of their GNP to ODA**

We urge donors to meet the target of 0.7 % GNP target on Official Development Assistance. This would lead to enough resources to meet all the Millennium Development Goals and make aid effectiveness agenda complete.

## Endorsing Organisations

All African Conference of Churches

AFRODAD

AMECEA

ANEEJ – Nigeria

CSPR - Zambia

FOCCISA

Ghana Aid Effectiveness Forum

Ghana Council of Churches

Kenya Debt Relief Network

Mozambique council of Churches

Reality of Aid Africa Network

Tanzania Coalition on Debt and Development

Tanzania Council of Churches

Tax Justice Network

Uganda NGO Forum