

WIDE report from the Fourth High Level Forum in Busan

1. Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation

The Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF-4) has reached an agreement on the Outcome Document: [Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation](#).

The Busan partnership sealed a **shift from aid to development effectiveness**, and is an advancement (from Accra) in many areas crucial to civil society. Yet, other crucial parts remain weak, and an agreement on the exact mandate of the new Global Partnership, including indicators, targets and mechanism for implementation are still to be agreed.

Negotiations before and during the HLF-4 focused mainly on bringing new actors, namely China, on board. After quite a deadlock, China came back to negotiating table with the first day of the Forum - thanks to successful intervention by some of the DAC's donors (read the UK). Demands from China on distinguishing North-South cooperation from South-South cooperation found their way to the final document with para 2 that reduced commitments to common principles as mere voluntary reference for BRICS. This has significantly weakened the bindingness of the document not only for China, but also other actors that may want to enjoy this privilege too.

Busan has been a success as far as civil society engagement is concerned. United in a BetterAid platform civil society organizations strived to speak with one voice and engaged constructively on the way to Busan and during HLF-4. Impressive Busan Civil Society Forum was held on November 26-28 with the objective to strategize and prepare CSOs delegates for HLF-4. For the first time in history (is it?) civil society was also sitting on the negotiation table, represented by Tony Tujan, BetterAid Co-Chair, that served as one of the 18 sherpas

First analysis of the Busan Outcome Document reflects advancements in some crucial points and lack of progress in others.

From BetterAid Statement on the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, December 1

Advancements:

- For the first time since the Paris Declaration, democratic ownership has been acknowledged as fundamental principle of development cooperation implemented through inclusive partnerships.
- The new partnership shifts the focus from a technical aid effectiveness agenda towards a new development effectiveness agenda that is more inclusive, more political, and focused on results as rights based development outcomes rather than aid delivery.
- Through the Busan Partnership, a new global governance framework will move the development agenda towards a broader framework that is more inclusive, involving not only the OECD-DAC, but also the United Nations, South-South Cooperation actors, parliamentarians and local authorities, civil society and the private sector.
- The Busan document also engages strongly in promoting a rights based enabling environment for civil society and endorses the Civil Society Organizations' Istanbul Principles.

Points of concern:

- Busan Outcome Document has no explicit commitments to adopt human-rights based approaches. It has not given an adequate attention to women's rights, the right to development and environmental justice.
- Global Partnership has not satisfactorily addressed the unfinished business and lack of implementation of Paris and Accra commitments. The few concrete commitments, targets and

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timelines that have been included in earlier drafts of the Busan Partnership, i. e. to untie aid, had been deleted due to objection of donor governments.

- Final Document reduces commitments to common principles as mere voluntary reference for BRICS development partners in South-South Cooperation (see para 2)
- **Overall private sector-led growth as framework for development has been retained (see para 28)** The agreements reached attributes a strong role to the for-profit private sector, while not including a comprehensive vision and policy framework to hold business to account against development effectiveness principles.
- While the Busan Partnership acknowledges the New Deal re fragile states (para 26), there is now need to ensure that implementation is monitored and that there is strong citizen participation in the process.

The impact of the Busan Partnership largely depends on the follow up process, which is yet to be agreed in all its details.

So far it is not clear what is the mandate of the new Global Partnership, who is going to be the host, what will be the mechanisms for implementing Busan, which indicators and targets will be agreed, nor what is the follow-up for the building blocks. The key cornerstones shall be agreed by June 2012 by the extended Working Party on Aid Effectiveness (see para 36). Civil society united in BetterAid remains committed and will engage in this process.

See the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation here:

<http://www.aideffectiveness.org/busanhlf4/en/component/content/article/698.html>

BetterAid Statement on the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, 1st

December 2011: <http://www.betteraid.org/en/betteraid-policy/betteraid-publications/statements/529-betteraid-statement-busan-partnership.html>

See the BetterAid press release on Busan Partnership: <http://www.betteraid.org/en/press-area/528-press-release-global-leaders-make-aid-deal-but-business-remains-unfinished-say-civil-society-organizations.html>

2. Gender Equality in the Busan Document and During the HLF-4

Gender equality and women's empowerment feature strongly in the Busan Outcome Document (para 20), and as such are advancements if compared to Paris and Accra.

As stated in the BOD preamble: common principles to guide Global Partnership should be consistent with agreed international commitments on human rights, decent work, environmental sustainability and disability (para 11). This, however, as stated above, applies on a voluntary basis, particularly to the BRICS and South-South (see para 2)

Reducing gender inequality is both an end in its own right and a prerequisite for sustainable and inclusive growth, as stated in para 20. The focus is on: data disaggregated by sex and ensuring that public expenditures benefit both women and men (20 a); accountability mechanisms grounded in regional and international commitments (20b); addressing gender equality in all development efforts including peace building and state building (20c).

While women's organizations in the BetterAid Coordination Group (BACG) welcomed the inclusion of gender equality and women empowerment in paragraph 20, we've also stated that that any

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development cooperation should be defined as sustainable and human rights-based. **Gender equality is a matter of human rights and concerns all aspects of development cooperation, yet as such has not been addressed in the Busan outcome.** Women's organizations in the BACG called for real gender mainstreaming throughout all the BOD with focus on implementation, in the sections addressing different issues and concerning different actors.

Gender equality received unprecedented political attention in Busan. This mostly due to the visit of Hillary Clinton and the US - Korea vision of women's empowerment embodied in the **proposed Gender Action Plan**. Within this context, There were also several events and sessions during HLF-4 dedicated to gender equality, namely GENDERNET side event and Special Session on gender by the US and Korea. Women's organizations in BACG participated and spoke in both of them urging for human rights based approach and "power in empowerment".

- **SIDE EVENT by GENDERNET**

Joint side event by GENDERNET and UN Women: *Progress on gender equality and women's empowerment since the Paris Declaration* was held on the first day of the HLF-4, November 29TH. The concept was to discuss accountability for gender equality and bring key messages and recommendations to Special Session on Gender to be held on the HLF-4 day 2. Majority of the speakers for this side event came from multilateral financial institutions, like World Bank, IADB, and GSMA Development Fund. Women's organizations were present at the table represented by Esther Mwaura-Muiru, Founder and Coordinator of GROOTS Kenya.

From WIDE perspective, discussions were disappointing and very narrow. The main focus was on women's economic empowerment, integration to market and access to credit. The role and potential contribution of private sector was highlighted very strongly, without any reference to frequent cases of human rights violations nor increased work and care burden which is a reality for many women on the ground. These points were raised from the floor by 'our speaker' and women's organizations present at the side event

- **SPECIAL SESSION "Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment for Development Results"**

Special Session was co-hosted by the United States and the Republic of South Korea and moderated by Michelle Bachelet, Executive Director of UN Women with the speaking contributions from private sector (CEO Dialog Telekom), World Bank (Dr. Sri Mulyani Indrawati) and women's organizations (Esther Mwaura-Muiru as continuation from the GENDERNET side event). Welcoming remarks were delivered by Hillary Clinton and closing was done by Korean Minister for family planning. President of Timor Leste and Deputy Director of the African Union expected as speakers did not appear.

Objective of the session was to officially launch and gain support for the **US-Korea initiative of Gender Action Plan** as an ambition to operationalize gender commitments in the Busan Outcome Document and building blocks. Women's organization made it very clear that they are not going to support nor endorse this Plan (which is rather a concept note than a full plan) and published their position paper and press release on the latter that guided Esther's intervention. While Canada, private sector (CEO Dialog Telekom), World Bank and Ireland announced theirs' endorsements, others remained quiet sharing discontent with the quality of the consultation process led by US as expressed during the bilateral meetings.

See the Women's Organizations in BACG Position on the proposed Busan Joint Action Plan on Gender Equality and Development: <http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/public->

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[gender/document/position-womens-organisations-proposed-busan-joint-action-plan-gender-equality-and-developm](#)

See the press release: <http://www.betteraid.org/en/press-area/526-press-release-us-gender-plan-lacks-the-power-in-empowerment-.html>

See the media clips: <http://ccic-ccci.blogspot.com/> ;
<http://www.koreaherald.com/national/Detail.jsp?newsMLId=20111130000769>

3. EU in Busan

As CONCORD has written “EU has been a ghost in Busan”. EU has been relatively strong pushing for good language on transparency, enabling environment and democratic ownership but in the other crucial issues – its leadership remained very weak.

Needless to say, gender equality and women’s rights were not EU priorities this time; US and Korea have taken a lead.

See the reaction from CONCORD with contribution from WIDE at:
<http://aidwatch.concordeurope.org/blog/post/europe-could-have-done-more-in-busan/>

4. Women’s organizations in Busan

WIDE was represented in Busan by Kasia Staszewska from the Secretariat; Emiliana Tapia from Red Activas; and Marta Gontarska from Karat Coalition. Three more WIDE Members from KARAT Coalition and Ayuda en Accion were there for Global Women’s Forum and Busan Civil Society Forum.

On the road to Busan WIDE was facilitating EU taskforce that has emerged after the International Consultations in Brussels (June 2011) collaborating and exchanging on the regular basis with KARAT Coalition, Spanish Platform (Red Activas and Ayuda en Accion) and GAD Network. Outside the network WIDE has been working very closely with other women’s organizations in BACG: AWID, APWLD, FEMNET and Coordinadora de la Mujer. Our main responsibilities included:

En route to Busan:

- Engaging together with BetterAid Coordination Group providing political leadership to the process
- Coordinating the preparations for Special Session on Gender

And inside the HLF-4:

- Organization of the Global Women’s Forum
- Organization of mini-debate within Knowledge and Innovation Space in HLF-4: Gender equality and Women’s Rights. How to Make Development Cooperation Work for All?

GLOBAL WOMEN’S FORUM

Organized by Women’s Organizations in BACG, lead by APWLD, Women’s Forum brought together about 60 women from Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America. The aim was to provide a space for women’s organisations (and organisations working to advance women’s rights) to develop and share a feminist vision of development and development cooperation. The Forum was designed to both coordinate and advance the advocacy of women’s organisations during the HLF-4 and to strengthen women’s participation in the process.

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See the Busan Global Women's Forum Political Statement: <http://www.awid.org/Library/Busan-Global-Women-s-Forum-Political-Statement>

MINI DEBATE : Gender equality and Women's Rights. How to Make Development Cooperation Work for All?

Organized by Women's Organizations in BACG lead by FEMNET and WIDE, mini-debate aimed to provide a space for discussion on challenges that have undermined implementation of Paris and Accra commitments on gender equality; discussing Gender Action Plan proposed by US and Korea; and country level implementation of the agreement from Busan. Speakers included representatives from WIDE, US Secretary of State Office and MPs delegation from Cameroon. Mini-debate attracted attention of 25-30 participants and was a success.

5. Engagement post Busan

The future of post-Busan agenda i.e. mandate for Global Partnership as well as BetterAid is very unclear.

Similarly for WIDE Secretariat, we are not going to be represented in BACG any more, and unless the new structure is put in place – we are also not going to be a part of the process.

Nevertheless, members of WIDE has been very active in this agenda, i.e. KARAT Coalition, Red Activas or Ayuda en Accion and they are going to continue with their engagement.

EVALUATING BUSAN PARTNERSHIP

Before embarking with the full speed on the work post Busan, there must be a time and space for reflection. This time is now.

We need to reflect on our reading of Global Partnership as well as the role of the civil society in the post-Busan process, namely the mandate of Better Aid.

BetterAid Coordination Group is going to meet in half February to take crucial decision about the future as well as to agree on the BA with detailed analysis of BOD. Your contribution and reflections are more than welcome