

Report

CPDE Capacity Strengthening Workshop: Regarding Development Effectiveness for Central Africa.

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Table of Contents

Acronyms.....	3
I. Introduction.....	4
II. Proceedings from the workshop.....	5
II- 1. First day.....	5-7
II- 2. Second day.....	8-11
II-3. Third day.....	12-15
III. Conclusion.....	16
III.1 Resolutions.....	16
IV. ANNEXES.....	17-20

Acronyms:

COSADER : Collectif des ONG pour la sécurité alimentaire et le Développement

CPDE: Civil Society Partnership for Development Effectiveness

CSO: Civil Society Organizations

HLF: High Level Forum

GESP: Growth and Employment Strategy Paper

GPEDC: Global Partnership effectiveness Development Cooperation:

MDG: Millenium Development Goals

MINEPAT : Ministère de l'Economie, de la Planification et de l'Aménagement du Territoire

NGO: Non Governmental Organization

PPD: Public-Private Dialogue

PREGESCO : Programme de Prévention et de Gestion des conflits en Afrique Centrale

PSG: Peace-building and State-building Goals

ROA Africa: Reality of Aid Africa

SRI: Socially Responsible Investment

I. Introduction

In a strong vigor to strengthen the capacity of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Central Africa on development effectiveness; the “Civil Society Syndicate for Food Security and Rural Development (COSADER)” based in Cameroon and in partnership with “Reality of Aid for Africa (ROA Africa)”, as the Regional Secretariat of the CSO partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE) for Africa, jointly organized a capacity strengthening workshop in Yaoundé, February 15 to 17, 2016, regarding monitoring the implementation of the Busan commitments as well as the lobbying and advocacy strategies in favor of an enabling environment for CSOs, meant to ease the process of undertaking substantive work with governments and other development partners. The workshop discussions were specifically focused on:

- ✚ Prepare Central African CSOs to engage in advocacy work to get the government, development partners, the private sector and parliamentarians to engage in the implementation of the Busan commitments;
- ✚ Empower CSOs with the vital tools to monitor the implementation of the Busan commitments regarding the Rights-Based Approach (RBA) to development;
- ✚ Train CSOs on how to monitor the Istanbul Principles with a special focus on setting accountability standards for civil society entities.

This workshop is a follow-up of previous workshops organized by the CPDE in Douala from 11 to 13 March 2013 and 23 to 24 June 2014, devoted respectively on “Operationalizing the CPDE” and finalizing its 2014-2015 action plan, that brought together participants from CPDE national coordination in Central Africa (Burundi, Congo, Gabon, CAR, DRC, Chad, Rwanda) in order to ensure consistency in the action plan of the sub-region with the aforementioned objectives. It is worth acknowledging that, the participants of this workshop, most of who are at work for the past three (03) years, have been fostering the work of CPDE in their respective countries.

II. Workshop proceedings

II-1. First day proceedings.

Prior to jumpstarting the workshop plenary discussions proper, the President of COSADER, Ms. Christine ANDELA in capacity as the Secretary General for the CPDE Central Africa Focal Point, while welcoming the participants, equally thanked the CPDE Regional Secretariat for Africa for having encouraged and supported this project for the sub-region and also for the effective presence in Yaoundé of Mr. Vitalice Meja whose personal participation in the workshop brings added value to the CPDE. She further extended her gratitude to the Ministry of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT) for delegating a representative for this workshop and particularly to the Permanent Secretary for the Busan monitoring process, and she finally



thanked the Honorable ZOUBAÏNATOU SALIBOU and all the participants for being part of the process to monitor the implementation of the Busan commitments through the multi-dialogue approach as a major strategy for inclusive development that engages government, private sector, development partners and civil society.

Mme. Andela implored participants regarding the importance of addressing the following questions within scope of the workshop:

- ✦ Are there existing multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms in our respective countries?
- ✦ Are they working correctly?
- ✦ Are CSOs equipped with the necessary tools and skills to play the role of monitoring the Busan commitments?

She further urged workshop participants to take a collective reflection and to find common answers to these aforementioned questions.

In a similar enthusiasm, Mr. Vitalice Meja in capacity as CPDE Executive Secretary for Africa, emphasized that information sharing is critical in the process of seeking to effectively evaluate the past six (06) years as part of the CPDE platform at the national level, and he equally pulled the attention of the focal points on the importance of information dissemination necessary for their respective advocacy activities. Mr. Tsounkeu Martin in capacity as the CPDE focal point for Cameroon highlighted the relevance of vertical and horizontal collaboration, and information sharing within the CPDE network.

Participants were immediately granted the latitude to express their respective country as well as individual expectations on a two pronged perspectives:

Firstly, concerning the building of inclusive partnership and knowledge sharing, tools ownership and criteria for assessing development effectiveness, and experience sharing on advocacy strategies and methods, participants expressed their views thus:

- ✚ Working effectively with the Government and the private sector still poses a challenge;
- ✚ It is vital to establish a civil society synergy that is capable of ensuring development effectiveness for the people;
- ✚ Strengthen the process of each country in monitoring the Busan commitments;
- ✚ Foster the visibility of civil society actors on the ground.

And secondly in terms of developing a comprehensive action plan for advocacy, participants proposed that:

- ✚ Expectations and recommendations from plenary discussions, interactive discussions and issue groups should be utilized for this purpose.

MODULE I: The Busan Partnership: Key commitments, progress thus far, the monitoring process, the role of different actors: public, private, development providers, CSOs, etc. Linkages between Busan indicators and the 2030 agenda.

Mr. Martin Tsounkeu in capacity as the CPDE Focal Point for Cameroon highlighted the fact that, the transition from “aid effectiveness” to “development effectiveness” is the greatest victory for the

civil society achieved at the 4th High Level Meeting (HLM) in Busan, Korea in November-December 2011, and he also underscored the spirit of Busan commitments(country ownership, focus on results, inclusive partnership and fostering accountability and transparency in development cooperation) that capitalizes on global partnership through an inclusive approach that involves all stakeholders in monitoring global development processes. All stakeholders including government, private sector, development providers and civil society are now subject to the principle of “domestication of development processes, transparency and accountability, and results-based requirements focused on people's expectations”.

Henceforth, the collective commitment to federate efforts to preserve the gains and achieve new results led to the expansion of the triangular cooperation involving new actors, to support developing countries, promote sustainable development in a situation of conflict and fragility, orientate the private sector contribution towards inclusive growth, taking into account priorities, monitoring country strategies and indicators in the light of the evolution of the Busan criteria beyond Paris Declaration that integrates the gender aspect, results, public-private dialogue, supporting the civil society environment, and transparency.

In this commitment with well defined roles for actors, civil society has a duty to ensure that the inclusion of the citizen is effective and that it plays its full role of citizen watchdog. For this, it must involve all organizations of civil society in the data collection approach through existing thematic platforms and networks to effectively collect and validate data, and ensure CSOs participate in National Dialogue processes organized by the National Coordinator to find a consensus on the review of all indicators regarding their respective country reports.

Participants during interactive discussions proposed that the approach of the civil society would gain credibility if on one hand it demonstrates competence, mastery of subject and if the other remains jealous of its independence. This does not mean that civil society requires the support from the state. Alternatively, civil society can advocate for tax reforms that encourages charity in order to source resources from private actors and foundations directly.

This problem of financing civil society resurfaced in discussions after the return from “issue groups” that brought the participants to reflect on the challenges of Busan commitments, the difficulties encountered, the solutions recommended and responsibilities (see issue groups’ report). This will require that a legal framework is designed for the financing of civil society with

public funds especially as the latter is involved in the implementation of the Busan commitments and coupled with the fact that public funding comes from taxpayers' resources.

During interactive discussions, the country Focal Point of CPDE for the Democratic Republic of Congo- DRC, (Regional Coordinator of PREGESCO) Mr. George Tshionza MATA introduced the "New Deal initiative" for international development engagement in fragile states developed by the International Dialogue on Peace-building and State Strengthening that was approved in Busan in December 2011 by more than 40 countries and organizations. The related document on New Deal was developed in Juba (South Sudan) following analysis of the conclusions of the 2011 twin surveys for monitoring the implementation of the principles of the Paris Declaration on aid effectiveness and the 10 principles for international engagement in fragile states. The New Deal is part of a process of formulating a better way to engage in a fragile state (countries in conflict, post-conflict or in precarious situations) to lead them from the brittleness phase to that of resilience, at same time having the capacity to resist against internal and external shocks.

The New Deal was initially composed of seven (07) countries, the "G7 +" today is a group of eighteen (18) countries, led by East Timor since the holding of the first meeting of the International Dialogue on Peace-building and State Strengthening in 2010. The New Deal uses five (05) Objectives of Peace-building and State-building dubbed Peace-building State-building Goals (PSG) as the basis for the achievement of the then Millennium Development goals (MDGs).

The PSG help identify priorities for peace-building and state-building at the country level and guide the national vision, planning and the development of a framework agreement for its implementation thus:

- ✚ Inclusive legitimacy in policy-making processes: To encourage inclusive political settlements and conflict resolution;
- ✚ Security: Establishing and strengthening human security;
- ✚ Justice: Addressing the injustices and increase people's access to justice;
- ✚ Economic Fundamentals: Creating jobs and improve livelihoods;
- ✚ Revenues and Services: Manage revenue and strengthen delivery of accountable and equitable service capabilities.

The work of the first day was completed with a view to develop a consolidated action plan based on group work. Concerning the evaluation of the first day under the moderation of Mme. White Simonny Abegue, she expressed satisfaction on behalf of participants for the content of the presentations and the meaningful inputs from participants.

II-2. Second day proceedings.

After reading and adoption of the report of the first day proceedings, the second moderator Mr. Jean Pierre Mackita (Congo Brazzaville), followed with successive moderations from Mme. Christine Andela (Cameroon) and Mme. Alphonsine Murekatete (Rwanda), guided the successive presentations through interactive plenary discussions followed by group work. The last speaker presented Busan as an approach based on human rights; whereas the two previous speakers highlighted the Busan commitments, the appropriate strategies needed in the monitoring process as well as the advocacy and knowledge sharing strategies.

MODULE II: Advocating for an Enabling Environment for CSOs.

From the very outset of Mr. Vitalice Meja's presentation, he pulled the attention of participants to the notion of what is advocacy? He underscored the fact it is a continuum of activities designed and organized to influence the actions of governments in order to achieve positive change for the people. It is crystal clear that there is difference between advocacy and sharing information for the wider public including awareness-raising, education and public relations that would target individuals, consumers or donors.

Advocacy is essentially targets public institutions and governments to improve the living conditions of the population through policy-changes, legal reforms and programs. The enabling environment seeks to establish minimum standards for all stakeholders. In a context where the policies, laws and rules exist but are not implemented because of contradictions, restrictive or misinterpretations like in Cameroon, Gabon, DRC, Congo (Brazzaville), including most African countries the plea must seek to methodically remove obstacles to their implementation. It therefore requires a comprehensive planning initiative to undertake and to understand power game. Prior to engaging in advocacy you should classify the key stakeholders in terms power and opponents, and ensure you employ the adequate advocacy strategies to overcome challenges and pre-defined risks.

Regarding planning for advocacy, you should ensure the design meets the SMART approach which includes seven (07) steps:

- An understanding of the program to achieve;
- The definition of the target for the desired change;
- The determination of the forces capable of driving the change;
- The creation of alliances to give better voice and advocate;
- The clarification of the appropriate action to seek consensus on the cause to defend;
- Development of messages;

- The consolidation of the monitoring plan results.

A good advocacy plan must be underpinned by a mastery of the power game, and must distinguish levels of governance: global, national, local. And at every level, find out about, what are the areas and forms of corresponding powers: closed (spaces where decisions are taken behind closed doors), guests or advisory (spaces where civil society is not involved in the final decision), created (spaces that civil society itself develops and must obey specific modes of action); or invisible, hidden (people, forces or issues that influence the action in the shade), visible (relevant political structures).

The power game requires that CSOs should undertake research on stakeholders to understand their behavior and identify among them those that are humble with a strong authority and a strong will; those who adhere to the initiative to engage with the opponents; improve on the level of perception of the issue for all parties; and to ensure they take interest in the problem.



During interactive discussions, participants buttressed the content of Vitalice's presentation by emphasizing the triple need to have good knowledge of the power game, develop supporting documentations and to fix the time it takes to achieve the desired change.

MODULE III: Knowledge sharing within the scope of Busan Commitments: existing mechanisms; what are the limitations? Knowledge sharing within the Busan monitoring process, and challenges.

According to Mr. BATE AYUK Moses in capacity as the Rapporteur of the working group responsible for the implementation of the Paris Declaration for Cameroon, Knowledge sharing takes into consideration the inclusive approach of Agenda 2030. Knowledge sharing is a fundamental learning process for all development actors. Knowledge sharing existing mechanisms within global partnership can be outlined thus:

- ✚ It takes place during meetings at global, regional and external events on the occasion of international meetings;

- ✚ The information tools: meetings, policy notes, online tools (online exchanges).

Nevertheless, available knowledge should be used wisely to get better results. Sharing knowledge must respond to a request.

Under the Global Partnership, there exist a platform to support in the making and the reporting of Agenda 2030, a knowledge platform adopted in December 2011, tasked with the responsibility to identify favorable and significant partnerships, and prepare a clear strategy for the partnership to be relevant and effective for all development actors.

Many countries are represented in this platform:

- Cameroon (Mr. Moses Ayuk Bate), Head of the platform;
- BIAC – the Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD (Mr. John Sullivan);
- Japan (Mr. Yoshida Toru);
- Holland (Mr. Arjan Schuthof);
- Reality of Aid (Ms. Erin Palomares);
- United States of America (Mr. Andrew Ditmanson);
- World Bank (Mr. Frank Wissing Madsen).

The platform through its Newsletter has invited countries to express interest in the expansion of this initiative. This calls for encouragement of civil society and public authorities for the monitoring process which is a global approach, focused on each country situation or a way to effectively assess national progress in the implementation of Busan commitments.

Recalling the principles of monitoring (voluntary participation, behavior change, inclusiveness, etc.), Moses BATE AYUK indicated that the monitoring indicators (quantitative and qualitative) have evolved in Busan by integrating the results, the private sector, the enabling environment for CSOs, transparency, gender, etc. Thus, involved governments, CSOs, private sector, trade unions ... Each actor is represented by a focal point under the supervision of a national coordinator. The role of each actor is clear. While the government, represented by the national coordinator supervises and coordinates the process, other stakeholders (CSOs, private sector, trade unions, parliamentarians, traditional authorities) are involved in the different phases of monitoring including preparation, awareness, collection and validation of data, analysis, reporting, dialogue, extension.

In Cameroon the Busan monitoring process is steered by:

- ✚ A national coordinator: M. TAKOUO DIEUDONNE
- ✚ A civil society focal point: M. MARTIN TSOUNKEU

✚ A private sector focal point: TBD

Under the second round of monitoring process for the Busan commitments, the process began in November 2015 with the preparation and awareness phase; the collection and validation of data ends by March 31, 2016.

The evaluation process in Central Africa is on progress apart from Congo Brazzaville that has not registered in the process and Rwanda (because of the absence of the focal point from the training workshop). In Cameroon, where the process was jumpstarted in November 5, 2015, the civil society focal point has regularly participated in the preparatory meetings organized by the national coordinator.

Module IV: The Human Rights-Based Approach: The rights to know, the right to access to information, the right to freedom of expression and assemblies as prerequisites to participate in development processes.

According to Mr. Charles Linjap, resource person for the CPDE Central Africa focal point, the BUSAN partnership commitments is an approach based on human rights. By making the transition from “aid effectiveness” to “development effectiveness”, Busan has placed citizens at the center of all development processes. To meet the needs of the people, we must promote the rule of law and dialogue, the right to freedom of expression and public demonstrations, and the right to information as well as the right to education. Although all African countries have ratified key international conventions like the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights pertaining to these rights, only South Africa has a law on access to information. Almost all of these countries do not respect freedom of expression and freedom of public assemblies thereby creating a shrinking civic space CSOs in Africa.

However, respect for human rights is sine qua non to follow up the implementation of the Busan commitments. Strengthening the right to expression, demonstrations and participation helps to strengthen citizen control and to ensure the harmonious development of grassroots people. A best practice for citizen involvement is the seminar jointly organized by the Cameroonian Government in partnership with the National platform of Civil Society Organizations of Cameroon (PLANOSCAM), in November 2015 regarding the monitoring of the impact of the public investment budget (PIB) on the grassroots population.

Before opening interactive discussions, the floor was given to a Cameroonian trade union official, Mr. Jean Marc Bikoko, who also represented “Dynamique Citoyenne” a Cameroonian based CSO, whose testimony as an activist attested to multiple human rights abuses of the Cameroonian government regarding the freedom of expression and the freedom of assemblies, and he implored civil society actors to hold African governments accountable towards human rights.

The interactive discussions emphasized the need for civil society professionalization in order to build a consensus around critical issues. CSO need to formulate answers to critical development questions by taking into account all parameters (power games, planning, and mastery of existing laws). Mme. ANDELA seized the opportunity to emphasize the need to have a clear vision and a good perception of the forces of change prior to engaging in advocacy for an enabling environment as advocated by the CPDE.

Chantal NZOPFINDEKUYE from Burundi evaluated the second day’s work on behalf of participants whereby she highly appreciated the content of the presentations.

II-3. The third day proceedings:

The third day, following the successive moderation of Mme. ANDELA (Cameroon), Mr. Jean NKESAMANA (Burundi) and Mr. Godfrey MOKAMANANE (RCA), was opened by the reading of the proceedings of the second day with feedback from participants. The issues of strengthening the capacity of the CPDE actors at the sub-regional and regional level were raised by participants. According to Mme. ANDELA, the capacity building process should not ignore the fact the founding principles of CPDE by the African Civil Society must not lose sight that it participated in and contributed during the entire process of setting up the CPDE, and must be subjected to the principle of accountability.

The CPDE was born in December 2012 from the merger of two civil society dynamic movements, Open Forum (interested in the development of civil society) and Better-Aid leading advocacy on better development aid. In 2005, the 2nd Paris High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness debated and gave birth to the Paris Declaration. In 2008, the actors in the 3rd Accra High Level Forum recognized civil society as having an equal right to participation in development like any other actor, and the final outcome document admitted the principle to ensure an enabling civil society environment for development.

The Accra Forum was committed to:

1. Develop principles of CSO effectiveness in their roles as development actors;
2. Develop a consensus based on national and regional consultations and activities;
3. To be an inclusive process and multi-partner, owned and led by CSOs;
4. Being led by the North and South CSOs for the sake of balance and relevance;
5. Take special account of gender issues;
6. Advocate for development effectiveness, not on aid effectiveness.

Regional and global consultations initiated by civil society were completed in September 2010 at the first World Assembly of the Open Forum in Istanbul in Turkey, whose principles are outlined thus:

- An open process that is inclusive and representative and led by CSOs around the world, taking into account gender issues;
- A vision on development effectiveness based on a national and international policy dialogue;
- Common principles on CSO development effectiveness;
- The directions for the implementation of these principles and capitalization of good practices relevant mechanisms;
- A consensus to engage in a political dialogue with donors and governments on the question of conditions for CSO development effectiveness, based on the recognition of CSO roles as actors in their own right development.

These consultations also resulted in the adoption of the Civil Society 8 Istanbul Principles:

- ✚ Human rights and social justice;
- ✚ Equality and gender equity;
- ✚ Democratic ownership and democratic participation;
- ✚ Sustainable Environment;
- ✚ Transparency and Accountability;
- ✚ Partnerships fairness and solidarity;
- ✚ Create and share knowledge;

✚ Commitment to realizing positive sustainable change.

In 2011, in Siem Reap in Cambodia, the second and last World Assembly adopted the International Framework on the effectiveness of CSO development. The 4th High Level Forum in Busan, Korea in November-December 2011, civil society adopted a common strategy that led to the transition from of the concept of “aid effectiveness” to “development effectiveness”.

Upon emphasizing accountability, Ms. ANDELA highlighted principle 5 of the Istanbul principle, which underscored that CSOs are effective as development actors when they practice accountability and transparency towards their respective constituencies especially having a form of organization that demonstrates a lasting commitment to transparency, accountability, honesty and integrity in their governance and use of their human and financial resources for development.

MODULE V: Dialogue with other stakeholders of the Busan partnership: Existing dialogue platforms and model best practices for dialogue with government. Show-casing the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The CPDE Focal Point for the DRC Mr. Georges Tshionza MATA, defined the thematic groups as a consultation framework and multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms (sectoral ministries, development partners, civil society organizations, private sector) on policies for monitoring public affairs in DRC - evaluation of the implementation of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC). The DRC government has established 15 thematic groups, firstly to seek consensus on ways and means to implement on how to achieve sustainable development in the DRC, in particular through the implementation of the national Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper framework, dubbed the PRSP; and secondly, to realize the implementation of international commitments of the Global Partnership (the Paris Declaration) such as the MDGs, the PSG and the Sustainable Development goals (SQDGs), including the Busan Partnership commitments and International development engagement for Fragile States dubbed the "NEW DEAL".

Based on the terms of reference drawn up by the Ministry of Planning, each thematic group prepares its specific terms of reference (objectives, organization, roles and functions), and organizes meetings for the implementation of its specific annual action plan and on the

development of sectoral policies; the implementation of sector strategies; the development of poverty reduction programs; developing frameworks for Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF); program funding and priority actions; monitoring and periodic evaluation of implementation of action plans of the PRSP; strengthening of government capacity through a gradual improvement in the quality and performance of technical services as well as traditional authorities and civil society.

In this logic, the Civil Society Consultative Framework had appointed a team leader to lead a dynamic team of CSO experts in the Thematic Groups. It is particularly incumbent for the team leader to animate the team and create link between his team of 5 experts and the national or provincial coordination of CSOs for the sectoral dialogue (GT Secretariat) and other CSOs experts of the team. The team leader was also obliged to make the agenda for meetings and to search and share information with stakeholders; introduce sectoral proposals of civil society members and to share vital reports with his team and the national or provincial Coordination. The team leader is an entry point for making of sectoral speeches and building a common voice and to report to the national or provincial coordination of CSOs; he guarantees the Group's discipline and what other experts report to their respective associations and stakeholders.

During meetings, experience sharing within thematic groups in the DRC allowed the participants to understand civil society activities through the existence of its team leaders in each province (29 provinces in total DRC) with a territorial coverage. The team leaders also worked with the parliament (through the Parliamentary commission) to influence government action over key thematic areas as a form of citizen control over public affairs. In general, the CPDE focal point for DRC Central Africa works with the DRC Government. To carry out its monitoring, the civil society in the DRC receives financial support from the Government. Gabon and Cameroon have already made a request for financial support to their respective Governments and just waiting to implement their commitments in this regard.

In order to develop a comprehensive action plan attached hereto, for the CPDE in Central Africa, four working groups were formed.

III. Conclusion:

The concluding notes resulted from key resources persons and participants of the CPDE capacity strengthening workshop on development effectiveness in Central Africa, such as Mr. Vitalice Meja, head of the CPDE Africa Network who encouraged the Central African Region to take the program to the next level, and he also qualified Central Africa as the, "the heart of CPDE" and he strongly pledged his support for them. Mme. ANDELA and the CPDE Focal Point for Cameroon thanked Vitalice for his support to the Central Africa Region. The Focal Point of Burundi expressed his satisfaction with the quality of work, has undertaken an engagement to organize a dissemination workshop in his country and expressed the need for CSOs to advocate for regional integration. Mme. ANDELA upon accepting a vote of thanks from some participants commended their efforts in developing Africa and she also expressed gratitude towards the regional coordinators, focal points and all workshop participants, and she strongly invited them to implement the resolutions validated and adopted by all which reads thus:

III.1 Resolutions

R1. Consolidate CPDE platform by fostering civil society efficacy towards the implementation of the eight Istanbul Principles:

- ✚ Human rights and social justice,
- ✚ Equality and Gender Equity,
- ✚ Democratic ownership and participation,
- ✚ Sustainable Environment;
- ✚ Transparency and accountability;
- ✚ Fairness and solidarity Partnerships;
- ✚ Creating and sharing knowledge;
- ✚ Commitment to realizing positive sustainable change.

R2. Work towards advocating for CSOs to access public funds through an incentivized legal framework;

R3. Consider replicating the knowledge sharing platform on global partnership in our respective countries;

R4. Implement the action plan developed at the end of the workshop to effectively carry out the monitoring of the implementation of the Busan commitments;

R5. Capitalize all the work done by CPDE for Central Africa to advocate for an enabling environment for CSOs;

6. Develop a protection program for human rights activists in Central Africa.