

A CALL FOR A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR JUST AND TRANSFORMATIVE DEVELOPMENT IN THE POST-2015 ERA

On the occasion of the 68th Session of the UN General Assembly on the follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit, the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE)¹ calls for a Global Partnership that will advance a just and transformative development agenda in the Post-2015 Era.

There has been a proliferation of new global partnerships formed between government and non-state actors in the last ten years. These partnerships address various challenges—from vaccinations, to agricultural research, to child health, to provision of education, or even to promoting better hygiene. Despite its widespread use and the importance given to it in various high level reports on the post-2015 process, existing official recommendations fall short of providing an adequate framework for global partnerships. Noting the UN Secretary General's report to the 68th Session of the UN General Assembly, CPDE calls for improvement in the current global partnerships landscape.


As was recognized in the 1992 UN Conference on Sustainable Development and reaffirmed in the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development 2012, sustainable and equitable development can only be achieved with the inclusion of all development actors. Discussions around the post-2015 agenda and the SDGs provide a critical opportunity to develop a new framework for global partnership that instills principles of democratic governance and development effectiveness.

Principles for inclusive and equitable Global Partnerships for sustainable development

The following key principles are recommended guidelines for action:

- 1) **Respect, protect and promote the right to development, human rights and social justice:** all global partnerships must be coherent with and complement international human rights instruments, in particular the Declaration on the Right to Development. The right to development provides an integrated, holistic and cohesive framework to inform development cooperation. Adherence to this norm may be able to address root causes of poverty, inequality and injustice, and ecological degradation.

¹The CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE) is an open platform of sub-regional, regional and sectoral/major groups constituencies that endorse the current declaration. By doing so, these constituencies commit to engaging actively on the development effectiveness agendas both in terms of advocacy and policy development. Each constituency is organized in its own right and represents its affiliates (sub-regions, national, subsectors) according to its own constituency set-up. It is party to and sits in the Steering Committee of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC). See <http://csopartnership.org>



- 2) **Empower people's participation and inclusion** in particular traditionally marginalised communities: sustainable development policies, planning and actions should be grounded in the rights, expressed priorities and local knowledge of affected peoples. The participation of traditionally marginalised sectors and CSOs that work with them is key to ensuring the agenda is influenced by those it intends to benefit. Key to empowering participation is the promotion of an enabling environment for civil society.
- 3) **Ensure inclusive and equitable multi-stakeholder participation:** The full engagement of and accountability to all development stakeholders will rely on dialogue and negotiations based on equality, solidarity, and mutual respect. It is recommended that accountability mechanisms for global partnerships should make use of human rights standards; ensure transparency through data generation and information disclosure and reporting; and introduce binding measures for corporations that are members of global partnerships.
- 4) **Promote equality** within and between countries, and between men and women: women play a key role in development and the full realisation of women's rights as human rights is essential to any development and to any development cooperation framework.
- 5) **Respect national sovereignty and democratic ownership:** New global partnerships should enhance country ownership. Technical assistance and aid must respond to country's needs ensuring an integrated human rights and gender equality perspective with precedence given to indigenous expertise.

Global partnerships can do much to advance development. However, there must be consideration to ensure that they are not co-opted processes that can threaten the impartiality of states and institutions. Co-optation may come about in the lack of clear definition and norms on the concept, which might compromise the equality and effectiveness of the partnership. CPDE demands an inclusive and equitable partnership for a development path that is just and transformative.

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