Meeting with CSOs during the Civil Society Policy Forum of the 2011 World Bank-IMF Annual Meetings, Washington DC, USA

Main messages from CSO participants:

- The need of a clear diagnosis of the past record of development including a fuller discussion of aid and the role it has played, the advances that aid - and the monitoring of aid – have made as well as the limitations of aid.

- Key questions that need to be addressed are the following: why we need higher and inclusive growth? What is the diagnosis of the current situation? What are the key challenges and the systemic problems?

- Acknowledge the important monitoring work done around the Paris Declaration.

- Focus on "growth with equality" and define clearly the OECD understanding on inclusive growth. More growth is not always good growth; pace and pattern matter. Inequality is growing both within countries and among. Market incentives systems can be destructive to the environment.

- Given the current turbulence in global markets and slow growth, there is an opportunity to revisit some of the basic concepts and reflect on framework conditions to ensure that they are more inclusive. This might also mean changing laws so that women are included in politics, financial systems, land ownership etc. It has been difficult however to get adequate statistics on women in developing countries.

- The concept of "development" is sometimes seen as negative such as when it is equivalent to FDI and the potentially damaging implications of some practices of MNEs (natural resource exploitation, leasing and expropriation of lands etc). We often look at the impact of policies but don't give enough attention to the activities of the private sector.

- Social justice as well as democratic ownership and accountability are the most important values in development. These need to be considered and taken into account. We should revisit the current paradigm on development and look to alternative models. Istanbul principles – look at the enabling environment, appropriate role of government, private sector.

- Development needs to be home-grown: "We will solve our own problems", but there is considerable need for policy options and advice, such as in the MENA region on governance, regionalisation and decentralisation.

- OECD can offer a lot. The fact that OECD does not have money to disburse is a blessing. The demand-driven approach of the OECD Strategy is key. OECD needs to stay true to its identity and core mission.