

C-CfA Position Paper

September 2007

A. EXPECTED CHANGES AS FAR AS GOVERNANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA IS CONCERNED

I. Recommendation

- a. Inclusion of CSOs in country development programme as a priority
 - b. Increased dialogue between and amongst development partners
 - c. Development Agenda based on African priorities
- Governments. Should carefully develop national policies and analyse all development policies, including trade, and should strengthen their capacity in these endeavour.
 - NGOs/CSOs. Re-position themselves through capacity development in meaningful engagement with stakeholders, policy formulation and analysis, monitoring, evaluation and staff development.
 - Regional Economic Blocs. Should be strengthened and create more space for active engagement with NGOs/CSOs.
 - The G8 must renew the community method using an approach that is generally based on the African countries' aspirations and not based on those of the summit. Its policies must be addressed using non legislative methods.
 - Legislative and judicial power and electoral organs: Quality legislative and judicial sectors at national and local levels are essential in creating and maintaining a favourable environment for poverty elimination.
 - One of the major African continent's assets should be management capacity building particularly at the national level.

II. The first point that needs to be changed)

- Increased dialogue among development partners will lead to an agreed national development agenda.

Governance of NGOs and citizen participation must be added values to government policy for the development of African countries. Non political actors like NGOs, Unions and Associations must be included in the development, implementation and the follow up evaluation of projects and programs financed by the donors.

The general perception is that African Governments do not actively engage all national stakeholders, particularly civil society organizations, in the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of national development policies. The governments, it is perceived, rather show much insensitivity to the needs of the poor by "blindly" accepting and implementing externally imposed policies. For example, in the area of international trade. Also, it is perceived that several African governments attend donor meetings and similar conferences without adequate preparations.

To address these issues, civil society calls for more transparency and accountability from governments. Rather than the cosmetic approach to civil society participation in national development policies, it is about high time that governments give due recognition and acceptance of civil society as real complementary partners in development. For example, governments must make conscious efforts to include civil society in international trade talks.

III. The second point that needs to be changed

The running of African governments must be done in a consensus manner with non political actors as well as with all other social and political groups. There is therefore need for concerted governance on private public partnership in order to limit all-out privatisations that are becoming a trend in our countries.

Donors must equally support NGOs and non-state actors to monitor African states' development policies in the following areas: agriculture, industry, telecommunications and trade.

NGOs/CSOs have played and continue to play key roles in national development. However, several NGOs/CSOs have continued to lag behind in current development trends and analysis. Whilst several African governments have not shown serious commitment to active engagement with NGOs/CSOs, there is a general perception that several NGOs/CSOs continue to lack advocacy skills to be able to engage meaningfully with their governments. Further, several NGOs/CSOs continue to exhibit "amateurist" approach to development issues, lack of transparency and accountability.

We need to organize our own affairs in relation to legitimacy, accountability and transparency, both at the collective as well as the individual level, in order to fully realize the role of the civil society through their organisations, associations...etc in critical and constructive engagement in processes furthering peace, development and human rights issues.

The CSOs are in a situation that is not the best as it creates the impression in some government circles that some CSOs are just implementing directives from their funding entities. In fact, there are some donors that impose as a condition the undertaking of certain agendas to materialize the funding.

In the face of this situation, it would be recommendable for the African governments to include budget line of support to Civil Society as a partner whose operation is of national interest. Considering that the budget of African governments is funded by external sources, Japan could enhance its budget contribution efforts by focusing more on civil society.

IV. The third point that needs to be changed

The general perception is that African sub-regional economic blocs are just extensions of the "talking shops" of the continent's leaders at their summits. Again, these sub-regional economic blocs lack intra and inter coordination. Further, the level and content of their engagement with civil society leaves much to be desired.

The CSOs can fill the gap left by the Government by advocating and overseeing reforms that favour sustainable human development. The CSOs that work in favour of development complement – and do not replace – the state. They do not have adequate capacities as far as problem analysis, advocacy and sensitization, networking, management and resource mobilization are concerned.

Democracy, transparency and accountability in the management and administration of public affairs in all sectors of the society are basic essentials in the achievement of sustainable social development that is centred on human beings.

When we raise the issue of African priorities, we want to secure ownership, by determining our own choices. However, what frequently happens is that we are not given room to define our priorities, on account of lack of financial support. The indicators to be met are not set by Africans, in other words, there are direct interferences in our choices. There is not an indication of what are the important indicators for the country, for the donors/cooperating partners are the ones that take decisions based on the issues that are of their own interests.

What we want is aid for development – productive aid, to reduce the need for aid and not aid to perpetuate dependency. The aid should be shaped based on our visions of development. In this regard, the partners/donors should refrain from imposing conditionality on the African governments and the CSOs.

B. INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT

I. Recommendations

- *TICAD should become a tool for Japan to put Africa on the top of the agenda of G8*
- *International partners, including the Japanese government should increase their partnership with CSOs/NGOs*
- *Strengthening of the cooperation between the networks of African and Japanese*
 - a. To consolidate the African civil society and strengthen mechanisms that contribute to the emergency of democracy.
 - b. To develop a specific program line that is accessible to international organisations and African civil societies, by improving the dissemination of the Democracy and Human Rights program.
 - c. To increase the financing of programs for poverty reduction by a big margin.
 - d. To increase the G8's commitments to fill the foreseeable deficits. Part of the assistance that is currently allocated to other sub sectors of education and environment must be redistributed.
 - e. To give the donors' and international organisations' collaboration with civil society organisations the importance that it deserves, given their capacity to adjust, innovate, maintain direct relations with the poor, their capacity to encourage participation and express local views. In addition, they are efficient, accountable at the local level and also evaluate problems independently.
- Japan international Corporation Agency ,TICAD, CCFA must lead in urging the responsible structures to deliver according to their promises and commitment. Initiating meetings to evaluate the progress. Planning for the next G8 and ensuring the involvement of Africans and PLWHA.
- Engage in policy decisions making to influence in the abolishing of user fees for health services (IMF policies fails the poor.)
- WHO, in partnership with UNAIDS, must review the treatment scale -up targets and plans, ensure that they are both ambitious and realistic, and declare a single, unified global target for universal access to treatment by 2010.Civil Society must put pressure through advocacy.
- Engage global companies – in further advocacy efforts to encourage good governance globally.
- Practice good corporate governance.
- Engage global companies – commit a percentage of profit to increased taxation for public health and HIV/AIDS.
- Urge the G8 to fund the global fund and support national plans of countries by engaging the international structures and local voices.
- Urge donors to be flexible on their policies to benefit developing countries.

II. The current situation

1. Perceptible effects :
 - Africa finds itself at cross roads more than ever before. In spite of its natural resources, the continent suffers from abject poverty, worsened by poor pricing of products from the same continent. By trying to promote good governance in African countries, donors, and especially those from Japan as well as international organisations can borrow from their own experience by having a clear mandate. Refined strategic visions and policies can be useful in helping achieve their efforts and reduce risks by leading and guiding the programme's initiatives.

- The general perception is that African Governments do not actively engage all national stakeholders, particularly civil society organizations, in the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of national development policies. The governments, it is perceived, rather show much insensitivity to the needs of the poor by “blindly” accepting and implementing externally imposed policies. For example, in the area of international trade. Also, it is perceived that several African governments attend donor meetings and similar conferences without adequate preparations. International development assistance is strongly skewed towards relations with African governments. The bi- and multi lateral approaches with national governments leaves very little or no room for active engagement with civil society organisations.
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- In the area of NGO/CSO funding applications to international development institutions, missions, etc., the key challenge has been what civil society sees as generally “inflexible” funding requirements.
- Admittedly, the lack of several NGOs/CSOs’ transparency and accountability has also contributed in a large measure to the difficult relations with donors and partners.
- To address these issues, civil society calls for more transparency and accountability from governments. Rather than the cosmetic approach to civil society participation in national development policies, it is about high time that governments give due recognition and acceptance of civil society as real complementary partners in development. For example, governments must make conscious efforts to include civil society in international trade talks.-

C. PERSPECTIVES OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY

1. Global investment and economic growth :

We believe that there should be a global fund to which all countries (developed and developing) could make contributions in order to make things work.

2. Environmental conservation and climatic changes:

It is well known that carbon dioxide emissions mainly come from developed countries but its effects – like desertification, rise in sea levels and extreme climatic conditions – usually strike developing countries. On the other hand adaptation measures should take place and in this case, water resources, infrastructure, institutions (institutional, technological and cultural factors) and the community (like the level of public participation in decisions concerning water and environmental management and the investment of the richest communities in environmental conservation) could be looked into.

3. Human security

During the recent decades, globalization has increased the probability of border threats like terrorism, infectious diseases, environmental destruction, and organised trans national crime as well as human crises like abrupt and serious economic collapse and civil war. Faced with these threats and crises, it is important to consider not only global, regional and national perspectives but also consider the “human security” perspective which is based on people. “Human security” means concentrating on different people and societies’ development in which each person is expected to lead a dignified life on one hand, and protect and empower people and communities that are exposed to real or potential threats on the other.

Besides, HIV/AIDS is an issue that concerns human security. There are two major dimensions to HIV/AIDS and to human security. One is the threat to socio-economic development and the other is to human survival. There is overwhelming evidence to show that HIV/AIDS has destabilised all areas and sectors of society – right from home to work, to health systems, to agriculture and other operations, transport, etc.

Therefore the fight against poverty and HIV/AIDS, promotion of development in Africa and peace keeping in the world are issues that we should pay attention to and focus on in terms of cooperation, partnership and networking.

4. Structural accompaniment of development policies in Africa

It is necessary that Japan demands and oversees structural reforms in different departments of African administrations that are involved in the development process so that professional ethics can be promoted. In fact, corruption is the major phenomenon that leads to the malfunction of administrative structures and lack of seriousness on the part of administrators.

Reviewing the Japanese intervention policy in Africa, especially in the area of trade and new information technology. This is because they are still not accessible to the poorest.

But all in all, it would be good if the donors gave African countries technical support so that they become autonomous and self reliant in stead of looking at them as people who need perpetual assistance.

D. RECOMMENDATIONS

I. To The World Bank

We, on behalf of our poor marginalized people want The World Bank to do the following if we are to have human security, meet the MDGs, prevent HIV/AIDS:-

- Cancel the debt of all African Countries especially debt that was incurred during the cold war by dictatorial regimes with special consideration for sub-Saharan countries
- Increase quality aid to Africa
- Work towards a strategic action plan for the integration of Africa into the global capital market
- Shy away from environmentally damaging projects especially those dealing with deforestation, logging where poor peoples livelihoods are affected, dams and mining where whole populations are relocated adversely affecting their Environmental, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR)
- Democratize the voting system and the appointments procedure within the World Bank Group

II. To the G-8 Countries

- Cancel all bilateral debt owed by Africa especially that incurred during the cold war most of which is odious because the donor countries know that it was not used for the intended purpose; it's a known fact that most of the resources were used to suppress their own people
- Scale up to meet their 0.75% GNP obligation to the third world
- Do their utmost genuinely towards the stability of Africa
- Get their NGOs to work through genuine local CBOs, NGOs, CSOs and coalitions in African countries
- Invest genuinely in pro-poor, private sector led activities that will bring Economic Growth including in the informal sector
- Support environmental CBOs, NGOs, CSOs etc.

III. To Japanese Government

Apart from the fact that Japan like all the other G-8 countries meet the above obligations but as a special new friend; we demand the following:-

- Open Japanese institutions to Africans including but not limited to research institutes, universities, technical vocational institutes for the assimilation of knowledge that made Japan an industrial giant in merely 60 years: we want to replicate that knowledge in Africa
- Provide short internships, training programmes and cultural exchanges and joint projects
- Support the Civic Commission for Africa (C-CfA)

IV. To TICAD IV and TCSF

TICAD IV, as an event, process and platform we demand that between it and TICAD V in 2013 the following be done:-

- Establish a strong link between the TICAD process and the TCSF on the one hand and the Civic Commission for Africa (C-CfA)
- Strengthen the Civic Commission for Africa (C-CfA)
- Promote the linkages between Japanese CBOs, NGOs, CSO, Trade Unions and their equivalents in Africa through a peer linkage programme
- Initiate the idea of worker exchanges on internship bases including cultural exchanges
- Replicate a counterpart to TICAD in Africa which we may call "African Conference on Development and Peace (ACOD) since we believe that C-CfA is the counterpart of the TCSF in Africa.

Question spécifique

1. Why is the material assistance offered by the TICAD IT/ PNUD project to some institutions and organisations are usually used and outdated goods? For example most of their computers are Pentium 2 (second handed) that does not last long
2. Why is it that the project did not set aside a rigorous organ in charge of monitoring and evaluation of their activities?
3. What criteria are put in place to identify meritorious organisations to accede assistance in the project?
4. Why the project is not well publicised especially in the semi urban and rural area?
5. The Japanese government is presently fortifying "education for all" by the construction of classrooms in some towns in Cameroon. What can the rural population dream to ripe from this project and when?
6. Development and Peace: What is TICAD and Japan gouvènement's Role of Development Aid in Ending the War and Bringing Peace in Sierra Leone and the West Africa Sub-Region?
7. What motivates TICAD and Japan in partnership with Africa and how will more encouraging results in the G8's commitments be obtained in the coming years?
8. Can there be good governance without fully involving the media?
9. What type of institutional support can Japan give to the press and media in order to facilitate communication and capacity building about stakes and actions of TICAD in Africa?
10. Is it possible to consider involving local NGOs when sending aid to Africa so that these donations reach their destination?

V. To C-CfA

- Do your utmost to become an institutional panafrican entity for civil society