

International strategy meeting

‘On the road again’: Feminist visions and strategies towards Busan and beyond

26-27 February 2011, New York, Millennium UN Plaza Hotel

1. Background information¹.

For the last 5 years, women’s organizations have been involved in influencing the aid effectiveness agenda, working together to overcome its shortcomings. The aid effectiveness agenda has been much too technical, prioritizing macro-economic modalities over development effectiveness. Excessive attention has been given to the way in which aid is delivered, with too little focus on what aid and development cooperation have actually attained for women and men on the ground.

With the forthcoming High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF-4) that will take place in Busan, South Korea, from 29 November to 1 December 2011, we are on the road again. Therefore, we meet to jointly strategize around a feminist vision of the aid effectiveness agenda towards Busan and beyond. We aim to mobilize and influence a new, post 2011 agreement so that development effectiveness with gender equality and women’s rights is at the forefront.

The Paris Declaration (PD) was adopted in March 2005 at the 2nd High-Level Forum (HLF-2) on Aid Effectiveness organized by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). PD aimed for reforming aid delivery and management in order to strengthen its impact and effectiveness to meet the Millennium Development Goals².

While many Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), including women’s rights organisations and networks, acknowledge the importance of the five principles³ agreed in Paris, CSOs are not Paris Declaration signatories. Many have been critical of the process and continue engaging in it from that angle, pushing for a human rights-based approach and development effectiveness, not just aid effectiveness.

HLF-3, held in Accra, Ghana in 2008, assessed the progress of the PD implementation. The Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) was agreed upon, building on the commitments already made in Paris. From the perspective of many CSOs and women’s rights groups, the AAA reflects a mixed performance⁴. The advances in language were undermined by the lack of new targets or time-bound monitorable commitments to measure progress. At the same time, however, substantial numbers of women’s organizations’ representatives attended HLF-3 in Accra, which was not the case in Paris. Women’s groups were present through the Accra International Women’s Forum, the Civil Society Parallel Forum prior to HLF-3 and as part of the official CSO delegation to the HLF-3.

Currently, HLF-4 is being proclaimed as a major landmark in the aid effectiveness process. According to the official HLF-4 Roadmap the purpose of HLF-4 will be to assess the Paris Declaration and AAA implementation; “draw on evidence to identify characteristics of high quality aid to be reaffirmed and taken forward towards implementation by 2015 and beyond; frame actions around ‘aid quality in the broader context of development effectiveness’ to situate the role and impact of aid in the broader development contexts, challenges and partnerships.”⁵

Women’s rights are again at risk of being left out of decision-making processes linked to development cooperation unless gender equality and women’s rights groups jointly mobilize, lobby and advocate towards HLF-4. Thus relevant policy and advocacy work by CSOs, including women’s rights groups, is crucial. The engagement of women rights organisations as stakeholders in these debates is a necessary condition to promote an inclusive debate on development effectiveness and development cooperation.

¹ For additional information and more details please refer to the background readings provided for the strategy meeting.

² AWID (2007), Primer 1, Series of primers: Aid effectiveness and women’s rights.

³ Ownership, alignment, harmonisation, mutual accountability and management for results

⁴ BetterAid (2009). An assessment of the Accra Agenda for Action from a Civil Society Perspective: www.betteraid.org. & AWID (2008): Conditionalities undermine the Right to Development: an analysis based on a Women’s and Human Rights perspective, chapter 10 : www.awid.org/eng/About-AWID/AWID-Initiatives/IDeA/Resources-on-Aid-Effectiveness/Conditionalities-Undermine-the-Right-to-Development

⁵ Working Party on Aid Effectiveness (17 December 2010) : Road to Busan. DCD/DAC/EFF(2010)2/REV1

We are stronger when we work in alliances from the women's movement and with other civil society platforms and gender equality advocates from other spaces. For that reason, the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID), the African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET) and WIDE Network, with support from UN Women, invite key civil society actors, gender equality advocates, particularly women's rights organizations and networks from different regions to discuss and develop an initial roadmap and strategy for further actions to advance a feminist perspective in development cooperation debates on the Road to Busan and beyond.

2. Goals of the meeting and expected results

Goals are to:

- Increase our understanding and share information on the official and CSO processes and debates towards HLF-4, particularly in relation to gender equality and women's rights.
- Build a common vision of what we want to achieve and get out of HLF-4 = set *our* HLF-4 and beyond goals.
- Mobilize women's organizations and other gender advocates for joint advocacy work towards Busan.
- Identify strategies that are relevant for different groups or regional networks to advance a gender equality and women's rights perspective in the debates and official HLF-4 process and outcomes.
- Establish an initial roadmap to advance our vision on development cooperation with focus on the process towards Busan and HLF-4 itself, with initial division of labour and concrete steps.

Expected results include:

- A deepened understanding of the HLF-4 process and the debates and issues at stake.
- A clear feminist vision of main goals to achieve out of the process, at HLF-4 itself and what we want development effectiveness to be after Busan
- Women's rights organisations and gender equality advocates mobilized together for joint goals.
- A first draft strategy document/roadmap that establishes the priorities, desired outcomes, actions, and messages/proposals to be undertaken during the following months on the road to Busan, also taking into consideration the Development Cooperation Forum process within the United Nations.
- An initial agreement of division of labour of tasks to be carried out by women's organizations and other CSOs present at this meeting and to be expanded in the next months.

3. Draft agenda international strategy meeting

Day 1: Saturday 26 February 2011

Time	Session	Contents
9:00 - 9:30	Arrival & Registration	Informal getting to know each other over coffee/tea
9:30 – 10:00	Welcoming & Introduction by organizers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why are we here? - Review of the agenda and goals - Brief introduction of the three convening organizations
10:00 - 11:15	Getting to know each other & sharing expectations	<p>Brief introductions by all participants and sharing of expectations for meeting.</p> <p><u>Guiding questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is your name and organization? - Please mention if you are already following the aid effectiveness and/or process towards HLF-4. - What do you want to take away from this meeting? (your expectations)
11:15	<i>Coffee break</i>	<i>Coffee break during next session</i>
11:15- 13:00	Setting the scene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Background on the aid and development effectiveness process and linking to the geopolitical context. - Assessment on where we are coming from and what has been achieved so far. This will include highlights and lessons learned from prior mobilizations and brief assessment of PD and AAA implementation.
13:00 - 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>	
14:00 - 15:45	Where are we at now: the Aid Effectiveness process and beyond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is at stake? - Review of key processes and actors on the Road to Busan - Updates and info sharing on UN Women and the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) process.
15:45 -16:00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
16:00 - 17:15	On the road to Busan – setting <i>our</i> goals and how to achieve them	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ‘Recovering’ our messages and proposals to date to inform our substantive priorities/proposals for Busan - What outcomes do we want to see, what is the agenda we want to advance? (work in small groups)
17:15-17:30	Feedback on first day	

Day 2: Sunday 27 February 2011

Time	Session	Contents
9:00 - 9:15	Recap of first day	
9:15 - 11:00	On the road to Busan – setting <i>our</i> goals and how to achieve them: report back from groups	- Sharing of outcomes from group work on end of day one and discussion.
11:00 - 11:15	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11:15 - 13:00	Towards Busan: More on entry points for engagement and other ‘players’	- Expanding detail from the conversations the previous day: Considering our vision for a post-Busan agenda, more in-depth discussion of key entry points and relevant actors (official and CSO) as well as key considerations for moving forward.
13:00 - 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>	
14:00 - 15:30	Going forward: Agreeing on concrete next steps	- What are the next immediate steps? - What do we need to move on effectively from here? - Who takes care of what (initial division of labour)?
15:30 - 16:00	Wrap up and closing	- Feedback and evaluation of the two meeting days

Our parallel event On the road to Busan starts straight away - please join us at our side event - co-organized by AWID, FEMNET and WIDE - during the 55th session of the Commission on the Status of Women. **“On the Road to Busan HLF4: Women transforming the development cooperation system and practices”**. It takes place on Monday, 28 February from 18:00-19:30 on floor 10 in the Church Center. Your active contributions will be crucial to the success of this event!

Conveners:



With support from: