

IVCO 2007
Montreal, September 17-19, 2007

Background Paper for
Panel on Civil Society and Effective Aid

Consultations and Meetings on CSOs and Aid Effectiveness

At a meeting of the CSO International Steering Committee in Harnosand, Sweden, for the parallel process related to the Accra High Level Forum, we agreed to put together what we know of the schedules for the various regional consultations for the Advisory Group on CSOs and Aid Effectiveness. Those tasked with planning these consultations provided a brief report to the Advisory Group in Harnosand at the end of August. The Advisory Group has prepared a Concept Paper and an Issues Paper to assist participants in identifying key issues for the consultations, which are important background documents.

What follows is summary as well as contact information for those responsible for each consultation. If you wish more information on a particular consultation, please follow up with this contact person identified below.

Reality of Aid and Eurodad are creating a new web site, www.betteraid.org, which will bring together the latest information on CSO perspectives and plans relating to the Accra High Level Forum on aid effectiveness. This web site will be launched at the end of September.

1. Southern Regional Consultations for the Advisory Group

These five consultations have a similar purpose and overall structure. They are intended to draw together regional CSO perspectives in relation to issues concerning CSOs and aid effectiveness. In particular, the Advisory Group has identified three outcomes for its work, to which these consultations are meant to contribute:

The Advisory Group (AG) has identified three outcomes for its work:

- Better understanding and recognition of the roles of civil society organizations (CSOs) as development actors and as part of the international aid architecture, and engagement of CSOs in general discussions of aid effectiveness (recognition and voice).
- Improved understanding of the applicability and limitations of the Paris Declaration for addressing issues of aid effectiveness of importance to CSOs, including how CSOs can better contribute to aid effectiveness (applying and enriching the international aid effectiveness agenda).
- Improved understanding of good practice relating to civil society and aid effectiveness by CSOs themselves, by donors and by developing country governments (lessons of good practice).

Each consultation will have a two-day CSOs-only session in which approximately half the time is devoted to CSO perspectives on the current aid effectiveness agenda (the Paris Declaration) and the remaining time is devoted to case studies, best practices and issues in CSO aid effectiveness. This will then be followed by a day-and-a-half in a multi-stakeholder format with Southern CSOs, government representations, donors and Northern CSOs.

The Southern consultations are intended for Southern CSOs. There is some subsidies available for approximately 30 CSO participants, while some additional 30 spaces are available to Southern CSOs who can come with financial support from another source. Donors and Northern CSOs are expected to cover their own expenses. The organizer for each consultation is responsible for determining the participant list. The Advisory Group would like each consultation to have an appropriate balance in CSO participation based on country, types of CSOs and gender. The organizers will make their determinations of CSO invitations accordingly. Please contact the organizers of each consultation for more information.

Schedule and Contacts:

East Asia/Pacific: Hanoi, Vietnam, October 9, 2007 to October 12, 2007
Contact: IBON Foundation/Reality of Aid - Tony Tujan, atujan@ibon.org and Jo Dongail, jdongail@ibon.org

East and Southern Africa: Lusaka, Zambia , October 15, 2007 to October 18, 2007
(dates to be confirmed)
Contact: AFRODAD - Charles Mutasa, charles@afrodad.co.zw

West, Central and North Africa: Cotonou, Benin, October 22, 2007 to October 25, 2007
Contact: REPAOC - Aurélien Atidegla, acaurelien@hotmail.com

Americas: Managua, Nicaragua, October 29, 2007 to October 31, 2007 (dates to be confirmed)
Contact: ALOP - Ruben Fernandez, corpregion@geo.net.co

South Asia and the Middle East: Dhaka, Bangladesh, November 10, 2007 to November 13, 2007.
Contact: IBON Foundation/Reality of Aid - Tony Tujan, atujan@ibon.org and Jo Dongail, jdongail@ibon.org

2. Northern CSO Consultation for the Advisory Group

A consultation with Northern CSOs is being organized by CONCORD, an umbrella of European CSO platforms. This consultation is planned for only two days and is therefore limited only to CSOs. Representative Northern CSOs are being invited from all of the OECD countries to participate. Several Southern CSO members of the Advisory Group are also invited to participate. Participation is being organized through the CONCORD Secretariat. Participants and other Northern CSOs are being encouraged to offer short case studies related to the issues covered by the Advisory Group.

Northern CSO Consultation: Brussels, Belgium, October 15, 2007 to October 16, 2007.

Contact: CONCORD, Olivier CONSOLO,
Olivier.CONSOLO@concordeurope.org and
Pascale Laurent, csoAE-northregion@concordeurope.org

3. North/South CSO Dialogue for the Advisory Group

The last consultation under the auspices of the Advisory Group is a North/South Dialogue. This Dialogue will bring together selected representatives from each of the regional consultations, including the Northern Consultation, to analyze the outcomes of the regional consultations and discuss outstanding North/South civil society issues related to CSO aid effectiveness. Each regional consultation and their respective organizer is mandated to select participants for the Dialogue.

North/South CSO Dialogue: Johannesburg, South Africa, November 15, 2007 to November 16, 2007

Contact: Canadian Council for International Cooperation, Brian Tomlinson, btomlinson@ccic.ca and IBON Foundation / Reality of Aid, Tony Tujan, atujan@ibon.org.

4. Advisory Group International Forum on CSOs and Aid Effectiveness

The Advisory Group will be bringing together approximately 150 to 200 CSOs from the South and the North, donor representatives and Southern government representatives for an International Forum to consider the results of the consultations (and from other processes related to the mandate of the Advisory Group). The International Forum will offer analysis and advice to the Advisory Group on issues related to its mandate. The Advisory Group in turn will be providing some recommendations on CSO aid effectiveness to the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness, the body hosted by the DAC to monitor the implementation of the Paris Declaration. Most of the CSO participants for the International Forum will be identified through the regional consultations; however, there will be space for other interested CSOs who have considered some of the issues involved and/or have produced case studies related to these issues. The Canadian Council for International Cooperation (which is a member of the Advisory Group) has been mandated by the Advisory Group to organize this Forum.

International Forum on CSOs and Aid Effectiveness: Ottawa, Canada, February 3, 2008 to February 6, 2008

Contact: CCIC, Brian Tomlinson, btomlinson@ccic.ca and John Saxby, jsaxby@magma.ca

5. Additional Consultations / Conferences

The CSO International Steering Committee for the parallel CSO process relating to the Accra High Level Forum has proposed two potential engagements with official process planning the High Level Forum (the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness, based at the OECD DAC and its Steering Committee for the High Level Forum).

a) The Advisory Group on CSOs and Aid Effectiveness will be meeting November 5, 2007 and November 6, 2007. The Chair of the Advisory Group will invite members of the CSO International Steering Committee and members of the Steering Committee of the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness to a half day engagement on issues of concern to CSOs for the High Level Forum. The timing for this meeting during these two days has not yet been confirmed.

b) The full Working Party on Aid Effectiveness (23 donors, 23 partner governments from the South, multilateral donors) will be meeting from November 27, 2007 to November 28, 2007. The CSO International Steering Committee are in discussion with the Chair of the Working Party, Ambassador Cedergren from Sweden, to arrange a meeting with the Working Party for selected members of the CSO International Steering Committee. The timing and agenda for such a meeting is yet to be confirmed.

c) The Canada-based Halifax Initiative is planning a Conference on International Finance and Cooperation, timed to take advantage of participants coming to Ottawa for the Advisory Group's International Forum. The Halifax Initiative is a coalition of Canadian CSOs working on reform of the international financial institutions. The themes of this conference are intended to cover a broader scope of international financing issues than development assistance. The tentative dates for this Conference is February 1, 2008 and February 2, 2008 (to be confirmed). The contact for this conference is Fraser Reilly-King at the Halifax Initiative, freillyking@halifaxinitiative.org.

Brian Tomlinson

Brian Tomlinson
Coordinator – Aid / Coordonnateur - Aide au développement
CCIC – CCCI
613-241-7007 Ext./poste 306 www.ccic.ca