

## FOCUS SESSION 7

### Practical Ways to Improve the Enabling Environment for Civil Society

Tuesday 15 April 08:00-09:15 Room Montejo 3

#### Guidance

In Busan, all stakeholders acknowledged that an enabling environment is essential for inclusive development. Recognizing that inclusion is at the heart of the post-2015 agenda this session will be well positioned to inform the post-2015 dialogue. A panel of three eminent speakers will offer a range of stakeholder perspectives on how this can be achieved, followed by a moderated discussion.

Key questions guiding the discussion are:

1. What progress has been made since Busan with regard to the enabling environment for civil society and CSO development effectiveness in relation to inclusive development?
2. What are the main opportunities, challenges, and practical proposals to achieve these commitments?

The focus session will put forward concrete proposals to deepen the commitment to advance progress on the enabling environment and CSO development effectiveness in practical ways.

The focus session will discuss interest in establishing:

1. A framework with milestones to improve the enabling environment for civil society;
2. Guidance on putting this framework into practice; and
3. Multi-stakeholder learning fora and partnerships on implementing the framework and guidance.

#### Objective

To discuss progress since Busan with regard to the enabling environment for civil society and CSO development effectiveness in relation to inclusive development, including main opportunities, challenges and practical proposals to achieve these commitments.

#### Session Format

The session will be seventy-five minutes. There will be three short contributions from the speakers, followed by questions and answers and discussion with the audience. The session will be led by the three Co-Chairs of the Task Team. Both from the panel and during the questions and answer session there will be contributions from development cooperation providers, partner countries and CSOs. A session outcome document on how to deepen commitment on enabling environment and inclusive development in practical ways will be distributed prior to the session.

#### Speakers/Panellists

The speakers during the session are:

- **Mme. Bouaré Fily Sissoko**, Minister of Economy and Finance, Mali (TBC)
- **Mrs. Lilianne Ploumen**, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, the Netherlands
- **Ms. Emele Duituturaga**, PIANGO, CSO Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation Co-chair

The session will be chaired by the Co-Chairs of the Multi-Stakeholder Task Team on Civil Society Development Effectiveness and Enabling Environment:

- **Mrs. Marion Derckx**, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- **Mr. Modibo Makalou**, Office of the President, Mali
- **Mr. Brian Tomlinson**, AidWatch Canada / Canadian Council for International Cooperation

### Background/Narrative

Established in 2009, the multi-stakeholder Task Team on Civil Society Development Effectiveness and Enabling Environment aims to advance norms and implementation of international commitments in relation to civil society and development. More specifically, the purpose of the Task Team is to promote and facilitate implementation of development practice consistent with civil society-related commitments made at the 2008 Accra and 2011 Busan High Level Fora on aid and development effectiveness. The Task Team maintains a particular interest in the commitments to strengthen democratic ownership, to implement an enabling environment for civil society (including donor support and engagement with civil society), and to further the development effectiveness of civil society organizations (CSOs). The Task Team is a voluntary body composed of self-selected development cooperation partner governments and CSOs.

### Related Links

<http://taskteamcso.com>

The Task Team prepared the following documents for the High Level Meeting:

- Focus session 7 outcome document on how to deepen commitment on enabling environment and inclusive development in practical ways
- Review of Evidence of progress on Civil Society-related Commitments of the Busan High Level Forum
- Key Messages on promoting inclusive development and democratic ownership in relation to civil society

The Task Team has led the preparation of a Discussion Paper on inclusive development for the HLM's Progress since Busan/Inclusive Development Plenary 1, which takes stock of progress and challenges in implementation of the Busan principles in relation to inclusive development.

These documents are available via:

<http://taskteamcso.com/key-documents/the-2014-high-level-meeting-in-mexico/>

### Organisers

Multi-stakeholder Task Team on Civil Society Development Effectiveness and Enabling Environment.

Current Task Team Participants are from: Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Government of Mali President's Office; CSO Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation; Government of Bangladesh Ministry of Finance; USAID; DfID (UK); Sida (Sweden); Ministry of Foreign Affairs Finland; Ministry of Foreign Affairs Trade and Development Canada; Austrian Development Agency; IBON International (Philippines); International Trade Union Confederation; CIVICUS; European Commission (DEVCO); International Center for Not-for-Profit Law; ACT Alliance (Denmark); Trocaire (Ireland); Reality of Aid Africa; Asia Pacific Research Network; International Institute of Social Studies (Erasmus University).

### Contact

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