

2ND GPEDC ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION FORUM

Tetet Lauron, CPDE Co-Chair's opening remarks

23 November 2015

Good morning,

First of all, I would like to **thank Korea** for hosting this annual Forum for the second time. CPDE appreciates Korea's commitment to the GPEDC and we believe that together with the Co-Chairs and other government members we can ensure that the valuable work and experience developed by GPEDC will play an important role in implementing the 2030 Agenda.

CPDE gathers an open platform of over **4,000 community organisations**, trade unions, faith-based organisations, youth groups, feminist movements, indigenous groups and other NGOs, which are all keen on contributing to ensure that development cooperation becomes just, human rights based and more effective through concrete actions by governments, international organisations, business, civil society itself and other development actors.

Civil society has made a strong and steady contribution to GPEDC since its establishment in Busan. **We remain a proactive supporter of GPEDC's** principles, mandate and commitments to better development co-operation in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in line with agreed international commitments on human rights, decent work, gender equality, environmental sustainability and disability.

We believe GPEDC's added value is in its **inclusive nature** and in its unique governance model, which allows non-executive development actors like civil society to sit at the table with an equal voice as governments and other actors. We also value GPEDC's commitment to global and country-level monitoring.

CPDE's key role in GPEDC

CPDE has been a member of the GPEDC Steering Committee since it was first convened in 2012. We were fully involved in the preparations of the GPEDC's first High-Level Meeting in Mexico and are now closely following the planning of the second High-Level Meeting in Kenya. We lead the **Global Partnership Initiative on Campaigning for Effective Development**, through which we carry out a variety of capacity building, advocacy, sensitisation and coalition-building activities around the world, at global, regional, national and local level. CPDE is also proactively involved in the second GPEDC **monitoring round**, which we follow in the majority of participating countries, as well as through the civil society representative and Chair of the Monitoring Advisory Group.

In addition, CPDE is part of the GPEDC Initiative on the **CSO Enabling Environment Framework** led by the Task Team for Enabling Environment and CSO Development Effectiveness. The Task Team is an informal multi-stakeholder network of developing country and provider governments and civil society to advance progress toward the civil society-related commitments made in Busan. It is, by nature, an inclusive alliance

in support of a truly multi-stakeholder involvement in GPEDC, including in preparing for the second round of monitoring through the Task Team's work on Indicator Two.

We endorse the **four Busan principles** of country ownership, results focus, inclusive development partnerships, and transparency and accountability as the starting point to achieve higher development effectiveness. We are committed to do this by addressing both the symptoms and the root causes of poverty, inequality and social marginalisation and also by complying with our own effectiveness principles, the eight **Istanbul Principles on CSO Development Effectiveness** agreed in 2010. These principles are meant to guide our work; we see them as additional and complementary to the Busan principles, alongside our strong call for inclusive development built on a **human rights-based approach** and **democratic** country ownership.

Below are CPDE's views on each of the three themes selected for this Forum – GPEDC's role in the post-2015 development framework, the role of the private sector in effective development and development effectiveness in fragile states.

On GPEDC's role in the post-2015 development framework

CPDE took active part in the UN negotiations on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa and the Post-2015 Development Agenda in New York, both as a global platform and through its members. Throughout the negotiations we called for the four **Busan principles to underpin the 2030 Agenda** for Sustainable Development, particularly in achieving Goal 16 on peaceful and inclusive societies and Goal 17 on a renewed Global Partnership for Sustainable Development. The development effectiveness principles should also guide the Means of Implementation of the 2030 Agenda, its Follow-up and Review mechanisms.

Other non-governmental actors, like the trade unions, the local authorities and others have shown their commitment to the post-2015 process. It is critical that all those actors that are recognised as key development stakeholders in their own right under Busan also retain their role in the 2030 Agenda. Without them the whole implementation and follow-up process will be poorer and we will be going backwards, not forward.

GPEDC can play a vital role in contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by doing three things:

- a) **promoting the independent nature of CSOs as development actors in their own right**, as stated in paragraph 22 of the Busan outcome document. Supporting CSOs' proactive role in implementing the 2030 Agenda can help counteract the shrinking civil society space, secure a more enabling environment for CSOs and ensure they maximise their contribution to development. Both GPEDC and the UN have a lot to gain in promoting stronger, structured participation from civil society, as CSOs are closest to what actually happens on the ground.
- b) **strengthening its global light, country-focused model**. GPEDC can and should put a stronger focus on **developing countries' ownership and leadership**, providing much needed global political support to an agenda that is often insufficiently promoted at country level. GPEDC can take a role

in promoting a multi-stakeholder dialogue in support of the actual implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in developing countries.

- c) reiterating the importance of **monitoring aid and development effectiveness commitments for higher global accountability**. CPDE believes this is a strong distinctive trait of GPEDC. Monitoring and accountability are at the heart of GPEDC's mandate as one of its four core functions. Through the **global monitoring framework**, as well as the mutual exchange of knowledge, GPEDC members can hold each other to account for past commitments, providing valuable lessons to the SDG follow-up and review, including the future SDG indicators, and complementing the 2030 Agenda.

As we are at the beginning of GPEDC's second monitoring round, we have decided to devote the discussion of our civil society break-out session to this third priority – **Monitoring for Accountability** –, which we see as crucial to the success of GPEDC in the coming years. We hope you will want to attend this session later today. It will gather representatives not just from civil society, but also from developing countries and providers in an effort to support the use of GPEDC's global monitoring framework at country level, particularly when it comes to operationalising **Indicator Two on the CSO enabling environment**. The second monitoring round can help us bring key development stakeholders around the table, initiating a dialogue that can gradually expand to include other topics, such as broader accountability, inclusiveness and other principles and substantive priorities selected by GPEDC.

On the role of the private sector in effective development

CPDE recognises that the private sector is not a monolith and consists of a wide body of actors with differing needs and agendas, ranging from rural small holder farmers to multinational enterprises to institutional investors. **Each of these actors has a role to play** in ensuring development co-operation, and development as a whole, is effective and each of these actors is fundamentally different. We therefore encourage the private sector to explore ways to promote the Busan principles in its own activities and efforts. CPDE firmly believes that **development remains a primary responsibility of governments** and that private actors must not undermine the implementation of development effectiveness principles at the policy level. We therefore see this annual forum as an important opportunity to discuss how the private sector can **support these efforts and comply with these principles**.

As we advocated in Addis Ababa, with increasing interest in the private sector as a development actor, **existing instruments for responsible business conduct**, like the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, Principles for Business and Human Rights and the ILO Labour Standards, should assume additional importance. Governments bear the primary responsibility for implementing internationally recognised guidelines and principles concerning business behavior. They therefore **need to ensure the private sector complies with these instruments**, including in development co-operation. We highlight the importance for states and other actors to engage in a process that can lead to an international **legally binding** instrument to regulate, in international human rights law, the activities of transnational corporations and other business enterprises.

CPDE reiterates that development co-operation should ultimately be focused on **reducing poverty, tackling inequality and supporting sustainable development** in its three dimensions – social, economic and environmental. **GPEDC can play a crucial role** in helping to achieve these objectives **by supporting**

the private sector in complying with and internalising development effectiveness principles and internationally agreed conventions on human rights, including women's rights, disabilities and labour.

On development effectiveness in fragile states

Development effectiveness in fragile states is increasingly hampered by **shrinking civic space**. CSOs in fragile states are critical actors in delivering services and channeling the demands of the poor and marginalised. Yet CSOs increasingly face laws, policies, or practices that curb their contributions to development and undermine fundamental freedoms. CSOs' participation in many national, regional and global development discussions also remains severely limited or tokenistic. CPDE believes there is a need to **clarify what we mean by country ownership** in fragile situations, where often it actually means only state ownership due to little or no participation by non-governmental actors.

This makes it challenging for CSOs to advocate for effective development co-operation, particularly when it comes to protecting human rights, gender equality, decent work and environmental sustainability. This trend is actually acute not only in fragile states, but in countries of various levels of income and stability and in every region of the world, despite the Busan commitment to providing an environment which maximizes civil society's engagement in and contribution to development.

GPEDC should discuss what steps are needed to promote a more enabling environment for the critical work of CSOs and to allow civil society to play a more proactive role in development discussions, especially in fragile settings. We are glad to see this Forum address situations of fragility and we hope **our discussion** in the next couple of days **can help identify actions** to promote stronger civil society participation in national and global development discussions.