

The CSO Partnership is an open platform that unites CSO voices from around the world on the issue of development effectiveness.

GLOBAL COUNCIL E-BULLETIN



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CONTENTS

- 1 CPDE Statement on the refugee crisis in Syria
- 2 Five Years of Istanbul Principles
- 3 Dialogues for justice, public interest, and the common good
- 5 Updates from Regions
- 7 Updates from Sectors
- 9 Updates from Working Groups

CPDE Statement on the Refugee Crisis in Syria: 'We stand in solidarity with the people of Syria'

28 September 2015

As a community of civil society organisations advocating for development effectiveness, the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE) stands in solidarity with the people of Syria. At the core of CPDE's work is the respect and protection of human rights for all, rooted in social justice, decent work, gender equality, environmental sustainability, and an enabling environment for CSOs as independent development actors in their own right. The refugee crisis in Syria poses a growing challenge to the international community especially as the United Nations Member States, with the adoption of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, pledged to promote peaceful societies and a promise to leave no one behind.

CPDE expresses deep concern over the plight of refugees. Insurmountable challenges in acquiring asylum and securing the basic needs for survival are just some of the harsh realities they continue to face. The welfare of women and children refugees from Syria who now compose 70% of the registered total is also a source of deep concern as evidence have shown that conflict and post-conflict situations result in unique and disproportionate impacts on women.[1] Their equal access to protection and assistance call the need for more international support and attention.[2]

We therefore urge all development actors to uphold, defend, and expand the fundamental rights and freedoms of all peoples regardless of their situation, race, class, gender, religion or migratory status most especially those in conflict and in fragile societies. We believe that refugees in all parts of the world should be treated with respect, dignity and in strict accordance to commitments such as but not limited to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international humanitarian law, the 1951 Refugee Convention, and Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

We denounce the atrocities being committed in Syria and stress that no one and no country and their people should ever suffer under such circumstances.

We urge the international community to bridge the competing parties into meaningful dialogue and find solutions for lasting peace. Putting a stop to the persisting conflict, the unnecessary bloodshed, and the barriers to development must be at the core of our efforts.

We strongly call on all countries who are host to Syrian refugees to abide by all standards in international law that relate to refugees. Governments from around the world, most especially in the European Union, should also respond with the same generosity of spirit that civil society across Europe has displayed. Furthermore we endorse the UNHCR's Key Guidelines for dealing with Europe's refugee crisis. These six fundamental principles should be upheld by the European Union without reservation.[3]

We urge the international community to remain accountable in fulfilling its global and humanitarian obligations including the responsibility to provide adequate funding, ODA/development cooperation and the assurance of humane and just conditions for all affected populations.

Read the statement in [Spanish](#) and [French](#).

PRINCIPLES FOR CSO



DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS

CPDE marks first five years of Istanbul Principles; continues advocacy for CSO effectiveness despite shrinking civic spaces

Five years ago, civil society organisations (CSOs) from all over the world gathered in Istanbul, Turkey for the first global assembly of the [Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness \(OF\)](#).

The assembly gave birth to the [Istanbul Principles for CSO Development Effectiveness](#), a landmark document that consolidates the eight principles, indicators and mechanisms guiding CSO work at all levels of development. A year after, members of the OF adopted the [International Framework](#) which complements the Principles. The framework also provides mechanisms to strengthen CSO Accountability and offers minimum standards in achieving enabling environment. Both documents were recognised and endorsed as reference documents for more effective CSO work by governments and other

stakeholders during the Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, South Korea in November 2011.

Since 2012, the work to continuously promote and advocate for CSO Development Effectiveness (CSO DE) was taken on by the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE), the successor of both the OF and the [BetterAid](#). Through the CPDE Working Group on CSO DE, the work to develop capacities of CSOs, and monitor progress on the implementation of the Principles has achieved greater heights, despite a number of challenges that continue to hinder its full articulation. CPDE has recorded slow, unremarkable progress, and even backtracking, in meeting the Busan commitment on an enabling environment for CSOs, which was made in 2011. Governments in different countries have introduced various forms of legal and regulatory policy restrictions varying from NGO laws, to policy restrictions on accessing funds, and CSO surveillance.

This month marks the fifth year anniversary of the founding of the Istanbul Principles. Despite threats of shrinking democratic spaces for CSO participation, CSOs continue to step up and lay the ground for fulfilling their own Busan commitments. As documented by the CPDE through [The Journey from Istanbul](#), CSOs showed evidence reaffirming their integral roles as development actors, working towards maximising their impact to the public based on the Principles. At present, the CPDE, through the WG on CSO DE, is implementing country trainings on capacity development, particularly around CSO Accountability and the promotion of the Principles. The CPDE has launched CSO DE and Accountability trainings in a number of countries and sectors to date. Aside from capacity development interventions, the platform continues to document evidences through publications such as the CSO Accountability Documentation Project, and develop tools to aid CSOs in assessing their own implementation.

List of CPDE publications on CSO DE and CSO Accountability:

- [The Journey from Istanbul](#)
- [CSO Accountability Documentation Project](#)
- [Organizational Self-evaluation Form on the Implementation of the Istanbul Principles for CSO Development Effectiveness](#)



Dialogues for justice, public interest and the common good: CPDE side event at the UN Summit

A day after 193 member states of the United Nations adopted the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, the [CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness \(CPDE\)](#) together with grassroots activists, faith-based groups and NGOs organized a side event at the margins of the UN summit to discuss pressing issues affecting the marginalized and frontline communities in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

“GDP does not tell us what is happening on the ground, it is the leaders from the margins and frontlines, like you, do! You tell the stories of the high cost that is being borne by our earth and our communities,” renowned environmental activist Dr. Vandana Shiva said as she delivered the forum’s keynote address [via video message](#).

From the margins and frontlines

The one-day activity gave space for grassroots organisations and activists to give first-hand testimonies on how they continue to struggle with injustices, inequities, exploitation, and the plunder of their natural resources.

Norma Maldonado from People’s Coalition on Food Sovereignty (PCFS), Guatemala, highlighted the irony of corporations that limit seed access for farmers and small-scale food producers that need it the most. “Unless the ‘Global Goals’ can guarantee food sovereignty, we cannot deliver on these targets,” Norma said. Food sovereignty is a concept that refers to the peoples right to healthy and culturally appropriate food as well as their right to define their own food and agriculture systems.

“We want our seeds. Trade treaties ensure that companies are above people and that governments are into business and not governance. We are killing mother Earth to eat junk food. To grow food we need land but that is being grabbed by the companies,” Norma concluded.

Mazeda Akter Uddin, National Women’s Coordinator at ASAAL (Alliance of South Asian American Labour) exposed the human rights violations faced by migrant women workers in New York. She lamented that many South Asian migrant women workers are being abused and discriminated, even within the USA. They are paid less and can be terminated without any reason or notice.

Two civil society representatives – **Eni Lestari**, a migrant worker in Hong Kong and affiliated with International Migrants Alliance (IMA), and **Nazma Akhter**, a former garment worker from Bangladesh—who were duly selected to speak at the UN General Assembly but were later denied permission in the inter-governmental meetings– also had their say in this Dialogue.

“I am not surprised that I was not approved by the President of the General Assembly to speak. I do not have an uplifting story to tell that makes it possible to believe that poverty can be solved by ‘scaling up’ skills or credit or growth. Mine is not a story of rags to riches. My story is an unglamorous story of poverty, exploitation, migration and discrimination of millions of women around the world,” Eni said.

Leave no one behind?

Sara Flounders, who leads International Action Centre and is a noted writer based in the US, said, “The scourge of war and the enormous military expenses are missing from discussions around world’s problems. In the period since Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were announced in 2000, US wars have been the greatest source of infrastructural destruction and cause of deaths of millions of refugees.”

When the US discusses sustainable development goals and environmental devastation, one thing is always left out of the discussions and that is US militarism. The Pentagon is the world’s worst polluter of greenhouse gases and yet it has a blanket exemption in all climate agreements,” added Sara.



Paul Quintos, from IBON International and Campaign for People's Goals, and a constituent member of the CPDE, wondered why similar promises were being pledged again after 15 years. "The declaration says: Leave no one behind, but in reality people have been, and are being, pushed back," Paul said.

The whole-day event ended with a strong resolve from civil society to engage the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and hold governments accountable to their commitments.

To raise awareness about the monitoring project about Aid and Development Effectiveness, the regional secretariat prepared a leaflet in Spanish to be shared with the members of the organisations.

CPDE Statement on the Post-2015 Development Agenda can be accessed [here](#).



UPDATES FROM REGIONS

Africa

Capacity Building Activity on CSO Development Effectiveness

A training workshop on CSO Development Effectiveness is set to take place by end November or early December. Plans to organise the said workshop are currently underway. The activity will target around 35 national and provincial CSOs from Rwanda, Burundi, Congo DRC, Cameroon and Gabon working on policy dialogue and advocacy, mobilisation of grassroots communities, and research.

Country Survey on CSO Enabling Environment

This initiative will be implemented and managed by East Africa and Southern Africa sub-regional heads. A few chosen countries from each of the two sub-regions are being selected to give state of Enabling Environment. After which, a consolidated report from both sub-regions will be prepared to put together the outcomes of the survey.

More information here: <http://www.roaafrica.org/>

Europe

Upcoming event

CONCORD, the European NGO Confederation, will conduct a training on how to support the implementation of the Istanbul Principles. The training, which will primarily be an exchange of experiences, will tentatively be held in 18 November at the CONCORD office.

Upcoming publication

CONCORD AidWatch Report 2015: The EU at a Crossroad: how to regain leadership on aid (working title)

This year's AidWatch Report (to be launched end of November) aims to increase political pressure on the European Union (EU) to meet its collective and individual Member States' commitments on aid quality and quantity, and development effectiveness post-2015. It will offer a critical review of the EU's position for the Addis

Ababa conference and its long-term implications, including the weakening of the 0.7% target, trend to privatise aid and ownership of aid policies. As every year, it will serve as an accountability tool for European Civil Society to hold their national governments and key political stakeholders to account for performance on aid quality and quantity, and development effectiveness. Stock-taking from the Addis Ababa Agenda for Action, in-depth analysis of genuine vs. inflated aid with a particular focus on refugee costs in relation to ODA levels under the ongoing refugee crisis in Europe, and a reality-check of EU aid from a Southern partner perspective, the 2015 report is set to critically contribute to political debate on EU leadership on development aid.

CPDE Northeast Asia Subregional meeting and Enabling Environment Multi-Stakeholder Forum

The Northeast Asia Subregional Meeting, back-to-back with the Mongolia Multi-stakeholder Forum on CSO Enabling Environment and the study tour to Zaamar Soum, was held on September 24-26, 2015 in Mongolia. The activities were hosted by Development Observer CSO Forum. Each representative in the meeting reported on the situation of civil society and their progress in implementing the Busan Commitment and the Istanbul Principles. Participants built consensus on statements on a variety of development issues.

The meeting also provided a space for Northeast Asia CSOs to determine their priority issues, as follows:

- Enabling environment;
- Coping with aging society;
- Private sector accountability;
- Democratic governance, transparency, and accountability in the development process;
- Conserving nature for the future;
- Effective participation of CSOs at all levels;
- Creation of decent jobs to reduce migration; and
- Provision of wide range education to all parties ensuring international development.

The participants decided to hold the 2016 Northeast Asia sub-regional meeting in Taiwan wherein they will include special sessions on Post-2015 and emerging economies.

Representatives from the Mongolian Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Mining, and Ministry of Health; donor institutions; INGOs, and local CSOs took part in the Mongolia Multi-stakeholder Forum on CSO Enabling Environment. The forum looked into the EE situation in Mongolia with particular focus on access to information and civil society participation in development decisions. CSOs in Taiwan, South Korea, and Japan also shared their country experiences by way of promoting knowledge sharing and mutual learning among CSOs in the Northeast Asia sub-region.

Realising the Addis Ababa Agenda at the Country Level and Participating in the Global Partnership Second Round of Monitoring in Bangkok

The CPDE Asia participated in the regional workshops on Realising the Addis Ababa Agenda at the Country Level and Participating in the Global Partnership Second Round of Monitoring in Bangkok, Thailand on October 5-8, 2015. These activities were organised by the Asia Pacific Development Effectiveness Facility (AP-DEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Government of the Republic of Bangladesh, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Asia

Youth

The CSO representatives underlined that while data and analyses generated from the results of the monitoring exercise are important, institutionalising multi-stakeholder processes for monitoring in the country level is equally a valuable end in itself. Also presented during the workshop were the pilot indicators including Indicator 2 on CSO enabling environment, structured around 4 key elements – space for multi-stakeholder dialogue, CSO development effectiveness, official development cooperation with CSOs, and legal and regulatory environment for CSOs.

UPDATES FROM SECTORS

The CPDE Youth Sector Africa Region held a national training in Harare, Zimbabwe after the Africa Regional Training of Trainers (ToT). The national training was organised and conducted by CHOSEN Initiative in collaboration with Great Indaba Zimbabwe (GIZIM) (both youth organisations participated in the regional training program). The training was held to discuss:

- marginalisation of youth
- role of youth in SDGs monitoring at country level
- serious equity and illicit flows of the countries resources
- enabling environment
- efforts by government to clear the huge external debt
- re-engagement of the West.

The training gathered youth delegates from national youth networks and associations, community-based groups and faith-based organisations, as well as representatives of different sectors such as women; persons with disabilities (PWDs); children; and youth in universities and national movements. The training provided participants an opportunity to learn on Development Effectiveness in a largely participatory and interactive environment connecting processes at the global, regional and national levels. Some of the key realisations in the meeting included (1) that youth are a political asset for any country given their population; (2) the need for youth inclusion in crafting the 2016-2020 Zimbabwe United Nations Development Assistance Framework (ZUNDAF) country program; (3) the youth must become forceful and relevant in own context given their dynamism.

Key outcomes of the meeting included the formation of a National Youth-Working Group on Development Effectiveness (NYDE) that would work closely with line ministries and development partners at country level to push the CSO key asks on DE and Busan in Zimbabwe and the adoption of a National Youth Action Plan based on the training exercises. In addition, the presence of the local UNICEF and the Zimbabwe Youth Council (government youth council) are seen to help further engagements in this regard.

Sectoral activities forward

As part of its 2015 program, the CPDE Youth Sector sector anticipates to hold the following activities within the remaining months:

1. Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Regional Training of Trainers (ToT)
2. Two national level trainings for LAC
3. Zambia National training on DE which will be conducted by the Zambia Network of Youth (ZANEYO)
4. The Asia-Pacific region is now expected to hold its programs at both the regional and national level within the first quarter of 2016

Meanwhile, as part of advocacy and engagements efforts by CPDE Africa Youth Sector as outlined in Africa Youth CPDE Declaration, there will be continuous efforts to join the global advocacy on Climate Change. The sector has launched a Youth and Climate Change campaign to follow the upcoming climate change Conference in Paris (COP 21-Paris). The sector is providing space for youth in Africa to mobilise and influence the climate agenda. The CPDE Africa is also finalising meetings with Conference of Youth (COY) in order to do joint lobbying.

Trade unions, through the Trade Union Development Cooperation Network (TUDCN), have already released their reaction to the recently-adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Read here: http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/tudcn_reaction_to_un_2030_agenda_final_en.pdf

More news and updates from the Labour sector here:

English: http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/html/tudcn_newsletter_october_2015_en.html

French: http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/html/tudcn_newsletter_october_2015_fr.html

Spanish: http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/html/tudcn_newsletter_october_2015_es.html

Migrants and diaspora organisations gather in Istanbul for first CPDE global migrants meeting

Istanbul, Turkey – A total of 18 migrant and diaspora organisations and advocacy NGOs from Asia, North America, Europe, Africa, MENA, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Pacific met in Istanbul, Turkey last 8-9 October to discuss the migrant/diaspora issues in development under the development effectiveness framework.

The global migrants/diaspora meeting is part of the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness' (CPDE) outreach efforts to the migrants/diaspora constituency in response to their interest to be part of the CPDE. This also provided an avenue for the CPDE to understand the depth of diaspora issues.

CPDE Co-Chair for Outreach and CSO Effectiveness Jorge Balbis facilitated the discussion on aid and development effectiveness and provided entry points for the migration agenda.

"Migrants and diaspora organisations are critical in deepening the development effectiveness agenda to bring real change in the current aid architecture," he said.

"Migrants and diaspora organisations have been engaging the development effectiveness agenda since Accra," said Ramon Bultron of the Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants (APMM). "It's time to integrate a sector that advances the genuine concerns of migrants and diaspora groups worldwide," he added.

Taking place days ahead of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) – an annual intergovernmental meeting on migration, the CPDE meeting highlighted concerns from grassroots migrant groups.

Labour

Migrants



“Global talks on migration have always been focused on its potential for economic development,” said International Migrants Alliance (IMA) Chairperson Eni Lestari.

According to Lestari, discussions on migrant remittances and its growing contribution to economies of sending countries often happen without giving sufficient weight on issues of the rights of overseas workers, refugees, and the diaspora community.

Participants, on the second day, agreed on a migrants/diaspora agenda that focuses on capacity development needs of the sector, a mapping research of migrant issues, and further outreach work. The said agenda embodies the concerns and initiatives the migrants/ diaspora constituency would like to pursue within the CPDE as they go on the integration process into the platform.

An Interim Coordinating Group (ICG) was formed to liaise with the CPDE Global Secretariat and coordinate with the wider membership as follows:



- Global:** Eni Lestari, IMA (Co-convenor)
- MENA:** Ramy Alkaissy, ABAAD
- Asia:** Ramon Bultron, APMM
- LAC:** Miguel Angel Paz Carrasco, COMPA (Co-convenor)
- North America:** Joanna Concepcion, Filipino Migrants Center – United States
- Pacific:** Pefi Kingi, PacificWIN
- Europe:** Onyekachi Wambu: The Africa Foundation for Development, UK
- Africa:** Tola Winjobi, CAFSO-WRAG for Development/Civil Society Network for Migration and Development; Anas El Hasnaoui, Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND), in his capacity as part of the Coordination Committee will help the group for the period.

The two-day forum ended with an outcome statement covering the discussions and agreements during the two-day meeting.

Activity report can be accessed here:

<https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0ByZczWk8axjSdVpXSkNZMzVBMWM&usp=sharing>

UPDATES FROM THE WORKING GROUPS

CPDE engagement on the Post-2015 SDGs: A report back

Working Group on Post-MDGs

On 25 September 2015, the United Nations adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a new global development agenda replacing the Millennium Development Goals adopted in 2000 with a focus, “Leave No One Behind.” During the summit, CPDE joined other civil society organisations around the world, in both official and outside events, to adopt a people-oriented and environment-friendly SDGs, respectful of human rights, the rightful participation of peoples and CSOs in all development decision, to ensure accountability for all development actors and to foster equitable partnership for just development.

A seven (7)-member delegation of the CPDE engaged the adoption of the SDGs at the United Nations Headquarters. The UN General Assembly which adopted the SDGs happened from 25-27 September 2015 in New York City, USA. The delegation includes (1)

CPDE Co-chair Justin Kilcullen; (2) Celestine Apkobari, Ogoni Solidarity Forum - Nigeria; (3) Eleanor, AFRODAD, Zimbabwe; (4) Paul Quintos, Campaign for Peoples Goals for Sustainable Development (CPGSD); (5) Norma Maldonado, AROAJ; Guatemala; (6) Jiten Yumnam, Centre for Research and Advocacy, Manipur; (7) Pedro Guzman, Peoples Coalition on Food Sovereignty, Colombia; (8) Wali Haider, Roots for Equity, Pakistan, and; (9) Alejandro Barrios Noya, IBON International were the official delegates of CPDE. Several other members of CPDE also attended the post-2015 adoption process.

CPDE engaged in both official and unofficial sessions as well as side events during the UN Post-2015 summit. Key messages carried forward during the engagement includes the rightful participation of Peoples / CSOs in the policy formulation, implementation, review and monitoring of SDGs. CSOs also advanced their call to be recognised as independent actors in the post-2030 development agenda. Among keys messages brought by the CPDE delegation were (1) adherence to existing commitments on aid and development effectiveness agenda; (2) ensuring the full recognition and adoption of human rights based approach to development, (3) integration of inclusive development as a key guiding principle of the implementation of SDGs; (4) establishing clear accountability standards and regulatory mechanisms for the private sector and corporate bodies, and; (5) ensuring equitable partnership among all development actors.

Mr. Paul Quintos, of CPGSD, a constituent member of the CPDE, was able to intervene in the official interactive dialogue on “Fostering sustainable economic growth and transformation and promoting sustainable consumption and production” inside the UN 26 September 2015.

CPDE side events

CPDE successfully organised two side events in collaboration with several CSOs and the UNNGLS. The High-level Civil Society Event of the UN Sustainable Development Summit was conducted on 27 September while and the side event on “Dialogues for Justice: From the Margins and Frontlines” was held on 28 September.

The CPDE delegates also attended series of other side events, including the Peoples General Assembly on 27 September, where CPDE delegates, Wali Haider and Celestine Apkobari spoke of development injustice in their own regional and local situations in the context of SDG adoption.

CPDE has been engaging the post 2015 SDG process, through developing capacities of CSOs to engage with the national governments to assert people-oriented development goals by addressing development injustice, and also through directly participating in Inter-Governmental Negotiations on Post 2015 outcome. CPDE has been coordinating with other Major Groups and the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN NGLS) and the UN DESA in making direct interventions in the Inter-Governmental negotiations and in organising side events in asserting peoples and transformative development agenda.

The CPDE delegates also engaged media outfits to highlight and propagate the peoples’ development agenda during the post-2015 adoption process. Primarily, the Citizens News Service interviewed and webcasted and published the views, opinion and reflections of the CPDE delegates (links below).

[Celestine Apkobari, Ogoni Solidarity Forum](#)
[Justin Kilcullen](#)
[Paul Quintos](#)
[Norma Maldonado](#)

[Jiten Yumnam](#)
[Eleanor Maeresera](#)
[Pedro Guzper](#)
[Wali Hyder](#)

CPDE Schedule of Meetings

- **Monitoring for Accountability: CSOs on GPEDC’s 2nd Monitoring Round (Civil Society Breakout Session) | November 23**
- **Strategic Planning Workshop | November 26-27**
- **Outreach Committee Meeting | November 26**
- **Coordinating Committee Meeting | November 28**

Take part in the CPDE Global Council E-Bulletin, submit monthly updates to Reileen Joy Dulay at secretariat@csopartnership.org and Jodel Dacara at membership@csopartnership.org

Know more about the CSO Partnership, visit www.csopartnership.org
