

Short WORKSHOP REPORT FORM

Number and title of workshop: Special Session – Regaining Citizens’ Trust: The Role of International Donors

Coordinator: Olga Nazario, Casals & Associates, Inc.

Date and time of workshop: 13 November 2010 14:00

Moderator: Beatriz Casals, Casals & Associates, Inc.

Rapporteur: Lawrence Ott, Casals & Associates, Inc.

Panellists

Mr. Aleksander Dardeli – Casals & Associates, Inc. Director of Programs, Rule of Law
Mr. Gerardo Berthin – UNDP Governance Policy Advisor
Gina Romero (Rosa Ines Ospina) – OCASA, Director
Karin Christiansen – Publish what you Fund, Director
Dr. Olga Nazario (Lawrence Ott) – Casals & Associates, Inc. Senior Technical Advisor

Main Issues Covered

- Lack of strict controls makes foreign aid vulnerable to corruption
- Assistance going to corrupt and wealthy oil exporting countries; international aid data
- Current initiatives establish levels of donor transparency
- In Latin America over 500 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) mobilized to comply with Paris Declaration on CSO role to monitor development assistance
- UNDP established mechanisms for increased accountability of ODA

Main Outcomes

- Agenda needs to be refined, establish lessons learned, before we obtain improvements we need to establish a hand in hand agreement with the recipients.
- Wealthy countries receiving aid, so corrupt that the money never really goes to civil society. Example: Nigeria 7th largest oil exporter and has misused US\$500 Billion over last four decades.
- Linkage between trust and aid. Only eight data sets that exist to record transparency of donors. Three strategies – 1. Open terms among Civil Society, 2. Accountability in Civil Society, 3. How can we recover and regain trust. Stress self regulation. 1. Different countries have experience growth of civil society, acknowledge that CSOs can manage aid.
- Many organizations work in specific fields, accountability, and public accountability measures. Have over 500 NGO/CSOs in Latin America; they think about their own selves, their own organizations. Through multi-lateral alliances of CSOs we can see how development and aid has been making headway.
- Issue of trust for donors and recipients – five key areas or issues: 1. Context and

dynamic of development and anti-corruption. Increase in the number of actors and fragmentation of the actors. Different modalities of the donors. Official aid or policy continues to be used as a foreign policy tool (Venezuela, China and Iran). 2. Mutual accountability, aid is not only about the recipient and in this case about both, including the donor. Requires new capacities to monitor aid effectiveness. 3. Change the old premises; go back to the old development. 4. Many donors have developed an accountability system. 5. Accountability is not just about what is delivered, but HOW it is delivered and how you manage the risk.

Main Outputs

- Need for new criteria and for better measurement of countries use of ODA and donors ODA transparency
- Multilateral banks need more stringent controls and monitoring of ODA
- Need to look at ODA differently, not limited so much to political implications
- Donors and civil society are moving toward better accountability and transparency

Recommendations, Follow-up Actions

- Treat corruption in governments in same way as human rights violations
- Great media attention to misuse of ODA
- Reduction of ODA to oil rich countries and provide excess to truly poor countries, as well as to countries that can manage it better
- Collect better data on transparency of donors and make it easily available.

Workshop Highlights (including interesting quotes)

Dardeli: "Different perspective, measurement should be used as a tool for mutual accountability. Step in the right direction but just a step. More experimentation, risk taking is necessary but do not think we are there yet."

Roslyn Hees, TI: "But what about the new idea of accountability of the recipients and using those feedback systems to actually determine whether aid is being effective or not. My sense is that it is quite an effective tool..."

Vice President of an NGO, Vanuatu: "What about the citizens that are NGOs? We know that donors give money to the government but we never see it."

Romero: "Regarding donor funding, we need to establish is there an impact on their lives, every day more NGOs have been thinking more widely and more..."

Christiansen: "Do donors actually do what they say they are going to do, no! They should all do what they say they are going to do and just do it."

Berthin: "When we talk about development we are kind of ending a very specific era.... In time we are witnessing a new time of donor work and that to me is good news... The state parties are changing in a very dynamic way as well... We have to be prepared to deal with different dimensions of governance."

TI Kyrgyzstan: “Sometimes international donors have to be ready to use solutions; it is more effective, sometimes...”

Christiansen: “Context rules need to be the first rule of aid. How we allocate aid between countries.”