

CSO imperatives for a successful outcome document

We, the 400 civil society organisations from across the globe come together with one voice at the 2nd High Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation. We join in taking stock of the implementation of development effectiveness principles and commitments. We share the aspiration to position the Global Partnership to effectively contribute to implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

At the close of the first day, we collectively reflect on how far we have come and the challenges that still face us.

On our Core Business: Effective Development Co-operation Commitments

CSOs are concerned that the latest draft of the Nairobi Outcome Document fails to reaffirm the effective development co-operation commitments made since Paris. Further, it is unacceptable to define development co-operation simply as a catalyst for other forms of financing. This definition ignores the value of using public funds to intervene for the public good in an inclusive and accountable manner.

We call upon all parties to the GPEDC to focus on ways effective development co-operation can support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. We strongly recommend the universal application of effective development co-operation principles through an inclusive monitoring framework with clear indicators that recognise the multidimensionality of development.

On Civic Space and the Enabling Environment

We demand the Nairobi Outcome Document to have an explicit reference to the shrinking and closing space for civil society, and clearly reference the Busan commitment on providing enabling environment for civil society. However, the negotiations are still contentious in recognising the situation of CSOs in many countries and upholding previous commitments to create an enabling environment for CSOs.

We urge the comprehensive alignment of country-level legal and regulatory frameworks with human rights standards. Further, we demand and commit to work in facilitating and effectively institutionalising CSO spaces, multi-stakeholder partnerships and social dialogue. We recall the Istanbul Principles on CSO Development Effectiveness in pursuing our own effectiveness and accountability.

On the Role of Private Sector in Development

CSOs note that the current dominant discourse in GPEDC is to unleash the potential of development co-operation to attract private investments. It is deeply alarming that the challenge of leaving no-one behind is being promoted as an opportunity for private capital to develop markets. Our experience on the ground has shown that private capital is not an instrument to address inequality. Further, there is little evidence to support the claims that private investments effectively raise public revenue or drive down the cost of access to goods and services.

We demand for all stakeholders to ensure business and corporate accountability and transparency in the context of development co-operation programmes. Recognising that an increasing role for the private sector in development presents inherent risks, we therefore call for the role of the private sector in development co-operation to be consistent and accountable with the Busan principles, as well as labour, environmental, and other human rights standards.

On the GPEDC Mandate

We are concerned that there seems to be a move towards diluting GPEDC's mandate of strengthening the effectiveness of development co-operation. GPEDC's added value must not be merely to provide country-level data to the UN, as this would constitute a rejection of GPEDC's distinctive traits, especially its inclusive multi-stakeholder character.

We call on all parties to uphold the integrity of the EDC agenda to contribute in implementing the SDGs. We reaffirm the unique multi-stakeholder character of GPEDC and ask that this be demonstrated through genuine inclusiveness and parity in leadership and representation.

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