



## **FfD4 Second Intersessional: Response by the Civil Society FfD Mechanism**

### **Reclaiming Development Cooperation – Towards a Fair, Inclusive, and Accountable Global Architecture**

19<sup>th</sup> May 2025

#### **II. C. International development cooperation**

We are at a critical juncture in the global development landscape. The ongoing reduction in Official Development Assistance (ODA), shifting rich countries' priorities, and the persistence of poverty and inequality in developing countries have placed the international development cooperation (IDC) system under immense strain.

Rich countries are slashing ODA budgets and retreating from their responsibilities while increasing their defense spending, raising serious questions. Growing fragmentation, coupled with poor coordination, is inflating transaction costs and placing disproportionate burdens on recipient governments. The very foundation of the ODA system is being destabilized.

This crisis is not accidental — it is the result of outdated and imbalanced governance structures. The current system, anchored in the OECD-DAC, no longer reflects today's development realities. A framework controlled by a limited group of donor countries cannot and should not be the sole authority on global development cooperation.

We call for a fundamental overhaul of the IDC architecture — one that prioritizes the voices, leadership, and experiences of developing countries. **There is an urgent need for a transparent, inclusive, and democratic process under the auspices of the United Nations to redefine the principles, objectives, and governance of international development cooperation.**

We strongly support the G77's call for **the Financing for Development (FfD) Conference to initiate this multilateral process. This is a crucial opportunity to build consensus on a shared understanding of ODA parameters and to develop a new framework that ensures equity, effectiveness, and accountability (Para 31 c sext).**

Civil society remains deeply concerned by the lack of ambition and blockage of any real progress shown in the current negotiations — particularly by donor countries. Our longstanding call for a **UN Convention on International Development Cooperation remains as relevant and urgent as ever.** Such a convention would enshrine clear commitments, foster coherence, and anchor development cooperation in the principles of justice and mutual accountability.

We therefore urge UN Member States to ensure that FfD4 **empowers the United Nations to lead in setting global norms, fostering dialogue, and advancing coherence in international development cooperation (Para 33 a., b., c.i.ii.iii).**

The time to act is now. If all member states are serious about their claims to support fair, inclusive and sustainable development for all, the future of international development cooperation must be equally inclusive, equitable, and shaped by the voices and needs of those it is meant to serve.