Primer #9: The Road to Korea 2011 Key official and civil society actors

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND WOMEN´S RIGHT SERIES

By Nerea Craviotto and Anne Schoenstein

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ABOUT THIS SERIES "DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS"

The purpose of this set of Primers is to share critical information and analysis with women's rights advocates about the new development cooperation system that has emerged as a result of the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action. The Aid Effectiveness agenda, born out of the Paris Declaration, currently determines how and to whom aid is delivered, as well as how donor and developing countries relate to one another. Development cooperation allocation and distribution is clearly not just a mechanistic process, but is also a political one. The issues discussed within these Primers aim to encourage women's rights advocates and civil society organisations (CSOs) to continue and deepen their engagement—or join in the process—of calling for a more comprehensive, balanced, and inclusive approach to development cooperation that promotes sustainable and inclusive development for all.

ABOUT THIS PRIMER

Primer #9: The Road to Korea 2011: Key official and civil society actors.
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS SERIES

This Primer provides an overview of key official and civil society actors involved in the monitoring of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the preparations towards the 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, to take place in Busan, South Korea, in November 2011.

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The Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) is an international, multi-generational, feminist, creative, future-orientated membership organization committed to achieving gender equality, sustainable development and women's human rights. AWID's mission is to strengthen the voice, impact and influence of women's rights advocates, organizations and movements internationally to effectively advance the rights of women.

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ACRONYMS

AAA	Accra Agenda for Action
AWID	Association for Women s Rights in Development
BACG	BetterAid Coordinating Group
CCIC	Canadian Council for International Cooperation
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DAWN	Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era
DCF (UN DCF)	United Nations Development Cooperation Forum
EC	European Commission
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
ESCR	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
EU	European Union
FfD	Financing for Development
FEMNET	African Women s Development and Communication Network
GENDERNET	OECD-DAC Network on Gender Equality
GOVNET	OECD-DAC Network on Governance
HLF-2 / 3 / 4	High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness-2 / 3 / 4
IANWGE	UN Interagency Network on Women and Gender Equality
IDS	Institute of Development Studies
IFIs	International Financial Institutions
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organisation
INSTRAW	International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women
ISG	International Civil Society Steering Group
ITUC	International Trade Unions Confederation
MfDR	Management for Development Results
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PD	Paris Declaration
POVNET	OECD-DAC Network on Poverty Reduction
Red GEDEA	Network on Gender in Development and Aid Effectiveness
UN	United Nations
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
WB	World Bank
WG	Working Group
WIDE	WIDE Network
WP-EFF	Working Party on Aid Effectiveness
WWG on FfD	Women s Working Group on Financing for Development

INTRODUCTION: CHALLENGING THE AID EFFECTIVENESS PARADIGM

In 2005, civil society organisations (CSOs) bore witness to the signing of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness[1]—an agreement to reform aid delivery and management in order to strengthen its impact and effectiveness. The Paris Declaration (PD) was adopted in March 2005 at the 2nd High Level Forum (HLF-2) on Aid Effectiveness organised by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Since then, 25 donor countries[2], eight European Union (EU) emerging donor countries[3], 101 developing countries[4], and 27 multilateral institutions have formally adhered to the Declaration[5].

While many CSOs acknowledge the importance of the five principles (ownership, alignment, harmonisation, mutual accountability and management for results)[6] contained in the Paris Declaration and the need for reform in official donor/developing country government development cooperation practices, CSOs are not signatories to the Paris Declaration. They are critical of the process and are engaging in it from that angle.

CSOs and women's rights activists are concerned that the Paris Declaration agenda is a highly technical process, is donor driven, and is focused more on aid management and delivery procedures than aid impact in achieving development goals. Along these lines, the United Nations (UN) Secretary General's report on "Trends and progress in international development cooperation[7]" prior to the UN 2008 Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) raised the following concerns, which are still relevant: "[t]he Paris Declaration marked a step change in articulating benchmarks for progress, yet the negotiation process did not engage the full range of stakeholders [and] (…) discussions were dominated by members of the Development Assistance Committee." The Declaration came about "without the approval of a conventional international multi-stakeholder process." In addition, "the aid effectiveness agenda is not yet demonstrating its ability to change donor behaviour."

In 2009, USD $119.6 billion[8], in the form of Official Development Assistance (ODA) from bilateral and multilateral funding agencies, flowed into developing countries[9]. In fifty years of aid allocation, the beneficiaries of these public resources have rarely been women—who receive only a tiny proportion of overall ODA[10]. Aid as a structuring device, process, and resource has had debatable effectiveness in reducing poverty and inequality, promoting development, and supporting gender equality and women's rights.

The Paris Declaration commits donor countries to a common set of principles and targets to achieve aid effectiveness, but CSOs are calling for the following more fundamental reforms in current aid priorities and practices, guided by principles and approaches[11] to ensure development effectiveness[12] drives international development cooperation[13]:

1 - For further information on the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness process, from a gender equality and women's rights perspective, please take a look at AWID's former Primers on Aid Effectiveness, available in English, French, and Spanish: www.awid.org/Issues-and-Analysis/Library/Primers-on-Aid-Effectiveness

2 - DAC member countries: www.oecd.org/document/38/0,3343,en_2649_34603_1893350_1_1_1_1,00.html, plus Iceland.

3 - New EU member states, namely: Czech Republic, Cyprus (Republic of), Estonia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic, and Slovenia.

4 - However, this group includes new emerging donor countries like: India, Kuwait, Korea, Malaysia, People's Republic of China, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, and Thailand.

5 - http://www.oecd.org/document/22/0,3343,en_2649_3236398_36074966_1_1_1_1,00.html

6 - For further analysis on the PD principles from a gender equality and women's rights perspective: www.awid.org/eng/Issues-and-Analysis/Library/Implementing-the-Paris-Declaration-Implications-for-the-Promotion-of-Women-s-Rights-and-Gender-Equality

7 - E/2008/69, page 15: http://www.undg.org/docs/9214/N0835208.pdf

8 - This number includes only DAC members' ODA.

9 - www.oecd.org/document/11/0,3343,en_2649_34487_44981579_1_1_1_1,00.html

10 - Although ODA was most frequently mentioned by a total of 35% of AWID "Where is the Money for Women's Rights" Survey respondents, it is clear that funds for gender equality represent a very small proportion of overall ODA. See page 48 of AWID's 2007 Second Fundher Report, Financial Sustainability for Women's Movements. http://www.awid.org/eng/About-AWID/AWID-News/Financial-Sustainability-for-Women-s-Movement-s-Worldwide-Second-FundHer-Report

11 - Based on Human Rights, a truly democratic and inclusive multi-stakeholder approach, systemic coherence among global policies (including fulfilment of women's rights frameworks and just global governance), the goal to eradicate the root causes of poverty and structural inequalities, and alignment with international and regional agreements on human rights and gender equality.

12 - While meeting aid effectiveness commitments is essential for development effectiveness, current reforms are insufficient because they are focused primarily on aid efficiency. Development effectiveness promotes sustainable change that addresses the root causes as well as the symptoms of poverty, inequality, marginalisation and injustice. This approach positions poor and marginalised populations as central actors and owners of development, challenging many of the current approaches to aid effectiveness (BetterAid, 2010).

13 - Adapted from BetterAid (2010). Development Cooperation, Not Just Aid. Key Issues: Accra, Seoul and Beyond. www.betteraid.org

1 - Promote **development effectiveness** as the guiding framework for reforms in international development cooperation and reform the aid architecture to be inclusive, multilateral and equitable.

2 - Focus on human rights, recognise the centrality of **poverty reduction**, **gender equality**, **social justice**, **decent work**, and **environmental sustainability**.

3 - Promote a transition from a narrow focus on aid management to a more **inclusive and outcomes-oriented emphasis on development**, less dependent on development cooperation.

4 - Promote full implementation of existing commitments on (democratic) ownership, use of country systems, and **ending policy conditionalities**.

5 - Commit to **gender equality** and **women's rights**, as well as to the promotion of **decent work** and **equitable economic development**, as key objectives for sustainable development.

6 - Create an enabling environment for **democratic ownership** and participation at all levels: CSOs, including women's rights organisations, along with parliaments, the media, the private sector, and other development actors.

7 - Improve **mutual accountability for development results** by expanding the range of actors involved in assessing aid and development effectiveness, particularly at the country level.

8 - Make **aid transparent** to improve the accountability of donors and developing countries to each other and to their citizens—and to increase the impact of aid for sustainable and just development.

9 - Address the reduction of poverty and inequality through a **comprehensive set of policy reforms** (aid, agricultural, financial, trade, investment, migration, and other policies) that impact development.

10 - The **monitoring of the Paris Declaration** commitments must be fully transparent and inclusive of women's rights organisations and CSOs, and should not be an instrument to impose policy conditionalities that undermine the ownership principle and the right to development.

11 - Indicators measuring progress must **focus on development effectiveness outcomes** and be **gender sensitive and gender specific**, requiring action on a much broader range of women's rights issues than those captured by the existing Paris Declaration indicators[14]. In relation to broad-based democratic ownership, an additional indicator to capture the scope of the participation of all stakeholders in relation to the national development strategy must be integrated. This includes asking if civil society participated in the formulation/monitoring of the national development strategy[15].

Overall, development cooperation processes and policies must be aligned with international and regional agreements on human rights and gender equality, including the B**eijing Platform for Action** and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women **(CEDAW)**[16].

CEDAW, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR), and other conventions pose legal obligations to governments regarding issues of development, human rights, gender equality, and environmental sustainability. While the Paris Declaration is not a binding agreement, international treaties endorsed by governments in recent decades must be the framework for development policies and practices. Governments should be held accountable for these commitments within the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness agenda[17].

14 - AWID (June–July 2010): Development cooperation beyond the aid effectiveness paradigm: A women's rights perspective. Preliminary discussion paper. The DAC Network on Gender Equality (GENDERNET) of the OECD has developed draft indicators on gender equality and aid effectiveness that "partners and donors can "choose to use" to measure their support for gender equality in the implementation of the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action at the country level" (GENDERNET, 2010). While helpful these are only voluntary indicators, thus there are no sanctions for non application. More info about GENDERNET in section 2.2.
15 - Contribution from Cluster A for the 2011 Paris Declaration Monitoring Survey. Source: WP-EFF Portal.
16 - AWID (June–July 2010): Development cooperation beyond the aid effectiveness paradigm: A women's rights perspective. Preliminary discussion paper.
17 - Adapted from the Accra Women's Forum statement (2008), available at: www.awid.org/eng/Issues-and-Analysis/Library/Recommendations-for-Action-on-Development-Effectiveness-in-Accra-and-beyond.

1. THE ROAD TO KOREA 2011: KEY OFFICIAL AND CIVIL SOCIETY ACTORS

In September 2008, donor and developing countries met for the **3rd High Level Forum** (HLF-3) on Aid Effectiveness[18], in Accra, Ghana, to assess progress in the implementation of the Paris Declaration. At this meeting the **Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) was agreed upon**, building on the commitments in the Paris Declaration. The HLF-3 was conceived as an opportunity to take stock of the implementation of the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness halfway towards its target date of 2011. Originally, the aim was to focus on providing a technical assessment of the progress made and obstacles encountered so far, based on the monitoring and evaluation reports developed by the DAC, and to agree on the next steps. Furthermore, the 2008 Survey on Monitoring the Paris Declaration highlighted that progress had been made since 2005, but was too little and too slow, concluding that efforts needed to be sped up if PD targets were to be achieved by 2011. However, due to ongoing profound changes in North-South relations[19] and complex consultations among the different actors and interests, the Accra HLF-3 became a Forum to continue renegotiating the global governance of development cooperation, covering political issues affecting aid relationships[20].

The AAA reflects these complex negotiations, resolving with **48 new or strengthened commitments** (34 of which target the donor community), in addition to the 12 indicators agreed within the Paris Declaration. The next, and final, chance to assess the implementation of the Paris Declaration and the AAA will be during the High Level Forum 4, to be held in Busan, South Korea, from November 29, 2011 to December 1, 2011.

1.1 The Working Party on Aid Effectiveness (WP-EFF)[21]

The official body to follow up on the implementation of the Paris Declaration and the AAA, and to report back to the HLF-4 in 2011 on progress made is the **WP-EFF**, whose mandate and membership was renewed right after the Accra HLF-3. As mentioned above, in Accra, developing countries exerted much more influence than in previous similar forums. Furthermore, a number of new issues—such as South-South cooperation, the role of CSOs, and the situation of fragile states—entered to form part of the agenda. These new dynamics and positive developments required a review of the WP-EFF membership and mandate.

Since the Accra HLF-3, **WP-EFF membership has broadened** to include representatives from five categories of international development actors: (i) developing countries receiving ODA; (ii) developing country/donor countries that both receive and provide development assistance; (iii) bilateral donors from OECD/DAC and non-OECD donor countries; (iv) multilateral institutions including the World Bank (WB), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), regional development banks, and global programmes, and; (v) civil institutions and organisations[22]. The WP-EFF plenary is kept to a maximum of around 80 members[23]. The WP-EFF has two Co-Chairs (currently, Mr. Talaat Abdel-Malek (Egypt) fills one position and the other is vacant,[24]) and two Vice-Chairs (Barbara Lee (World Bank) and Kyung-Hoon Sul (South Korea)).

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18 - The HLF-3 brought together 130 countries, 40 international organisations, over 80 civil society organisations, and representatives from the private sector and academia.

19 - In the last decade, Southern blocs have been strengthening their own cooperation systems as well as economic integration processes. In this sense, financial coordination has become one the main pillars of these regional blocs as well as a strong area for South-South cooperation. The last decade has also seen the rise of developing country alliances within international spaces, for example the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, and China) and the IBSA (India, Brazil, and South Africa).

20 - Schulz, N. (2008). From Accra to 2011: Perspectives for the Global Governance of Aid. FRIDE: Madrid, Spain. The whole article can be downloaded at www.fride.org/publication/502/perspectives-for-the-global-governance-of-aid

21 - DAC (2009). Working Party on Aid Effectiveness: Mandate (2009 – 2010). Document Ref.: DCD/DAC(2009)31/REV2. OECD: Paris, France.

22 - CSO representation in the WP-EFF is ensured by the Coordinating Group of the BetterAid Platform (BACG).

23 - The complete list of members is available at: www.oecd.org/document/7/0,3343,en_2649_3236398_43364487_1_1_1_1,00.html

24 - At the time of drafting this paper the new candidate had not been announced.

In this new phase, the main **responsibilities** of the WP-EFF are to:

- ◆ Facilitate all development actors' efforts to implement their PD/AAA commitments on aid effectiveness.
- ◆ Monitor PD/AAA implementation at country level and prepare for HLF-4.
- ◆ Disseminate PD/AAA messages and support implementation at country level including through support of regional platforms and thematic events.
- ◆ Promote relevant applied research, analysis, and dialogue on outstanding and emerging issues.

The overall **objectives** of the WP-EFF work programme are:

- ◆ To ensure donors and developing countries meet their Paris and Accra commitments by 2010;
- ◆ By doing so, they deliver and account for development results at country level.

The entire WP-EFF meets twice a year. However, the body in charge of ensuring an effective implementation of WP-EFF's mandate throughout the year is the **WP-EFF Executive Committee**. The Executive Committee manages the work plan, coordinates the clusters/work streams, ensures synergies, makes operational decisions, and prepares plenary meetings. All policy and strategy decisions must be put to the full Working Party membership, thus ensuring a transparent and accountable decision-making process.

The WP-EFF Executive Committee comprises around 25 members[25]:

- ◆ Chair and Co-Chair of the WP-EFF, and the DAC Chair[26].
- ◆ Coordinators of the clusters.
- ◆ Other members, chosen on the basis of geographical representation and balanced participation between donors (bilateral and multilateral) and developing countries (recipient only and recipient / donors).
- ◆ It also includes one seat for civil society representation.

Within the WP-EFF Executive Committee the most active members are the following: for the donor countries, the European Commission (EC), Japan, United Kingdom, and the United States; for the developing countries, Colombia (with the South-South cooperation agenda), Egypt, and South Africa. CSOs, represented by BetterAid[27], are also very active participants in the Executive Committee.

The WP-EFF substructures: The Clusters[28]

The WP-EFF sets out its work programme around five clusters and two workstreams. The **role of the clusters** is:

- ◆ to coordinate implementation of tasks;
- ◆ to deal with cross-cutting issues and other important areas;
- ◆ to drive progress towards implementation, based on AAA commitments;
- ◆ communication and outreach.

Pairings of countries, one donor and one developing country representative, undertake the coordination of clusters. These coordinators convene and chair meetings, coordinate activities and tasks, and are accountable to the WP-EFF Executive Committee and the WP-EFF for the delivery of their agreed work programmes. Cluster membership is representative of the various Working Party categories; hence, civil society representatives are also present.

There are **five clusters**:

A) Ownership and accountability.
B) Country systems.
C) Responsible and transparent aid.
D) Assessing progress, plans, and budgets.

25 - Its representatives are: the Chairs of the WP-EFF (Egypt and TBC), the Vice-Chairs of the WP-EFF (WB and Korea), the DAC Chair and Canada (on behalf of CANZ: Canada, Australia, and New Zealand), CARICOM (Caribbean Community), Colombia, Germany, Ghana, Indonesia, Japan, Morocco, Mozambique, Netherlands (on behalf of Nordic+), Philippines, South Africa, Switzerland, Tanzania, US, and Vietnam. In addition, CSOs are represented by the BACG and the following multilaterals: the European Commission, the Global Programs Learning Network, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the UNDP/UNDG.
26 - Former German Executive Director in the World Bank.
27 - See www.betteraid.org/
28 - For further information on the clusters, please visit: www.oecd.org/document/44/0,3343,en_2649_3236398_43385644_1_1_1_1,00.html and http://www.oecd.org/document/35/0,3343,en_2649_3236398_43382307_1_1_1_1,00.html

E) Global partnership for Management for Development Results (MfDR).

In several cases, the work of the clusters is divided into Task Teams. The leadership within the clusters is as follows:

CLUSTER	COORDINATORS
A. Ownership and Accountability	Tanzania, Switzerland
B. Country Systems	Ghana, United States
C. Transparent and Responsible Aid	South Africa, Germany
D. Assessing progress	Japan, and a second one to be confirmed
E. Managing for Development Results	Philippines, and regional development banks

Ahead of the HLF-4 each cluster shall produce **concrete deliverables** to be presented:

- identifying good and bad practices;
- contributing to formulating definitions in an action-oriented manner that can assist in monitoring progress;
- providing solutions to identified problems;
- producing toolkits, if required; and
- providing support at country and regional levels in case of clear demand from developing countries.

Although the WP-EFF has an overall responsibility to deliver on PD/AAA commitments, the clusters have the key role to facilitate action at country level by providing technical support to PD/AAA implementation, and to organise country facilitation in a coordinated manner to avoid each cluster setting up its own in-country missions/workshops. The work of the clusters will continue up to Busan HLF-4, where findings will be presented and related activities organised. However, clusters' task teams and work streams are expected to end by March 2011.
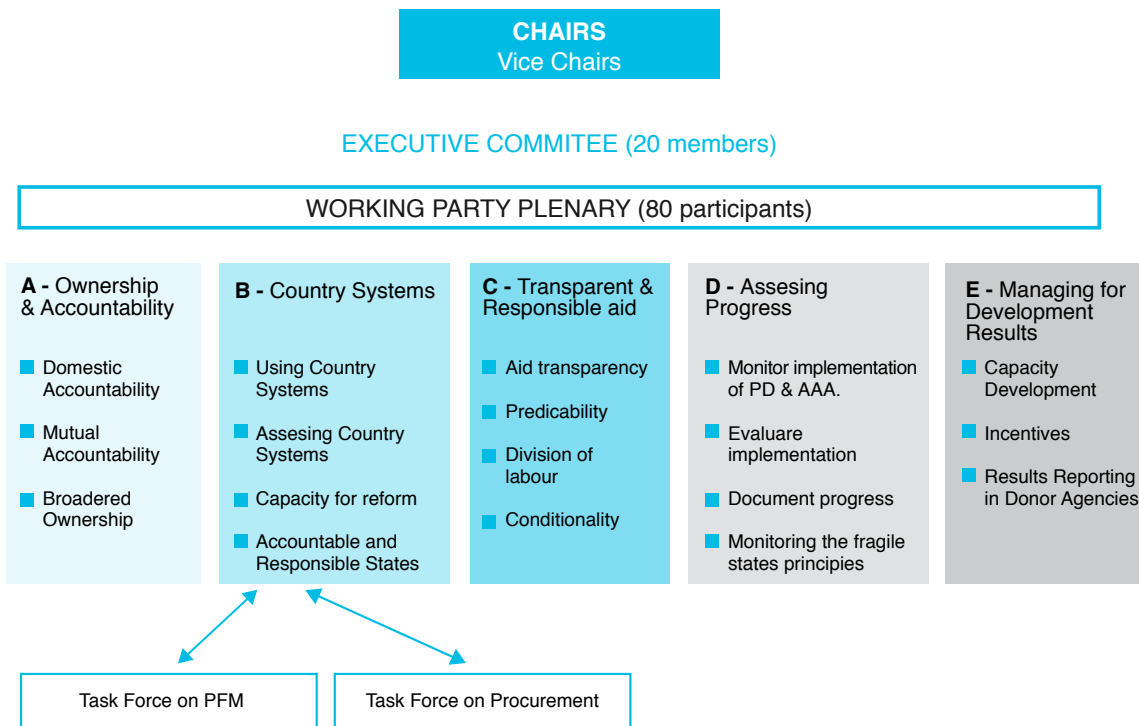
In addition, there are **two workstreams**: i) Health as a tracer sector to monitor progress in the implementation of the PD/AAA (led by the World Health Organisation and Mali); and ii) South–South cooperation (led by Colombia).

The WP-EFF substructures: The Regional Platforms / Initiatives

The WP-EFF supports the establishment or reinforcement of regional, developing country-led platforms to help disseminate and implement the PD/AAA by supporting local implementation plans and intra-regional dialogue. These platforms are not formally part of the WP-EFF, but participants from all five categories (see page 9) are encouraged to take part in the platforms and/or bring their support. These regional initiatives should aim towards meeting two broad objectives. First, to facilitate peer-to-peer learning by providing a forum or a platform to share and disseminate good practices, lessons, and expertise in implementing the PD/AAA commitments. Second, to facilitate discussions to consolidate developing countries' views on PD/AAA issues so that they can be expressed at various forums.

The relationship between the WP-EFF and regional initiatives is informal and flexible. The WP-EFF does not have direct oversight over the management of these initiatives. However, WP-EFF members supporting regional initiatives—particularly the regional development banks and multilateral agencies—are encouraged to feed back to the WP-EFF plenary and its executive committee. The cluster process was also encouraged to interact with these regional platforms in 2010, so their processes could move to the regional level.

The WP-EFF Organisation Chart[29]

Source: OECD – WP-EFF EC (2009).

1.2. OECD-DAC work on Gender Equality and Aid Effectiveness: GENDERNET

The DAC's work in the area of gender equality is conducted primarily through the Network on Gender Equality (GENDERNET). The GENDERNET is an OECD-DAC forum where gender experts from development cooperation agencies meet to define common approaches in support of gender equality and women's rights. It includes representation from all OECD members[30]. In addition, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the regional development banks, the Commonwealth Secretariat, and BRIDGE[31] attend as observers. The current Chair of the GENDERNET is Ineke van de Pol, from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Within this group there are different areas of work, notably a **task team on Aid Effectiveness**.

The GENDERNET task team on Aid Effectiveness has been actively monitoring the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness since 2005, providing advice to the WP-EFF on how to integrate gender equality issues into the process. With this purpose, the GENDERNET has developed several papers on how to use the Paris Declaration to accelerate gender equality, co-organised workshops, and was a key consultative body to the WP-EFF on gender equality and aid effectiveness ahead of the Accra HLF-3. On the road to HLF-4, the GENDERNET will continue to play this role, including work towards implementing AAA paragraph 21b on ensuring the protection and participation of women in fragile and conflict–affected contexts. In addition, for the 2011 PD monitoring process, the GENDERNET and WP-EFF Secretariats have jointly developed an optional gender equality module.

Every two years, the GENDERNET and the UN Interagency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE) hold a workshop to exchange ideas and share information on issues of mutual relevance and interest. These workshops seek to respond to emerging global issues by exploring innovative approaches and partnerships. Thus, the last two workshops (in 2009 and 2010) covered areas related to gender equality and aid effectiveness[32].

29 - The Task Force on PFM in the chart stands for: Task Force on Public Financial Management.
30 - The full list: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States, and European Union Institutions.
31 - BRIDGE supports gender advocacy and mainstreaming efforts by bridging the gaps between theory, policy and practice with accessible and diverse gender information in print and online. For more information see http://www.bridge.ids.ac.uk/.
32 - For further information on the latest workshop, please see www.un.org/womenwatch/ianwge.

There is no official representation of women's rights organisations within the GENDERNET membership. However, some think-tanks (like the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) and women's rights organisations (like AWID, WIDE Network, or the African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET), amongst others) are invited as observers to GENDERNET meetings and to contribute to the discussions from a CSO's perspective.

1.3. OECD-DAC Network on Poverty Reduction: POVNET

The DAC Network on Poverty Reduction (POVNET) is a source of expertise and a community of practice on understanding and tackling poverty. Its present focus is on increasing the impact of economic growth on poverty reduction.

As well as the Poverty Impact Assessment approach, POVNET has recently developed and is actively disseminating guidance for donors on promoting pro-poor growth, aiming at accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in relation to:

- Agriculture
- Employment
- Infrastructure
- Private sector development
- Social protection[33]

POVNET does not formally link with the Aid Effectiveness agenda in the same way that other DAC Network streams do. Nevertheless, there is particular interest within the network in advancing work in the area of ODA for social protection with collaborative work being conducted by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the government of Finland. It is also worth noting that POVNET is the DAC network that has been championing an approach of looking beyond aid effectiveness to development effectiveness.

1.4. OECD-DAC Network on Governance: GOVNET

The DAC Network on Governance[34] (GOVNET) aims to improve the effectiveness of donor assistance in support of democratic governance in developing countries. The GOVNET brings together practitioners of development cooperation agencies, both bilateral and multilateral, as well as experts from developing countries, to improve the effectiveness of donor assistance in support of democratic governance. In addition, in line with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the GOVNET promotes partner country ownership, aligned and coordinated donor approaches, managing for results, and mutual accountability.

The GOVNET provides members with a policy forum for exchanging experiences and lessons, as well as identifying and disseminating good practice, and developing pro-poor policy and analytical tools. Its work concentrates on: the reform of institutions; the dynamics of change and the interplay of checks and balances; issues surrounding relationships between the state, citizens, civil society, and the private sector; and transparency, participation, and respect for human rights. Current GOVNET priorities include work on:

- Aid and domestic accountability;
- Human rights;
- Fighting corruption;
- Taxation and governance;
- Governance assessments;
- Capacity development.

After Accra HLF-3, the work of the GOVNET has integrated the implementation of the human rights commitments of the AAA (paragraph 13c) and the 2007 DAC Action-Oriented Policy Paper[35] on Human Rights and Development and its ten principles on harmonised donor activities in human rights and development policy and practice.

33 - Source, OCDE: http://www.oecd.org/department/0,3355,en_2649_34621_1_1_1_1_1,00.html.
34 - For further information: www.oecd.org/dac/governance.
35 - Available at: http://oecd.org/dataoecd/50/7/39350774.pdf

1.5. Civil Society coordination

Paragraph 20 of the AAA is a landmark achievement for the **recognition of the roles and voices of CSOs as development actors** (see Box 1 below) and their inclusion in the development cooperation reform debate— particularly the Aid Effectiveness process:

BOX 1: Paragraph 20 of the Accra Agenda for Action

"We [official donors and governments] will deepen our engagement with CSOs as independent development actors in their own right whose efforts complement those of governments and the private sector. We share an interest in ensuring that CSO contributions to development reach their full potential. To this end:

a) We invite CSOs to reflect on how they can apply the Paris principles of aid effectiveness from a CSO perspective.
b) We welcome the CSOs' proposal to engage with them in a CSO-led multistakeholder process to promote CSO development effectiveness. As part of that process, we will seek to i) improve co-ordination of CSO efforts with government programmes, ii) enhance CSO accountability for results, and iii) improve information on CSO activities.
c) We will work with CSOs to provide an enabling environment that maximises their contributions to development".

The BetterAid Platform

BetterAid emerged as a group of international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) and networks worried about the Aid Effectiveness agenda in January 2007 at the World Social Forum in Nairobi. Initially, the group was called the *International Civil Society Steering Group* (ISG) and it agreed to coordinate CSOs' advocacy and mobilisation in the run-up to the Accra HLF-3. The organsation also worked with the Ghanaian CSO facilitating group in organising a Parallel CSO Forum prior to the HLF-3[36].

Today, BetterAid is an informal, diverse, global platform that **brings together** CSOs that engage in development cooperation. It enables voluntary pro-active participation in dialogue and policy influencing opportunities on a wide range of issues to deepen aid and development effectiveness. The BetterAid platform has its own website, www.betteraid.org, and mailing list where critical information and resources related to the Aid Effectiveness process are shared. BetterAid also produces a bimonthly newsletter summarising news and analyses on the Aid Effectiveness agenda[37].

The BetterAid platform **calls for fundamental reforms in current aid priorities and practices**, guided by principles and approaches to ensure **development effectiveness** drives international development cooperation. Its **core principles** ahead of the HLF-4 can be summarised as follows[38]:

- Development effectiveness must be rooted in human rights and based on decent work[39], gender equality and women's rights, inclusive democratic power sharing, and coherent national and global governance.
- Effective development requires an equitable multilateral architecture for determining policies and priorities for donors and developing country governments, based ultimately on the legitimacy of the UN. The UN DCF could provide an important multilateral and open platform to contribute to these goals.
- There is an urgent need for an aid architecture that is equitable and focused on social and economic justice for people living in poverty. Additionally, the emergence of new donors such as China, India, and Brazil, growing South-South cooperation, large scale private philanthropy, and the increasing role of non-governmental organistions (NGOs) as donors, challenge existing aid arrangements and must be addressed.
- Ahead of the HLF-4, the process continues to be largely focused on an Aid Effectiveness regime arising from the Paris Declaration and the AAA that is primarily being carried out under the auspices of the DAC. Therefore, the Paris Declaration and AAA structures should give way to a broadened and deepened "HLF-4 Declaration." Such a new framework should be one that is based not on aid effectiveness, but on development effectiveness, which advances human rights, solidarity, equality, responsibility, and mutual accountability. It must have an ambition and a set of commitments for change that go beyond what has been agreed in the Paris Declaration and the AAA and have the political will to be fully implemented and respected by signatories.

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36 - For further information on the ISG origins, please see AWID Primer on Aid Effectiveness number 3: www.awid.org/Issues-and-Analysis/Library/Primers-on-Aid-Effectiveness.
37 - CSOs can join the BetterAid platform and mailing list (betteraid@betteraid.org) via the website, www.betteraid.org, or by contacting Clare Birkett at comms@betteraid.org. Anybody can register to receive the newsletter on the BetterAid website and it can also be downloaded there.
38 - BetterAid (2010). See footnote 13.
39 - Discussion note by the BetterAid Coordinating Group (12/2010): Making development cooperation just: Governance principles and pillars.

Moreover, the BetterAid Platform stresses that "the laying of the foundation to construct a new architecture for development cooperation should be guided by the responsibility and accountability of all countries to universally-accepted norms and conventions. These are embodied in the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international agreements that have been ratified over the years[40]."

BOX 2: BetterAid's latest papers

- An assessment of the Accra Agenda for Action from a Civil Society perspective (11/2009).
- Development Cooperation: Not Just Aid (01/2010).
- BetterAid policy paper on South-South Development Cooperation (03/2010).
- BetterAid comments to Bogota Statement on "South-South cooperation and capacity development: Towards more inclusive and effective development partnerships" (03/2010).
- BetterAid statement to the UN-DCF in New York (06/2010).

- Development effectiveness in development cooperation: a rights-based perspective (10/2010).
- Discussion note: Making development cooperation just: Governance principles and pillars (12/2010).

These papers are prepared by the BACG members in consultation with the BetterAid Platform, ahead of (and in preparation for) WP-EFF related meetings.

These papers are available at www.betteraid.org.

Regular work of the BetterAid Platform is ensured by the **BetterAid Coordinating Group**.

The BetterAid Coordinating Group (BACG)

Since the Accra HLF-3, CSOs obtained full membership to the WP-EFF. The **BetterAid Coordinating Group (BACG)** has ensured CSO representation at the WP-EFF since February 2009.

With the recognition in the AAA of CSOs as development actors in their own right and the invitation to join the WP-EFF, the ISG reviewed its mandate and mechanisms in order to ensure a participatory and transparent representation of CSOs in the WP-EFF. In February 2009, the ISG was transformed into the BACG. As formerly with the ISG, the BACG brings together CSOs, including women's rights organisations[41], engaged in development cooperation that are seeking opportunities to influence aid related public policy formulation processes and to deepen collective efforts to achieve aid and development effectiveness. The group, on behalf of the global CSO Better Aid Platform, coordinates and facilitates, at international level, CSO engagement to promote reforms in international cooperation for development and aid effectiveness[42].

The BetterAid Coordinating Group is responsible for[43]:

a) monitoring and facilitating CSO recommendations as well as CSO proposals to deepen aid reform at HLF-4 in 2011;
b) drawing analyses and proposals from sectoral, country, and regional CSO/multi-stakeholder consultations on the implementation of the AAA and the Paris Declaration;
c) developing and promoting CSO policy proposals for the promotion of development effectiveness in aid in the implementation of the PD/AAA and towards a new agreement focusing on development effectiveness and a new aid architecture at the HLF-4;
d) coordinating the relationship between the CSO BetterAid Platform and multilateral forums (such as the UN Development Cooperation Forum) for donor/government commitments to aid and development effectiveness, and, in particular, enabling CSO membership and participation in the WP-EFF; and
e) organising contributions and feedback from members of the BetterAid Platform, the wider CSO community, and other stakeholders in order to ensure the largest possible inclusiveness for its policy and advocacy work.

40 - Decent work is understood by the ILO to mean: a) productive work; b) protection of rights; c) adequate pay; and d) social coverage. According to the ILO, a fifth essential element should also be added: e) tripartite approach and social dialogue.
41 - Core women's groups members are: AWID, the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD), Coordinadora de la Mujer/Bolivia, the African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET), and WIDE Network.
42 - BetterAid Coordinating Group Terms of Reference, March 2009.
43 - Idem.

The BACG is made up of 32 CSO networks, INGOs, social movements (such as the International Trade Unions Confederation (ITUC)), and women's rights organisations.

New **structural elements** of the BACG, since Accra:

The BACG nominated and agreed upon two co-chairpersons, taking into account a balanced and positive gender and south-north approach, who may serve more than one term if endorsed by the other members. The two current BACG Co-Chairs are Cecilia Alemany (AWID) and Antonio Tujan (IBON).

BOX 3: BACG members

The following organisations are current members of the BACG:

ActionAid International, Action of Churches Together (ACT Alliance), African Women's Development & Communication Network (FEMNET), African Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD), Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND), Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD), Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID), Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC), CARE International, World Alliance for Citizen Participation (CIVICUS), European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development (CONCORD), Coordinadora de la Mujer, European Network on Debt and Development (EURODAD), Ghana Aid Effectiveness Forum (GAEF), Green Movement of Sri Lanka (GMSL), IBIS, IBON, InterAction, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), Korean Civil Society Forum on International Development Cooperation (KoFID), LDC Watch, People's Coalition for Food Sovereignty (PCFS), Reality of Aid (RoA), Network of West and Central African NGO Platforms (REPAOC), Social Watch, Transparency International, Trocaire, Uganda National NGO Forum, UK Aid Network (UKAN), WIDE Network, Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD), Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development (ZIMCODD).

Criteria for BetterAid Coordinating Group Membership[44]:

- Identification with the principles and approaches of the global BetterAid Platform for reform of aid and development effectiveness.
- Commitment to actively contribute to BACG work.
-Geographic and regional balance, with at least 60% membership from developing countries, including a balance of different types of CSOs, national networks and platforms, INGOs, and global organisations.
-        Balance in terms of gender (50/50), type of NGOs (programming NGOs, policy & research NGOs, platforms, constituency CSOs, social movements, etc.), sectors, constituencies, or particular experience relevant to the mandate of the group. In addition, organisations that have an explicit primary mandate for gender equality and women's rights will be no less than 5 members. And, at least 5 members will be membership-based grassroots organisations.

The Co-Chairs are responsible for:
a) Internal and external day-to-day liaison on behalf of the BACG;
b) Acting as spokespersons for the BACG (which can also be delegated);
c) Preparing the meetings of the BACG (with members assuming roles in facilitation and chairing the meetings); and
d) Coordinating resource mobilisation and management, with the assistance of a BACG Secretariat.

The Co-Chairs represent the group in official spaces, especially the WP-EFF (with the other members of the BACG) and the WP-EFF Executive Committee.

A decentralised Secretariat was established to ensure all logistics are related to the proper functioning of the BetterAid Platform and the BACG, as well as, information diffusion among the members of both the Platform and the BACG. The Secretariat's functions are shared between different member organisations.

44 - BetterAid Coordinating Group Terms of Reference, March 2009.

The BACG works through working groups (WG). Since October 2010, these have evolved into three main WGs and a facilitation group:

WG1: Policy
WG2: Communications and outreach
WG3: Operations

The facilitation group oversees the operations of the BACG and the coordination of the working groups. However, it is important to highlight that all major political decisions go through a discussion process including all members of the BACG.

The BACG has an outreach and communication strategy aimed at mobilisation and outreach to further develop an inclusive BetterAid Platform, with strong linkages with other CSO initiatives and networks, in the lead-up to the 2011 4th High Level Forum[45].

BOX 4: BACG Secretariat:

Reileen Joy B. Dulay: BACG Coordinator (host organisation IBON): secretariat@betteraid.org
Krister Holm: Programme Manager (host organisation IBON): kholm@ibon.org
Clare Birkett: Communications Officer (host organisation EURODAD) cbirkett@eurodad.org
Matt Simonds: BetterAid Liaison Officer to the OECD–DAC (host organisation TUAC): simonds@tuac.org

In addition, **CSOs' participation in the WP-EFF clusters** (mentioned on page 9) is coordinated by the BACG (but participation is not limited to the BACG). Member organisations of the BACG volunteer to coordinate with the BACG Working Groups related to each cluster, disseminate important information, and regularly participate in the clusters' process (see Box 3). In addition, the BACG has a Liaison Officer based in Paris to follow the OECD-DAC and WP-EFF on BACG's concerns and requirements for its advocacy and engagement work. The Liaison Officer's main goal is to ensure information dissemination and coordination.

BOX 5: CSO participation / cluster and related Task Teams

CLUSTER	COORDINATING ORGANISATION	TASK TEAM REPRESENTATIVES
Cluster A: Ownership and Accountability	ITUC	Task Team on Mutual Accountability: CONCORD Task Team on Domestic Accountability: Care International Task Team on CSO Development Effectiveness and Enabling Environment - CSO Lead: CCIC Task Team on Broad-Based Democratic Ownership: ITUC
Cluster B: Strengthening and Using Country Systems	EURODAD	Task Team on Public Financial Management: EURODAD Task Team on Procurement: EURODAD
Cluster C: Transparent and Responsible Aid	TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL	Task Team on Division of Labour: ACT Alliance Task Team on Predictability and Transparency: ActionAid Task Team on Conditionality: ActionAid
Cluster D: Assessing Progress on Implementing the PD & AAA	Uganda NGO Forum Coordinadora de la Mujer (Bolivia) UK Aid Network	Task Team on Monitoring the Implementation of the PD and AAA: IBON, UK Aid Network, Uganda NGO Forum Tast Team on EVALUNET/PD Evaluation: IBON, UK Aid Network Task Team on Fragile States: Care International
Cluster E: Global Partnership for MfDR	Uganda NGO Forum IBON ALOP	Task Team on South-South Cooperation: IBON

45 - BetterAid Coordinating Group Strategy and Work Plan 2009–2011

Women's rights organisations' mobilisation

On the road to Accra HLF-3, women's groups organised their own women's consultations on aid effectiveness and gender equality at the international and regional level[46]. All of them took place in 2008 and were consolidated by the Accra International Women's Forum organised by a broad group of women's rights organisations and hosted by NETRIGHT-Ghana directly prior to the HLF-3 in Accra.

In preparation of the Busan HLF-4, there are already several ongoing processes aimed at building women's rights capacities, proposals, and demands. Primer 10[47] of this series elaborates further on these processes and lays out what is at stake for gender equality and women's rights.

One space for information sharing about the aid effectiveness agenda and related processes, particularly from a gender equality and women's rights perspective, is the Google group listserv hosted by AWID: the-road-to-accra-and-beyond@googlegroups.org.

1.6. Other related processes and spaces

The United Nations Development Cooperation Forum[48]

The United Nations Development Cooperation Forum (UN DCF) is a biennial multi-stakeholder forum within the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) aimed at providing an inclusive platform for **dialogue on aid effectiveness and international development** issues. The DCF is a relatively new instrument aimed at strengthening the role of ECOSOC in international development cooperation, including its oversight of member states' implementation of international development commitments.

There are divergences in how different actors see the function of the DCF in the ECOSOC. While the EU, US, and other developed countries view the function of the DCF primarily as an aid coordination mechanism, developing countries are calling for a more ambitious and comprehensive mandate to improve the governance of international development cooperation in all aspects[49]. CSOs see the DCF as an opportunity to establish an equitable multilateral architecture for determining policies and priorities for donors and developing country governments, although mechanisms for open and meaningful participation would need to be reviewed, especially *vis à vis* the participation of CSOs, including women's rights organisations.

Many CSOs advocate for the UN DCF to become the main space for policy-making on development cooperation, and for it to have a central role for policy guidance and multilateral agreements in this arena. They see the HLF-4 as an opportunity to come to an inter-institutional agreement between the OECD and the UN DCF to enable a more comprehensive framework to host all development actors in their own right and promote common norm-setting on development cooperation at the international level.

The first UN DCF meeting took place in July 2008 during the ECOSOC annual meeting. The second DCF took place at the UN Headquarters in New York in June 2010, during the Annual High-level segment of ECOSOC. It was structured around the following themes:

- Promoting greater coherence.
- Accountable and transparent development cooperation.
- The role of various forms of cooperation, including South-South and triangular cooperation.
- The impact of multiple crises.
- Achieving the MDGs by 2015[50].

The outcome[51] of the meeting is documented in the summary[52] of the President of ECOSOC. Key messages from the DCF informed the negotiation process of the MDGs Summits that took place in September 2010[53].

46 - Please refer to Primer 7 for more information about the women's consultations. Available here: www.awid.org/eng/About-AWID/AWID-Initiatives/IDeA/Resources-on-Aid-Effectiveness/Primers-on-Aid-Effectiveness.
47 - To be available at: www.awid.org/eng/About-AWID/AWID-Initiatives/IDeA/Resources-on-Aid-Effectiveness/Primers-on-Aid-Effectiveness.
48 - This section was prepared on the basis of information available on the website, "Financing for Development. Engagement of Civil Society": www.ffdngo.org.
49 - TWN (2007). United Nations: Development Cooperation Forum launched at ECOSOC: www.twnside.org.sg/title2/finance/twninfofinance070707.htm.
50 - See: http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunct/2010dcf0.shtml
51- Natalie Raaber and Anne Schoenstein from AWID participated in the 2010 DCF and shared information and reflections on the meeting and what it means for the relationship between development cooperation and women's rights going forward in AWID's Friday File on the DCF, available at: www.awid.org/eng/Issues-and-Analysis/Issues-and-Analysis/Development-Cooperation-Forum-holds-some-promise-for-women-s-rights-advocates
52 - Available at: http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/julyhls/pdf10/2010_dcf_president_long_summary.pdf.

Looking at civil society engagement within the DCF process, there are different spaces available. On the one hand, there is the formal **Advisory Group of the DCF**, which was established by the Under-Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs, and is comprised of UN agencies, government, and civil society representatives. ActionAid and CIVICUS were selected by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) to serve as the CSOs' representatives on this Advisory Group, and they are there as BetterAid representatives. On the other hand, there is the **DCF NGO Task Force**. Members of the Consultative Group include, among others, ActionAid, CIVICUS, DAWN on behalf of the Women's Working Group on Financing for Development (WWG on FfD)[54], and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) on behalf of the Global Social Economy Group (GSEG). This group is very active in coordinating CSO participation in DCF meetings, as well as preparing CSOs' statements[53].

Several members of the DCF NGO Task Force are also actively involved in BetterAid work, ensuring a certain level of coherence, linkages, and synergies between the two policy processes taking place on development cooperation within the OECD and the UN.

If you are interested in the DCF process, you can register to the WWG on FfD listserv (gender-in-ffd@google-groups.com) which is a vehicle to exchange information, updates and feminist analyses on FfD issues and to advance development alternatives. To join the listserv or for more information please contact: info@dawnnet.org.

Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness

The Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness is an international CSOs driven process towards defining a global development effectiveness framework for CSOs. To this end, it brings together CSOs and other development actors, including governments and official donors, in consultations and multi-stakeholder dialogues at country, regional, and international levels. A Global Facilitation Group of 25 member CSOs provides leadership to and represents the Open Forum.

The Open Forum was launched in June 2008 by more than 70 representatives from CSO platforms and networks from around the world. It was launched during the Exploratory Meeting[56] on CSO Effectiveness to discuss how to move the global process towards agreeing on a CSO-suitable effectiveness framework forward[57].

Further information on the Open Forum is available at www.cso-effectiveness.org or you can contact info@cso-effectiveness.org.

UNIFEM involvement on Gender Equality and Aid Effectiveness

Since 2005, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) has been working with its partners to explore and implement ways to engage in technical and political processes at all levels, to ensure that the pursuit of **aid effectiveness includes a gender perspective**. Thus, from November 2005—when UNIFEM and the European Commission hosted the conference "Owning Development: Promoting Gender Equality in New Aid Modalities and Partnerships"—UNIFEM hosted a number of multi-stakeholder consultations on gender equality and aid effectiveness. These consultations aimed at exploring strategies to ensure that aid effectiveness delivers gender equality in the context of nationally determined development planning and programming processes. They brought together representatives from government—planning, finance, and national women's machineries—donor agencies, and civil society. The results from these ongoing consultations were disseminated through a series of discussion papers[58], on the road to Accra HLF-3.

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53 - The Outcome Document from 2010 MDG Summit adopted by the General Assembly by consensus on September 22, 2010 is available at www.un.org/en/mdg/summit2010/pdf/mdg%20outcome%20document.pdf

54 - The WWG on FfD is an alliance of women's organisations and networks that advocates for the advancement of gender equality, women's empowerment, and human rights in UN processes related to FfD and the global financial and economic crises. The WWG on FFD is coordinated by Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN) and includes the following networks/organisations: African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET), Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND), Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID), Feminist Task Force-Global Call to Action against Poverty (FTF-GCAP), Global Policy Forum (GPF), International Council for Adult Education (ICAE), International Gender and Trade Network (IGTN), International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), Network for Women's Rights in Ghana (NETRIGHT), Red de Educacion Popular entre Mujeres para America Latina y el Caribe (REPEM), Social Watch, Third World Network-Africa (TWN-Africa), Women's Environment and Development Organisation (WEDO), and WIDE Network.

55 - To receive further information you can contact Luca De Fraia: Luca.Defraia@actionaid.org.

56 - Meeting report available at: http://www.cso-effectiveness.org/IMG/pdf/report_paris_EN.pdf.

57 - Source: http://www.cso-effectiveness.org/-history-of-the-process,017-.html.

58 - These papers can be downloaded from the following site: www.unifem.org/materials/series.php?ProductSeriesID=5.

In addition, between 2007 and 2009, UNIFEM carried out an *EC/UN Partnership on Gender Equality for Development and Peace*[59], aimed at identifying approaches to integrate gender equality and women's human rights into new aid modalities, in accordance with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. Another interesting related initiative from UNIFEM is their work on *Integrating Gender Responsive Budgeting into the Aid Effectiveness Agenda*[60]. It is aimed at increasing the understanding of national partners and European Union decision-makers of the opportunities for using Gender Responsive Budgets to ensure that aid contributes to the achievement of gender equality goals.

Lastly, UNIFEM has been a key ally in supporting women's rights organisations' and networks' consultations on gender equality and aid effectiveness on the road to Accra and the Women's Forum in Accra, Ghana, just prior to the Accra HLF-3[61]. Hopefully, UNIFEM will continue their support for this work on the road to Korea where the HLF-4 will take place in November 2011.

INSTRAW involvement on Gender Equality and Aid Effectiveness

The International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) has launched a programme on Financing for Development. The project, "Supporting the monitoring of aid effectiveness with a gender perspective," aims to promote study, research, capacity-building and political dialogue on the agreements and actions on financing for development from a gender perspective, focussing in six countries: Cambodia, Guatemala, Morocco, Mozambique, Peru, and Vietnam.

INSRAW's project aims at strengthening the capacities of civil society organisations dedicated to women's empowerment and gender equality, so they are better able to monitor aid flows and their impacts from a gender perspective. In addition, the project aims to build alliances with key stakeholders and partners from each the pilot country that is a part of the project. Potential partners include:

i) universities and research institutes to develop evaluations and coordinate activities;
ii) NGOs, civil society coalitions, women's movements and organisations, and other civil society organisations related to gender equality and aid effectiveness; as well as,
iii) global networks and virtual platforms on aid effectiveness such as RedGEDEA network[62], International Organisations, and UN agencies.

Further information can be found at INSTRAW's website: www.un-instraw.org

59 - A joint initiative of the European Commission (EC), UNIFEM, and the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organisation (ITCILO). Further information can be found at: www.gendermatters.eu.
60 - For further information on this programme visit: www.gender-budgets.org.
61 - You can find further information on the women's rights consultations and the Women's Forum in AWID's Primers 5 and 7, available at: www.awid.org/Issues-and-Analysis/Library/Primers-on-Aid-Effectiveness
62 - Info on Red GEDEA (Gender in Development and Aid Effectiveness) network in Spanish can be found at: http://www.un-instraw.org/global-gender-news/red-gedea-has-just-launched-its-new-web-page.html.

WHY SHOULD WOMEN'S RIGHTS GROUPS CARE ABOUT THE AID EFFECTIVENESS AGENDA?
WHAT IS AT STAKE FOR WOMEN AND GENDER JUSTICE?

GOAL: To promote a new framework for development cooperation from a women's rights perspective that includes: i) Human Rights, including environmental, economic, social, and cultural rights, with an integrated gender approach; ii) A truly democratic, inclusive and multi-stakeholder approach ensuring participation of women's rights organisations; iii) systematic coherence among global policies, including fulfilment of women's rights frameworks and just global governance; and iv) the goal to eradicate the root causes of poverty and structural inequalities.

The Paris Declaration and the AAA are still gender blind!
Within these documents no measures to promote women's rights, gender equality, or human rights standards are proposed or acknowledged through impact assessments or any other measures. Hence, gender sensitive and gender specific indicators measuring progress on development effectiveness outcomes must be integrated into development cooperation processes.

Women's rights and gender equality are often not reflected in national development plans!
The new aid architecture is designed to align aid to nationally-determined development priorities—severely problematic in some government contexts where gender-sensitive strategies are neither practiced nor promoted. Alignment with a country's priorities, while desirable in theory, can negatively impact the lives of women and hinder the achievement of key development commitments when implemented in political contexts characterised by gender inequality and human rights violations, for example. In sum, developing countries' priorities and development plans must be aligned with international and regional agreements on human rights and gender equality (including the Beijing Platform for Action and CEDAW), with no policy conditionalities and no tied aid.

Government actions alone will not reduce poverty—adversely affecting women!
The Aid Effectiveness agenda focuses on institutional reforms in government for a more effective and efficient aid system, instead of on conditions for effective and sustainable development and for democratising the international cooperation processes. We call for a broader vision of development cooperation promoting development effectiveness for all.

Preserve the strategic roles that CSOs play for women!
Civil society and women's rights organisations have little space to influence the Aid Effectiveness process. Their contributions and roles as key development actors are essential for creating a climate of social, political, and economic change and reducing poverty, social inequality, and gender inequality. Furthermore, predictable, long-term and diversified funding for women's organisations promoting gender equality and women's rights should be ensured.

The PD is another effort to agree on international targets and indicators (such as the MDGs) for aid effectiveness.
The PD agenda was defined by donors (at the OECD) and the current Aid Effectiveness process is being monitored by indicators developed by the World Bank (WB). Where are the voices and contributions of women's organisations and other CSOs in this context? Why should international development priorities be agreed at the OECD instead of at a multilateral/multistakeholders' forum such as the UN?

Nowadays, civil society groups and several development actors understand development effectiveness (not aid effectiveness) as a more comprehensive framework for development cooperation. As women's rights activists we should aim for a shift in the development cooperation system and the aid effectiveness paradigm towards an inclusive, sustainable, and just paradigm. The ultimate goal is to contribute to social justice and engage substantively in building participatory democracies at the local, national, regional, and global levels, towards a more equal and inclusive global governance system.

awid women's rights

ABOUT THIS PRIMER

Primer #9: The Road to Korea 2011: Key official and civil society actors.
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS SERIES

This Primer provides an overview of key official and civil society actors involved in the monitoring of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the preparations towards the 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, to take place in Busan, South Korea, in November 2011.