



To: OECD DAC Representatives of the EU countries

27 February 2014, Brussels

NW	ActionAid International
NW	ADRA
AS	ALDA
NW	APRODEV
NP	Austria: Globale Verantwortung
NP	CONCORD Belgium
NP	Bulgaria: BPID
NW	CARE International
NW	Caritas Europa
NW	CBM International
NW	CIDSE
NP	Cyprus: CYINDEP
NP	Czech Republic: FoRS
NP	CONCORD Denmark
NP	Estonia: AKU
NW	EU-CORD
NW	Eurostep
NP	Finland: Kehys
NP	France: Coordination SUD
NP	Germany: VENRO
NP	Greece
NW	Handicap International
NP	Hungary: HAND
NW	IPPF European Network
NW	Islamic Relief Worldwide
NP	Ireland: Dochas
NP	Italy: ONG Italiane
NP	Latvia: Lapas
NP	"LU" Lithuanian development NGO umbrella
NP	Luxembourg: Cercle
NP	Malta: SKOP
NW	Netherlands: Partos
NW	Oxfam International
NP	Plan International
NP	Poland: Grupa Zagranica
NP	Portugal: Plataforma ONGD
NW	Romania: FOND
NP	Save the Children International
NP	Slovakia: MVRO
NW	Slovenia: SLOGA
NP	Solidar
NP	Spain: CoNgDe
NW	CONCORD Sweden
NP	Terres des hommes IF
NW	United Kingdom: BOND
AS	World Vision International
	World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
NP	National Platform
NW	Network
AS	Associate member

## RE: OECD DAC Senior Level Meeting on 5-6 March 2014

Dear Directors, Heads of Agencies and other Senior Officials,

I am writing to you ahead of the OECD DAC Senior Level Meeting taking place on 5-6 March 2014. We understand the March SLM will be an opportunity for DAC member to discuss the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPDEC) and continue discussions on modernizing ODA and as such would like to take this opportunity to share our views with you on the issues raised.

As CONCORD, the European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development representing more than 1800 NGOs, we call upon you to consider the following:

### Development Finance and modernizing ODA

We have several serious concerns regarding the process addressing External Financing for Development and the future of Official Development Assistance (ODA) as regards the content as well as its accessibility to the civil society, partner countries and other relevant stakeholders:

- The process of **defining a new measurement of financing for development must necessarily be an open one**. As such we welcome recent efforts by the DAC to ensure greater participation from other development stakeholders including civil society and partner countries. However, there are some areas that could benefit from further improvement including publishing all documents and notes of meetings to better enable non-DAC members to follow and engage with the debate. Substantial progress could be made in this direction by opening up DAC meetings as well as WP Stat meetings to a broader audience. ;

- We welcome the opportunity given by OECD DAC Secretariat to contribute to the forthcoming debates of OECD-DAC Senior Level Meeting via online consultations. However **there needs to be more time for developing submissions** to allow various stakeholders especially the CSOs from partner countries to determine consensus positions and effectively consult their constituencies. Annexed to this letter is the contribution of CONCORD AidWatch based on the inputs from a wide range of European CSO groups.

- The current proposed options for a new measure of ODA worryingly seem to be based primarily on interest in creating incentives for delivering development finance through market-like models. Such a shift would run counter to the development and poverty reduction focus of ODA as well as taking ODA out of alignment with international development effectiveness principles. Therefore, the additionality and leverage effect of additional resources for development from the private sector and the utilization of market-like financial instruments should be tested against principles such as ownership, transparency

and accountability. Opportunity costs of additional resources for development from the private sector and market-like financial instruments may be high, and must be carefully considered particularly as funds used to support these modalities would not be transferred to partner countries and would not be used elsewhere. New measures and means of development finance should be clearly assessed against evidence in a transparent manner.

CONCORD is the European NGO confederation for Relief and Development. Its 27 national associations, 18 international networks and 2 associate members represent 1,800 NGOs which are supported by millions of citizens across Europe. CONCORD leads reflection and political actions and regularly engages in dialogue with the European institutions and other civil society organisations. At global level, CONCORD is actively involved in the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness, the Beyond 2015 campaign, and the International Forum of NGO platforms. Find out more about CONCORD on [www.concordeurope.org](http://www.concordeurope.org).

## Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation

The 1st High Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) in Mexico (Mexico HLM) is a critical moment that will determine the future of development effectiveness agenda. The HLM needs to reflect on progress toward achieving the goals and commitments made in Busan two years ago as well as identify measures to clear the way for future progress. The Mexico HLM is also an opportunity to critically assess the new working structures that emerged from Busan, including the mandate and the operational arrangements of the GPEDC.

The donor community gathered in the OCED DAC has the opportunity to lead by example by setting the target for its members to expedite the implementation of the effectiveness principles by, for instance, providing a basement of the extent to which DAC donors have complied with the Busan principles.

We believe that the Mexico HLM offers the opportunity to assess the strengths and the weaknesses that the GPEDC has had to confront with over the past two years. In particular, the relative lack of progress over the last two years seems to have demonstrated the need for more functional and regular working-level meetings of relevant GPEDC stakeholders. Such meetings would provide space to bring together experts from the GPEDC constituencies to discuss substantive matters and could take place in a less formal and more ad hoc manner as needed. One example of such work is the informal Task Force on Taxation and Development, which includes governments, civil society, businesses and trade unions and has met since May 2010 under the OECD. This forum has spearheaded practical initiatives for discussing strengthening tax systems in developing countries, and curbing illicit financial flows, by measures such as automatic tax information exchange and country-by-country reporting. OECD DAC and its members can play an instrumental role in spearheading the creation of such dialogue spaces, given their expertise and unique knowledge generation capacity.

Looking beyond Mexico, the forthcoming decisions on a new development framework is the key issue for development in 2014 and 2015. Further progress and relevance for the GPEDC will be somewhat reliant on ensuring that there is a clear pitch, and understanding of, the linkages between development effectiveness and post-2015.

We call on DAC members to consider that a new post-2015 development framework should include:

- Commitment to the core principles of development effectiveness - ownership, transparency and mutual accountability, focus on results and inclusive partnerships – and aid effectiveness principles/commitments as the most effective means of delivering on development goals. This will be particularly crucial as post-2015 development targets and efforts seek to leave no one behind and target the hardest to reach.
- Reflect the more inclusive and multi-stakeholder ways of working for global partnerships post-2015.
- Reflect the historic focus on evidence-based policy-making that has enabled the development effectiveness agenda to drive real progress and change.

In Mexico and beyond, GPEDC co-chairs, Ministers, Steering Committee members and all other stakeholders should be advocating for these principles and commitments to be included in a post-2015 framework while acknowledging the work that is still to be done to refine these principles and ways of working in practice.

In case you would like to discuss this further please do not hesitate to contact us.

I wish you a successful DAC meeting and look forward to hearing the outcomes. .

Yours sincerely,



Amy Dodd  
Chair of CONCORD Aidwatch

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