

*The UN DCF High level Meeting, New York 21/22 July*

**UNIVERSALISING EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION**  
ADVANCING PEOPLE-CENTRED DEVELOPMENT  
DEFINING ACCOUNTABILITY IN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND AGENDA 2030

The 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda call on the international community to scale up efforts to realize a shift towards sustained and inclusive development, which the seventeen SDGs define on a pragmatic level. The follow-up process to the decisions endorsed in 2015 still requires proper finalization; on the other hand, the principle of Universality features prominently in the agenda and questions all players about its implementation. This is also the case of the effectiveness principles and, in particular, of country leadership since **country's responsibility for its own development still remains a key pillar of the new development consensus.**

The CSO community is committed to a successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda from the perspective of the rights holders. In this regard, the full realization of the effectiveness agenda plays a key role: **the cornerstone notion of *leaving no-one behind* cannot be turned into reality without upholding and implementing such principles as democratic ownership and accountability.**

**Bringing together the principle of Universality and the effectiveness agenda** will change the rules of the game for the better. **Universalizing effective development cooperation (EDC)** is an essential contribution to ensure overall sustainable development by holding to account development cooperation stakeholders on commitments that have been made over the years, including Rome, Paris, Accra and Busan. EDC is designed to improve development partnerships and is predicated on principles which speak to (1) the highest levels of transparency and accountability; (2) inclusive development partnerships; (3) democratic country ownership; and a (4) human rights based approach.

The evolving development and political landscape introduce new factors. Universalizing effective development cooperation also implies **bringing the effectiveness agenda to the people and to adjust it to the need of the times.** It calls for development cooperation not to backtrack on existing effectiveness commitments while targeting areas such as the (1) accountability of the private sector in development; (2) south-south cooperation principles; (3) security, peace and development; (4) CSO enabling environment and development effectiveness.

**Universalizing effective development cooperation** speaks to the content issues for the 2016 UN Development Cooperation Forum, "Development Cooperation: lever for effective implementation of the 2030 agenda". In particular, it offers a valid opportunity to address key questions such as *Supporting national efforts to achieve the full ambition of the 2030 Agenda, leaving no-one behind* and *Monitoring and review of development cooperation in the 2030 Agenda: quality, effectiveness and impact for sustainable development.* In fact, it implies making sure **the rights holders' interests stay at the centre of the 2030 Agenda implementation** and that **all kinds of development cooperations and actors as well as of financing tools are consistent with the effectiveness principles.**

The 2016 UN Development Cooperation Forum offers the opportunity to gather evidence and generate a multistakeholder discussion; it may help frame **the priorities for the next two years so as for the DCF to play pivotal role** (through thematic Symposium and research briefings) regarding 1) how to universalize the effective development cooperation principles to better implement the 2030 Agenda, 2) what it would take to make sure that the effectiveness principles can apply to different kinds of financing for development tools, including the role of the private sector, and 3) how to make sure it is relevant to the right holders at all levels.

CSO delegates are committed to being actively involved in the 2016 DCF debates – both in side events and the plenaries – to facilitate a general discussion on an agenda that paves the way for **universalizing effective development.**

**New York, July 20<sup>th</sup>**

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