

# The Reality of Aid

The Reality of Aid Network - Global eNewsletter

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## CSOs, governments, and think-tanks discuss technical cooperation and capacity development at HLM2 Side Event



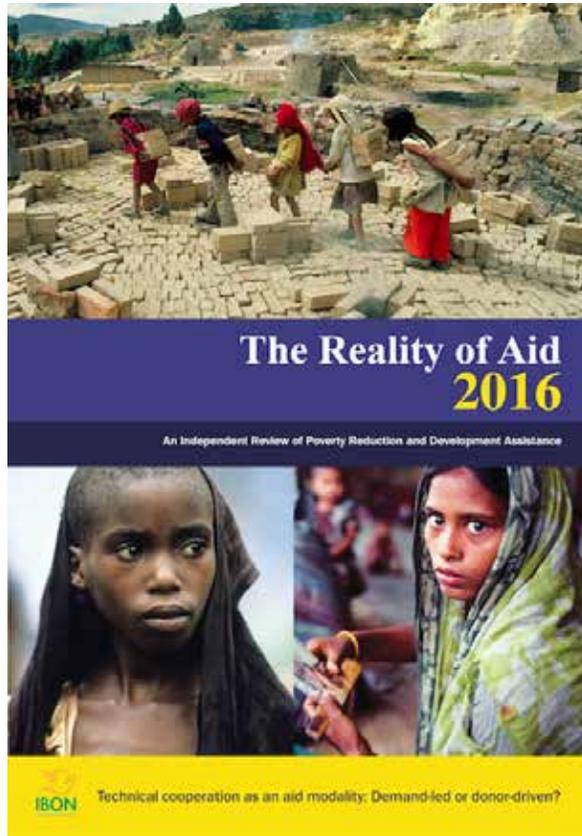
Reality of Aid organized the HLM2 side event on “Technical Cooperation and Capacity Development as Aid: Assessing Progress on Implementing Principles for Effective Development Cooperation” to bring together representatives from OECD DAC governments, Southern governments, multilateral development institutions, think-tanks, and civil society to discuss how “fit for purpose” technical cooperation is for achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda. The objective is to deepen the discussion on development effectiveness principles by examining the provision of TC in developing countries from both provider and recipient perspectives. Lessons, issues and challenges in the implementation of technical cooperation for effective development were looked into towards coming out with policy recommendations and developing partnerships to address the bottlenecks.

The side event took place on 30 November 2016 during the GPEDC 2nd High Level Meeting at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre in Nairobi, Kenya. RoA co-organized the activity with the Learning Network on Capacity Development (LenCD), and the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF).

# Reality of Aid launches 2016 Global Report on Technical Cooperation

The Reality of Aid Network launched its 2016 Global Report entitled “Technical Cooperation as an Aid Modality: Demand-led or Donor-Driven?” on 30 November 2016 at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre in Nairobi, Kenya. This report is the eighth RoA Report produced since RoA first published the global biennial reports in 2002. Representatives from civil society organizations, government, and donor agencies participated in the event.

In the launch, RoA Report authors have identified critical issues related to the goals and delivery of technical cooperation by aid providers. All these have the potential to undermine country ownership and the implementation of the 2011 Busan principles for effective development cooperation: the tendency to prioritize aid provider interests to realize specific donor-determined results and avoid risk in aid delivery, irrespective of the needs of partner country counterparts; a tendency to promote, design and implement public private



partnerships (PPPs), in ways that ignore peoples’ priorities, interests and alternatives; and a tendency to shape or influence national development priorities through legislation and governance reform.

The authors also came up with recommendations that will help address these technical cooperation issues, most of which are in line with the Busan principles of democratic country ownership, focus on developing country results, respecting inclusive partnerships, and transparency and accountability.

The new RoA Chair, Leo Atakpu, was also introduced during the launch.

To access a copy of the 2016 Report, visit [http://www.realityofaid.org/roa\\_report/technical-cooperation-as-an-aid-modality-demand-led-or-donor-driven/](http://www.realityofaid.org/roa_report/technical-cooperation-as-an-aid-modality-demand-led-or-donor-driven/)

## About the New RoA Chair



### LEO ATAKPU

Leo Atakpu was elected as Chair of the board of Reality of Aid in 2014, where he represented West Africa. Atakpu is currently the Deputy Director of the Africa Network for Environment and Economic Justice based in Nigeria. He is also the current Chair of the African Civil Society Network for Water and Sanitation (ANEW). Atakpu has years of experience in campaigning for environmental issues in West Africa and has been one of the main pillars for Publish What You Pay campaign and debt campaign initiatives in Africa.

## Asia Regional Meeting: Towards Universalizing Effective Development Cooperation

RoA-AP conducted a two-day regional CSO forum, which is a preparatory forum for the GPEDC Second High-Level Meeting last October 28-29 in Bangkok, Thailand.

The two-day forum aims to: (1) take stock of the implementation of EDC principles in Asia Pacific, through sharing of experiences of different stakeholders; (2) increase awareness of civil society representatives on the issue of technical cooperation and capacity development as aid modality in the region; (3) uphold the ideals and principles of EDC through universalizing EDC and advocating for South-South Cooperation, and Private Sector, Enabling Environment, CSO Development Effectiveness, and Security, Peace and Development; and (4) discuss ways of promoting truly inclusive multi-stakeholder partnership, respective of EDC principles, at all levels of development.

About 25 CSO representatives participated and provided country experience, challenges and prospects in implementing Busan commitments; universalizing EDC through CPDE key advocacy strategies; technical cooperation as aid modality.



Monowar Ahmed (Government of Bangladesh), Caroline Mweni (Government of Kenya), and Artemy Izmetstiev (UNDP Seoul) also provided their inputs as panelists particularly on measuring development partners' perspective on GPEDC 2MR and Nairobi Outcome Document.

CPDE Asia also participated in the APDEF's regional workshop on linking SDGs and UNDG Consultation on CSO Enabling Environment. Alongside, CPDE Asia Coordination Committee, Feminists Group, and Global Secretariat also conducted its meetings.

## RoA AP conducts ADE Training in Nepal, Pakistan



Committing to its country-focused mandate, CPDE Asia and Reality of Aid, in collaboration with Roots for Equity Pakistan and NGO Federation of Nepal and, gathered country CSO representatives to discuss issues on Aid Monitoring, Effective Development Cooperation, and CSO Accountability last September 24-25 in Pakistan and September 28-30 in Nepal.

During these trainings, CSO participants identified issues, challenges, and prospects in monitoring aid and development cooperation in their respective countries. CSOs realized their crucial role for the utilization of ODA in the country in proper, productive, and effective manner.

To substantially engage donors, governments and other stakeholders in the advancement of aid and development effectiveness reform, CSOs formed country core groups on aid monitoring that will critically look not only into the quality and quantity of aid but also its availability and accessibility.

CSO participants also committed to proactively carryout robust actions in the country on holding government, international development partners, and the private sector to be accountable, effective, and transparent.

## African CSOS discuss EDC during the Pan-African CSO Conference towards the Second High-Level Meeting of the GPEDC



The Pan African CSO Conference towards HLM2 organized by Reality of Aid Africa Network brought together over 80 delegates from across Africa on 24-25 October 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya to deliberate on African priorities towards the 2nd High Level meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation that took place in November 2016. The preparatory conference saw the development of Africa's CSOs position and strategies towards fast tracking SDG Implementation through Development Cooperation, and strengthened alliances with the APDEV of the NEPAD/AU.

More specifically, the meeting:

a) analysed the implication of the HLM2 on development effectiveness towards Africa's development agenda, and

Africa CSO enabling environment issues;

b) Updated and equipped African CSOs with the relevant information and develop the Africa CSO position towards Nairobi;

c) Adopted an advocacy and communication strategy used to galvanize African CSOs, into collective action in order to influence the Nairobi outcome document;

d) Strengthened participation of Women's Rights Organizations and feminist organisations in the HLM-2 by sharing information to deepen their knowledge and understanding of key gender and development effectiveness issues central to the relevant development cooperation debates;

e) Created women's rights and feminist spaces used to strategize towards the HLM-2 and increase women and feminist representation, and adopt a common position as women's rights organizations and feminist organisations in Africa including influencing the framing of the Africa CSOs position paper

The Nairobi outcome document of the meeting can found here: <http://roafrica.org/index.php/media-center/news-features/item/228-cso-nairobi-declaration-on-the-nairobi-hlm2>

## RoAA hosts Nairobi Civil Society Forum: Universal Effective Development Cooperation Towards A Peoples' Agenda

The Nairobi Civil Society Forum (NCSF), locally hosted by Reality of Aid Africa Network, brought together over 400 CSOs from across the globe on 29 November 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya. The theme of the NCSF, Universalizing effective development cooperation (uEDC) was guided by human rights and democratic ownership. This reiterates the need to renew and raise the bar of commitments on the core business of quantity and quality of official development assistance (ODA) as per Rome, Paris, Accra, Busan and Mexico - the four (4) previous forums on aid and development effectiveness.

The Forum prepared CSO delegates to consolidate and engage HLM2 through the following:

- Feedback from the Women and Youth Forums that happened simultaneously a day before the NCSF. The results of these forums, identifying key youth and women issues in the effective development cooperation agenda, were shared. These outcomes informed the discussions of the NCSF.

- Briefed all delegates on the state of play, proposed aims and strategies of civil society engagement and pro-

vided the latest on the progress in negotiations of the Nairobi Outcome Document.

- Breakout sessions of Regions and Sectors provided an opportunity for constituencies to consolidate constituency level positions and strategies and how these feed into the over-all civil society engagement strategy. Seven regions (i.e., Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Middle East and North Africa, North America, Pacific) and eight sectors (i.e.,- Faith-Based, Feminists Group, Indigenous Peoples, International CSOs, Labour/Trade Union, Rural, Youth, Migrants) were represented. This broad representation allowed for the constituencies to develop consensus on issues of and positions that resonate to their specific contexts.

- Self-organised workshops by different organisations and groups enriched the discussions and fed into the positions and strategies of civil society.

The scope of NCSF parallel workshop sessions covered issues of development effectiveness, enabling environment, 2030 Agenda and Leaving No One Behind (LNOB), role of private sector in development cooperation, and



countries in conflict conditions among other important themes on the EDC agenda. The NCSF developed a CSO communique that distilled all that had been discussed and agreed upon. Media work, including a press conference was organized to amplify the reach of the civil society key demands and positions/messages.

The CSO Communique can be found here: <http://csopartnership.org/cso-communique/>

The Civil Society Statement on HLM2: <http://csopartnership.org/cso-communique/>

## *Latin America and the Caribbean*

### **What cooperation for what kind development?**



At the Second High Level Meeting in Nairobi, Latinddad published a new Reality Check magazine for Latin America and the Caribbean, a co-publication with the Latin American Agency for Information (ALAI), along with the CSO Alliance for Development Effectiveness in Latin America and the Caribbean (AOED LAC / CPDE LAC).

Central countries have an “inner” view of themselves. Therefore, when offering “external” cooperation, is this related to an interest in the promotion of international trade or other types of interests? How can we develop our own model within this context? These and other questions are those that relate to the articles in this magazine.

Latinddad launched this edition in English as part of the Second High Level Meeting (HLM 2) in Nairobi, Kenya in November 2016. This is appropriate since the main objective of the meeting was to expand the positive impact of development cooperation over the next 15 years.

Alberto Croce of Fundacion SES and Latinddad invites everyone to reflect on Effective Development Cooperation, its meaning for the region, and what model of development we hope to have.

This magazine contains different articles written by au-

thors from different sectors and subregional, which are part of the AOED ALC.

This collective production brings together the opinions and perspectives of the leaders of organizations, indigenous peoples, feminist groups, youth, workers and religious organizations, among others. This is a new contribution to the debate during these difficult times throughout the region.

The RoA Global Secretariat also provided assistance in the production of the English version.

## Fundacion SES and Latinddad hold training workshop on illicit financial flows for Latin American CSOs

The traps and quarrels of financial corporations against the regulations of the legal territories where they are deployed are renewed and becoming more complex. Since this is becoming a more pressing issue for civil society, the SES Foundation, together with the Latinddad Network and the Coalition for Financial Transparency, organized a training day in Buenos Aires aimed at social organizations interested in the issue of illicit financial flows (FFI) which is increasingly lacerating the economic sovereignty of peripheral countries.

In all, half a hundred representatives from various Latin American social and political organizations met at the Hotel Claridge, located in downtown Buenos Aires, to share experiences and research on the illegal taxation of large economic groups, their arduous maneuvers to embezzle from the State and its financial connection with organized crime. One of the first speakers, Alejandro Villamar from Mexico, a specialist in the negative impact that the FTAs have had on Aztec territory, pointed out that: "When we talk about illicit financial flows, we are talking, no more and no less, than money that instead of being part of an educational budget, is in the hands of ruffians in tax havens." Thus, in a simple way, Villamar exemplified the direct relationship between lower revenues and worse public education.

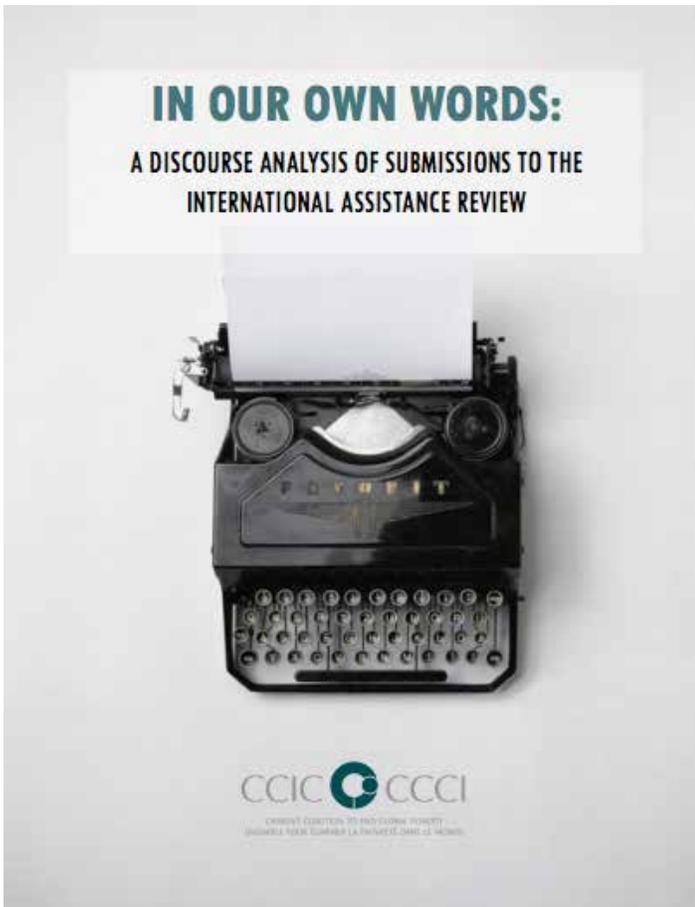
Heather Lowe, an expert from Global Financial Integrity, used her intervention to share recent studies that disaggregated the issue of illicit financial flows in certain areas: their impact in relation to the national GDP within the Latin American map, and its greater or lesser geographical in-



cidence at the global scale. In any case, Lowe specified that: "Far from losing strength, the toxic strategies of multinationals to have less fiscal correspondence with states are increasingly severe and critical."

The Training Workshop also served to identify the muddled mechanisms used by, for example, the pool to evade tax liability. Martin Burgos, researcher at the Cultural Center of Cooperation, explained, in this sense, how the so-called "transfer pricing" works. "It's very simple. The big firms that control the commodity chain export for a rate lower than the price that is regulated internationally. Transnational corporations, in this way, reduce profit, only in their clear accounting books, to reduce the tax burden. Who loses that way?," asked Burgos and the chanted response was a smile of generalized smile among the participants.

### Canadian Government releases “What we heard” in the IAR; CCIC responds with “In our own words”



In early December, Global Affairs Canada released a summary report of “What We Heard” from the consultations on the International Assistance Review (IAR). The report in-

cludes eight main highlights heard consistently throughout the two-month consultation process – use Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development as a guiding framework; apply a feminist lens and human-rights based approach to development; focus on the poorest and most vulnerable; be more effective, innovative and nimble; enhance policy coherence to improve impact and sustainability; consider local needs, contexts and actors; and increase international assistance funding to 0.7. Many of these top-line messages echo the findings from CCIC’s own report.

Released the same day, “In our own words: A discourse analysis of submissions to the IAR” highlights key issues that 80 groups from the international development and humanitarian sector focused on in their IAR submissions, as well as differences and similarities between these submissions, Global Affairs’ discussion paper and CCIC’s submission. While the top-line messages from both reports show an encouraging degree of convergence, a provisional assessment of the short summaries of “What We Heard” around the governments original six thematic priorities for the IAR suggests that some of the key messages from CCIC and its members may not have been as well reflected. CCIC will do a more in-depth analysis of the report in the coming weeks.

Source: CCIC Montly e-Bulletin (November-December 2016). Retrieved from [http://www.ccic.ca/flash/flash\\_2016\\_12\\_e.html](http://www.ccic.ca/flash/flash_2016_12_e.html)

### CCIC submits written brief and testimony to Standing Committee of the House of Commons on Finance

The Standing Committee of the House of Commons on Finance recently completed its pre-budget consultations in advance of Budget 2017. CCIC both submitted a written brief and accepted an invitation to testify before the committee. CCIC’s submission emphasized the economic importance of Canada’s international cooperation sector – with \$3.9 billion in revenue, \$3.6 billion in direct expenditures, and over 14,000 full time staff employed. In addition, CCIC’s testimony reflected the impact of globalization on the Canadian economy: issues that affect other countries, from civil war to health pandemics to climate change, almost always spilling over into our own backyard – affecting both Canadian society and the economy.

Accordingly, CCIC called for substantial support in Budget 2017 for a five-year international assistance funding framework that would put us on a “fiscal escalator” to at least double the budget for development cooperation, framed within the UN (and Canadian-designed) target of reaching 0.7 percent of gross national income. CCIC also provided the committee, Finance Canada, and Global Affairs Canada with several costed scenarios for achieving this goal.

Source: CCIC Montly e-Bulletin (November-December 2016). Retrieved from [http://www.ccic.ca/flash/flash\\_2016\\_12\\_e.htm](http://www.ccic.ca/flash/flash_2016_12_e.htm)

### 331 Global CSOs call for UNCTAD to retain development mandate, ahead of Nairobi conference

331 CSOs, including Eurodad, have sent a letter to decision-makers ahead the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), taking place in Nairobi next week.

The letter urges UNCTAD member states to preserve its development mandate and resist the push to align it with the trade liberalisation goals of other institutions.

UNCTAD's work on debt workout mechanisms and responsible lending and borrowing is addressed, and member states are urged to strengthen these efforts, in particular around debt sustainability and supporting national vulture fund legislation.

The letter also states that UNCTAD's mandate must include playing an active role in supporting developing countries in crafting investment policies that contribute to development, and analysing both the positive and negative impacts of investment agreements and trade rules on development.

The letter urges that UNCTAD be involved in monitoring the role of the private sector, in particular by considering both the positive and negative impacts of foreign investment and public-private partnerships (PPPs) on domestic resource mobilisation, debt sustainability, human right and the SDGs.

It asks members to strengthen and expand UNCTAD's mandate on curbing international tax dodging, in particular to ensure developing countries are included in efforts to deal with tax avoidance and evasion globally.

You can read the letter in English, French or Spanish.

Link to the letter: <http://eurodad.org/files/pdf/5788b66148019.pdf>

Source: Eurodad News (15 July 2016). Retrieved from <http://eurodad.org/CSO-Letter-UNCTAD14>

### Proposal for the 'Modernisation of Private Sector Instruments': CSO Background Paper

Eurodad, Jeroen Kwakkenbos

This paper has been coordinated by the European Network on Debt and Development (Eurodad), with the input of various Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). It provides an analysis, with key recommendations in bold, of the proposals made by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) secretariat in the paper DCD/DAC/STAT(2016)14: "Implementation of the Principles of ODA Modernization on

Private Sector Instruments," which unfortunately has not been made publicly available. The DAC's proposals would allow a wide variety of 'private sector instruments' (PSI) to be used as vehicles for aid. This means an increase in the possible use of aid to invest in or give loans to private companies, or to underwrite their activities, through guarantees. We believe that these proposals are arguably the biggest change to Official Development Assistance (ODA or 'aid') rules for several decades.

The paper may be accessed here: <http://eurodad.org/files/pdf/58381f22d9034.pdf>

Source: Eurodad News. Retrieved from [http://eurodad.org/Modernisation\\_Private\\_Sector\\_Instruments](http://eurodad.org/Modernisation_Private_Sector_Instruments)



# The Reality of Aid

An Independent Review of Poverty Reduction and Development Assistance

*The Reality of Aid Network exists to promote national and international policies that will contribute to a new and effective strategy for poverty eradication, built on solidarity and equity.*

*Established in 1993, The Reality of Aid is a collaborative, not-for-profit initiative, involving nongovernmental organisations from North and South.*

*The Reality of Aid publishes regular and reliable reports on international development cooperation and the extent to which governments in the North and South, address the extreme inequalities of income and the structural, social and political injustices that entrench people in poverty.*

*The Reality of Aid International Coordinating Committee is chaired by Leo Atakpu of Africa Network for Environment and Economic Justice. The International Coordinating Committee is composed of coordinators of component regional networks (RoA Africa, RoA Asia/Pacific, and LATINDADD for Latin America), Canadian Council for International Cooperation, European Network on Debt and Development (EURODAD), and the Global Secretariat Coordinator.*

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