

The Road to the Nairobi High Level Meeting

CONCORD Key Messages

September 2016

Development effectiveness has been a priority issue for the European Union (EU), its member states and civil society since the agreements on the Paris Declaration in 2005, the Accra Agenda for Action and the Busan Agreement. The principles of country responsibility and leadership in development processes are part and parcel of both the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development, which includes specific commitments to implementing the effectiveness principles.

The Second High Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) at the end of November and beginning of December 2016 in Nairobi (Nairobi HLM2) will provide an opportunity to build consensus, commit to action to deliver on the international commitments on effectiveness. This will be particularly important as governments mobilise to deliver on the sustainable development goals as the GPEDC framework currently represents the only existing monitoring framework at the global level and at scale to feed into the Sustainable Development Goals follow up and review process.

EU Progress

With these concerns in mind, European civil society organizations remain concerned at the current direction of EU aid and development efforts whose focus increasingly shifts to EU national interests, migration and regional security concerns.

Progress in the EU on Paris, Accra and Busan commitments remains lackluster despite member states' ongoing and renewed commitment to development effectiveness principles. While the European Commission continues to pilot and lead work in the areas of competence such as joint programming or aid transparency, more needs to be done both in terms of ensuring consistency across the EU and its institutions in supporting real democratic ownership of development, and a full participations and shared responsibility for results of all development actors. In particular, efforts in member states need to be made to address concerning trends which signal that many of the effectiveness gains of the last 15 years are being lost.

Priorities for the EU

EU civil society calls on the EU and its member states to agree an **ambitious and action-oriented joint position for the Nairobi HLM2** to accelerate progress in implementation of GPEDC commitments, with a particular focus on:

- democratic ownership of development interventions and inclusive participation;



- promoting equal partnerships and shared responsibility for development results, including support for implementation of the Istanbul Principles and other voluntary mechanisms;
- commitments to enable CSOs to exercise their roles as independent development actors, with a particular focus on an enabling environment, consistent with agreed international rights, that maximizes the contributions of CSOs to development;
- transparent criteria and long-term predictability of development cooperation;
- improved access to development funding, including simplified and results oriented management and reporting tools.

The EU must honour its longstanding commitments on development effectiveness by **supporting sustained global efforts to monitor the implementation of the Busan principles and commitments**, and to reflect the monitoring findings and lessons learned, in particular by:

- full participation in the GPEDC progress reports on the implementation of the Busan agreement, including strengthening the GPEDC’s capacity to monitor the implementation of the Busan principles and commitments;
- submitting reports on EU’s and Member States’ efforts and action plans to comprehensively implement the Busan principles on regular basis, at least every 24 months;
- making sure that EU institutions and Members States join efforts by the United Nations Development Cooperation Forum (UNDCF) to monitor progress on mutual and shared accountability;
- confirming that monitoring is a distinctive feature of the GPEDC mandate, which defines its added value.

*CONCORD is the **European NGO confederation for Relief and Development**. Its 28 national associations, 20 international networks and 3 associate members represent 2,600 NGOs which are supported by millions of citizens across Europe.*

We are the main interlocutor with the EU institutions on development policy. As a confederation, we work towards a world where people enjoy their right to live free of poverty and exploitation as well as their right to enjoy wellbeing and equality.

