

**Preparatory Process for the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,
First drafting session of the Outcome Document of New York, January 28-30, 2015**

*Oxfam intervention during the session on “Monitoring, Data, Follow-up,” January 30, 2015
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Thank you, Mr. Co-facilitators. I speak on behalf of Oxfam and would like to follow up on what Assistant Secretary General Ms. Amina Mohammed stated earlier, that the responsibility of the SDG agenda ultimately rests at the national level.

We need to ensure that development finance is ultimately informed by, responsive to, and accountable to the needs and priorities of all citizens, particularly poor and marginalized people. That accountability depends on transparency and broad, inclusive participation, which needs to be explicitly recognized in the pre-ambles of the Addis Ababa outcome document, as my civil society colleague said.

It follows that the focus should be on the ability of people in developing countries to “follow the money,” to have access to information and the ability to participate in the monitoring of public finances, budgets, and contracts – all money that is spent in their name.

Oxfam believes that the Addis Ababa outcomes must place emphasis on how policy and legal changes will help drive additional resources and accountability for outcomes. The element most under-represented in the Elements Paper is the need for stronger mechanisms for accountability to stakeholder populations. Achieving the SDGs will only be possible if financing mechanisms are formally held accountable to impacted populations. The Addis Ababa outcomes must include commitments to public accountability for the quality, scale and outcomes of investments to meet the SDGs as a key measure of success. Addis Ababa outcomes should emphasize strengthening accountable public finance that can drive delivery of public goods and services across all sectors.

The outcomes at Addis Ababa should ensure that all forms of development finance must be focused on ending poverty and achieving the SDGs. In keeping with this objective, Oxfam supports including “poverty markers” in ODA reporting that would enable better tracing of the contribution to poverty reduction of public investments. Where feasible, this same approach should be taken with all forms of development finance (whether from public or private sources). Similarly, it could apply usefully to domestic resources programmed to drive progress toward the SDGs. Such data and tracking should be made publicly available to ensure accountability.

Additionally, large infrastructure projects often have disproportionate impact on the communities where they are located. Transparency, accountability, and stakeholder and broader citizen engagement are crucial to ensure that large infrastructure projects contribute specifically to poverty reduction. The impact of such investment should be measured and evaluated first and foremost on their impact on poverty reduction and achieving the SDGs, not simply on broad measures of economic growth. Contract transparency and accountable public financial management are necessary ingredients for assuring that infrastructure projects benefit the poorest.

A beginning step is to shine a light on the more than \$9 trillion dollars¹ that are spent by governments around the world through public procurement, the vast majority of it through undisclosed contracts. Resource-rich countries generate billions of dollars each year from deals with oil, gas and mining companies that remain – for the most part – hidden from public scrutiny. Official Development Assistance (ODA) involves enormous flows but the vast majority of aid contracts are kept secret. The Elements Paper must address “[Open Contracting](#)”² to ensure that these enormous flows, these \$9 trillion plus dollars spent through public procurement, are transparently and accountably managed.

Open Contracting involves disclosure of public contracts so that citizens, parliamentarians, journalists and others can analyze and monitor the implementation of vital projects and services. Open Contracting is a cross-cutting approach which can apply to a range of financial flows – from ODA to climate finance to natural resource deals involving private companies and host governments. Whether it is for major infrastructure projects or the supply of medicines to front-line clinics, Open Contracting is a key policy tool that will support the good governance and anti-corruption agendas.

Financing the development gap can be done, but not on the back of secret deals. The Addis Ababa outcomes should include commitments to full transparency of all contracts that include the use of public funds for development purposes and promote accountable public financial management to ensure projects benefit the poorest. More specific line proposals can be found in our [joint CSO response to the Elements Paper](#)³.

Thank you.

¹ http://international.cgdev.org/sites/default/files/1426431_file_Kenny_Publish_What_You_Buy_FINAL_0.pd

² The Open Contracting Partnership (<http://www.open-contracting.org/steeringgroup>) is supported by Oxfam, the World Bank, Transparency International and many other organizations. Open contracting refers to norms and practices for increased disclosure and participation in public contracting including tendering, performance and completion. It includes the variety of contract types, from more basic contracts for the procurement of goods, to complex contracts, joint venture agreements, licenses and production sharing agreements. Open contracting encompasses all public contracting, including contracts funded by combinations of public, private and donor sources.

³ <https://csoforffd.files.wordpress.com/2015/01/cso-response-to-ffd-elements-paper-28-jan-2015.pdf>