

The Reality of Aid

The Reality of Aid Network – Global e-Newsletter

January – June 2019

CONTENTS

1 RoA kicks off 2019 with successful Report Launch

2 New Year, New Chair

2 Bringing southern people's voices in the North

3 Pushing for meaningful peoples' inclusion in South-South Cooperation

4 A glimpse of the regions



"This 2018 ROA Report is part of ROA's consistent task of producing reports that monitor the performance of development aid and cooperation from the lens of human rights and poverty reduction. Like all past reports, it draws lessons and conclusions from both positive and problematic practices, which in turn inform key messages on the role and future of ODA in financing for development."

-- Mr. Leo Atakpu, Former Chairperson, The Reality of Aid Network

15-18 JANUARY

RoA kicks off 2019 with successful Report Launch

Paris - RoA welcomed 2019 by launching its biennial report titled "[The Changing Faces of Aid and Cooperation](#)." It describes current trends showing aid as being sidelined as a dedicated development resource.

It showcases 29 country and thematic case studies showing how aid goes to donor countries for their own economic, political, security/military interests instead of alleviating poverty in developing countries. It also forwarded recommendations for transforming the aid regime towards one based on solidarity, human rights, feminist principles, and reducing poverty and inequality.

The launch, organized with help from OECD, drew the attention of close to a hundred civil society, government, academe and private sector representatives attending the OECD Private Sector Week in January. Benjamin Hunter (UK) and Jiten Yumnam (India) presented their studies as evidence of how the 'catalytic' role of aid to attract private engagement in development leads to unaffordable social services,

environmental destruction, and massive displacement.

While OECD representative Mr. Rahul Malhotra did not share the view that ODA is being diminished or marginalized, he said it's fair to conclude that overall ODA allocations are not yet reaching the furthest behind. He added that OECD benefits from the Report's perspective and case studies.

New Year, New Chair!

RoA's new Chair is Urantsooj "Urna" Gombosuren who hails from Mongolia, is founding member and has led the 20-year old Center for Human Rights and Development (CHRD).

CHRD has made meaningful contribution in ensuring the protection of human rights in Mongolia with its successful efforts to educate, and engage the people in monitoring, evaluating and strengthening the mechanisms on human rights. It has been a staunch voice of marginalized groups such as victims of human trafficking, herders in public interest litigation cases, and the improvement of policies and laws to protect the peoples' rights.

As Executive Director, Urna has been instrumental in CHRD's achievements since its establishment in 1998, including bringing people's voices to



the global community – including in promoting the CSO Development Effectiveness agenda as part of the Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness; in advancing the shift from aid effectiveness to development effectiveness as an active member of The Reality of Aid Network and the BetterAid platform; and in contributing to people's research, Urna once having been part of the leadership of the Asia Pacific Research Network. She is also an active member of several other

networks in the Asia Pacific and globally, and was selected to represent Southern civil society at the OECD-DAC Senior Level Meeting set in February 2019.

On behalf of the International Coordinating Committee and the members, Global Coordinator Lyn Pano thanked outgoing Chair Leo Atakpu from Africa, who then formally introduced and turned over the post to Urna during the RoA Report Launch in January.#

Bringing Southern voices to the North

Paris - As a Southern-led organization, The Reality of Aid Network, together with CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE) sent a delegation to actively echo people's voices at the OECD Private Sector for Sustainable Development (PS4SD) Week in January. Members CRAM (India), ANEEJ (Nigeria), CHRD (Mongolia), EILER (Philippines) IBON International, INDIES (Indonesia) and CPDE Co-Chair Beverly Longid in the different plenary and breakout sessions cited concrete cases of how the creation of enabling environment for the private sector devastate communities and the planet.

THE ROA

OCT

28

GLOBAL ASSEMBLY

The 2018 RoA Report http://www.realityofaid.org/roa_report/the-changing-faces-of-development-aid-and-cooperation-abridged/
RoAA Nairobi Declaration <https://www.roafrica.org/index.php/media-center/news-features/item/245-nairobi-statement-on-a-people-s-collaborative-agenda-on-south-south-cooperation> RoAAP-CPDE at APFSD <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=leQnffgAuE&t=110s>

...Bringing (cont from p.1)

As the Southern CSO Representative to the OECD-DAC's Senior Level Meeting in February, RoA Chairperson Urna Gombosuren, echoed Southern members' concerns over the Nexus Recommendation* which gives incentives to international financial institutions (IFIs) for harmonizing their work with peace, development and humanitarian actors. She delivered the statement drafted by members from Asia Pacific and Africa, citing that IFIs like the IMF-World Bank and Asian Development Bank have long been proven to fund destructive projects in the region.

RoA, which serves as the Secretariat and lead coordinator of the DAC-CSO Reference Group (global CSO coalition that engages with the DAC) spent the next two months co-planning a dialogue with the DAC-

DCD Civil Society Workstreams and DAC delegates from the EU, Italy, Ireland, and Canada. This co-planning exercise created a sense of ownership on both the DAC and the CSO Reference Group and resulted in very interactive June 7 Dialogue. Both parties reaffirmed the importance of

RoA-AP member PIANGO resonated Pacific voices during the OECD International Conference on Civic Space. Emele Duituturaga described the shrinking space for civil society organizations and the inaccessibility of climate finance in their island nations. She said most development partnerships remain transactional than transformative, with CSOs taken as mere project implementers, and given and denied space as governments see fit. CSO inclusion remains at the level of consultations and far from being part of decision-making, on top of the criminalization of activists. She also brought to the OECD's attention the fact that climate finance is not accessible to Pacific CSOs but for accredited INGOs (which are now seen the "new donors"), development finance and international financial institutions.#



Emele Duituturaga (third from left) at the Civic Space panel

listening to CSOs, especially Southern CSOs, in coming up with sound policies, and committed to strengthening institutionalized dialogue.

Pushing for meaningful people's inclusion in South-South Cooperation

Buenos Aires - A people-centred approach: this was RoA's rallying call as it claimed its rightful space in the 2nd UN High Level Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40). Through the broader Southern CSO Alliance on South-South Cooperation co-formed with CPDE, RoA engaged the BAPA+40 outcome document from the zero to the final draft to

register people's perspectives and messages, which the UN Office on South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) acknowledged useful to be forwarded to the document Co-Facilitators.

RoA played lead roles during the conference. Global Coordinator Lyn Pano convened the civil society preparatory meetings and drafted

the CSO plenary statement, while RoA-Africa's Vitalice Meja delivered the CSO statement to UN members during the opening plenary. Members were also speakers in the various breakout sessions. At both the UN conference and the RoA self-organized side event, members raised awareness on people-centered approach to SSC among the broader



...Pushing for meaningful... (from page 3)

civil society, governments and other SSC actors, and forge alliances and initiate partnerships with governments, CSOs, and other SSC actors especially from developing countries.

The delegation pushed for institutionalized support for CSO inclusion in all SSC processes and for people-to-people cooperation, while expressing strong opposition to increased engagement of IFIs and big corporations in SSC, owing to their history of promoting inequality, destroying the environment, and fomenting conflicts. The Southern CSO Alliance advocated developing micro, small, and medium enterprises for genuine national industrialization,

sustainable agriculture modernization and overall sustainable development and self-reliance.

The delegation also demanded that actors ensure SSC lives true to its noble principles and goals: cooperation that respects each country's national sovereignty, not interfering in each other's domestic affairs but neither tolerating one another's human rights violations; and that providers and recipients act as equal partners, serving the people's needs."

The side event "Putting People at the Heart of South-South Cooperation" was a well-attended multi-stakeholder event, with over 30 CSOs and speakers from the government of Peru's international cooperation

agency APCI, UNOSSC, and UNDP. It was organized with support from CPDE and Taiwan Foundation for Democracy and Overseas Medical Mission Center, and with the active involvement of members CPDE, IBON International, RoA-Africa, Fundacion SES, AZUL Brasil, CPDE members in Latin America, ILP Argentina, and PIANGO.



A Glimpse of the Regions

AFRICA – RoA-Africa issued the [CSO Nairobi Declaration](#) laying down African CSOs' analysis and demands on South-South Cooperation (SSC). It came out of the Pan African CSO conference themed "African CSO Voice towards a People's Collaborative Agenda on South-South Cooperation" in Nairobi on 30-31 January in the lead up to the 2nd UN High Level Conference on South-South Cooperation. Present were women's organizations, labor unions, faith-based groups, youth and children's networks from 25 African countries in the spirit of solidarity and partnership as key actors in SSC. The conference also served as the venue for the African regional launch of the RoA Report 2018.

LATIN AMERICA The Latin American Network on Debt and Development (LATINDADD) has appointed Georgina Munoz and Henry Morales as RoA regional coordinators and RoA International Coordinating Committee (ICC). **NORTH AMERICA** The Canadian Council for International Cooperation has renewed its commitment to RoA and appointed Gavin Charles as its regional coordinator and ICC representative.

ASIA PACIFIC RoA-AP and Asian CPDE members together "rocked" the UN Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development in Bangkok in April. By organizing the side event "Making the SDGs happen in Asia Pacific" at the People's Forum, as well as delivering powerful speeches in the plenary ([view here](#)) and various workshops at the official event, they reiterated the changes needed to promote empowerment, inclusion and equality of all people, so that no one will be left behind in the implementation of the sustainable development goals.

EUROPE – RoA's regional coordinating organization in Europe, the European Network for Debt and Development (EURODAD) successfully held its Eurodad International Conference 2019 titled "Development Finance in the 21st Century: Economic Justice for All?". Here, leading academics, practitioners and global civil society experts to collectively analyzed the state of the global economic system, discussed the dominant governance structures, reviewed flows of funding to and from the world's poorest countries, and discussed how we can transform the system and create the change we need.

*For inquiries, comments, and article contributions, please email the RoA Global Secretariat at lpano@realityofaid.org
For more information visit www.realityofaid.org and our Facebook page [@realityofaid](https://www.facebook.com/TheRealityofAidNetwork)*