



2022 Financing for Development Forum

Session on Expanding concessional finance aligned with national sustainable development strategies

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Thank you, Moderator, and thank you to the panelists for their remarks.

Development partners are far from meeting their commitment to deliver 0.7% GNI for ODA and are therefore falling short to meet the demands of the moment, whether it be the persisting global pandemic, numerous ongoing conflicts, and now the unprovoked invasion of Ukraine. There is fresh urgency to finally deliver on this commitment if we are to achieve the SDGs and the pledge made by all Member States to leave no one behind.

However, we fear the impact these multiple ongoing crises will have on ODA allocations to Low Income Countries and those most in need, with grave implications for children. ODA must fulfill its core purpose. It remains the most stable form of external finance to developing countries and as Civil Society we continue to demand that its integrity and purpose is upheld.

The COVID-19 pandemic reminds us of the need to align our response to such crises with nationally owned development plans; strengthening the resiliency and shock responsiveness of national health and social protection systems is an urgent priority. International development cooperation must align with the reality on the ground as captured in national diagnostic, planning and budgeting instruments. This would ensure greater consistency of COVID-19 responses with national, long term poverty reduction and development strategies. Alignment with existing country systems, predictability and transparency in financing and harmonisation across donor efforts is also critical for an effective response and lasting impact.

Timely access to comprehensive, disaggregated information on' commitments and transfers for the response to the pandemic is crucial on different counts, including better mutual accountability over time and greater planning capacity on the part of the partner countries. Moreover, timely access to information will allow an early assessment of the additional resources available and consequently of the risk of diversion from other preexisting priority sectors and countries.



Finally, strengthening civil society participation in the COVID-19 response and recovery is a must. CSOs play a crucial role in addressing global challenges and implementing the 2030 agenda, including through service delivery, monitoring, and advocacy, and need an enabling environment to effectively perform their work in the current context.

Recognizing that ODA accounts for two-thirds of the external finance that least developed countries depend on, we would like to ask donors how will they ensure that these critical resources Low-Income Countries that depend on are not diverted away.