

A Reality of Aid Colloquium: CSO Reflections on Development Effectiveness

European Development Days
24 October 2009, 15:00 – 18:00

Sida HQ, Valhallavägen 199
105 25 Stockholm, Sweden

The EDD, happening from 22-24 October 2009, is an annual multi-stakeholder policy forum jointly hosted by the European Commission and the EU Presidency, concentrating on making development aid more effective and reaching the MDGs. It will bring together representatives from 125 countries, 4000 participants and 1500 organizations from the development community.

The Reality of Aid (RoA) Network is organizing a two-hour workshop as a reflection on development effectiveness and other themes discussed during the official EDD. This activity, co-organized with the *Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)*, is one of RoA's post-Accra initiatives that will address the need to develop perspectives on several substantive themes that will assist civil society in carrying out its dialogue with donors and governments on proposals for the 2011 HLF.

BACKGROUND

A pre-eminent Southern-led North/South network on reforming aid policies and practices...

The North/South Reality of Aid (RoA) Network is the pre-eminent Southern-led network of civil society organizations (CSOs) focusing its reports and advocacy on the goals of poverty eradication and equality in the policies and practices in the international aid regime. It brings together hundreds of CSOs from more than 40 networks working in the field of international cooperation in 22 donor countries, as well as in Asia-Pacific, Latin America and Africa (www.realityofaid.org).

As the recognized CSO network on global aid reform, Reality of Aid has established a significant and credible civil society dialogue on aid and international cooperation issues with the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) in Paris and with the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness, which organized the High Level Forum in Accra in September 2008, as well as with the UN Development Cooperation Forum.

Understanding the meaning of development effectiveness for reforming aid and international cooperation...

While CSOs have articulated goals related to development effectiveness in the lead-up to the Accra High Level Forum, much work still needs to be done to articulate its meaning for practical reforms in aid and international cooperation.

These themes include the following:

a) Ownership by the poor – Current efforts to establish broad country ownership may not necessarily reflect the genuine and full realization of democratic country ownership. In what ways can local ownership strengthen the poor's participation and empowerment in the aid assisted programs and projects?

b) Human rights and social justice – Rights-based approaches to development assume full empowered participation and access. What mechanisms can be promoted to mainstream rights-based approaches?

- c) Social justice results – The Accra Agenda for Action defines social justice concerns, including gender equality and women’s rights, as key development targets. How is this implemented concretely? How are social justice results indicators such as gender, decent jobs, inclusion, economic access and so on defined and used?
- d) Participatory institutions of democratic ownership – Development effectiveness, by necessity, must encompass the requirements and functions of democratic development and building democratic institutions. What are the key areas of democratic development that are directly important in development cooperation and the role of CSOs and the poor?
- e) Reforming aid partnerships and international aid architecture – Current aid partnerships and the overall framework of aid architecture are not structured to ensure optimal realization of development effectiveness. How can these partnerships be supported through an equitable aid architecture premised on equality and mutuality in development cooperation with a clear focus on poverty eradication and human rights/social justice?

Colloquium Agenda: CSO Reflections on Development Effectiveness

15:00 –15:10 Welcome Remarks by SIDA (*Ms. Lena Johansson Blomstrand, Head, Team Partnerships, DDP*)

15:10 – 15:50 Keynotes Panel

Ambassador Jan Cedergren, former Chair, OECD/DAC/WPP-EFF
Director-General Koos Richelle, Current co-Chair, OECD/DAC/WP-EFF

15:50 – 16:00 *short break*

16:00 – 16:20 Introduction of the Reality of Aid Network and building further on the theme of development effectiveness (*Antonio Tujan Jr, RoA Chairperson*)

16:20 – 17:40 North/south CSO Panel Discussion on development effectiveness as the framework in aid and development cooperation through human rights, social justice and democratic development

Panel 1: *Human rights, justice, gender equality results, and sustainability: assessing and reforming development policies for development effectiveness*

Discussants: Anders Pederssen (DDP, SIDA); Cecilia Alemany (AWID)

Panel 2: *Reforming aid partnerships and the international aid architecture*

Discussants: Tomas Brundin (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sweden); Ruben Fernandez (ALOP), Bodo Ellmers (EURODAD)

17:40 – 18:00 Conclusion and wrap up (Brian Tomlinson, ROA Vice-Chairperson)

(Emcee/facilitator: Josephine Dongail, RoAN Secretariat)

This activity is open to all. For more information, please contact secretariat@realityofaid.org cc adanlog@realityofaid.org and jdongail@realityofaid.org