



**LABOUR
DAY
UPDATE**

**May 1 Statement
from ITUC**

p. 4

CPDE Newsletter

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**CPDE Statement: COVID-19 is a call
to reverse inequality, a challenge
to leave no one behind**

PAGE 2

GPEDC Work Programme blog series

PAGE 7

**Rural sector: Statement on the
Day of the Landless**

PAGE 15



CPDE STATEMENT

COVID-19 is a call to reverse inequality, a challenge to leave no one behind

In the face of the continuing spread of COVID-19, the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness expresses solidarity with the peoples of the world, especially the poor and vulnerable communities in developed and developing countries. We also salute those in the frontlines, most of all the health workers who bravely continue to serve the people.

Beyond its tangible impacts on our health and lives, we believe that COVID-19 bares an underlying pandemic of inequality, which renders the majority and bottom rung of our society more vulnerable to health crises. We bear witness to the plight of our brothers and sisters who endure squalid conditions, in environments with poor access to nutrition, water, and sanitation, among other prerequisites for a healthy life. We are deeply concerned about the elderly, women and children, migrants and refugees, and persons with disability. It is they who bear the brunt of this crisis, and should be prioritised as we face this pandemic.

We call for concrete responses from our governments, the duty-bearers, to ensure that we will soldier through this together. More importantly, we urge them to rethink the way we run the world, to narrow the gap that led us here.

Today's inequality was built over decades of relentless pursuit of profit, supported by development policies not predicated on people's needs. Its impact now stares us in the face and teaches us important lessons about progress and humanity: what ails one ails us all, what elevates one, must elevate us all. And when we pursue growth at the expense of others, we suffer as a human race.

This pandemic reminds us, painfully, of the folly of turning our backs on society. Our interdependence as members of the human race demands that we look after each other, which we do through the good offices of the State. Thus, the State is responsible for pooled national resources: education and healthcare systems, mass transport, and utilities, among others.

But the last 50 years have been marked by dereliction of this responsibility. We see governments neglecting to invest in universal social protection, health, education, housing, and other public services. Instead, they are handing over their power and responsibilities to corporations, whose approaches are governed by the logic of capital. For the healthcare sector in particular, this means enormous cuts on national health budgets, widespread privatisation of government hospitals and contractualisation of healthcare workers, paltry investments on health promotion and preventive medicine, and profit-oriented drug development practice. These policies, along with the coronavirus, are what had brought about the real impact of the pandemic.

We must respond to this denial of social justice.



As civil society, we emphasise the need for effective development cooperation in aiding efforts to alleviate poverty and inequality. We reiterate a call for development efforts that advance the countries' interests, focus on results, uphold transparency and accountability, encourage inclusive partnerships, and put primacy on human rights.

We encourage all development partners, and donors in particular, not to withdraw from their commitments in the face of such trying times and, rather, to plan for additional initiatives, and allow such arrangements as no-cost extensions and flexibility in the use of funds, duration, and implementation to better respond to the evolving situation. In fact, those most in need around the globe are very likely to be hit twice: directly due to COVID-19 outbreaks and also due to disruption of existing programmes and projects. Instead, effective development cooperation can be part of the response to the current crisis.

In the short-term, we advocate the following health-focused measures: the conduct of mass testing, where needed, and treatment without prejudice to people's capacity to pay, prompt and precise public information campaigns, and distribution of state-subsidised goods such as masks, sanitisers, and food. We also demand concrete support for frontline health workers, immediate action to ensure food security, and declarations of work stoppages, where appropriate, while guaranteeing income for all affected citizens.

In the long term, we call for greater government investment in our public healthcare systems, free education and housing, domestic economies designed to provide decent work for all, and the strengthening of the State's ability to ensure that the least of its citizens have access to social protection.

In their delivery of these responses, States should consider differentiated impacts of COVID-19 on the elderly, women and girls, indigenous people, and the poor. The needs of vulnerable groups should be given particular attention.

We recognise that the science of the pandemic indicates that social distancing is most effective in stemming it. However, its enforcement must not come at the cost of people's exercise of their rights. Prior to COVID-19, many states have already been severely limiting civic participation, on top of an ongoing trend of shrinking civic space. In some repressive states or fragile democracies, these measures could become permanent, with those in power taking advantage of the pandemic to establish or preserve their authoritarian regimes.

Military solutions, with state terror unleashed with impunity particularly on the poorer segments of the population, are totally unacceptable as a response. Anything that violates human rights, jeopardises democracy, and perpetuates inequality cannot be the answer.

This pandemic also highlights the continuing importance of CSOs as development watchdogs, as advocates of policies and programmes that have lasting impact on people's welfare. States and other development stakeholders must then address the global pattern of shrinking civic space and heightened political repression, and fulfill their commitments in fostering an enabling environment for civil society.

You may also download the Statement via:

https://bit.ly/CPDEonCOVID19_EN (English)

https://bit.ly/CPDEonCOVID19_ES (Spanish)

https://bit.ly/CPDEonCOVID19_FR (French)

https://bit.ly/CPDEonCOVID19_AR (Arabic)

When our world leaders sit down again to discuss their development agenda, we hope that the awful reality of COVID-19 forces them to consider what their decisions mean to the displaced peoples in Latin America, to the banditry- and insurgency-ravaged African communities, and to the homeless and destitute families of South and Southeast Asia. We ask them to set the path for the redistribution of the world's wealth and to promote development that truly leaves no one behind.

Ultimately, COVID-19 presents us with the challenge of rebuilding the social fabric that the dominant world order has destroyed. It has highlighted that looking after each other must be a collective endeavor, that whatever goals we set for our society and economy must be for the greater good.

A pandemic calls for international solidarity. There is no alternative.#

One World: Jobs, Incomes, Social Protection

In commemoration of the International Labour Day, CPDE is publishing the May 1st statement of the CPDE labour sector focal organisation, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

Shutdowns and confinement now cover most of the world's population to prevent the rapid spread of the virus within communities and to protect the elderly and those with pre-existing health conditions. The economic and social impact as lives and livelihoods are put on hold has disrupted the world of work with low-paid insecure workers carrying the burden in too many countries. The focus of the pandemic response is rightly on containment and mitigation and supporting the health and care workers who are on the front line, and those in many other vital sectors. The spread of the virus is being fought in every workplace, everywhere in the world.

On 1 May, we salute the workers in health, care and other frontline sectors whose work is essential to saving lives and providing vital products and services.

Tens of thousands of people have died and many more will suffer lasting health effects. Two hundred million jobs are forecast to be lost, millions of people are at risk of being thrown back into poverty, and the vast inequality that already existed is growing yet deeper. The two-thirds of the world's population with inadequate or no social protection are severely exposed, with many facing destitution and starvation.

The impacts of this crisis have brutally exposed the failings of the model of globalisation which has been imposed on working women and men. Public health systems have been debilitated by austerity, and the erosion of workers' rights has left untold millions of workers exposed. Women, migrant workers, ethnic minorities and others who face discrimination are bearing a particularly heavy burden. This must change.

The antidote to this crisis is in the solidarity that is the lifeblood of trade unions, throughout history and today. All countries must work together to overcome the initial COVID-19 wave and to prepare for the future. We applaud those governments that are making full use of social dialogue to tackle the crisis and secure wages and income support for their people. We condemn those governments that refuse to cooperate with unions at home or with other countries internationally, deny the reality of the pandemic, or allow violence and human rights abuses at enormous cost to their own people. We equally condemn the corporate predators seeking to profit from the crisis. We demand that all companies respect workers' rights and insist that governments make sure that they do. We re-affirm our commitment to fighting the extreme right, to stop it from capitalising on this crisis and from further undermining democracy and human rights.

No one can be left behind. Massive investment in public health and in care to ensure that all have access, and the full respect for the rights of all workers, have to be at the heart of recovery, reconstruction, and resilience.

The re-launching of the global economy must have three main objectives:

JOBS: Millions of jobs are being destroyed. Full employment must be the goal, with decent work for all; healthy and safe conditions; formalisation of informal work; and an end to precarious work.

INCOMES: The wages share of the global economy has been falling for decades and risks plummeting with this crisis. Minimum living wages must be in place everywhere, the right to collective bargaining has to be ensured for all workers and the gender pay gap must be closed.

SOCIAL PROTECTION: Billions of people have been left without social protection and are at grave risk from the devastating health and the economic effects of this crisis. Now is the time for global cooperation to fund social protection for all. The world cannot turn its back on those most in need now, nor can it turn its back on the necessity for reconstruction of an inclusive and resilient future.

These objectives are central to re-launching the economy and ensuring health and well-being for everyone on a living planet. We call on all governments and international institutions to work together to achieve them.

Wherever we are and whatever our differences, we live in one world. Trade unions know that solidarity works. We must make it work for the whole world.#

This Labour Day, join us in the world's first global Virtual May Day.

Friday | 1 May 2020 | 07:00 - 19:00 UTC

Share the photos, stories, and videos of working men and women who are on the front lines of the pandemic by using the hashtag **#VirtualMayDay** on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.



Statement on COVID-19 from Mesa de Articulación
of Latin America and the Caribbean

In Defense of Life, Solidarity, Democracy, and Peace to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic

MESA de Articulación de Asociaciones Nacionales y Redes de ONG de América Latina y el Caribe, a group that brings together thousands of civil society organisations, reaches out to the public to express its concern regarding the direction of actions that several national states are taking to deal with the epidemic of the coronavirus (COVID-19) in our continent.

There is no doubt about the severity of the pandemic. However, in several countries, governments have responded late to provide the necessary protection and prevention measures and often promote policies that benefit only the most elite segments of our societies. Worse, in some countries of the region, the criminalisation of social movements and the murders of their leaders continue. These attacks must stop immediately.

We are concerned about the vulnerability of Venezuela's migrant population, indigenous peoples, as well as people deprived of their liberty. We are in special solidarity with the citizens of Guayaquil, Ecuador, as they face the inhumane and undignified situation in which people infected with the virus die.

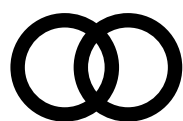
The pandemic highlights the failure of the neoliberal policy in Latin America and the Caribbean that commercialises health and health services, which have collapsed and now do not have the capacity to deal with hospitalisation emergencies. It has once again highlighted social inequalities and invites us to propose another model of economic growth and development.

Therefore, measures must be universal and meet the needs for information, care, and protection of all social strata, especially those most vulnerable due to their age, physical, territorial, or economic conditions.

Social isolation actions are necessary, but for these measures to be effective, it is important for national governments to urgently implement minimum income policies for large sectors living outside the formal economy. Additionally, the employment stability of workers in non-essential activities must also be ensured.

Personal protective equipment should also be secured for health professionals, garbage collectors and recyclers, and public transport professionals. The public's right to information on the COVID-19 pandemic developments must be guaranteed, along with the transparency in the measures and the use of public resources to confront it.

In this context, governments should not assume the tasks of social organisations and movements. Instead, they must support these initiatives and develop their capacity and legitimacy to take action with the most vulnerable communities.



It is important that national governments act with transparency, respect for human rights, autonomous forms of organisation, and social movements. That community solidarity networks must be nurtured and supported with human, material, and financial resources. In this regard, we must pay particular attention to measures that eliminate and isolate popular communities or social segments in the name of fighting the pandemic. We also make a call to take note of the rise in domestic violence due to the prolonged confinement of families.

MESA de Articulación will continue to contribute efforts, providing guidance regarding the implementation of social isolation measures at the headquarters of its members, with actions to mobilise financial resources to support networks of solidarity on the peripheries, rural areas, quilombos (or the places where slaves brought from Africa used to live), and indigenous communities of our countries. Likewise, we advocate before parliaments to decide urgently on the needed policies, to approve the release of resources, control abusive price increases, and to be responsible for measures that effectively protect life.

We will continue to monitor the progress of the pandemic in our countries and monitor the measures taken by the constituted public authorities, denouncing violations of human rights and democracy, appealing to the spirit of solidarity, defence of life, and the common good.

We live in a moment of profound transition, where the values of the “god” market have proven to be incapable of promoting the common good. Where solidarity, the principle of humanity, of collective life, the role of communities, the protection of the environment, stand out over wars, genocides, exclusion, and inequality. Post-pandemic Latin America could be a more supportive, more democratic, and less unequal continent. We will be mobilised for that.#

PUBLICATION UPDATES

Reality of Aid-Asia Pacific, CPDE publish research on AIIB, NDB

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the New Development Bank (NDB) have touted themselves as the much-needed alternatives to the Western-dominated traditional International Finance Institutions (IFIs) like the World Bank Group (WBG) and International Monetary Fund (IMF). The two new banks entered the development financing landscape to much fanfare with their mandate of catering to the development needs of the South, particularly in building sustainable infrastructure. Five years into their operation, how do they fare in relation to commitments on sustainable development, development cooperation, and people's rights in Asia-Pacific?

This research published by **The Reality of Aid – Asia Pacific (RoA-AP)** and **CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE) Asia** investigates and scrutinizes the nature of AIIB and NDB in relation to the Banks' governance and power structures, “green” investments, adherence to Development Effectiveness Principles especially that of transparency and accountability, and neoliberal policies that effectively capture sustainable development and shrink civic space.

Four member organizations contributed to this research with their country and regional cases studies:

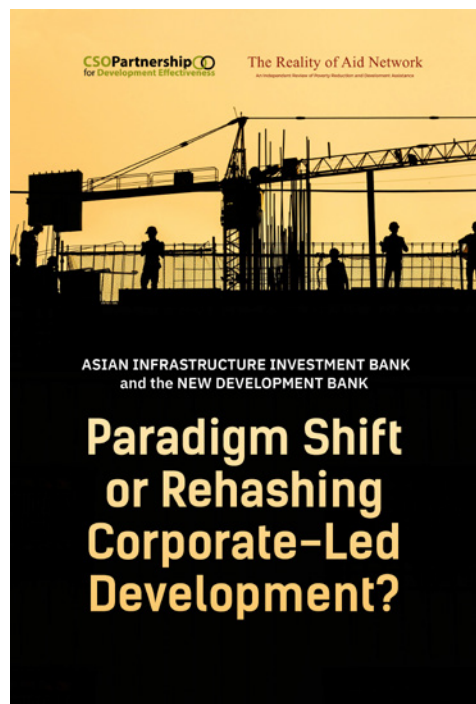
Farida Abdylidaeva of the Public Association “The Right Step”

Jiten Yumnam of the Center for Research and Advocacy – Manipur

Kurniawan Sabar of the Institute for National and Democracy Studies

Jennifer Guste of the Council for People's Development and Governance

To download the research, click on the image.



The CPDE Working Group on Conflict and Fragility has released a briefer on the US-Iran conflict. Read more at <https://bit.ly/2RyambY>



CPDE Asia published the proceedings of the regional meeting and policy workshop last October: <https://bit.ly/3eUnqCz>



Global Partnership

for Effective Development
Co-operation

Work Programme Blog Series



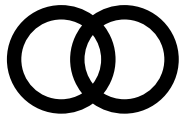
**Reflections on development
that respects human rights**
Justin Kilcullen



**Towards the Agenda 2030:
Will private sector engagement
through development cooperation deliver?**
Beverly Longid



**Considerations in rethinking effective
development cooperation monitoring**
Luca de Fraia



Reflections on development that respects human rights

by Justin Kilcullen, CPDE Co-Chair

Defence of the universality and indivisibility of human rights is essential for the construction of a peaceful society and for the overall development of individuals, peoples and nations.

- Pope John Paul II

Recently, in my capacity as a co-chair of the global civil society platform CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE), I participated in the remote conference, Towards a Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) Work Programme, which outlines the plans of the partnership for the next two years. The GPEDC is a multi-stakeholder platform to advance the effectiveness of development efforts by all actors, to deliver results that are long-lasting and contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In the course of my participation, I was reminded of these words of Pope John Paul II, quoted above, on the occasion of the World Day of Peace in 1999. I realised that today, over two decades later, the defence of human rights for genuine and inclusive development is more relevant than ever.

In the past years there has been a marked pattern of shrinking civic space and political repression of civil society, rights advocates, and activists. Last year CPDE rallied our members and partners around two key initiatives, the Belgrade Call to Action and the Global Day of Action during last year's International Human Rights Day.

At the conference, CPDE reiterated the need for "concerted action from all actors, international and domestic CSOs, partner country governments and development partners, to reverse the trend of shrinking civic space and support efforts for strengthening people's voice for development". This view is enshrined in the GPEDC's Nairobi Outcome Document, further concretised at the 2019 GPEDC Senior Level Meeting, and recently reaffirmed by the leadership of the Partnership in its vision and strategic priorities for its immediate future.*

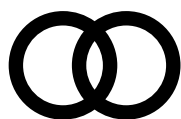
The Belgrade Action Agenda, among other initiatives, spells out positive measures that can be undertaken by all actors for enabling civic space that maximizes civil society contributions to development. Indeed, during the conference, the key principle of inclusive partnerships resonated with many of those who joined in defining the work ahead.

CPDE highlighted the importance of country actions, as it is at this level that shrinking civic space impacts on development outcomes, particularly those affecting the lives and conditions of people in poverty and the marginalised. It is at the country level where the existence of an environment that enables civil society to maximise its engagement in and contribution to development is most relevant.

As we move closer to defining the immediate tasks of the GPEDC, we at CPDE are pleased to move forward with the specific workstream that seeks to promote CSO partnerships by addressing shrinking civic space, especially at country level. We likewise appreciate that the civil society indicator of the GPEDC monitoring framework is a strong starting point.** Through this framework, the following multiple facets of an enabling environment for civil society can be addressed: the legal and regulatory environment; space for multi-stakeholder dialogue; CSO development effectiveness, accountability, and transparency; and official development cooperation with CSOs.

At the conference, some suggested that the issue of shrinking space belongs more in the discourse of human rights than in effective development cooperation, and consequently in the UN arena, not the GPEDC. While we realise that these concerns stem from the fear of alienating governments, especially of partner countries, they are inconsistent with and undermine standing commitments made by GPEDC. This is not so much a political issue as a moral issue. As Pope John Paul II also remarked: "a form of development that is not respectful of human rights is not worthy of humankind."

So while we continue to mobilise the widest range of actors to address the situation of shrinking civic space, we also urge them to respect the wisdom behind the commitments that they have already made, and to acknowledge the reality that these have yet to be fulfilled on the ground.



As our members continue to suffer the brunt of shrinking spaces, our leaders being persecuted and civic action criminalised, CPDE will be steadfast in the defence of the universality of human rights, its centrality in development and, therefore, its relevance in the pursuit of effective development cooperation.

The absence of a conducive political, legal, and financial environment greatly affects the capacity, and even the survival, of CSOs as effective independent development actors. Reversing the trend of shrinking civic space requires addressing these barriers and challenges faced by civil society in all their aspects.

We are hopeful that through their dedicated and concrete efforts, in partnership with CSOs, GPEDC can create greater awareness, dialogue, engagement, and political momentum for policy and behavior change at the country level, to address the issue of shrinking civic space.#

* As articulated in the Co-Chair's Proposal for Strategic Priorities for Workstream 2.4 for the Global Partnership's Work Programme 2020-2022: <https://bit.ly/GPEDCStrategicPriorities>

** Civil Society Indicator: Civil society operates within an environment that maximises its engagement in and contribution to development. This indicator seeks to assess the extent to which governments and providers of development co-operation contribute to an enabling environment for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and to which CSOs are implementing development effectiveness principles in their own operation

Towards the Agenda 2030: Will private sector engagement through development cooperation deliver?

by Beverly Longid, CPDE Co-Chair

The private sector is in the spotlight of financing efforts for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The prevailing narrative at the global level emphasizes the need to shift from 'billions in ODA to trillions in investments of all kinds' by using official development assistance (ODA) as leverage to tap the large potential of the private sector to fund the Agenda. This approach stems from the belief that ODA, and public finance in general, may be inadequate for the Agenda 2030's enormous financing requirements.

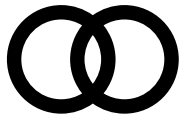
While recognising the role the private sector can play in development, CPDE has consistently challenged this narrative, when such shifts the focus away from existing commitments on the quantity and quality of ODA. We believe that ODA is an indispensable resource for the alleviation of poverty and inequality in developing countries, and we carried this principle with us in different policy engagements, most recently when we joined the recent virtual conference of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC).

In the said event, which convened donor and recipient governments, civil society, the private sector, and various other constituents, GPEDC aimed to set the level of ambition towards the next High-Level Meeting (HLM) in 2022, which will gather world leaders to track the progress in the Agenda 2030. This was an important step in articulating tangible outcomes and activities for the Partnership's plan of action, including its work on Private Sector Engagement (PSE) through development cooperation.

Using ODA to 'subsidise' and 'catalyse' private sector engagement in development has become a popular strategy for financing sustainable development, despite challenges around transparency, accountability, and lack of evidence of development impact. To address these, and with a view to improving and promoting PSE, the GPEDC developed the Kampala Principles for effective private sector engagement through development cooperation. The Principles include: inclusive country ownership, results and targeted impact, inclusive partnership, transparency and accountability, and leave no one behind.

CPDE contributed to these Principles and, while not without flaws, appreciate that it reflects a balance of different priorities across the diverse constituencies that make up the GPEDC. The Principles were endorsed in the summer of 2019 during a Senior-Level Meeting of the GPEDC. This means the focus now must turn to the implementation of the Principles in the lead-up to the HLM. This, CPDE believes, should be the basis of the GPEDC work on PSE over the coming years.

We support the development of an initial set of soft guidelines to assist with the implementation of the Kampala Principles. We then welcome the initiative to draft this common framework to aid the implementation of the Principles, including the identification of good practices. However, we believe that this should not be a main activity in the GPEDC work programme. Although this is a cross-constituency effort, donor governments, as providers of development cooperation, will hold the greatest leverage when supporting their adoption in practice.



Concretely, the GPEDC could undertake a number of country-focused case studies on how donors are integrating the Kampala Principles in their engagements with private sector actors, especially where ODA or any other form of public financing is involved. It could also examine the types of sustainable development in-country impacts resulting from the use of the Principles. Thus, the GPEDC should review towards revising its monitoring framework particularly the Private Sector Engagement Indicator to factor in the application of the Kampala Principles.

However, with our feet firmly on the ground, we believe that the Principles should not be expected to miraculously improve business behavior, or be used to justify further mobilisation of private sector investments through ODA. Efforts to catalyse and crowd in private sector financing through ODA can create incentives that do not necessarily align with the poverty alleviation mandate of development cooperation. This strategy presents clear risks and trade-offs for the optimal use of development cooperation in reducing poverty and inequality.

Numerous studies, including a GPEDC study of 919 PSE projects, document significant gaps in promoting country ownership, the participation of MSMEs and social enterprises, focus on development results, and other aspects of the Kampala Principles in partnerships with the private sector. CPDE believes that these challenges and stumbling blocks must be continually recognised and addressed as much as positive examples.

Private sector engagement through development cooperation is still an emerging practice. This, CPDE believes, makes it important to look at the strategy as only one of the numerous tools in the development cooperation toolbox. In the absence of convincing evidence of its effectiveness, development stakeholders must refrain from treating private sector engagement as a panacea to get the Agenda 2030 on track. #

Considerations in rethinking effective development cooperation monitoring

by Luca de Fraia, CPDE ICSO Sector

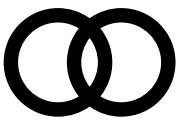
Since 2011, the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) has been at the forefront of efforts to monitor progress in implementing effective development cooperation. During its recent conference, which I joined as a member of the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE), we talked about revamping the way we monitor these commitments.

This piece contains my reflections on the accountability implications of the changes we are adopting. I am particularly reminded me of a Latin phrase: *Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?* (Who watches the watchmen?). How do we ensure that our way forward in monitoring continues to abide by our effectiveness thrust? How do we remain accountable as we make changes in our monitoring process?

A key item discussed was the future of the global monitoring process, which has been a centerpiece of the partnership dating back to the origins of the effectiveness agenda and the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. The process assesses progress on effectiveness commitments using a standard set of indicators to gather data at the country level. For civil society, the Global Progress Report is a crucial contribution of the GPEDC: a unique mechanism that promotes the accountability of development stakeholders. As the civil society representative to the platform, we cannot over-emphasise how important it is to have access to the findings from regular, comprehensive reporting to foster change in line with the effectiveness principles.

We cannot shy away from the reality that the most recent 2018 monitoring round, as with previous rounds, demonstrates the monitoring results are unevenly put to use. Evidence shows that progress is patchy: there are challenges, bottlenecks, and hurdles to achieving the effectiveness agenda and limited or no progress in several important areas indicating weakness in appropriate action and response to previous findings. We are encouraged that this is broadly recognised by the GPEDC and that there is a clear ambition to address these challenges and build momentum around delivery in the coming plan of work.

CPDE recognises the need for quality data to provide impetus for necessary behavior changes clearly pointing to areas of success and the obstacles to overcome. In this regard, we see the opportunities coming with a revision of the monitoring process that places a strong emphasis on using data and results to make decisions at country level. Similarly, we recognise the value of dedicated initiatives within workstreams which aimed to use the results of the monitoring process more effectively.



At the same time, some aspects of the existing monitoring practice must be safeguarded. For example, the process must remain a regular, global, and periodic exercise as agreed in the Nairobi Outcome Document. Additionally, CPDE believes collection of information must be through a singular and standardised process in order to uphold data integrity data. We agree with the call for better alignment with Partners’ country systems and processes, but believe it is also in the Partners’ interests to rely on a reporting process that is properly standardised and firmly anchored to a joint framework that ensures quality, comparable data. The deliberations during the GPEDC conference seem to suggest that the periodic and standardised aspects of the global monitoring process may be part of what can be lost in the revision.

In place of a global monitoring report, the emerging suggestion is to present a collection of different types of evidence produced by GPEDC constituencies and through the workstreams. While this type of evidence offers certain value, it can hardly replace a standardized global monitoring process and will offer little by way of assessing progress or comparability of data.

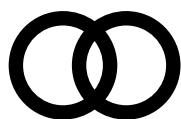
We appreciate the need for a transitional period as we improve the current monitoring framework but are alarmed by some suggestions of “a new monitoring offer” that would strip away some of the critical elements of the global monitoring process which make it comparable over time and across countries. We agree that a review exercise should be organised in a way that is based on country experience, forward-looking, and adapting the GPEDC to be fit for purpose. It should focus on how to strengthen complementarity with other global processes (Agenda 2030) and not on whether it is worth continuing. It should seek to reaffirm the development effectiveness principle and the inclusive nature of the partnership, including at the leadership level.

With respect to current monitoring, the dominant view seems to be that it will not be possible to conduct a global monitoring round while also revising the monitoring framework. CPDE, however, believes that the GPEDC cannot wait until after the next High-Level Meeting (HLM) to roll out another round of monitoring. We realize that the revision, especially towards better use of monitoring results, will take time, effort, and resources. Nevertheless, CPDE believes that there is a need for parallel processes which allow the GPEDC to conduct monitoring in 2021 using existing indicators, in order to maintain monitoring for the next HLM.

We recall the deliberations of the GPEDC Senior-Level Meeting, and believe the course of action outlined therein should not alter the global reporting rounds. The lack of a global monitoring process between now and the next HLM in 2022 not only breaks with customary process, but risks undermining high-level engagement entirely. In this scenario, HLM delegates, including Ministries and possibly Heads of State, will be in no position to make informed strategic decisions. Thus, we should ask ourselves if this will indeed be helpful in garnering the political traction needed to progress on effectiveness.

We, along with the entire GPEDC community, would surely benefit from greater clarity on the magnitude of what is at stake: giving up on a Global Progress Report for a collection of country evidence. There should be a clear assessment of what we are going to lose and gain from this shift in terms of quantity and quality of data. Consequently, we should evaluate the shift’s impact on global accountability to the effectiveness principles.

If we are to become effective watchmen of our commitments, we must not lose sight of this big picture. Instead, we must stay rooted to our principles of accountability, and our vision of true and lasting development. #



Tracking resources for sustainable development: notes on TOSSD

by Luca de Fraia, CPDE ICSO Sector

The effort to develop and use a measure to track officially supported financial flows beyond Official Development Assistance (ODA), which have an express purpose of financing sustainable development, reached a turning point in late 2019, when the findings from the first round of data collection were presented to the development community at the United Nations in New York in October.

The Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD) is a framework to measure resources in support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Born out of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and legitimised by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, it seeks to provide a metric which is intended to complement ODA by increasing transparency and monitoring important new trends that are shaping the international development finance landscape with a strong focus on private financial flows mobilised by public resources. But, as early data from the new metric start is now available, key aspects to TOSSD are still to be sorted out.

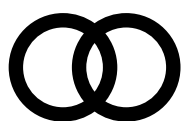
The definition from the Reporting Instructions reads: “The TOSSD statistical measure includes all officially-supported resource flows to promote sustainable development in developing countries and to support development enablers and/or address global challenges at regional or global levels.” In plain words, TOSSD will track not only official resources, but also private flows mobilised thanks to public money; more accurately: “private resources mobilised by official interventions, where a direct causal link between the official intervention and the private resources can be demonstrated.” Other key features mark a departure from traditional aid: concessionality is no longer a prerequisite; the new metric will report on activities with development impacts on the global and regional levels. Such new features are reflected in the fact that TOSSD is organised around two areas: Pillar 1 on cross-border flows, closer to traditional aid; Pillar 2 on support for global and regional enablers.

The official narrative is that TOSSD will enhance transparency in financing for development, which will then allow for better allocation of resources for the benefit of the partner countries; consistently, one major priority is to capture under the new metric as many flows as possible. There is a significant potential to broaden the picture of the finance for development with some of the elements missing at the moment, for instance non-concessional finance or South-South Cooperation. Also, multilateral providers will report directly regardless of the original source of funds, official or private sector, which may in turn strengthen a recipient perspective in reporting.

CSOs have been invited to several consultations on TOSSD over the past few years and recently joined the conversation officially in an observer capacity. The dialogue with the International Task Force on TOSSD has been productive, but still there are concerns especially on the quality of data as well as about making sure that the new metric will not undermine existing global commitments, despite the best intentions stated in the Reporting Instructions. Reporting parties will in fact be allowed some latitude when reporting on certain aspects such as leveraging and development impacts, including direct links to SDG indicators and goals. In general, it is assumed that reporting will take place in bona fide with obvious implications when it comes to areas such as the safeguards that apply to peace and security-driven spending. There should be adequate oversight mechanism in place to check the TOSSD eligibility of reported resources, or their compliance with key principles and standards.

Quality issues may get sidelined, surely in the early stages of TOSSD implementation, when there is a pressure to broaden the picture as much as possible. From this angle, it is telling that the principles for effective development cooperation are acknowledged, but, on the other hand, it is also understood that there are limitations as to the possibility of assessing the actual implementation of the principles. As reporting takes place at the activity level – including different types of modalities, from projects to budget support – and data gathering is managed at the donor level, it is then legitimate to question how it is possible to assess that each single activity is consistent with the effectiveness principles, bearing also in mind that global reporting on effectiveness – led by the GPEDC – is carried out through the ‘global light, country-heavy’ approach.

TOSSD is expected to generate totals bigger than the current volumes of ODA: the public’s attention may well be directed to the new numbers with aid commitments heading for oblivion. It is not just that: inflation may be actually taken to entirely different levels with much more severe optic problems than the one we have been facing with the traditional in-donor costs. TOSSD will place donors in a unique position as they will be allowed to report significant shares of their own domestic budgets on the assumption that there is a global impact. A very clear case in point is climate spending and gas emission reduction projects in particular, whose global impact is taken



for granted regardless of where they are implemented. Along this route, a donor country may cut its ODA and invest in planting trees at home without affecting its total TOSSD performance.

Discussions on the governance backing TOSSD are still open. Tasked to develop the measure is the aforementioned Task Force, which is supported by the OECD Development Finance Statistics division; there is still no clarity as to which body will operate as a co-custodian agency. At the October 4th 2019 meeting, hosted by the Nigerian Mission to the UN, the Task Force presented the initial findings of the first data survey; the governments of Costa Rica and Nigeria also presented case studies of their experiences in trying to pilot the measure in their countries. TOSSD has been submitted into the UN-led process on the SDGs monitoring as an additional indicator under 17.3; the Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDGs – in October 2019 – discussed the new metric and committed to setting up a working group to further developing it over the next two years and a final decision has been then postponed until 2020.

The dataset released last October at the UN does not help understand whether or not TOSSD will be a game changer. Findings in fact have been presented in top line aggregates and activity-level information is not yet available. From the start, it is striking that data from important parties such as Germany and the Netherlands have not been listed by now; on the other hand, Switzerland, currently a GPEDC co-chair, is in the lot. From the multilaterals, at the moment there is a strong contingent including UNDP, UNHCR, UNFPA, UNRWA, WFP, and WHO; but when it comes to development banks, only IADB and IsDB are on the list. As for numbers, the current TOSSD estimate is 295 billion dollars, of which 215 bn qualify as cross-border flows (Pillar 1) and 80 bn as funds in support of activities with a global and regional impacts (Pillar 2). Mobilised finance for the private sector totals 40 bn, of which 39% is guarantees and 27% is direct investment in companies. According to the official data, by now only 20 to 25% of such findings are new activities.

As the future of TOSSD is still in the making, opportunities abound for CSOs to contribute towards its development. Civil society must claim its role in tracking the flow of resources for sustainable development, helping shape tools and mechanisms to gather information and systematise processes, and demanding transparency and accountability of all development finance actors. For their part, states, multilaterals, development banks, and members of the private sector participating in financing for development must be willing to work with CSOs, to ensure that resources go where these are most needed, and help create a world in which no one, indeed, is left behind. #

LABOUR SECTOR UPDATES

#timefor8 relaunch, TUDCN Asia-Pacific regional meet, new manual release

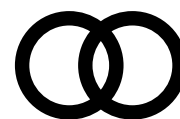
The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), CPDE's focal point for the Labour sector, has relaunched the successful #timefor8 campaign ahead of the upcoming High-level Forum on Development, 7-17 July 2020. The aim of this campaign is to promote the centrality of SDG 8 in the 2030 Agenda and its role in realising a New Social Contract that delivers decent work for all in a sustainable world. Join the #timefor8 conversation on Twitter and check the website <https://timefor8.org/>

The ITUC's Trade Union Development Cooperation Network held its Asia-Pacific regional meeting in Bangkok on January 22 to 23, 2020. Participating union delegates exchanged on key development issues with UN Regional Coordinator for Asia-Pacific Neil Buhne, ILO Regional Director Tomoko Nishimoto; UN ESCAP's Chief of environment and development policies Katinka Weinberger, Confederation of Employers in Asia-Pacific Secretary General Datuk Bardan; and Asian Development Bank Senior Social Development Specialist Haidy Ear-Dupuy. See <http://bit.ly/32SAHWO> to know more.

Finally, the ITUC has published a manual on how to use the existing labour safeguards at multilateral development banks to fight for labour rights and a development model with decent work for all.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2VM3A5r>.





RURAL SECTOR UPDATE

Sweet victory: Hengfu’s sugar agribusiness stops operation

Indigenous Kuoy in Preah Vihear province in Cambodia celebrates the shutting down of operations of Chinese agribusiness Hengfu Group Sugar Industry Co., Ltd., early February 2020. VOA Khmer reports the stoppage of activities in the Rui Feng sugar refinery claimed as one of the largest in Asia amounting to US\$360 million.

According to the report, Preah Vihear provincial director of Agriculture Poeung Tryda said that they were informed of the shutdown due to “internal budget problems” and the company may resume operations in the following year.

In 2011, the Royal Government of Cambodia granted 42,000-hectare worth of economic land concessions (ELCs) to Hengfu. Ancestral lands of the indigenous people of Preah Vihear were grabbed for expansion of the sugar-cane plantations. The people fought back and resisted the destruction of their livelihood and culture for almost a decade. Along with NGO Ponlok Khmer (PKH), the people campaigned for the call-off of the concessions. They used different forms of actions to resist the sugar-cane companies. The local authorities only welcomed negotiations after a successful blockoff of bulldozers and backhoes clearing their lands. However, two complaints against the villagers were submitted to the provincial court and eventually dismissed. Hengfu filed a criminal complaint against community members and several PKH staff. For the time being, the court has closed the investigation but not the case, however. This has been "postponed" until further notice, with the charges against PKH staff still pending¹.

The sustained resistance of the Preah Vihear communities garnered international support and attention. The People’s Coalition on Food Sovereignty (PCFS) co-organized an international fact-finding mission in the province in 2018 to uncover the extent of abuses by Hengfu.

PUBLICATION UPDATE

Independent assessment of VNR reports out now

An independent assessment of the Voluntary National Review (VNR) reports submitted to the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) commissioned by civil society last 2019 is out now.

Titled Progressing National SDGs Implementation, the document was prepared by the Canadian Council for International Co-operation (CCIC), and is available in French, Spanish, and English, on their website. It covers 47 English, French, Spanish, Russian, and Arabic VNR reports.

The fourth in a regular series, the assessment notes positive trends in reporting on leaving no one behind and stakeholder engagement, but highlights the continued silence of UN Member States on the pattern of closing civic space and its impacts on the ability of all stakeholders to engage and implement the SDGs.

The Voluntary National Review reports are a part of the follow-up and review mechanisms of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Member states were encouraged to "conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels," which are voluntary, state-led, undertaken by both developed and developing countries, and involve multiple stakeholders.



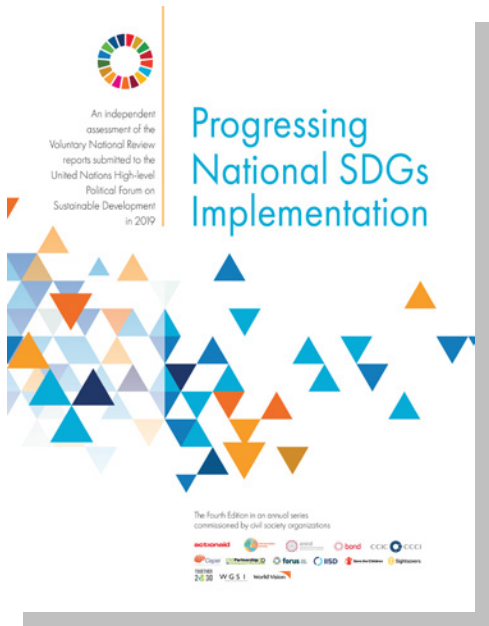
The mission revealed several socio-economic impacts and harassment against the community and the systemic land grabbing through the ELCs. PKH Executive Director Poek Sophorn also said that the company has started to plant rice, competing with local farmers, which is a violation under the ELCs. Following that mission, a global petition was launched asking the Kingdom of Cambodia to revoke the ELCs given to Hengfu’s subsidiaries. Some lobbying was also carried out to bring the case to attention of the UN Human Rights Committee during its visit to Cambodia, as well as of the UN Special Rapporteur on Rights to Food.

As sweet as the victory of the recent developments may be, the people of Preah Vihear are calling to stop the ELC and give their land back.

¹<https://www.grain.org/en/article/6397-hengfu-goodbye-hengfu>

These reviews are expected to form the basis for the regular reviews by the HLPF, and facilitate the exchange of lessons in order to facilitate the implementation of the SDGs. Moreover, the VNRs can help improve government policies and mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for Agenda 2030.

Click on the image below for the full report.#





RURAL SECTOR

Joint Statement for Day of the Landless 2019

Reclaim Our Lands, Reclaim Our Future!

29 March¹ is the DAY OF THE LANDLESS. It marks the founding anniversary of the Asian Peasant Coalition and the launching of the No Land, No Life! campaign. One hundred twenty-seven organizations composed of 20 global and regional groups and networks and 109 national and local organizations from 29 countries in Asia and the Pacific, Africa, Latin America, North America and Europe are issuing the following statement to commemorate this important date in the struggle of rural communities around the world for land and resources.

We face today a world of increasing repression of rural communities and worsening threats to their rights to land and resources. We witness how landless peasants, farmers, farm workers, indigenous people, fishers, rural women and youth, and other marginalized rural sectors greatly suffer under authoritarian populist regimes. We see how massive infrastructure projects and agricultural “development” programs, many funded through onerous foreign debt and investments, displace rural peoples from their lands, livelihoods and cultures – all in the name of imperialist domination and plunder, local elite rule and private profits.

The neoliberal restructuring of agriculture endures through programs bankrolled by multilateral financial institutions such as the World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB) as well as through new regional trade and investment agreements like the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). Global powers – now counting emergent China – and their corporations continue to intensify their endless pursuit of and competition for control and exploitation of the world’s natural resources, including lands and all the wealth these hold and can produce.

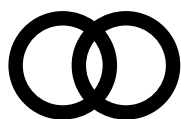
All this feeds the unabated concentration (or reconcentration in the case of countries that attempted land reform) of land in the hands of a few at the expense of the vast majority who actually till and enrich the lands for generations. Latest available estimates show that of the 570 million farms worldwide, 475 million are small holder farms (i.e. less than two hectares). While comprising more than 83% of the total number of farms, these small holder farms only operate about 12% of the world’s agricultural land.²

However, structural issues, chief among them landlessness or lack of effective control over land and resources, push those who actually make these lands productive into perpetual and increasing poverty and hunger. While small farms are concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Southeast Asia and could produce almost three- fourths of food commodities globally, these same regions account for 95% of the rural poor.³ Overall, eight out of every 10 of the world’s poorest live the rural areas, based on latest estimates.⁴

Many of the rural displacements are often accompanied by criminalization of land conflicts, militarization and systemic violence perpetrated by governments and foreign business and elite interests. It is not a coincidence that regions where foreign and domestic land deals for mining and plantation operations, economic land concessions, industrial zones, infrastructure development projects and others are also the same regions with the highest incidence of human rights atrocities related to land conflicts and struggles. This has been the case in Asia, Africa and Latin America which accounted for 78% of total number of land deals (74% in terms of size), based on the latest Land Matrix data.⁵ These same regions were also those monitored by PAN Asia Pacific (PANAP) in 2018 with reported human rights violations related to land conflicts and struggles including killings (63 cases with 98 victims); arrests, detention and legal persecution (37 cases with 136 victims); and threats, harassments and physical assault (24 cases with 50 victims).⁶

But we also face the world today with even greater resolve and determination to reclaim our lands and future. We witness how movements of oppressed and exploited rural peoples in various countries push back against the onslaught of land and resource grabbing despite of and amid the systematic killings, persecution and harassment of their ranks. We see them march from their farms and villages to the capitals and urban centers to exact accountability from public officials and assert people’s sovereignty, declare their demands and fight for both urgent and long-term policy reforms.

Land occupation and collective cultivation campaigns in Indonesia, Thailand, and the Philippines persist despite the massacres, threat, and intimidation. In Brazil, campesinos occupying and cultivating disputed lands have been defying eviction orders by agrarian courts and in some cases successfully reversed the orders. Across India, tens of thousands of farmers are participating in a series of historic marches to demand, among others, that the government recognize their right



to land and to stop infrastructure projects that cause their dislocation. In Cambodia, communities continue their resistance against land grabbing by foreign firms including through the filing of landmark court cases and class-action lawsuits.⁷ These are just some of the stories of resistance and to be sure many others are happening as rural communities around the world carry on their struggle for land and life.

Today, we mark the Day of the Landless to celebrate and highlight the struggles and victories of peasant movements in the world against landlessness and poverty; against oppression and exploitation; and against imperialist and feudal rule.

We mark the Day of the Landless to let the world recognize our legitimate demands for land to the tiller and genuine agrarian reform; for food sovereignty; and for people's rights and democracy.

Today, we reaffirm our commitment to reclaim our lands and our future from the powerful forces that took them away. #

¹ The Day of the Landless was jointly launched by the Asian Peasant Coalition (APC) and PAN Asia Pacific (PANAP) on 29 March 2015 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The date marks the founding anniversary of the APC and the launching of PANAP's "No Land, No Life!" campaign. The People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty (PCFS) started to participate in the commemoration last year.

² Lowder SK, Scoet J, Raney T. The number, size, and distribution of farms, smallholder farms, and family farms worldwide. *World Dev* 2016; 87: 16–29.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Ending extreme poverty in the rural areas. Rome, 2018. <http://www.fao.org/3/CA1908EN/ca1908en.pdf> (accessed on 26 March 2019)

⁵ See Land Matrix, <https://landmatrix.org/data/by-target-region/> (accessed on 26 March 2019)

⁶ Updated figures from PANAP's Land & Rights Watch 2018 yearend report, <http://files.panap.net/resources/PANAP-Land-and-Rights-Watch-2018-Yearend-Report.pdf> (accessed on 26 March 2019)

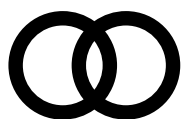
⁷ For details, see "Eviction of Quilombo Campo Grande Canceled!" (Friends of the MST, Dec 1, 2018, <https://www.mstbrazil.org/news/eviction-quilombo-campo-grande-canceled/>); "Indian farmers back in Mumbai to demand land rights, loan waivers" (Reuters, Nov 22, 2018, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-india-farmers-protests-idUSKCN1NR0I3>); "Cambodians file historic lawsuit against sugar producer" (IDL, Apr 2, 2018, <https://farmlandgrab.org/post/view/28028>)



The Network for Women's Rights in Ghana ([NETRIGHT](#)) salutes all Ghanaian women and girls, as the world celebrates the 'International Women's Day' focusing on the Beijing+25 campaign theme **I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights**. This year's theme is aimed at mobilising women to influence decisions about their future and promoting a fairer world that leaves no one behind. For us in Ghana, IWD celebrations come on the fringes of our Independence celebration. We take the opportunity to celebrate and congratulate the unsung women of Ghana particularly our many (in some cases) forgotten heroines, for the sacrifices and immense contributions they made to the founding of Ghana and to the 63-year journey to build an independent Ghana and an equal and just society.

While acknowledging efforts by past and current governments in institutionalising measures to ensure the achievement of the BPfA, progress has been very slow due to the lack of political will and adequate resources to address the continuous inequalities, injustices and countless abuses that women and girls face at all levels. The kidnapping of the Takoradi girls, recent murders of women in the Ashanti Region, sexual harassment, textbooks affirming gender stereotyping and the low number of women in the recently inaugurated District Assemblies are but a few examples of the realities that women and girls face in contemporary Ghana.

Twenty-five (25) years after the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA), Ghana still champions a development agenda that fails to take into account the specificities of women's socio-economic conditions. For example, Ghana is pursuing Public Private Partnerships to construct and modernise markets. In our markets, today, lockable shops are replacing stalls and open sheds, with attendant costs that are displacing and dispossessing many poor women,



and threatening their ability to operate in markets. This is also fragmenting the women's front in the market and weakening the leadership's ability to institute collective action to confront agendas that harm them.

On the political front, multiparty democracy which had promised space for women is currently facing a loss of faith in its ability to deliver clean elections and development. Ghana, like many systems that run the first past the post political system, has effectively become a two-party state. This is narrowing the space for citizens and for women in particular. The show of force by the two main political parties in creating vigilante groups has lowered the threshold for political violence and intimidation, resulting in an unseemly cycle post-elections of public resource grabbing from which institutions, public office and even public toilets are not exempt. In this environment, NETRIGHT and other citizen groups have to be vigilant in the face of the efforts by political parties to grab more power at the local level, as it is likely to further marginalize women and other excluded groups.

It is a sad irony that when NETRIGHT started in 1999, Ghana was facing a massive gender-based violence problem, expressed in the killing of scores of women by persons unknown. Twenty years on, girls are being abducted and murdered, and the perpetrators have so far escaped being brought to justice. Rape and other forms of sexual harassment and gender-based violence at public and private places continue to occur on a daily basis. The recent documentary by an international media organization of sexual predators on the campus of Ghana's premier university has shone a light on a global epidemic which affects both public and private institutions and workplaces. It robs girls of their childhood, objectifies women and exposes their genuine achievements to the suspicion that they were attained by transactional sex.

The United Nations (UN) has declared 2020-2030 as a **Decade of Action** to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As a country, how do we achieve the SDGs when we still have textbooks that affirm gender stereotyping? Women continue to be in the majority in the survivalist sections of the informal economy and regularly experience livelihood insecurities and state harassment. Women continue to do the bulk of housework and related functions without adequate social support in the form of child support, day care centres and labour-saving devices. Women continue to suffer from harmful and discriminatory social practices which are justified in the name of culture, tradition and religion. Women continue to be poorly represented in politics and in public life and in many spheres of decision making. Women continue to suffer violence and abuse in unacceptably high numbers from intimate partners. And there continues to be a high incidence of political violence against female politicians. This reality exists despite the passage of several policies and laws directed at addressing women's problems over the years.

The year 2020 is a milestone for gender equality. The Generation Equality campaign is intended to bring everybody together irrespective of gender, age, ethnicity, race or religion to drive actions that will create the gender-equal world we all deserve.

As a country, if we believe in the campaign theme #EachForEqual, then, the time is now - to accelerate efforts to promote the advancement of women and girls. We urge our President, His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo to demonstrate the political willingness and commitment to put in place pragmatic and sustainable systems to address gender inequalities and social injustices to promote women and girls' rights. Ad hoc gender equality and women's empowerment interventions which do not seek to tackle systemic barriers and inhibitions that disadvantage women and girls must stop. We call on the President to use his high office to ensure the following:

Passage of the Affirmative Action Bill before the dissolution of this Parliament;

Passage of the Spousal Property Bill – which Parliament has refused to give the needed attention;

Passage of the Land Bill 2019 with the gender and social inclusion provisions intact.

NETRIGHT is 20 years and 2020 marks the beginning of a new milestone in the life of the network. We have started this milestone with hope and renewed purpose. After several challenging years, we pledge our commitment to continue to mobilise and work together to end gender-based violence; demand for economic justice and rights for all; including sexual and reproductive health and rights; and gender-responsive sustainable development.

To the women and girls and men and boys who support women and girls' empowerment, we say AYEKOO!

Issued this day 8th March, 2020 by the Network for Women's Rights in Ghana (NETRIGHT).

#PassAABillNow

#Support4LandBillGESIProvisions

#EachForEquality



Condemn repression and land dispossession of Indigenous Peoples!

The International Indigenous Peoples Movement for Self-Determination and Liberation (IPMSDL) and the Merdeka West Papua Support Network join Indigenous Peoples advocates and activists in this solidarity action for Wet'suwet'en to register our support to their struggle for land and self-determination.

We condemn the violent arrests of Indigenous activists justly asserting their right over their ancestral lands or their yintah. The attacks against the Indigenous Wet'suwet'en people expose the Canadian state's continuing colonial aggression against First Nations. Prime Minister Trudeau's administration has made their priorities clear – profit for multinational corporations trumps Indigenous Peoples' rights and sovereignty.

Canada has shed off all pretenses of reconciliation by selling-out Indigenous territories to giant extractives companies Coastal Gaslink – TransCanada, Pacific Trails Pipeline – Chevron, and Northern Gateway Pipeline – Enbridge. Corporations that are also notorious plunderers of natural resources and violators of Indigenous Peoples rights.

Chevron-Texaco in Ecuadorian Amazon dumped billions of gallons of toxic waste into the rainforest, leaving the communities suffering from waves of death and diseases. In Nigeria, the people are still crying for justice from the murder of Indigenous leaders who stood against environmental destruction and the impoverishment of Ogoni people caused by Chevron-Shell. In Minnesota, Enbridge's pipelines illegally crossed through the Indigenous lands, destroying cultural sites and resources and violating treaty rights with several tribes.

Repression has become the vile tool of States and corporations for land dispossession. Extrajudicial killings and arbitrary arrests are common in the regions of Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The law itself has become a weapon to silence and disable people's resistance. In the Philippines and Indonesia, resistance is likened to terrorism and activists are jailed for trumped-up criminal charges. In the case of West Papua, Indonesia criminalizes Indigenous Papuans who oppose the exploitation and occupation of their land and people, tagging them as "separatists".

The stories of struggle of Wet'suwet'en, West Papua, and all Indigenous Peoples, deserve to be seen and heard by the world. We shall not stand by idly as the discrimination, violence, and abuses against Indigenous Peoples and activists become "normal", day-to-day issues. The IPMSDL and the Merdeka Network will continue to echo the urgent call for solidarity for Wet'suwet'en and all Indigenous Peoples engaged in the struggle for self-determination.

Our international solidarity shall triumph over the challenges we are facing. Let us continue to persevere in the struggle against exploitation and imperialist reaction until the liberation of all nations and peoples!

Stand strong with Wet'suwet'en!
Long live the struggle for self-determination and liberation!
Long live international solidarity!#








CSO Partnership

for Development Effectiveness

CPDE or CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness is an open platform of civil society organisations (CSOs) working on and advocating for universalizing effective development cooperation (uEDC).

Through its advocacies and messages, CPDE brings together CSOs, as well as thematic groups and sectors, from different countries. At the moment, CPDE's membership covers seven (7) geographic regions and eight (8) sectors. Its work is guided by five (5) advocacy priorities complemented by working groups to provide policy expertise and lead advocacy engagement.

Know more about the CSO Partnership.

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Take part in the CPDE Newsletter.

Submit updates to Meg Yarcia (Communications Officer)
via myarcia@csopartnership.org.