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PROPOSED TALKING NOTES FOR HON. MUSTAFA MKULO (MP),
MINISTER-FINANCE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AT THE ESCOSOC 2008
DCF HIGH-LEVEL PANEL DISCUSSION TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 30TH
JUNE 2008.

Panel Title: *"How are Civil Society and New Actors Enhancing Impact at Country-level"?*

1. Introduction

It is worth noting that in general terms, CSO and other Actors, which are collectively termed as Non-State Actors (NSA) or Non-government Organizations (NGOs), play the following roles:

i.   Serve as service providers;
ii. Serve as economic and social agents in the development process; and
iii. Serving as Agency for advocacy and information dissemination due to their proximity to local communities

2. Background of Non-State Actors In Tanzania

During colonial rule, various producer associations, trade unions and social welfare associations were created. Many of these organizations became nuclei of anti-colonial struggle, but after independence all associations were suppressed and forcibly affiliated to the developmentalist one party state. The regime monopolized the organization of society in all spheres of life by the end of the 1970s. Only churches were allowed to operate independently of party control as long as they remained strictly apolitical or pro-party.

Civic organizations developed again as from the mid-80s when Tanzania began implementing liberalization policies. The gradual withdrawal of the state left vacuums that could be filled by other organizations and new socio-economic dynamics generated new voluntary organizations and areas of concern (human rights, environment, gender etc,). The challenges brought by liberalization, made the government welcome NGOs again as partners in development. This alternation from allies to rivals and then to complementary companions is important to appreciate the current level of trust between civil society and government.

One element of the changing context is the boom of NGOs in the last few years. Today, Tanzania counts between 4000 and 10,000 non-governmental organizations, operating in a large and diversified range of activities and sectors. These developments resulted in different forms of organizations:

According to Basic education Statistics in Tanzania by 2007 there were 19,698 pre-primary streams on non-governmental pre-primary school level against 27, 926 in government pre-primary schools. By the same year, the number of secondary schools owned by NSAs was 3,485 against 2, 806 owned by the government. In terms of English medium registered primary schools, the NSAs own a total of 243 against 8 owned by the government.

iii. Monitoring and Evaluation

NSAs have been providing feedback to the government on performance of various development programmes. In Tanzania the NSAs participate in Public Expenditure Review (PER) and General Budget Support (GBS) annual reviews, which are the first steps for the budget preparation. The outcomes of these two reviews help development partners decide on resources to commit as support to the subsequent budget cycle;

iv. Governance and Accountability

These organizations promote good governance and accountability of the government by acting as watchdogs through making voice against undemocratic practices, human rights violation and inefficient expenditures of public funds and use of other public resources. The NSAs also do enforce compliance with the principle of corporate social responsibility (CSR) by investors;

v. Environment

NSAs have been very active in the implementation of various activities that are aiming at protecting environment and conservation of other natural resources; and

vi. Gender

NSAs have proved to be good advocates for gender related issues in Tanzania. In Tanzania we have a Tanzania Women Lawyers Association (TAWLA) which provides assistance to women in need of legal support. Also there is a Medical Women Association of Tanzania (MEWATA), which has been very active in conducting test and providing treatment of breast cancer to women. Tanzania Gender Network Programme (TGNP) has also been very powerful in ado vacating gender related issues.

4. Challenges
In a NSA consultative workshop held in Dar es salaam 2005 a number of challenges were identified, some of these which do exist to date. These challenges were:
  i.   Limited technical and analytical skills necessary for engagement with government and donors on policy processes, public finance management and provision of services with regard to the marginalized sections of society:
  ii. Lack of cohesion and common understanding of problems and approaches among the NSAs that affect their legitimacy when facing the government and broader society;
  iii. Lack of information especially in rural areas that limit participation in decision that demand accountability of public officials;

iv. A wide gap in terms of financial and institutional capacity between large, more visible, NSAs based in town and those operating at the district and village level: and

5. Supportive Environment

The Government of the United Republic believes that development can be achieved through an inclusive dialogue at all level, including with NSA. It on this ground that inn *The National Framework for Good Governance*, Government states that civil society institutions constitute a strong instrument for the effective participation and involvement of the people in decision-making, and social, political and economic development activities.

To fulfill this, the Government under the EU- ACP Development Cooperation, through Cotonou agreement developed a three-year programme in 2007to support the NSAs. This programme is intended to build capacity to NSAs so as to put them in a better position to complement government's effort to bring development to the people.

Also, the government established the Tanzania National Business Council (TBNC) which is platform for dialogue between the Government and the private sector. To ensure the highest level of commitment, the TNBC is chaired by H.E. Excellency President of the United Republic of Tanzania.