

CSO Partnership 
for **Development Effectiveness**

**Civil Society Manifesto
for Effective Development Cooperation**

*Development effectiveness today,
a better world tomorrow*

The CPDE Global Secretariat

3rd Floor IBON Center,
Diliman, Quezon City 1103
Metro Manila, Philippines



www.csopartnership.org



webmaster@csopartnership.org



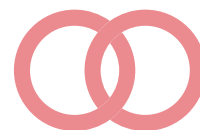
[/CSOPartnerships](https://www.facebook.com/CSOPartnerships)



[/user/CSOPartnerships](https://www.youtube.com/user/CSOPartnerships)



[/CSOPartnership_](https://twitter.com/CSOPartnership_)



contents

4	Civil Society Manifesto for Effective Development Cooperation
9	Commitment to CSO Development Effectiveness
10	Annex: CSO Key Asks
	<i>On Core Business</i>
	<i>On Private Sector (PS) in Development</i>
	<i>On South-South Cooperation (SSC)</i>
	<i>On CSO Enabling Environment</i>
	<i>On Countries in situations of Conflict & Fragility</i>
	<i>On Migration & Development Cooperation</i>



Civil Society Manifesto for Effective Development Cooperation¹

In 2016, five years since Busan², the Second High-Level Meeting (HLM2) of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) produced the Nairobi Outcome Document (NOD). This document sought to fulfil, uphold, and monitor commitments and principles³ on aid and development effectiveness (ADE). Through the NOD, the GPEDC further committed to reverse the trend of shrinking civic space and to provide enabling environment for civil society, to ensure accountability of all development actors, to uphold human rights and promote gender equality and women's empowerment, and to strengthen the role of GPEDC as an inclusive, multi-stakeholder platform with mutual accountability relations.

Despite this reinvigorated effort for effective development cooperation (EDC), challenges continue to hinder the fulfilment of EDC commitments. Since 2011, progress has been minimal and unremarkable and different development actors backtracked from their EDC commitments. Providing an enabling environment for civil society, untying aid, and using country systems as first option, among others, have been slow. In some cases, there was regression. The attention toward the realisation of the "unfinished business" from Paris, Accra, and Busan⁴ has been long overdue. Civil society organisations (CSOs), acknowledged as equal and important partners in development, experience diminishing public spaces and funding support. Donors and partners are abandoning human rights, gender equality and democratic ownership as their priority areas.

1 The Civil Society Manifesto for Effective Development Cooperation, also known as the CPDE Manifesto, is a general document that captures CSO asks and demands on EDC, and guides the platform's policy and advocacy work and engagement strategies in different arenas such as the GPEDC, OECD-DAC, and UN processes.

2 Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, Busan, South Korea which resulted to the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, November 2011

3 The Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation enshrined the four Development Effectiveness Principles: Democratic country ownership, inclusive development partnerships, transparency and accountability, and focus on results for the people

4 The High Level Fora on Aid Effectiveness held in 2005 (Paris, France), 2008 (Accra, Ghana), and 2011 (Busan, South Korea) produced aid and development effectiveness principles and commitments, which the international community endorsed and signed.



The United Nations reported that net official development assistance (ODA) amounted to \$146.6 billion in 2017. This records a decrease of 0.6 per cent from 2016 in real terms. ODA as a share of donors' gross national income (GNI) remained low at 0.31 per cent.⁵ This trend does not paint an encouraging picture for effective development.

Since 2015, the relevance of EDC has been challenged amidst the shift of global development discourse towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Its foundation, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), offers for the first time a global development agenda that transcends the aid sector and the traditional North-South paradigm.

While, to a large extent, the initial enthusiasm for ADE still endures, CSOs feel that essential existing commitments related to ADE have not upheld their status under the 2030 Agenda, specifically SDG 17 (on Means of Implementation), and risk becoming blind spots in the new development architecture. Instead, greater spaces were provided for the private sector's involvement in policy, partnerships and programs that undermine CSOs, including women's rights organisations and other development actors. The GPEDC decided to follow suit in promoting the challenge of 'leaving no one behind' as an opportunity for private capital to develop markets. The new wave of privatisation, liberalisation, and deregulation of public services, through blended finance and public-private partnerships, runs counter to the essence of the SDGs.

International public finance, including ODA, has been increasingly used as a catalyst to attract private investments instead of directly addressing issues of poverty and inequality. This hampers the development of equal partnerships and leads to discrimination, continued restriction on CSOs in many countries, and failure to realise genuine multi-stakeholder partnerships. The current trend is to use public finance to advance donor interests, including in the fields of security and migration, and to bring in corporations, together with international financial institutions (IFIs). With the growing private sector rhetoric dominating development partnerships, States are slowly abandoning their obligation to provide public goods and services and universal social protection, and to uphold the rights of their people.

5 As reported in the SDG Knowledge Platform, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg17>



Many countries also continue to experience the emergence of populist movements, authoritarian regimes and conservative forces within its territories that offer discriminative, racist and sexist alternatives to established politics and policies. The rise of populism and religious fundamentalism undermines international development cooperation and the values underpinning it. These political movements undermine human rights and increase the risk of a backlash on human rights (HR) advances, including women's rights and democratic space. Governments also impose conditions on fiscal matters and inspection, surveillance and control of CSOs that distort their roles as co-responsible actors for development.

Amid worsening impacts of climate change, development actors, particularly donor countries, often fail to fulfill their climate finance obligations, live up to the principle of common but differentiated responsibility, and scale up efforts to address climate change that is most felt by the people of the Global South. Addressing this climate issue is slowly being delegated to the hands of corporations as States continue to abandon their climate finance commitments embodied in different climate protocols. In many cases, climate finance contributions, which are different than aid, are computed as part of ODA of some donor countries. CSOs also raise concerns around emerging issues related to development cooperation such as the effectiveness of humanitarian assistance especially in the context of increasing wars, conflicts, and disasters in different regions.

Instead of directly addressing such challenges in line with development effectiveness principles, donors are increasingly merging ODA agenda with domestic political and economic interests. Donor countries, through multilateral institutions such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), are pushing for the redefinition of what counts as ODA to include, for example, further in-country refugee and migration control measures and costs for military and security interests especially in countries in situations of conflict and fragility.

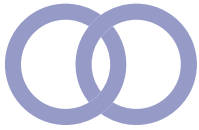




Through this Manifesto, the CPDE recommits to continue demanding accountability from all development actors, particularly the States and private sector, to the EDC principles. Since its establishment, CPDE has recognised that profit-driven economic growth, fuelled by unchecked globalisation, is leading to rampant inequality between and among nations, communities, and women and men, and different genders and sexual orientation. With the Agenda 2030 in place, CPDE reiterates its position that any development effort oriented solely towards economic growth does not necessarily lead to improved human development, social equality, including gender equality and women's empowerment, and sustainable progress. What is needed is global and national political leadership and commitment to adopt and implement sustainable and alternative approaches to development based on human rights and gender justice.

CPDE calls on all development actors to fulfil their commitments and continue efforts to achieve effective and sustainable development based on people's rights, solidarity, empowerment, social justice and gender equality. CPDE likewise restates its commitment to promote CSO development effectiveness through the Istanbul Principles⁶ and feminist values, and scale up its efforts to improve CSO legitimacy, transparency, and accountability while advocating for an enabling environment for CSOs.

6 <https://www.csopartnership.org/single-post/2018/02/15/Istanbul-Principles-for-CSO-Development-Effectiveness>

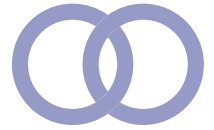


Premised on its core business of universalising EDC, CPDE reiterates the following CSO Key Asks, as guiding messages and demands, to all development stakeholders:

Address new challenges and implement existing commitments on effective development cooperation, particularly in relation to the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda endorsed in 2015

- Ensure that Private Sector entities adhere to all Development Effectiveness principles and implement Human Rights and gender equality standards, and at the same time, promote and practice decent work and adopt transparency and accountability standards
- Uphold principles of horizontal development cooperation – including solidarity, mutuality, human rights, respect for sovereignty, non-conditionality, particularly with respect to unequal conditions of partnership that often prevail even within South-South cooperation
- Take concrete actions to reverse trends of shrinking and closing civic spaces in development and attacks on human rights defenders
- Use ODA to address the root causes of conflict and fragility and end its misuse for security, military and corporate interests
- Channel development cooperation, in particular ODA, to development policies and programs that will build and sustain structures addressing the drivers of migration, prevent the violation of migrants' human rights, and enable the sustainable return of migrants and diaspora in developing and underdeveloped countries





Commitment to CSO Development Effectiveness

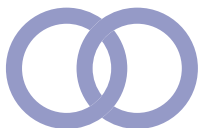
We renew our commitment to advance and uphold the Istanbul Principles (2010) and the Siem Reap Consensus on the International Framework for CSO Development Effectiveness (2011). We reaffirm our commitment to continue improving, and to be fully accountable for our development practices consistent with the Bangkok Unity Statement (2017)⁷. We are committed to continue improving our own practices in relation to transparency, mutual accountability, and democratic ownership of initiatives, by ensuring that our policies, priorities and practices support the participation, empowerment, and equitable partnership of peoples.

CSOs are effective and independent development actors in their own right that play multiple roles in society, and whose mandates derive from their critical role in building democratic societies, upholding social solidarity, and consolidating people's interest towards the public good. CSOs contribute in unique and essential ways to development as agents of change and social transformation through mobilisation and empowerment of communities, and monitoring of governments and other development actors. CSOs build partnerships and collaborations as collective courses of action as part of our advocacy strategies.

CPDE notes that the full application of the CSO Development Effectiveness principles is closely tied to the issue of enabling environment for CSOs. We call on all development actors, especially governments, to reverse current trends of shrinking and closing civic space, and honour their commitments to provide enabling conditions for CSOs to operate freely and participate in an equal footing and inclusively in all development processes, particularly those concerning development cooperation and the achievement of the SDGs.

Our renewed and reaffirmed commitment comes amid situations of continuing repression of civic space and human rights defenders, and attacks on civil liberties, freedom of expression, organisation and assembly that confront many CSOs around the world. We note with concern the closing and shrinking of civil society spaces by way of policy, legal, and regulatory measures that constrict and threaten the effective operations of CSOs. We also express our similar concern for the decreasing and unpredictable access to funding and information for CSOs in many countries. We express our commitment to achieve sustainable development that is based on human rights and gender equality and to support the self-determination and the empowerment of people to enable them to hold governments accountable.

⁷ <http://edclibrary.csopartnership.org/handle/1/244>



Annex:

CSO Key Asks

On Core Business

KEY ASK

Address new challenges and implement existing commitments on effective development cooperation, particularly in relation to the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda endorsed in 2015.

SUB ASK 1

Implement the aid and development effectiveness agenda in development cooperation

Redouble efforts and establish time-bound targets to deliver on long-standing official development assistance (ODA) commitments as targeted in Sustainable Development Goal 17.2

- Meet and surpass commitment to 0.7% GNI directed towards eradicating poverty and addressing inequalities
- Stop deliberately miscalculating/inflating ODA
- Address fragmentation of development flows
- End policy conditionality
- Untie all forms of aid
- Provide demand-driven technical assistance and context-appropriate aid

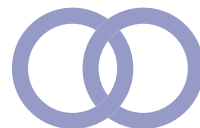
Allocate sufficient resources and support initiatives that will promote gender equality & women's rights and empowerment

Establish more stringent systems of accountability, transparency and due diligence to ensure that all development stakeholders recognise and fulfil their commitments to effective development cooperation and development effectiveness

Pursue genuine democratic ownership and ensure accountability to people in designing national development strategies

Fully commit to the use of country systems as a first option while upholding people's right to development, self-determination, and political participation

Forge genuine and inclusive multi-stakeholder partnerships based on results rather than leveraging private sector contributions



SUB ASK 2

Uphold the mandate of ODA to eradicate poverty and address inequalities

Allocate ODA and other development flows to where they are most needed, that is, providing support to the most vulnerable and marginalised groups in LDCs and Fragile Post Conflict countries in line with the 'leave no one behind' principle

Stop diverting ODA to promote private finance, blended finance, which includes public-private partnerships (PPPs), private sector investments (PSIs), especially those directed through IFIs with the aim of leveraging private sector funding

Uphold ODA commitments over expectations of private resource flows, including philanthropic resources, remittances and foreign direct investment (FDI)

Ensure aid additionality and adherence to human rights and international labour, social, and environmental standards

Increase financing for gender equality and empowerment of women and girls to achieve sustainable development and leave no woman and girl behind

SUB ASK 3

Reform the neoliberal development agenda as enshrined in the Agenda 2030 to avoid market-based solutions to development problems

Assert the centrality of public finance in the delivery of the 2030 Agenda

Provide evidence of private sector's inclination and capacity to deliver on SDGs

Uphold people's right to development

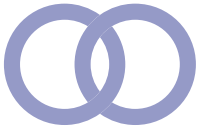
SUB ASK 4

Stop the corporate takeover of development cooperation policy and partnerships, and hold all private sector interventions accountable to the people with "do no harm" principles

End the use of public financing, including official development assistance (ODA), as leverage for private investment

Stop the promotion of public-private partnerships and blended finance as forms of effective development cooperation

Hold private finance accountable to the same international standards, including the effective development cooperation principles, as public finance



Uphold the State's accountability in providing services to the people and its responsibility in monitoring and regulating the private sector in development to ensure accountability

Promote Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in developing countries responsive to people's development needs

SUB ASK 5

Uphold the centrality of human rights in development and the practice of human rights-based approach (HRBA) in development cooperation

Establish policy coherence for development and human rights fulfilment between different development cooperation processes as well as across and with other related policy areas

Implement an HRBA in development through national development strategies in partner countries and aid strategies of development partners

CSO Key Asks

On Private Sector (PS) in Development

KEY ASK

Ensure Private Sector entities adhere to all Development Effectiveness principles and implement Human Rights standards, and at the same time promote and practice decent work and adopt transparency and accountability standards

Strengthen and fully implement PS regulatory mechanisms and binding regulations founded on global human rights, labour and environmental standards to PS actions, including PS actions done with governments

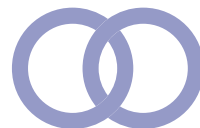
SUB ASK 1

Adopt guidelines and binding regulations, underpinned by International Labour Organisation (ILO) core labour standards, UN guiding principles on Business and Human Rights, and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, the OECD Guidelines on Due Diligence, in order to ensure additionality and adherence to human rights, gender justice, international labour, social and environmental and Indigenous Peoples standards such as the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 2007

SUB ASK 2

Affirm and support the central role of States in providing public goods and services and universal social protection at the country level

Insist that the PS adheres to and upholds Development Effectiveness principles and Human Rights standards



Ensure that the PS contributes to the provision of quality, accessible social services and demonstrates development impact

Limit the use of blended finance, and when it is used, ensure that it is the outcome of a participatory, inclusive Southern-led decision making process

Guarantee that development finance institutions (DFIs) put in place all necessary measures to ensure that blended finance fulfils democratic ownership principles; the application of due diligence, Human Rights obligations, including obligations on rights of marginalised groups; target those who have been left behind and maximise development results; and overhaul transparency and accountability

SUB ASK 3

End DFI financing that leads to the overt and covert privatisation of basic social services and that undermines peoples' livelihood, rights and future, and further increases inequality gap. Develop strong safeguard and accountability mechanisms

SUB ASK 4

Ensure the highest standards co-developed with government and civil society, of transparency and accountability for the PS through appropriate monitoring, regulatory and accountability mechanisms at local, country and global levels

SUB ASK 5

Recognise and protect communities' development rights and stop unsustainable projects that harm their land, livelihood and environment

Ensure the right to self-determination and genuine free-prior-informed-consent (FPIC) and meaningful involvement of communities, especially for Indigenous Peoples and CSOs in the planning, design, implementation and monitoring of PS-driven development projects

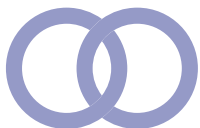
Ensure effective means of redress and grievance mechanisms that are accessible to all citizens

SUB ASK 6

Support gender-sensitive MSMEs and local entrepreneurs, especially in developing countries for the purpose of supporting national industrialisation, sustainable agriculture towards overall sustainable development and self-reliance

SUB ASK 7

Strengthen labour protection, both formal and informal, expand the right to collective bargaining, trade union formation and collective action at country level to eliminate precarious work conditions and establish decent work, gender-sensitivity and equal wages



CSO Key Asks

On South-South Cooperation (SSC)

KEY ASK

Uphold principles of horizontal development cooperation – including solidarity, mutuality, human rights, respect for sovereignty, non-conditionality particularly with respect to unequal conditions of partnership that often prevail even within South-South cooperation

SUB ASK 1

Uphold Bandung, HRBA, and EDC principles for defining, monitoring, enhancing accountability and assessing development impacts of South-South Development Cooperation (SSDC)

SUB ASK 2

Adhere to international laws and standards on environment and human rights in achieving substantive equality as these apply to programs and projects in partner countries consistent with Bandung, which declared the fundamental principles of human rights as a common standard of achievement for all peoples

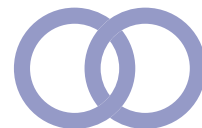
SUB ASK 3

Strengthen democratic country ownership of SSDC and institutionalise support for people-to-people cooperation so that recipient countries' own needs and priorities drive the development partnership, and that these priorities and policies are rooted in the participation of, and accountability to stakeholders and citizens

SUB ASK 4

Establish inclusive formal and permanent mechanisms including support, particularly official spaces, financial support and access to information, for Southern CSO engagement on SSDC where sustained dialogues between CSOs and duty-bearers can happen, bringing in issues and concerns of the people/affected communities on SSDC

SSDC should not lead to further exploitation of land and natural resources of communities, especially in rural and other Indigenous Peoples' territories and should recognise IP rights.



CSO Key Asks

On CSO Enabling Environment

KEY ASK

Take concrete actions to reverse trends of shrinking and closing civic spaces in development and attacks on human rights defenders

SUB ASK 1

Retract restrictive and repressive laws and disabling conditions that hinder the full operation of CSOs, i.e. registration processes (duplicating processes and requirements) and arbitrary policies, especially for those working in critically sensitive environments

Refrain from introducing new laws and end reinterpretation of existing laws that aim to regulate, control, and abuse CSOs and civil society workers

End anti-CSO rhetoric as these serve as 'unwritten' laws for armed state actors to attack CSOs

Respect CSOs as a pillar of democracy accountable to the people that governments should engage with

Provide support and emergency assistance for, and take action in defense of, Human Rights defenders (HRDs)

Hold effective, inclusive and transparent consultations with CSOs regarding national development priorities and guarantee meaningful CSO participation in decision-making and creation of public policies

Implement public policies to promote and strengthen CSOs

SUB ASK 2

Uphold and promote the right to initiative of citizens and uphold the principle of inclusiveness and safeguard the rights of CSOs

SUB ASK 3

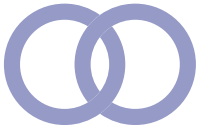
Uphold all fundamental rights and freedoms including, but not limited to, freedom of association, of expression, and political participation, the rights to peaceful assembly and information

Stop the criminalisation of civil society workers, human rights defenders, communities, and movements

Recognise the role of the IP sector as progressive development actors and not as anti-development agents

SUB ASK 4

Recognise, by developing mechanisms, the multiplicity of the roles and functions of CSOs, people's movements, and trade unions as independent development actors



CSO Key Asks

On Countries in situations of Conflict and Fragility

KEY ASK

Use ODA to address the root causes of conflict and end its misuse for security, military and corporate interests

SUB ASK 1

Uphold coherence between development cooperation and other policies, especially in relation to foreign affairs and international norms, while giving primacy to the humanitarian and democratic interests of peoples living in conflict-affected and fragile situations

Ensure that development cooperation policies and corresponding country strategies address the structural causes and triggers of conflict such as socio-economic inequalities, political violence and repression, and commercialisation of resources

Mainstream and amplify conflict and fragility concerns in the global development cooperation discourse

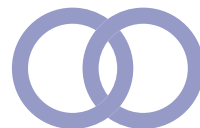
Stop the use of ODA in promoting extractive and other large-scale industries and associated militarisation

Uphold HRBA principles and international humanitarian laws, especially the protection of the rights and welfare of women and other vulnerable sectors, in conflict and fragile situations

Strengthen and uphold the principles of inclusion and participation in peace-building processes, especially the participation of women and people with disabilities, and recognise the role of national democratic actors, including civil society, in conflict prevention and resolution, and reconstruction

End the usurpation of Indigenous lands, territories and resources for the purpose of development intervention

Avoid the use of ODA to incentivise IFIs and the big trans/multinational PS



SUB ASK 2

Re-orient development assistance to ensure gender responsiveness, the security of peoples' lives and rights rather than allowing it to be used as military assistance for the purpose of security improvement

Re-align military spending from ODA to support basic social services such as health, education, and housing⁸⁹

Stop the delivery of humanitarian assistance and aid in general using military personnel

SUB ASK 3

End efforts to profit or make business from situations of conflict and fragility

Ensure that development policies and practices give primacy to the democratic interests of people in conflict and fragile zones

Review and rescind the focus on Private Sector and IFIs in development and humanitarian processes in conflict and fragile areas

Ensure that humanitarian aid delivered is context/culture and needs-appropriate

CSO Key Asks

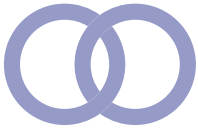
On Migration and Development Cooperation

KEY ASK

Channel development cooperation, in particular ODA, to development policies and programs that will build and sustain structures addressing the drivers of migration, prevent the violation of migrants' human rights, and enable the sustainable return of migrants and diaspora in developing and underdeveloped countries

8 In 2016, governments agreed to new rules that allow for a wider set of peace and security activities to be counted as official development assistance (ODA), <http://devinit.org/post/the-revised-oda-casebook/>

9 The results of a study on the use of development aid for military expenditure suggests that development aid increases military expenditure at the 5-percent-level of significance, <https://www.econstor.eu/bitstream/10419/162961/1/869874349.pdf>

**SUB ASK 1**

Ensure that human rights underpin policies on the living and working conditions of migrants and diaspora with strong adherence to internationally agreed development standards.

Establish coherent and comprehensive policy frameworks that safeguard the rights of refugees (including people with disabilities in refugee camps), migrants, and diaspora

Establish safe and accessible mechanisms for migrants and refugees to send and receive support from relatives in the home country

SUB ASK 2

Address the causes of large movements of refugees and migrants, such as climate change, political repression, poverty, lack of rule of law, insecurity, and conflict

SUB ASK 3

End efforts by donor countries to redefine ODA and include in-country refugee and migration costs and uphold the mandate of ODA of eradicating poverty and strengthening economies of developing countries

SUB ASK 4

Address disparities and gaps in engagement spaces for female and male migrants and diaspora in global regions, between host countries and countries of origin, and among the various types of migrants and diaspora

Resolve hindrances to meaningful participation especially for grassroots migrants and diaspora, including legal recognition, and financial and technical support to enable their participation and engagement

CSO Partnership 
for **Development Effectiveness**

www.csopartnership.org