



Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) for the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) Second Session, NY, 3-6 December, 2024

Vitalice Meja, Reality of Aid Africa, and the CS FfD Mechanism Intervention delivered at the Interactive Discussion 3: International Development Cooperation

4 December 2024

The FfD process, since its inception, aimed to expand the policy and fiscal space of developing countries so that they could advance and finance their development in a sustainable manner. FfD4 should therefore generate actionable multilateral decisions for the removal of the systemic and structural impediments to transformation and the re-design of global economic governance to promote truly democratic multilateralism.

I. A New GLOBAL International public Architecture that among other things

- **Secures** Right to Development for the people of the South
- **Recognizes** the Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR)
- **Promotes** Human rights and gender equality
- **Seeks** Reparative justice for colonialism and ecological debt owed to the Global South

FFD4 should Reframe the narrative surrounding International Development Co-operation from a perspective of charity to one of justice and reparations, recognizing and addressing historical injustices. The current international Development Co-operation framework exists within a global economic and political framework that perpetuates the inequalities between and within countries. Countries in the global north possess both the resources to provide financial and technical support and the moral responsibility to help bridge these global inequalities.

In this regard, FfD 4 should - Agree on establishing a UN Convention on International Development Cooperation (UN Convention on IDC)

FfD4 offers an opportunity to establish a new normative framework putting International Public finance at the heart of a new International Financial Architecture. A framework which addresses governance, norms and rule creation; democratises global decision-making spaces; and defines the purpose, impact and effectiveness of development cooperation.

The Convention should **Establish norm and rule setting framework on use and purpose of ODA flows for development cooperation.** A UN Convention could ensure coherence

between all forms of development cooperation and provide a normative space that brings together all relevant actors to shape policy and take decisions. The UN Development Cooperation Forum, could play an important role if given the appropriate authority and mandate¹.

We support the **establishment of the UN target for 0.7 GNI as a floor on aid quantity while recognising the trillions in unmet aid/ODA commitments as a debt owed to the global south**. Commitments, from the 0.7% GNI quantity² have rarely been met³. Undisbursed ODA commitments owed to the global south is estimated to be almost USD 7.2 trillion to date⁴ – converting these unmet commitments to an unpaid ODA debt could provide fiscal space necessary to finance poverty eradication and address inequalities.

Ensure universalising the principles for development effectiveness. The origins of development effectiveness agenda can be traced to the Monterrey Consensus, which first recognised that National development strategies have primacy to ensure needs-based (instead of donor-driven) allocations and alignment of development cooperation flows. The effectiveness agenda is at a crossroads and the UN has a role to play in revitalizing and universalising this agenda.

Ringfence of ODA for poverty eradication and addressing inequality. New instruments and tools have diverted ODA from its original vision and mandate. These changes must be reversed and a universal mandate of development cooperation for addressing poverty and inequality must be restored.

¹ AAAA paragraph 58

² *International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, UN General Assembly Resolution 2626 (XXV), October 24, 1970, paragraph 43*

³ AAAA, paragraphs 51-52

⁴ <https://www.equals.ink/p/the-great-aid-heist>