DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP FORUM 2000
OWNERSHIP AND PARTNERSHIP: THE ROLE OF SOUTHERN AND NORTHERN CIVIL SOCIETY IN POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGIES

PROGRAMME AND LIST OF INVITED SPEAKERS AND EXPERTS

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Welcome working dinner, hosted by Jean-Louis Bianco, Haut Conseil de la coopération internationale, Château, OECD.

Monday 11 December 2000 (Room 2, New Building)

OPENING

9.30 - 9.50 Opening of Conference by the co-sponsoring organisations:
Jean-Claude Faure, Chairman, Development Assistance Committee
Jorge Braga de Macedo, President, OECD Development Centre

GENERAL SESSION: How to Strengthen the Role of Civil Society: North-South Civil Society Partnerships

Chair: Odile Sorgho-Moulinier, Director, UNDP, Geneva.

In some countries a dynamic civil society has emerged while other countries do not have an active civil society at all. How can actors from OECD countries (governments, civil society organisations) strengthen civil society in developing countries? What are the policy lessons from the perspective of Northern and Southern civil society actors?

The two general introductions will open the debate to clarify challenges, with the aim of arriving at policy recommendations for governments and DAC Member country NGOs and sharing experiences of collaboration in fostering the role of civil society in Poverty Reduction Strategy processes in the South, with a focus on Africa.
Those participating in Poverty Reduction Strategies, including the private sector and civil society, put much effort into arriving at an agreement on policies between donor governments and partner governments.

At the same time, civil society organisations in both the North and the South are concerned about their autonomy and identity. Northern civil society organisations stress their comparative advantage as agents of change and capacity builders in their partnerships with Southern civil society.

Results-based development approaches suggest that concentrating on countries with a positive governance environment has the greatest chance of making a successful impact. In view of scarce ODA resources, this points towards greater country selectivity. As a consequence, policies of DAC Member country governments can be observed on the one hand to “invite” DAC country civil society actors to join with them in the selected countries to strengthen impact on the ground and on the other hand, to “recognise” the specific role of their civil society actors in countries outside of the selected group. These latter countries may be weak in governance or may be in conflict and the only option for continuation of humanitarian engagement or capacity building for post-conflict reconstruction is to use the partnership of civil society in the North and South for capacity building and service delivery.

9.50-10.10  Cândido Grzybowski, General Director, IBASE - Instituto Brasileiro de Análises Sociais e Econômicas, Brazilian Institute of Social and Economic Analyses, Brazil
10.10-10.30  Sylvia Borren, General Director, Novib, the Netherlands
10.30-11.00  Open discussion
11.00-11.20  Coffee Break
11.20-11.50  Open discussion (continued)
11.50-12.00  Concluding remarks by the Session Chair

THEMATIC SESSION I.  How to Strengthen the Role of Civil Society within Country-Level Frameworks

Chair:  Irene Tokarski, Foro Jubileo 2000, Conferencia Episcopal, La Paz, Bolivia

Official donors have increased their attention to in-country donor co-ordination, notably with the partner country government “in the driver’s seat”. The drafting of Poverty Reduction Strategies is a process performed by partner countries with civil society participation. In Uganda, useful lessons have been learned with active civil society participation in the mobilisation of participation in the design of Poverty Reduction Strategies. Initiatives to this end have been undertaken in partnership with Northern civil society supported by an official donor.

The Uganda Debt Network (UDN) (www.udn.or.ug) is a coalition of NGOs from Uganda, formed in 1996, following mounting civil society concerns that Uganda’s debt had reached unsustainable levels. At that time, while the country was being considered for HIPC debt relief Uganda’s debt problem was perceived as a matter between governments with almost no dialogue with civil society in Uganda. Through activities of civil society dialogue, debt and debt-related issues are now debated widely within Uganda. UDN
participated in the Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP), in a review of the budgetary policies and public expenditure in the social sector and is engaged in the organisation of an anti-corruption civil society coalition. The network has 66 members, including international and national NGOs and has relationships with religious groups, members of parliament, trade unions, students, and the Uganda Manufacturers Associations (UMA).

12.00-12.20  **Zie Gariyo**, Uganda Debt Network, Uganda
12.20-12.40  **Mary Muduuli**, Director of the Budget, Ministry of Finance, Uganda
12.40-13.00  **Bella Bird**, Department for International Development, UK, Uganda office/civil society unit

13.00-14.30 **Working lunch, Salle George Marshall**

- **Civil Society Collaboration in Aid Reform**
- **El Hadji Ibrahima Sall**, former Minister of Planning, Senegal, Convenor of the Aid Reform Group Southern Branch
- **Paul Hoebink**, University of Nijmegen, Convenor of the Aid Reform Group Northern Branch,

Thematic Session I - continued

14.30-15.20  **Open Discussion**
15.20-15.30  **Concluding Remarks by the Session Chair**

**THEMATIC SESSION II. How to Promote and Strengthen Civil Society Partnerships in National Programmes**

**Chair:**  **G. Rajasekaran**, General Secretary of the Malaysian Trade Union Congress, Malaysia

Sector-Wide Approaches (SWAs) are attracting considerable attention as a mechanism for better integrating aid delivery with development strategies on a co-ordinated basis. Ownership by the partner country of these new approaches is considered to be very important.

While some Northern civil society actors have expressed concerns with such approaches, fearing adverse effects on their capacity to act as partners on a projects basis, North-South civil society collaboration has produced some interesting experiences where civil society in developing countries, supported by DAC country civil society, has been able to strengthen policies and operational programmes, as for example in Ghana in the field of education. The **Ghana National Education Campaign Coalition** (GNECC - Accra Ghana) brings together 25 Ghanaian civil society organisations, concerned about falling standards of education and diminishing access to education by poor Ghanaians, working to support good quality and productive basic education for all and to increase accountability by education policy makers to citizens. It works for gender equality in opportunity and equity in the distribution of education resources. **The Integrated Social Development Centre (ISODEC - Accra – Ghana)** is the convenor and organiser of the Ghana National Education Campaign Coalition. The Christian Coalition of Ghana acts as representative for the Campaign. GNECC produces regional state-of-education reports to feed into a national report, liaises with the international Campaign and carries out research on Ghana State of Education, the State of Education in Northern Ghana (with particular reference to Muslim children) and the role of the donor community in education in Ghana. The research focuses
in particular on policy making, privatisation and effects on gender, ethnicity and income. The GNECC has been funded by 20% domestic resources (e.g. the Federation of Women Entrepreneurs in Ghana) and by several Northern NGOs (e.g. OXFAM) and UN organisations (including UNICEF).

15.30-15.50 Emanuel Kuyole, Programme Officer, ISODEC, Accra, Ghana
15.50-16.10 Tony Burdon, Policy Advisor, Oxfam, Oxford, United Kingdom
16.10-16.30 Coffee Break
16.30-16.50 Yokozeki, Yumiko, Chief Advisor, Improvement of Educational Achievement in Science, Technology & Mathematics (STM) in Basic Education, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

16.50-17.50 Open Discussion
17.50-18.00 Concluding Remarks by the Session Chair
18.30-20.00 Reception hosted by the Permanent Representation of Germany to the OECD at 9 rue Maspéro, 75116 Paris).

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Tuesday 12 December 2000 (Room 2, New Building)

THEMATIC SESSION III: How to Strengthen the Role of Partnerships with Civil Society in Results-Based Approaches

Chair: Luciano Vecchi, Special Advisor to the Secretary of State for Development Co-operation and former Member of the European Parliament, Italy

A shift away from project implementation and social service delivery activities to capacity building and monitoring/advocacy activities to better inform government policy making and donor responses in a participatory way is one direction of change in the role of civil society.

In some countries, interesting initiatives are being undertaken in which civil society actors are involved in national budget/expenditure monitoring initiatives, strengthening the focus on results, increasing accountability and transparency of resource allocation within countries and creating capacity in the future implementation of agreed Poverty Reduction Strategies.

The Gender Budget Initiative in Tanzania, a collaboration of civil society actors, supported by both donor governments, private foundations and international NGOs, aims to influence general planning and budgeting processes to focus on both practical and strategic gender issues of marginalised communities. It works with Tanzanian government ministries to achieve a more effective and gender equitable utilisation of government resources. It influences general planning and budgeting processes to focus on both practical and strategic gender issues of marginalised communities.

In a democratic country such as Tanzania, the efforts of Northern donors in partnership with Tanzanian civil society organisations have raised in the past “ownership” concerns with Tanzanian government and political parties during the run-up to elections. Several
Northern partners, government as well as civil society, became so involved in the debate about government allocation to basic education and health that the civil society organisations were perceived as a competing political influence. In a different period of evolution of the Tanzanian democracy, the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) (www.tgnp.co.tz) presently works to facilitate the process of mainstreaming gender equality at national and local levels. It collects and generates information, undertakes research, training and capacity building programmes, and is involved in lobbying and implementation. TGNP is invited by the Government to be a part of the Tanzanian Public Expenditure Review and the Tanzania Assistance Strategy. TGNP is currently supported by the European Union, the Governments of Norway, Sweden and the Netherlands, the Southern African AIDS Training Programme, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and several other civil society partners, and also generates financial resources itself through consultancy.

9.30-9.45 Aggripina Mosha, Programme Officer, TGNP, Dar Es Salaam
9.45-10.00 Marja Ruohomaki, Programme Officer, Sida, Stockholm
10.00-10.15 Holger Dix, Team Africa, Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Germany
10.15-10.30 Peniel Lyimo, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Tanzania
10.30-11.00 Open Discussion
11.00-11.20 Coffee Break
11.20-11.50 Open Discussion (continued)
11.50-12.00 Concluding Remarks by the Session Chair

CONCLUDING SESSION: Which Policies Work in Strengthening Civil Society?

Chair: Jorge Braga de Macedo, President, OECD Development Centre

12.00-12.45 Panel:
    Judith Randel, Development Initiatives, UK
    Faith Dube, Deputy to the Managing Director, Inter-Press Service, Zimbabwe
    Henny Helmich, OECD Development Centre

12.45-13.00 Reflections on Preliminary Policy Recommendations for the DAC:
    Jean-Claude Faure, Chairman, Development Assistance Committee

13.00 Close of Conference
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