

Side Events

Innovative multi-stakeholder collaboration for a successful implementation of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation and the 2030 Agenda

1 December 2016, 7:30am - 08:30am

Objective:

The side event explored the opportunities offered by multi-stakeholders collaboration in the sense of stocktaking on a number of initiatives conducted in Cameroon that could be replicated in other African countries, as well as on the work of African civil society in support of their governments' implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, capitalizing on the Global Partnership on Effective Development Cooperation (the Global Partnership), in line with the African Union Agenda 2063.

Moving forward from the MDGs experience and the unfinished Busan Core Business, the side event was scheduled to discuss how effective development cooperation can deliver on the 2030 Agenda, with an acknowledged sound and effective contribution of the private sector and CSOs' to sustainable development. It also suggested key paths to follow in that context in order to move faster from Global Goals to Action, in a view to unleashing the power of partnerships, based on effective multi-stakeholders collaboration beside south-south cooperation. It ultimately and specifically aimed at: (1) Experience sharing on how to fast-track the implementation of the 2030 agenda through innovative multi-stakeholders collaboration; and (2) Sketching initial lines for the development of a generic multi-stakeholders collaboration model for Africa, drawing from Cameroonian experience, informed by regional perspectives provided by the RECs, to inspire other developing countries.

Participants:

Moderator: **Mr Martin Tsounkeu**, the Cameroon CPDE Focal Point, General Representative of Africa Development Interchange Network (ADIN), and member of the AWG.

Panellists and Respondents:

the Cameroon Minister Delegate at the Ministry of Economy Planning and Regional Development, represented by **Mr Njie Thomas Kinge**, Director North South and Multilateral Cooperation and Cameroon GPEDC National Coordinator; **Mr Claude Bekombo**, from the Cameroonian Ministry of External Relations; H.E **Godefroy Mokamanede**, Former Minister in Central African Republic; Mr **Aurelien Atidegla**, Co-Chair, CPDE-Africa (from Benin); Mme **Christine Andela**, Coordinator, CPDE-Central Africa (from Cameroon); Mme **Salina Sanou** (from Kenya), Member of the CSO African Working Group (AWG).

Interventions from the floor:

JAY Hung, Executive Director, Tawan AID; **Yvette Herrera**, Planning officer, Department of Finance, Philippines; **Ngalim Eugene Nuyudine**, Cameroon Youth and Students Forum (CAMYOSFOP), Cameroon; **Ouattara Diakalia**, Secretary General, FNDP, Cote d'Ivoire; **Chamchou**, Director of Bilateral Cooperation, Ministry of Planning, Central African Republic; **Lijatou-Oyemade Tokimbo**, President, Kins of Africa (KINSAF), Nigeria; **Baba Ngom**, Administratorm CMCR, Senegal.

Key issues discussed:

Building from the keynote introduction by the Moderator on the global Financing for Development (FfD) process, the Global Partnership on Effective Development Cooperation (The Global Partnership), and the implementation process of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, the speakers in their presentations touched on the following key issues: institutionalized dialogue between governments and non-state actors in general and CSOs in particular; professionalization of CSOs; linking African CSOs in a view to supporting their governments and the African Union; Youth inclusion; information sharing for effective development cooperation; and public funding of African CSOs.

The representative of the Cameroonian Minister Delegate at the Ministry of Economy Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT) opened the say with a welcome address, presenting Cameroon's experience in The Global Partnership and its tradition of close collaboration with development partners, within a Multi-Partners Committee, to regularly assess the implementation of development cooperation, stressing that the related platform is progressively being opened to CSOs and to the private sector. He described the 2nd Round Monitoring of The Global Partnership (2015-2016) as a unique opportunity for inclusive multi-stakeholders collaboration in Cameroon, under the leadership of the Government. The results of that assessment showed "evidence of the need for a tighter management of relationships with development partners by the government in order to increase aid transparency, as well as for reinforcement of auditing systems and financial reporting mechanisms"¹. In his view, the major limit of The Global Partnership monitoring process was the fact that national coordinators were not seriously consulted on the design of the related methodology, prior to data collection. Never-the-less the process was conducted in an innovative and collaborative format with the civil society. In fact, the government identified the same Focal Point as the global CSO Platform for Development Effectiveness (CPDE), for the civil society in Cameroon.

Underlining the positive progress in the collaboration between the government of Cameroon and non-state actors, despite some challenges, the Cameroon Global Partnership National Coordinator recalled the key messages from The Global Partnership monitoring process in Cameroon: (1) Cooperation development indicators should be revised in order to be adapted not only to the SDGs but also to take into account all Non DAC involvement and south-south cooperation flows (China, India, etc.); (2) There is a need to enhance data collection capacity and to support a permanent monitoring mechanism both at national and regional levels; (3) Partners are encouraged to use national systems and to simplify their procedures in order to increase the disbursement rate of external resources; (4) Partners should help the government to track all types of external resources including financial and technical supports to CSOs and local governments; (5) Development partners are encouraged to meet their 0.7% GNP pledge and to improve the predictability of their development cooperation assistance.

The representative of the Cameroonian Ministry of External Relations (MINREX) presented on their work with the civil society in Cameroon, under a specific Department in charge of relations with non-state actors. To facilitate that work, a specific working and collaboration platform between the MINREX and CSOs has been set up, as a tool for an institutionalized dialogue, to contribute to the national Common Working and Collaboration Platform (CWCP) for the SDGs. He underlined

¹ See http://effectivecooperation.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Cameroon_17_11.pdf?s

the opportunity that the Nairobi HLM2 provided to African countries to push South-South Cooperation forward, and more specifically as concerns bilateral relations between Cameroon and Kenya. This was followed by the civil society's voice on the panel, through the CPDE Coordinator for Central Africa and the AWG, that confirmed the information provided by Cameroonian government officials on the collaboration between their government and the civil society, acknowledging the support of the Commonwealth Foundation through the AWG in facilitation an institutionalized multi-stakeholder dialogue, but insisted however on the challenges that still stand on the way of an enabling environment for CSOs, including access to information and to public funds. Despite real progress in the collaboration between the government and non-state actors in Cameroon, more effort is needed to ensure full participation of citizens through CSOs and parliamentarians in development decision making.

The former Minister from the Central African Republic (CAR) presented the difficult situation that the country went through and underlined the role of the civil society in avoiding the worsening of the three year politico-military crisis, wrongly described by foreign media as a religious conflict, and bringing back peace. In fact, during those hardships, civil society leaders rose to speak with one voice to the local protagonists and to the international community. Reviewing The Global Partnership path from Accra where CSOs were recognized as full stakeholders in the process, thru Busan where it was enacted and Mexico where it was confirmed and validated to Nairobi now where it should be translated into multi-stakeholder collaborative and concrete actions.

The side event jointly organized by the government of Cameroon and the civil society, in his view, is a positive step in that direction and there is need for a true partnership at the local, national and regional levels. Central African Republic is among Fragile States and The Global Partnership monitoring experience here was also that of a strong involvement of the civil society, both in terms of data collection and country report drafting. The same is true for the Bangui Dialogue and Reconciliation Forum, where CSOs were actively involved in grass-roots consultations, participation in the forum and popularization of the recommendations. CSOs actually have an important role to play in development and the challenges to implement the SDGs and the AU Agenda 2063 should be collectively taken by both the African CSOs and their governments. For that purpose, the following is needed from both sides: a better structuring of CSOs for better accountability; the professionalization of CSOs by strengthening their capacities to make them more relevant to their actions; a better understanding of the boundaries between CSOs and political parties; the institutionalization of a dialogue framework between the Government and CSOs; Involvement of CSOs in the designing and implementation of development plans or programs, as well as their monitoring and evaluation; CSO financing on public funds in a transparent process.

Participants were then invited to react to the panellists' presentations with remarks and recommendations on the way forward with regard to collaboration between African Governments and non-State actors. They insisted on the need to ensure that the youth are always part of the game in development processes, not just for publicity, but rather for real through formalized schemes. They also deplored the traditional tendency to invite CSOs only at the last minute for coloration sake and suggested that a common space should be created for close, candid and constant collaboration between African Governments, African CSOs, the private sector, Development Partners and Parliamentarians on development cooperation and SDGs Implementation, in line with the AU Agenda 2063.

Main conclusions and next steps:

The jointly organized side event to The Global Partnership HLM2 in Nairobi, by the Government of Cameroon and the Civil Society, was special and has marked the African history of collaboration between governments and non-state actors. It happened at a key moment when Africa is looking ahead for its structural, economic and cultural transformation, through Agenda 2063 to get rid of

protracted poverty and insure better livelihood for all Africans. It opens the way for a new paradigm with regard to the relationships between governments and their citizens represented by CSOs. Success on that path will depend on a serious implementation of a number of recommendations that translate the outcome of the meeting.

R1:
African countries are encouraged to take the same path as Cameroon and concretely engage in the improvement of collaboration space with non-state actors in all sectors, particularly to ensure an enabling environment for CSOs and private sector to contribute to sustainable development in general and effective development cooperation in particular.

R2:
CSOs should professionalize, through assistance from their governments to build their operational and managerial capacities and through their own internal investment in implementing the Istanbul principles and more accountability to the people that they represent.

R3:
African countries should take institutional measures to ensure that CSOs access public funding and information for their work as full stakeholders in the development process.

R4:
African CSOs should link up and organize to borrow from experiences in other countries to build and share knowledge in support to their governments, the African Union and its various Regional Economic Communities (RECs) for the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the SDGs, through their respective national development strategy.

R5:
All the positive initiatives taken by the Government of Cameroon with regard to collaboration with non-state actors should be enhanced, scaled up and emulated by other African countries to ensure a permanent institutionalized dialogue in all sectors at national, regional and continental level.

R6:
Concrete actions should be taken at national level to involve the Youth at all levels of the development process, to make sure that they are not left behind.

R7:
Common space should be created for institutionalized dialogue between governments, non-state actors and development partners at national level to regularly address key issues on effective development cooperation.

ANNEX 1:

Redacted

ANNEX 2: (Photo report)



Participants registering before the meeting



The Moderator, **Martin Tsounkeu** (2nd from the left), the Chair, **Thomas Njie Kinge** (center) and two panellist on his left (**Christine Andela** and **Jean Claude Bekombo**) with a few participants after the meeting.