

A high price is paid to get China on board but a step in the right direction

Governments, civil society and private sector agree on a new “Global Partnership for Development”

What happened?

On 1st December, the 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness concluded with agreement on the “[Busan Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation](#)”. The overall goals of this Forum were to assess progress in making aid more effective and to improve that effectiveness by broadening out the global development framework – beyond the traditional donors - to include “new’ actors such as China, India, Brasil, Mexico, big foundations, the private sector and civil society. HLF4 was evidence of changing global politics, moving at the same time from *aid effectiveness* to *development effectiveness*.



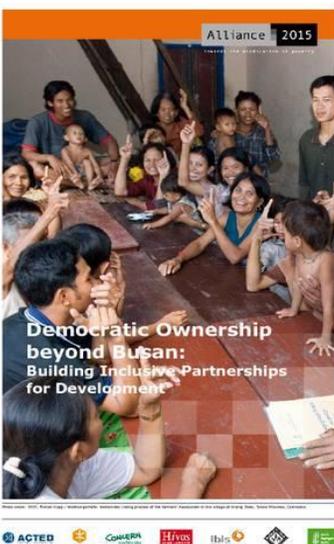
부산 세계개발원조총회
4th High Level Forum
on Aid Effectiveness
29 Nov – 1 Dec 2011, Busan, Korea

What is our assessment?

Throughout HLF4 and in the so-called ‘Outcome Document’ it was encouraging to see **progress** in the areas of “**Democratic Ownership**” and “**enabling environment for civil society**”. Both were acknowledged as preconditions for sustainable results. Alliance2015 advocacy on “Democratic Ownership” over the past 3 years bore fruit and resonated strongly with the other priorities which CSOs agreed to promote in Busan. This principle of Democratic Ownership was referred to repeatedly in side-events and plenary discussions relating to the role of CSOs and need for Governments to protect and promote CSO engagement in decisions which affect their lives. Along with other language, this is significant because we see the political space for NGOs in many developing countries shrinking.

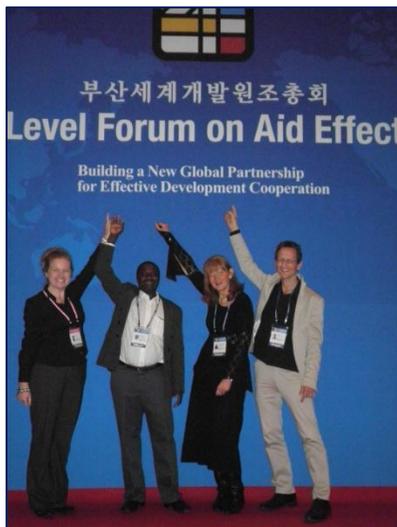
The biggest **concern** about the final agreement is that not all actors are committed to the principles of transparency, accountability and rights-based approaches. Specifically, China endorsed the document on condition that a “voluntary” clause [paragraph 2] be included which states “*The principles, commitments and actions agreed in the outcome document in Busan shall be the reference for South-South partners on a voluntary basis.*” This was the price that was paid in order to ensure they endorsed the document at all.

In terms of civil society’s involvement in this process, last week was another ‘first’...in Accra in 2008, civil society became an official actor in the OECD follow up and in preparatons towards Busan, civil society was ‘at the table’ along with Governments, multilaterals and other donors. It was represented in the negotiations and has now officially endorsed the Outcome Document. Alongside the traditional donors, the emerging economies, the private sector and others, civil society has a role in the follow up from Busan too. Donors have signed up to the *Paris Principles* and the *Accra Agenda for Action* and Civil Society has brought to the table its *Istanbul Principles*. The new ‘Global Partnership’ now encompasses all of these principles and commitments.



Borithy Lun – Director of Cambodia Coordination Committee (CCC) - our partner from Cambodia - and author of one of our case studies was with us in Busan and raised serious concerns in many fora about the pending NGO legislation which the Government is seeking to introduce and which would severely shrink the space for civil society organisations to make their contribution to development. There, the Government is using the Aid Effectiveness agenda to push for greater restrictions on CSOs and the situation is becoming more difficult by the day. In our meetings with Minister Jan O’Sullivan in Busan, we raised the issue jointly with Trócaire and arranged a meeting between the Minister and Borithy. This was a great opportunity to speak about the way in which ‘Democratic Ownership’ is being threatened in a very real way with very real consequences.

Photo: Borithy Lun, CCC & Minister Jan O’Sullivan at HLF4 in Busan



Audax Rukonge - Director of ANSAF – our partner from Tanzania & author of another of the Alliance case studies was on the Government delegation and spoke at several sessions about the relevance of the Busan outcome to the future effectiveness of agricultural policy in improving the lives of smallholder farmers. He is keen to see how the Tanzanian Government follows up on Busan and believes the issue of CSO capacity is critical if there is to be effective and meaningful engagement with government- something that can and should be possible if mutual trust and accountability can be enhanced.

Photo: Olive Towey-Concern, Audax Rukonge-ANSAF, Birgit Dederichs-Bain-Welthungerhilfe & Lars Koc- IBIS

In terms of **gender**, those women’s organisations present were disappointed that that the Outcome Document speaks to the issues of gender equality in so far as they relate to economic growth - rather than putting women’s rights at its centre.

What lies ahead?

Between now and June 2012, concrete arrangements will be put in place for this new “Global Partnership” - its composition, design and mandate. It is not clear at this point what will be the role of OECD vis a vis UNDP and UNDCF – in monitoring and coordinating – and what action & coordination will happen at national and international levels respectively (though the intention is that focus will move from the international to the national level). It is also unclear how the unfinished business of Paris and Accra is to be taken forward. It is vital that these past commitments are not forgotten or diminished.

Translating words into deeds is going to require huge effort as the focus shifts to the national level where CSOs have a critical role to play in pressing for implementation of this new agreement while enhancing capacities of other actors to push harder. All those who endorsed the Busan Outcome Document are responsible for the commitments made. As Alliance2015 we will continue to work with and support our partners in their efforts to hold Governments accountable for the commitments made on 1st December 2011...