

FOCUS SESSION 17:

Human Rights Based Approach for Inclusive Development

Tuesday 16:30-18:00, Room Montejo 2

Speakers/Panelists:

- Mr Martin Bille Hermann, State Secretary of Development Policy, Denmark
- Mrs Anne Sipiläinen, Undersecretary of State for development cooperation and development policy, Finland
- Mr Juan Garay Amores, Head of Cooperation Section, EU Delegation, Mexico
- Mrs Emele Duituturaga, CPDE co-chair and Executive Director of the Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (PIANGO), Fiji
- Mr Jurgen Schwettmann, Head of Department of Partnerships and Field Support (PARDEV), International Labour Organisation (ILO), Switzerland;
- Moderated by: Mrs Paola Simonetti, ITUC Policy Advisor and co-chair of CPDE WG on HRBA

Key messages:

Mr Martin Bille Hermann explained how the Danish government has moved away from a needs based development policy towards a rights based policy. This is enshrined in the new transformative strategy for Development Cooperation called “The Right to a Better Life”, supporting empowerment, inclusive and participatory processes through policy dialogue and equal partnerships. Incorporating human rights indicators/outcomes in results frameworks is crucial to grant accountability.

Finland has also taken this move, as Mrs Anne Sipiläinen explained. She strongly emphasized how HRBA is the best approach for a quality and effective development cooperation as it means using human rights standards as tools in designing development cooperation policies as well as for measuring development results. HRBA should be fully integrated in the development effectiveness agenda, as a commitment for all development partners and not just when it comes to CSOs engagement.

HRBA is also supported by the European Union, which is developing a toolkit for the approach to become practice. Mr Juan Garay Amores underlined that the HRBA is enshrined in major policy documents of the EU such as the Agenda for Change and the Development Cooperation instrument itself. Moreover, seven EU

Member States (i.e. Austria, Denmark, Finland Germany, Spain, Sweden, and United Kingdom) have already adopted a RBA to their development cooperation.

Emele Duituturaga, stressed the need for duty bearers to respect their international human rights obligations, underlining the importance of granting policy coherence for development and referring especially to the UN Declaration on the right to development. She stressed the need to implement independent monitoring processes and complaint mechanisms in the context of development cooperation programmes.

Finally Mr Jürgen Schwettmann recalled that economic growth alone without human and labour rights cannot bring prosperity nor development. He provided concrete illustration on how social dialogue is instrumental to achieve socio-economic progress at country level, granting implementation and monitoring of ILO Conventions. Global accountability is key to ensure HRBA in development. In this context, the ILO framework was highlighted as a 'living' example on how standard based supervisory mechanisms can work at global level.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

- There can be no development without human rights, including both civil and political rights as well as economic, social and cultural rights. HRBA must be back in the development effectiveness agenda of the GPEDC as a commitment for all development stakeholders. The GPEDC should work on a concrete action plan to boost HRBA endorsement and implementation;
- HRBA is about a “social contract” between duty bearers and rights holders, implying also a “change of power” between donors and beneficiaries of development cooperation. Empowerment, participation and multi-stakeholders policy dialogue (for example social dialogue) are fundamental pillars to implement HRBA in development;
- Transparency and accountability are also key features of an HRBA. State and non-state actors (including private sector) are responsible to promote and fulfil human rights beyond their borders in development cooperation programmes. To this end it is necessary to apply quality monitoring of development programs, through the use of human rights related indicators, as well as, to implement independent complaint mechanisms;
- There is a need for a framework based on binding commitments and monitoring mechanisms to be agreed at a global level. This framework should be based on three fundamental principles: mutual accountability (donors and partners are equally accountable for development results); democratic ownership (decision making based on participatory processes); inclusive partnerships (participation of all development stakeholders);

- Accountability based on international norms is the very meaning of an HRBA to development. The current post-2015 process constitutes also an opportunity to boost HRBA and policy coherence between development promotion and human rights commitments.