



Consultation with civil society on engagement in the FfD follow-up process (New York, 2-4 August 2016)

In the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Member States encourage “knowledge-sharing and the promotion of cooperation and partnerships between stakeholders, including between Governments, firms, academia and civil society, in sectors contributing to the achievement of the sustainable development goals” (paragraph 117).

To pursue this mandate, it will be essential to review and catalogue existing stakeholder initiatives on themes central to the Addis Agenda. Such an exercise would identify gaps where further work is required and where FfDO could add value through knowledge-building and capacity development initiatives in collaboration with other stakeholders for the benefit of developing countries.

Civil society, as a major stakeholder in the FfD process, can play a particularly important role in building and sharing knowledge on the pressing thematic issues within the Addis Agenda of relevance to developing countries. In this context, FfDO will work together with the coordinating members of the CSO FfD Group to identify experts with an in-depth understanding of issues spanned by the Addis Agenda, with focus on its Action Areas A, B and F.

The selected group of civil society experts will be invited to a two-day civil society consultation organized by FfDO at UNHQ from 3 to 4 August 2016. The consultation will be preceded by a 1-day coordination meeting of civil society. The purpose of the consultation will be to identify cross-cutting thematic issues within the Addis Agenda, which could benefit from joint initiatives by CSOs and FfDO. Examples of themes could include the role of private finance in meeting development challenges, small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) finance, public-private partnerships (PPPs), and financing the social safety net.

In advance of the consultation, participants will be asked to complete a brief questionnaire, outlining their background and experience with the FfD process, and their thematic expertise on the Addis Agenda. It will also serve as an opportunity for participants to reflect on their experience with the inaugural ECOSOC forum on financing for development follow-up held in April 2016 and share their recommendations for improved engagement in future years. Questionnaires should be submitted by **28 July 2016** to ensure that there is sufficient time to review inputs. A link to the questionnaire can be found at:

<http://goo.gl/forms/JTsq76jENFWqQCBi1>.

The opening session of the consultation on 3 August will serve as an opportunity to discuss the wide variety of thematic work being done by experts on the Addis Agenda of interest to CSOs. This survey exercise will then enable participants and FfDO to jointly identify a

handful of specific themes around which knowledge-building activities could be shaped. In order to hone in on these themes, participants should clearly identify the comparative advantage of a CSOs-FfDO partnership in specific thematic areas, and clarify how such joint efforts on the selected theme(s) would add further value to the FfD follow-up process, in light of other ongoing work. Participants will be encouraged to speak freely during the consultation, reflecting on their individual, organizational and group experiences and expertise.

Once appropriate themes have been identified, a dedicated session will be allotted for each theme, with a view to developing a clear roadmap with FfDO for thematic engagement throughout the year with recommended modalities and clearly defined outputs.

Each thematic session will be structured as follows:

a) Mapping of the existing initiatives undertaken on the particular theme

Questions:

- What are the existing perspectives/views on this theme?
- What organizations/stakeholders are active in this area and what approaches do they follow?
- What are specific initiatives being undertaken in that area?

b) Identifying gaps

Questions:

- What are the gaps in the existing landscape of work on this theme?
- How could this theme benefit from additional work?
- What have been the roadblocks to engagement on this theme?

c) Identifying modalities for engagement

Questions:

- Which stakeholders should be engaged?
- What modalities of engagement would be most productive (knowledge-building/capacity development, national/regional level)?
- How do we ensure the buy-in of CSOs in this work?
- What fundraising could be carried out toward engagement on this theme?
- What are the next steps to undertake such engagement?

Moderators and rapporteurs will be assigned for each theme based on their expertise and knowledge of the FfD process. Supplementary rooms have been reserved should small group discussions be required.

The two-day consultation will conclude with a review of the recommendations made during discussions for FfDO to consider in future planning.