

Enabling Environment

(not only for CSOs – Civil Society Organization)

Progress and Challenges since Busan

Brussels
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Diverse actors

- ❖ **National platforms and other CSO networks**
- ❖ **CONCORD Working Groups**
- ❖ **European Commission (Structural Dialogue+)**
- ❖ **CPDE – CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (WG „Enabling Environment“)**
- ❖ **Task Team on CSO Development effectiveness and Enabling Environment (+ Voluntary Initiative 12)**
- ❖ **GPEDC – Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (Indicator 2)**

There are both synergies and overlaps...

Diverse interests among CSOs

- ❖ **Policy and advocacy (for enabling environment)**
- ❖ **Aid Watch**
- ❖ **CSO Development Effectiveness (Istanbul Principles)**
- ❖ **Sustainable Development Goals / Post-MDG**
- ❖ **CSOs from donor and partner countries**
- ❖ **International networks, national platforms, individual CSOs**

There are both synergies and contradictions...

Diverse messages

- ❖ **European Commission / Parliament / member states (EU15 + EU13), UN, Global Partnership...**
- ❖ **CONCORD (AidWatch + CSO Effectiveness + Task Team on Enabling Environment), DEEEP, Trialog**
- ❖ **CPDE Working Groups on CSO Development Effectiveness, on Enabling Environment...**
- ❖ **CPDE/GPEDC thematic groups + specific actors**
- ❖ **Task team on CSO Development Effectiveness and Enabling Environment**
- ❖ **Other actors**

There are both synergies and contradictions...

Diverse key documents

- ❖ **Conclusions from the Structured Dialogue**
- ❖ **Task Team Key Messages (Busan, Mexico)**
- ❖ **Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (and preceding Accra and Paris)**
- ❖ **Mexico High Level Meeting Communiqué**
- ❖ **A synthesis of evidence of progress since Busan**
- ❖ **CIVICUS Enabling Environment Index**
- ❖ **CPDE statement towards the 69th UN General Assembly**

There are both synergies and gaps...

Example: Task Team Key Messages

The Task Team Key Messages address the Busan commitments in relation to:

- 1. Democratic ownership, inclusive development and partnerships;**
- 2. Enabling environment for civil society;**
- 3. Official development cooperation with civil society; and**
- 4. CSOs' development effectiveness.**

Diverse conditions for diverse actors

- ❖ **CSOs – eligibility constraints (e.g. 10 countries in awareness projects), voluntary commitments or obligatory certifications, high co-financing, etc.**
- ❖ **Local Authorities – separate budget lines**
- ❖ **Private sector – overall support, no pressure on effectiveness or transparency, no need for co-financing, no problems with profit**
- ❖ **Academic sector – unclear role...**
- ❖ **Governments – number of empty commitments?**

There is no sustainable development without cooperation and shared responsibility of all actors

Diverse opportunities (examples)

❖ Voluntary Initiative 12 - CSO Enabling Environment Framework and Guidelines (Task Team)

The multi-stakeholder Task Team on CSO Development Effectiveness and Enabling Environment will endeavor to develop a framework and a set of guidelines on the CSO enabling environment, consistent with agreed international human rights, to strengthen GPEDC Indicator Two, and advance democratic ownership in development processes, by the time of the next GPEDC High Level Meeting. Other GPEDC members are welcome to join this initiative.

Diverse opportunities (examples)

❖ Mapping exercise (CPDE WG Enabling Environment)

A CPDE Monitoring Framework for Assessing Progress for a CSO Enabling Environment focuses on three core areas:

Area One: Universally accepted human rights and freedoms affecting CSOs

Dimension One: Recognition of rights and freedoms affecting CSOs

Dimension Two: The legal and regulatory environment, implementing rights and freedoms affecting CSOs

Dimension Three: Rights of specific groups

Diverse opportunities (examples)

❖ Mapping exercise (CPDE WG Enabling Environment)

Area Two: Policy Influencing

Dimension One: Spaces for dialogue and policy influencing

Dimension Two: Access to information

Area Three: Donor – CSO relationships

(Transparent and consistent policies that define the place and roles of CSOs; financing modalities enabling CSOs to implement their own mandates and priorities, relevant to a diversity of CSOs, respecting their different roles, capacities, constituencies and approaches)

Diverse opportunities

- ❖ **Peer learning among national platforms (CONCORD WG on CSO Effectiveness)**
- ❖ **Voluntary self-monitoring mechanisms, peer reviews between CSOs (e.g. the Czech platform FoRS)**
- ❖ **Demand driven experience exchange and capacity strengthening (e.g. in the field of evaluations)**
- ❖ **Demonstrating synergies and sharing best practices within the European Year of Development (e.g. national Action Weeks)**
- ❖ **Listening to our development partners and considering their concerns...**

Diverse challenges

- ❖ **Avoiding confusion (What are the key messages? Who are the key messengers? Who is the audience?)**
- ❖ **Avoiding overlaps and contradictions within CONCORD (Who is responsible for what?)**
- ❖ **Avoiding overlaps and contradictions within CPDE (and within GPEDC)**
- ❖ **Avoiding fragmentation within the post-MDG process (17 discrete Sustainable Development Goals without any Theory of Change)**
- ❖ **Simplifying the messages – their impact depends on clear understanding (and remembering them)...**

Thank you for open minds!

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CONCORD WG on CSO Effectiveness

CPDE WG on Enabling Environment

Task Team on CSO Development Effectiveness and Enabling Environment