

Civil Society Organizations Forum on Effective Development Cooperation

Mexico City

November 10 - 11, 2016

Final Statement

For a Global Partnership Towards Effective Development Cooperation that Contributes to Achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals

We, representatives of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) gathered at the Forum on Effective Development Cooperation that took place in Mexico City, set forth through this Final Statement our recommendations regarding the 2nd High Level Meeting (2HLM) of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) that will be held in Nairobi, Kenya, from November 28 to December 1, 2016.

- *Regarding the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:*

1. CSOs that participated in this meeting acknowledge that implementing the 2030 Agenda (2030A) in Latin America and the Caribbean is an opportunity for the region to achieve development with equality and sustainability from a human rights perspective.
2. Although the region has enjoyed positive growth rates in recent years, one of the characteristics that raises most concern is inequality, which is on the rise, and is affecting the present and future of its people. Using GDP per capita as the main indicator to measure the degree of development is not enough and hides inequality within each country and the region. We need other indicators such as human development, gender empowerment, inequality gaps, amongst others, which broaden the measurement of development.
3. The serious gender inequality in the region, reflected in the numerous types of violence women experience, in differentiated work conditions such as inequality in wages, in the reproduction of gender roles that hinder the full exercise of sexual and reproductive rights, and in the continuous violation of human rights, is still one of the main obstacles in completing the 2030A.
4. In particular, young people are forced to deal with contexts of vulnerability that prevent them from exercising their rights, limit their participation and increase the inequality gap. It is essential to recognize young people as having rights and being strategic development figures.

5. An important challenge, common to the region, is the need to raise awareness, both in the government and the population, about the joint responsibility of implementing the 2030A for Sustainable Development. Hence, it is essential to promote CSO participation in the 2030A and strengthen the dissemination of information among the population.
6. One of the main challenges is the nature and complexity of the (trans-sectorial and long-term) Agenda that challenges both the institutional bureaucratic mentality and the short-termism that exists in many government dynamics of the region. CSOs can provide useful support through their work areas and knowledge, and foster a more holistic and participatory vision both in the design and implementation of the 2030A. This requires favorable conditions and clear mechanisms for effective participation, including the non-criminalization and strengthening of institutions and movements in order for their strategies and actions to be increasingly assertive.
7. It has been agreed that responsibilities for the implementation of the 2030A should be clearly distributed among all government levels, keeping in mind the distinct comparative advantages and responsibilities at every level. The “localization” of the Agenda and the design of institutionalized mechanisms of participation, coordination and articulation are needed to harmonize and strengthen efforts of all stakeholders at all levels. There is a consensus that strengthening all monitoring and accountability systems in order to follow up on the implementation of the SDGs, both nationally and internationally, is essential to guarantee the Agenda goals are met.
8. Also, more multi-actor innovative and participative collaboration frameworks—at a national level—should be consolidated, ones that can ensure more effectiveness in the implementation of the 2030A. We recommend valuing and supporting these multi-actor dynamics as well as their leadership scope when defining national and regional strategies for the implementation of the 2030A.
9. In conclusion, the implementation of the 2030A on Sustainable Development and the fulfillment of the SDGs require harmonizing efforts from all stakeholders and the merging at all levels (global, regional, national and local) of the various development dynamics and instruments, including international cooperation.

Regarding effective development cooperation:

10. We thus understand that the GPEDC is a key space to create, promote and monitor policies, actions and inclusive partnerships regarding the effectiveness of international cooperation that contributes to the implementation of the 2030A and to the fulfillment of the SDGs.
11. In order to achieve this, a solid and renewed commitment to the principles of effective cooperation and to its application to all development processes is needed. This commitment must also be updated based on the implementation of the 2030A, the SDGs and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) on financing for development.

12. In this sense, the 2HLM will be a milestone in the progress review of the implementation of commitments made. A new impetus must also emerge from it in order for commitments agreed on in the last decade regarding effective development cooperation to be upheld.
13. It will also be an opportunity for all development stakeholders to confirm their commitment to principles of cooperation effectiveness and to take coherent actions regarding these principles in order to achieve a more inclusive and sustainable development.
14. This will only be possible if the international community gathered in Nairobi:
 - Acknowledges and defines concrete actions regarding areas with limited or insufficient progress identified in the second progress report on the Busan commitments on the effectiveness of international cooperation, and reinforces the agenda on development effectiveness.
 - Generates a behavioral change, consistent with the evidence from the progress report on the Busan commitments.
 - Consolidates a supervision and reciprocated accountability framework based on including multiple development stakeholders in countries.
 - Acknowledges the human rights based approach, including decent work, gender equality and women's rights, and environmental sustainability as the basic principle of any cooperation and development policy.
 - Establishes at a national level the multi-actor nature of the GPEDC through initiatives that translate inclusive partnerships for development effectiveness into policies and actions at a national level.
 - Ensures that private sector practices subscribe to all effective development cooperation principles.
 - Reiterates the recognition of CSOs as independent development actors in their own right, and commits to create an environment that fosters their work.

Hence, we, representatives of CSOs, who have participated in this forum set forth the following recommendations to position Latin American and Caribbean countries in the 2HLM:

1. Ensure there is a connection between all agendas, but do not subsume the Effective Development Cooperation Agenda in the 2030A and the AAAA.
2. Seek to globalize the principles of the Effective Development Cooperation Agenda of the 2030A and the AAAA.
3. Among others, democratic ownership involves ensuring that civil society is consulted in an effective manner and that it is included in the design and implementation of the 2030A and that of other agendas and development processes.
4. This will be possible through the consolidation of strategies in order to align national plans and development planning processes to the 2030A,

both at a national level and in transnational, regional and local cooperation.

5. Acknowledging that the problems we face require the participation of the numerous actors in our societies. It is essential to have forums or spaces where we come together with common goals. In order to achieve this, we must:
 - a) Ensure that these spaces have an institutional and financial basis that enables systematic and long-lasting operation.
 - b) Ensure that effective mechanisms of participation, joint responsibility and transparency are established, steering clear of the simulation and prevalence of hidden political interests.
 - c) Have a special focus on inclusiveness criteria, in favor of the participation of those sectors of the population in poor or vulnerable situations.
 - d) Involve as a priority, governments and organizations at a local level, at the center of the 2030A implementation.
 - e) Enforce gender equality, intersectional, intergenerational, ethnic and multicultural criteria.
6. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda and of the Effective Development Cooperation Agenda will need to continue strengthening processes and mechanisms in order to manage relevant knowledge for:
 - a) The continuous discussions on which development is the most appropriate for our countries.
 - b) The skill training of numerous actors involved in the development, particularly our dialog and mediation skills to build multi-actor spaces.
 - c) The management of useful information for decision-making for various actors.
 - d) Our research centers and universities play a central role in this.
7. The GPEDC must define how to approach SDGs from an effective development cooperation approach. It must ensure that the monitoring framework has a route for agreements to translate into concrete proposals and measures, and that they align to the fulfillment of SDGs.
8. Monitoring exercises should continue and be improved by incorporating indicators regarding the implementation of the 2030A. These exercises must include a roadmap in order to address the limitations and lag in the implementation of principles.
9. Ensure that inequality is one of the priority topics for Latin America in all agendas and development processes. Proposing a new principle of “leaving no one behind” regarding effective development cooperation could be useful to face this challenge.

10. However, incorporating this new principle on effective development cooperation is not enough to solve inequality problems in Latin America. This requires reviewing the region's current—predatory and unsustainable—development model, as well as the quality of the democracy and that human rights are fully respected in many of its countries, which jeopardizes the complete achievement of SDGs.
11. In that sense, numerous types of policies are needed, such as public policies that address the structural causes and different expressions of inequalities, and fiscal policies that promote a better distribution of wealth. Furthermore, a multidimensional conception of development is needed to evaluate the possibility of obtaining international cooperation (particularly for middle-income countries, almost all people from Latin America and the Caribbean), as well as separating these types of cooperation aimed at the development and enjoyment of human rights of investment and free trade components focused solely on economic growth.
12. More specifically, we need mechanisms of participation for women and young adults in decision-making regarding the planning, implementation, follow-up and monitoring of public policies. These mechanisms must be formal and not subject to political will.
13. Children and teenagers must be a priority as a population group in order to focus and optimize international cooperation resources in to improve conditions to exercise human rights in current and future generations. There must be indicators that measure the effectiveness of these disaggregated resources by sex, gender, age, ethnic background, migration status, disability, geographical location and other relevant characteristics in national contexts.
14. The State must create mechanisms of control and taxation so the private sector complies with human rights parameters. The private sector and civil society are differentiated actors with particular interests that must have specific participation and control mechanisms.
15. We emphasize the importance of the State as the governing body of development models and guarantor of public interest and the common good. In this sense, accountability and anti-corruption mechanisms must be strengthened further.
16. We are concerned about mega projects that particularly affect indigenous communities in their collective heritage, be it territorial or bio-cultural, and that hide behind the development-project flag, and marginalize and violate rights of migrant populations and diasporas,

increasing precarious work, the privatization and exploitation of local resources, land dispossession and forced migration.

17. Regarding the South-South and Triangular Cooperation, it is important to ensure—in particular—the participation of CSOs of recipient countries as well as that of donors.

We would like to stress that the participation of organized civil society is indispensable for the compliance of the principles of effective development cooperation, the implementation of the 2030A and other international agreements that foster development.

Acknowledging the importance of the upcoming 2HLM discussions, we would like to highlight the significance of a post-Nairobi follow-up in every region and country, of the agreements and commitments that have been made to make sustainable development a reality. As representatives of the CSOs that participated in this forum, we confirm our commitment and willingness to participate in said follow-up and urge authorities responsible for its implementation to take appropriate action.