

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 our preparation to the Third United Nation’s 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 and we 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 recognise the importance of structural transformation in our economies and call on the African governments to mobilize and harness human resource capacities to benefit Africa by tapping on 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 put 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 toward 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). 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 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 and 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 for 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 organisations 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 whom 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 without 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

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

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