

COMMUNIQUÉ

CSO Perspectives: Partnership Arrangement and Ways of Implementation On Cambodia Post-2015 Development Agenda

In May, 2013, in a national consultation workshop, Cambodian civil society organizations (CSOs) have put forward their perspectives on the prioritized development agenda in Cambodia for post-2015. The fundamental themes of development in this direction include: social inclusion and human development for the most vulnerable including children, people with disabilities, those living with violence, minority, indigenous people, those affected by HIV/AIDS, girls and women; inclusive economic development with a pro-poor focus; responsible natural resource management and ecological development; good governance and inclusive partnership; and human rights to development.

Today consultation on partnership arrangement and ways of implementation on the post-2015 development agenda in Cambodia, jointly organized by the Cooperation Committee for Cambodia (CCC) and United Nations Country Team (UNCT) has brought 180 CSOs, government and development partners from multiple sectors together to discuss and identify mechanisms to promote sustainable partnerships among development actors in Cambodia. Civil society in Cambodia appreciates and highly acknowledges the contribution, commitment and participation of all development actors to effectively implement this strategy.

Having considered the main outcomes and recommendations emerged from this consultation, we would like to call for attention from the government, development partners, private sector, and civil society itself to take appropriate actions on the following key asks:

A. Partnership Arrangement on Cambodia post-2015 Development Agenda

- The government, development partners and civil society to reactivate and modify, where necessary, all existing national and sub-national mechanisms such as Government Development Coordination Committee (GDCC), Cambodia Development Cooperation Forum (CDCF), and Technical Working Groups (TWGs) with genuine political will to include CSOs in these processes. Civil society also recommends regular dialogue/forums between CSOs and the government, CSOs and development partners, CSOs and private sector, and within the CSO community.
- Civil society welcomes the strategic focus of the Development Cooperation and Partnership Strategy (DCPS) on partnership arrangements among different actors. Furthermore, it was suggested that DCPS should further include other roles of CSOs beyond supporting service delivery and humanitarian assistance. The government should take its responsibility to create a policy, law and regulatory environment that will enable civil society and private sector to democratically optimize their potential development roles.
- Government, civil society and private sector should work together to promote/formalize a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) framework in which the ethical value, visibility and contribution to the development of private sector can be acknowledged and responsibly fed into a fair and equitable redistribution of wealth and opportunity for all Cambodians.
- The partnership among the private sector, civil society, development partners and the government should be equally valued and based on trusted mutual respect. To improve solidarity and harmonization of the partnerships, all development actors need to be transparent, accountable, open and be constructively receptive for external inputs, be committed to complement each other instead of harming each other. Additionally, an effective coordination mechanism within CSOs needs to be enhanced to ensure that only a single voice is shared to other development actors.

B. Ways of Implementation On Cambodia Post-2015 Development Agenda

- All development actors need to strengthen trust and respect based partnerships, aim for quality assurance and impact monitoring, increase research and development evidence to inform long term strategic responses, identify adaptable technologies, promote innovation and scale-up to assure preparedness of Cambodia for the ASEAN economic integration in post-2015. More efforts should be spent on education, training and skills development, and foster knowledge creation and diffusion.
- The government needs to develop and strengthen country coordination and management mechanisms including complaint mechanism to ensure institutional effectiveness of local, sub-national, and national levels with genuine and meaningful participation from CSOs. The Social Accountability Framework and Open Government Partnership (OGP) should be promoted to ensure good governance, full respect of human rights, inclusive and meaningful public participation in planning and decision-making processes, all of which will lead to and reinforce Cambodia's sustainable development.
- All development actors need to promote and strengthen social accountability mechanisms and effective monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems. The joint M&E framework for the post-2015 development agenda needs to be shaped in a way to allow all development actors to get involved and agree on the design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and learning of development efforts.
- Sustainable resource mobilization for the post-2015 development agenda needs to be urgently identified and agreed upon by all development actors. Civil society is encouraged to support the establishment and implementation of a Cambodia National Trust Fund.
- On good governance, anti-corruption law and other regulatory frameworks need to be reinforced at all levels. A working group among government, development partners, media, academia and civil society should be formed jointly to assess efforts and implementation progress.
- All development actors need to promote inclusive partnership and equitable growth to ensure that all Cambodian citizens including small-scale land holders, micro and small entrepreneurs, poorest of the poor and marginalized citizenry, rightfully have equal access to resources, production systems and markets. Additionally, it is demand that private sector must operate within the context of national and international commitment of the decent work agenda.
- That collective efforts to promote and accelerate inclusive growth should be based on triangular measurements: advancement of democratization, social inclusion and economic growth indicators.

Civil society strongly urge that partnership arrangements for the post-2015 development agenda with all development actors to be explicitly based on genuine, respect and meaningfulness. Multi-stakeholder commitments, efforts, transparency, and accountability to the mobilization of adequate resources will effectively contribute to the successful implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

Participants of the National Consultation Workshop on Partnership Arrangement and Means of Implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda

23 May 2014, Himawari Hotel, Phnom Penh

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