



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DG DEVELOPMENT

The World Bank



**European Commission - World Bank Meeting with Civil Society on EC-World Bank
Collaboration on Africa
Brussels, September 17, 2007**

Introduction

The EC and World Bank organized a meeting with a wide range of civil society groups on EC-World Bank collaboration on African development on 17 September 2007 in Brussels. The focal topics for the meeting were governance and scaling up aid for Africa. The purpose of the meeting, which took place ahead of the EC-World Bank high level consultations on Africa (Limelette IV) in Brussels on 18 September, was to garner civil society views and perspectives on EC-World Bank cooperation on Africa, and wider efforts on promoting aid effectiveness.

The meeting took place in the context of discussions on related important processes including the development of the joint EU-Africa Strategy, the preparations for the forthcoming EU-AU Summit, the replenishment of the International Development Association (IDA) funds, and the 2008 High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Accra.

The key speakers for the World Bank and EC respectively were Ms. Obiageli Ezikwesili - Vice President for the Africa Region, and Mr. Bernard Petit - Deputy Director General for DG Development and Relations with African, Caribbean and Pacific States. See annex for list of the civil society representatives.

Background

The European Commission (EC) and the World Bank (the Bank) in recognition of the considerable potential benefits to Africa of enhanced coordination and collaboration of their development support to the region in April 2003 launched a formal process for regular consultations on Africa called “the Limelette Process”. The aims of these consultations were to intensify cooperation on the ground and promote policy and procedural harmonization between the two institutions. These consultations hosted alternately by the EC and the Bank, bring together senior management from both institutions for strategic discussions around agreed themes and issues.

As part of the preparations for the fourth high level Limelette meetings, the EC and the Bank held a first informal exchange with a select group of civil society actors on EC-WB collaboration on Africa in April 2007. Discussions focused on strengthening mechanisms to improve accountability for the delivery and use of development assistance. All

participants at the meeting expressed an interest in further and wider EC-World Bank engagement with civil society on their collaboration on Africa in the future.

Key Points and Recommendations

In outlining their vision on improving governance and the scaling up of aid to Africa, representatives from the Bank and the EC expressed the need for:

- A renewed commitment from donors to meet their promises on doubling of Official Development Assistance by 2010.
- Increased use of budget support and development of mechanisms for more long/medium term predictability of aid such as MDG contracts and alignment of Poverty Reduction Support Credits.
- A reduction of conditionalities in donor programmes.
- A better division of labour between donors to ensure sectors and countries traditionally neglected by donors receive adequate attention.
- A strengthening of capacity in African countries - particularly fragile states - to coordinate different donor programmes.
- An increase in CSO monitoring and engagement vis-à-vis emerging donors to Africa, such as China and foundations and philanthropic groups, to ensure the development focus of these new donors' activities.
- Economic Partnership Agreements that effectively advance regional integration, economic reforms and investment in African Caribbean and Pacific countries.

In their recommendations to the EC and World Bank on improving their support to Africa, the civil society representatives called on the two institutions to:

- To harmonize their approaches to performance indicators and conditionality both at country and global level.
- To include the issue of decent work as an area of collaboration in their partnership on Africa, as decent work provides a mean to ensure that economic growth is fairly distributed.
- To give greater support to civil society actors in the field and strengthen dialogue with broader civil society, by amongst others institutionalizing the space for CSO policy dialogue in all relevant areas of cooperation.
- To strengthen their efforts on promoting health in their programs for Africa in recognition of the link between good health and productivity.
- To improve efforts at addressing gender inequality following the OECD's recent critical assessment of donor activities.
- To allow African countries the space to develop policies on trade and investment that are appropriate for them.
- To jointly address problems of deforestation in Africa and work on a strategy for the December 2007 UN Conference Climate Change in Bali.

Conclusions

The EC and the Bank thanked the civil society representations for their recommendations and agreed to continue this process which will allow the developing EC-World Bank Partnership to benefit from their expertise.

ANNEX

List of Participants

Stephen Vanpraet	Green Peace
Nuria Molina	Eurodad
Joyce Haarbrink	Marie Stopes International
Bob van Dillen	Cord Aid
Nelson Muffuh	Christian Aid
Jean Saldanha	CIDSE
Valerie Echard	WIDE
Chris Baruti	Recherches et Documentation Juridiques Africaines
Liz Steele	Care International
Donatella Rostagno	EURAC
Ester Asin	CONCORD
Sophie Beaumont	Light for the World
Eliana Najros	Dimitra
Isabelle Hoferlin	ITUC
Claire Courteille	ITUC
Giuseppe Porcaro	European Youth Forum
Vincent Okele	African Axis
Christopher Oliha	Association of Nigerians in Belgium
Ken Ndiaye	Horloges du Sud
Albert Aherkan	Ghanaba
Simon Stocker	Eurostep
Lars Bosselmann	CBMI
Christine Vanden Daelen	CADTM
Obiageli Ezekwesili	World Bank, Vice President, Africa Region
Nils Tcheyan	World Bank, Operations Director, Africa Region
Haleh Bridi	World Bank, Special Representative to the European Union
Guggi Laryea	World Bank, Counsellor Civil Society and Parliamentarians
John Page	World Bank, Chief Economist, Africa Region
Sudhir Shetty	World Bank, Sector Director, Africa Region
Ousman Jah	World Bank, Senior Partnership Specialist, Africa Region
Hart Schafer -	World Bank, Operations Director, Africa Region