

A – REQUIRED CHANGES AS REGARDS GOVERNANCE FOR AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT

I. Recommendations

1. Increased dialogue between and amongst development partners
2. Inclusion of the CSOs in country priorities as an important sector
3. Development Agenda based on African priorities

II. (1st point requiring to be changed)

Increment of dialogue among development partners will lead to good processes of planning and to an agreed national development agenda.

Mozambique has an experience of dialogue amongst development partners where a Poverty Observatory (PO) has been established since 2003 and has become a forum of dialogue between the Government of Mozambique (GoM), Civil Society and Donors. While the different ministries and departments of GoM are coordinated by the Ministry of Planning and Development; the 19 Donors who support directly the state budget (PAP) rotate the presidency among themselves; Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) have gathered around the G20 – The National Platform of Civil Society for Participation in the Poverty Observatory, comprising Peasant Farmers Associations, NGOs, Networks, Trade Unions, Faith Based Organisations, Business Sector, Academics and Investigation Institutions, Youth and Women’s Organisations, Professional Associations, Vulnerable Groups (elderly, children and disabled organisations).

The G20 produces an Annual Poverty Report which is a fact finding and it is the expression of the face and voice of the poor in the PO. The second edition in 2005 was the CS contribution in the formulation of the Action Plan Against Absolute Poverty - PARPA II (Mozambican version of the PRSP – Second Generation) and more than 80% of this contribution have been incorporated into the PARPA II, which is the reference document for development.

G20 holds an Annual General Meeting which brings representatives from all provinces and where major decisions are made. The Platform is coordinated by eight member organisations that form the board and has an Executive Secretariat and a Technical Advisory Committee.

Poverty Observatory has become an important forum of negotiation, apart from the Joint Review and the Mid-Year Review where mid-year and yearly reports are presented by the GoM; the later are also mechanisms of budgeting and enable donors to decide on resources allocation while OSCs participate in the definition of priorities in the yearly plans, while playing their watchdog role. The exercise takes place through working groups, at the central level, while at provincial level it is through Provincial Poverty Observatory. The process of planning and budgeting is now expanding to the district level though establishment of Consultation Councils – multi-stakeholder institutions.

The example of three party dialogue in the Poverty Observatory in Mozambique has shown that plans can be designed and agreed by all stakeholders and in end reflect the aspirations of the majority. Nevertheless this is not yet a perfect reengineering of development, but it offers a room or a model for a real participation of citizens in development process.

It is worth mentioning that the G20 structure has been bedding the current African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) exercise to be finalised in June 2008, of which we are hopeful to contribute and learn.

There is still a lot to be done in terms of consolidation of the structure already established and mostly in terms of building capacity for the majority of our people to be able to analyse (local, national, regional and international processes, and plans and come up with alternatives to the current (exclusive) development models.

III. (2nd point requiring to be changed)

Although the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Mozambique, particularly those that are members of the G20 Platform do their best to contribute to the formulation and implementation of public policies aimed at fighting poverty, they do not receive any resources the State Budget In order to play their complementary role in delivering basic goods and services, although there is a recognition of their relevance.

As a result, the CSOs are funded by their members, International Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and by other governments. This situation 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 Mozambican government to include budget line of support to Civil Society as a partner whose operation is of national interest. Considering that the budget of the Mozambican government is funded by external sources, Japan could enhance its budget contribution efforts by focusing more on the civil society.

IV. (3rd point requiring to be changed)

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 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 interest.

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 ENGAGEMENTS FOR AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT

I. Recommendations

1. TICAD should become a tool for Japan to put Africa on the top of the agenda of G8

In 2005 in Gleneagles G8 made a series of commitments in the areas of fight against HIV/AIDS & Malaria; Global Fund; Education; and Overall ODA. This year in Heiligendamm the G8 have reiterated most of these commitments and we, as Africans, regard this with reiterated hope, though the accomplishment of the Millennium Development Goals is in its half and most of our countries have already missed the targets by far. We would to, therefore, urge Japan to continue putting Africa on the top of the agenda of the G8 in order to help African countries in their struggle to deliver the MDGs timely.

2. International partners, including the Japanese government should increase their partnership with CSOs/NGOs

At present the Civil Society is extensively called not to participate but to legitimate given processes. Thus, international partners, including the Japanese government should encourage the participation of the Civil Society/NGOs not in legitimating but rather in the whole process of planning, and of monitoring and evaluation of national development plans.

The involvement of the Civil Society/NGOs is of great importance for community development, as they have shown to be effective and efficient in mobilizing the community and also in the dissemination of information.

3. Strengthening of the cooperation between the networks of African and Japanese CSOs

In addition to experience sharing and intergovernmental financing, as has been happening, specifically in the relations between Mozambique and Japan, it is important to strengthen the cooperation and experience sharing between the networks of African and Japanese CSOs.

The sharing of experiences is what may bring added value and lead to the strengthening of the cooperation not just at the intergovernmental level, but also between the respective Civil Societies/NGOs.

II. Present situation

1. Perceptibility of effects
2. Recommendations to be drawn

III. (Specific Question)

Opened

(Suggestion: Question concerning Japanese engagement or TICAD??)