

Civil society voices for **Better Aid**

BetterAid Statement on the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation 1st December 2011

Civil society have come together as a unified community and participated constructively in the processes leading to Busan, the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF4), including the final negotiations. We join other development actors in welcoming the Busan partnership agreement on an inclusive new global partnership.

The Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation is an advancement from Accra in many areas crucial to civil society. For the first time since the Paris Declaration, democratic ownership has been acknowledged as fundamental principle of development cooperation implemented through inclusive partnerships. The new partnership shifts the focus from a technical aid effectiveness agenda towards a new development effectiveness agenda that is more inclusive, more political, and focused on results as rights based development outcomes rather than aid delivery.

Through the Busan Partnership, a new global governance framework will move the development agenda towards a broader framework that is more inclusive, involving not only the OECD-DAC, but also the United Nations, South-South Cooperation actors, parliamentarians and local authorities, civil society and the private sector.

The Busan document also engages strongly in promoting a rights based enabling environment for civil society and endorses the Civil Society Organizations' Istanbul Principles.

However we note with concern that the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation:

- Has no explicit commitments to adopt human-rights based approaches. We also strongly believe that it has not given adequate attention to women's rights, the right to development and environmental justice.
- Has not significantly addressed the unfinished business and lack of implementation of Paris and Accra commitments. The few concrete commitments, targets and timelines that have been included in earlier drafts of the Busan Partnership had been deleted due to objection of donor governments.
- Reduces commitments to common principles as mere voluntary reference for BRICS development partners in South-South Cooperation.
- Retains overall private sector-led growth as framework for development. The agreements reached attributes a strong role to the for-profit private sector, while not including a comprehensive vision and policy framework to hold business to account against development effectiveness principles.
- While the Busan Partnership acknowledges the New Deal, there is now need to ensure that implementation is monitored and that there is strong citizen participation in the process.

The impact of the Busan Partnership largely depends on the follow up process, which is yet to be agreed in all its details. Civil society remains committed to engage and contribute meaningfully, at the national and the global levels, to the largely unfinished business of the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation.

See the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation here:

<http://www.aideffectiveness.org/busanhl4/en/component/content/article/698.html>

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