

FINAL DRAFT
“Better Aid for the World We Want”

CIVIL SOCIETY STATEMENT
TO THE FOURTH HIGH LEVEL FORUM ON AID EFFECTIVENESS

28 NOVEMBER, 2011
BUSAN, REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Since the last High Level Forum in Accra, more than 20,000 civil society organisations (CSOs) - including trade unions, women’s groups, faith-based organisations and other social movements – in more than 90 countries have been consulted on the process, agenda and expected outcomes of the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF-4) that is meeting here in Busan. We, the 500 participants at the Busan Global Civil Society Forum, convened on 26-28 November: represent thousands of civil society actors and speak with one voice.

1. We applaud our inclusion as equals at the HLF-4 negotiating table alongside governments and donors; welcome the opportunity to join world leaders, governments, donors, parliamentarians, private sector and international institutions to forge a new consensus on effective aid and development effectiveness at the upcoming HLF-4; and note that there are outstanding issues of utmost importance that must be resolved in order to strengthen ownership and true commitment to the final Busan Outcome Document;

2. We reaffirm our role as development actors in our own right, playing a vital role in advancing development effectiveness in order to achieve **human** rights, gender equality, social justice, decent work, environmental sustainability, peace and an end to corruption within a solid framework of democratic governance, rights-based approaches, and inclusive policy engagement;

3. We note with concern that donors and partner governments have failed to deliver on the majority of their pledges made in the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action. This has left unfinished business that must now be completed through bold decisions that outline time-bound and ambitious targets;

We call on donor and partner governments to:

- Implement fully and quickly their commitments from Paris and Accra,
- Advance on and boldly deepen commitments on tied aid, transparency through the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) standard, accountability and conditionality;
- Utilise and strengthen the capacity of country systems and related institutions;
- Advance the Paris and Accra agendas through strong mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation of deliverables, results and outcomes that are based on human rights standards;
- Ensure accountability of those in public office to citizens.

4. We underscore our conviction that development is not only about economic growth, which has failed to deliver on development outcomes and has too often contributed to poverty, inequalities and environmental degradation. Development is about fulfilling the rights and needs of citizens and addressing the causes and the symptoms of poverty, inequality and marginalisation.

We call upon all development actors to:

- Implement development cooperation in ways that are consistent with agreed international human rights, norms, and standards.
- Adopt rights-based policies and approaches that:
 - are non-discriminatory;
 - empower the poor and marginalized to claim all their rights;
 - guarantee sustainable and equitable development outcomes; and
 - promote democratic ownership, decent work, gender equality and women’s rights;

5. While taking note of the potential contribution of the private sector to development, their engagement should be premised on advancing the implementation of development effectiveness and so:

We call on all governments to:

- Recognise social partners as development actors and the need for regulation and adherence to international rights- based frameworks such as the International Labour Standards,
- Ensure that private sector participation in development cooperation and programs are accountable for their contribution to development outcomes.
- Guarantee that ODA to the private sector adhere to on the implementation of development effectiveness standards as well as an evaluation of the risks and potentials of the private sector's engagement.

We call on the private sector to:

- Ensure development effectiveness while adhering to but not limited to the implementation of existing international labour standards and conventions.

6. As civil society, since Accra, we have developed for our guidance the Istanbul Principles and the Siem Reap Consensus on the International Framework for CSO Development Effectiveness. Through this framework we commit to improve our own practices and will strengthen our transparency and accountability as well as our contribution to development effectiveness. However, we are confronted with the reality that civil society space has been shrinking since Accra, and thus:

We call upon governments to:

- Ensure minimum standards for an enabling environment, both in law and practice.
- Guarantee space for civil society organisations and other non-state actors to fulfil their development roles, at a minimum, in keeping with binding commitments outlined in international and regional instruments that guarantee fundamental rights.

7. We urge for a development cooperation architecture that more effectively promotes equity, justice and a rights based approach to development; guarantees full and genuine multi-stakeholder participation; and deepens the accountability of all actors for meeting their development commitments. We fully support a Global Partnership for Development Effectiveness that pursues these goals; and affirm that the full details of this partnership must be negotiated by June 2012.

We urge all developments actors to support a Global Partnership that:

- Rationalises the governance framework in order to eliminate duplication and fragmentation while enhancing harmonisation and coordination.
- Creates a forum for inclusive, legitimate, democratic and transparent discussions and decision making on aid and development effectiveness.
- Ensures the full participation of civil society as equals in national and global negotiations and processes, making aid and development more transparent, reliable and effective.
- Establishes a strong monitoring mechanism, with indicators and targets to assess progress building on and improving existing aid effectiveness and development indicators and accountability mechanisms, including but not limited to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

With the aforementioned, we hereby reaffirm our resolve to work in partnership with all development actors for Better Aid and Development Effectiveness for a World we want.