



**Civil Society for Poverty Reduction
and
the Southern African Regional Poverty Network**

Report on the

**Commission for Africa (CFA) Commitments and Recommendations
National Level Discussions- Zambia**

Civil Society consultation meeting

Held on the 8th February 2006

at Cresta Golf View

Lusaka, Zambia

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Annex: - Power Point Presentations

(i) Introduction

On Wednesday 8th February 2006 the Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR), in partnership with the Southern Africa Regional Poverty Network (SARPN) hosted a one-day civil society consultation meeting to discuss the commitments and recommendations contained in the Commission for Africa (CFA) Report. The meeting was attended by 15 selected civil society organizations in Zambia.

The objectives of the meeting were to ascertain;

- The extent to which civil society actors are following up on or monitoring the commitments made in the CFA report.
- The extent of civil society implementation of their own commitments
- Civil society challenges and expectations in this regard

Mrs. Besinati Mpepo from CSPR welcomed the participants to the meeting. She stressed the need for members to be more involved in following up national commitments, implementation and monitoring development initiatives. She further implored members to reflect on the Commission For Africa implementation and give input in line with their experiences.

(ii) DFID Presentation (see full presentation in Annex)

Mrs. Grace Chibowa made the first presentation on behalf of DFID, the presentation centered on the key recommendations and commitments that the UK government had undertaken within the framework of the CFA report. The Presentation also highlighted some of the progress being made by the UK government in Zambia in fulfilling its commitments. Mrs. Chibowa pointed out the (6) main areas of action that the UK government through DFID has been working on and these are;

1. Governance

In the CFA report, 'our common *interest*' one of the recommendations is to increase accountability and transparency as well as fight corruption. In line with this the UK government supports anti corruption institutions and capacity building programmes. In addition DFID supports programmes aimed at strengthening parliamentary processes in Zambia and other African countries through the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

2. Capacity Building

With regards to capacity building, there are calls for support towards the strengthening of Pan African and regional bodies and programmes including the African Peer Review Mechanism. Further, there is need for help in revitalizing African institutions of higher education and developing centers of excellence in science and technology. The UK government has since created partnerships with University institutions and has increased its allocation of the Commonwealth Scholarship Fund.

3. Investing in People.

Education: DFID plans to increase its global support to education to over GBP1.4bn for the period 2005-2008. It further supports the removal of school fees and other costs that inhibit access by the poor.

Health: In the Health sector DFID targets its support towards removal of health fees in health institutions. Support is rendered towards the national health budget. Attention is given towards HIV/AIDS, through the support of Institutions established to fight it such as the National Aids Council in Zambia.

Protecting the most vulnerable: Actions involves the supporting development of social protection strategies especially for OVCs. In Zambia this is done through working with the Ministry of Community Development and Social welfare.

4. Growth and Poverty Reduction.

Under this theme the emphasis is on promoting growth, and the participation of the poor people in this growth. DFID is supporting various initiatives that have come up, the infrastructure consortium was inaugurated in 2005 to accelerate progress for more effective, scaled up infrastructure investments targeted on economic growth and trade.

The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) under the AU/NEPAD is one initiative being supported by DFID in making incremental progress on the agenda to boost agricultural growth in Africa. Others are the Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund and Access to financial services schemes

5. Trade

DFID will treble its trade related aid by 2010. Support will be provided for the launch of the integrated framework in order to mainstream trade in second generation Poverty Reduction Strategies. In addition, DFID will continue to provide support to several African governments to develop trade policy and to identify and negotiate their strategic interests in trade negotiations, such as the WTO and EU-Africa-Caribbean-Pacific Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs).

6. Resources

DFID is involved in processes aimed at improving the quality of Aid Quality, DFID seeks to promote more coordination among donors involved in aid allocation. In Zambia this is being done in consideration of the fifth National Development Plan (NDP). The UK government has been supporting the calls for 100% debt cancellation for sub Saharan Africa as recommended by the G8 countries.

Plenary: Participants comments/questions to DFID Presentation

Concern was raised on whether DFID wasn't contradicting efforts by promoting the privatization of essential utility sectors such as the water, whose services are becoming expensive for the poor in society, while on the other hand DFID is championing the removal of user fees in health institutions. Explanation was that private water suppliers are more efficient in clean water production. CSOs also said there was need for DFID to support them in areas of capacity building.

(iii) Government Presentation

Mr Chungu Kapembwa, Senior Economist, in the Foreign Trade Department of the Ministry of Commerce Trade and Industry, made a presentation regarding government's actions around the CFA recommendations and commitments.

The meeting participants were informed that Zambia, through the Ministry of Commerce Trade and Industry (MCTI), in partnership with the private sector represented by the Zambia Business Forum, has facilitated the formation of the Private Sector Development Reform Action Plan and Implementation framework as a road map intended to create the right environment for investment, infrastructure development and private sector led economic development. The agreed road map was made up of the following themes:

- Policy environment and institutions
- Regulation and laws
- Infrastructure
- Business facilitation and economic empowerment.
- Local empowerment and
- Trade expansion.

With regard to trade facilitation, measures have been put in place to efficiency of customs administration through upgrading the customs infrastructure, integrating the border agencies and developing a single processing and payment window for all border agencies. There are currently studies undertaken with regard to trade facilitation in Zambia to ascertain the financial and technical assistance in the negotiating process as well as the implementation phase.

Zambia played a role in the just ended WTO negotiations in Hong Kong at which it was coordinating the rest of the least developed countries (LDCs) at the talks which achieved some results which if effectively implemented could provide meaningful and tangible benefits to countries like Zambia.

The Ministry's presentation brought out the fact that Important deadlines have been set for establishing and to submit comprehensive draft schedules based on these modalities no latter than 31st July 2006. In addition Zambia has been asked to continue the coordination of the LDC group until April 2006 and will do its best to ensure that a positive outcome for LDCs is reached. The ministry called upon Civil Society and other relevant stakeholders to continue to work with government as they have done in the past.

At the regional level, Zambia currently participates in the COMESA free trade area and is also a signatory of the SADC trade protocol. A number of programmes at the regional level are being implemented to increase the level of trade among member states. Under both COMESA and SADC, there are measures that have been put in place to substantially reduce and eventually remove non-tariff barriers that are hindering trade.

The mid term review of the SADC trade protocol has also identified the rules of origin currently in place as a hindrance to trade, member states are currently reviewing these rules with a view of making them simpler and less stringent so as to encourage intra regional trade.

The integrated framework and private sector development programme have identified priority sectors where value analysis will be carried out. The results of the value chain analysis will feed into an aid for trade process so that

supply side constraints within a value chain can be gradually eliminated. The aim of the aid for trade programme is to remove supply side constraints and so promote economic growth and poverty alleviation.

Plenary: Comments To The Government Presentation

A question was raised on the reason for Zambia's duo membership to both SADC and COMESA as they are both trade related. Government explained that Zambia joined SADC, as it was initially a political organization, which has just recently transformed into trade. A cost benefit enquiry is being carried out to ascertain the cost benefit of belonging to both organizations.

On issues of gender in trade, government explained that deliberate efforts were being made to promote women participation through programmes encouraging the grass roots to come together and form clusters through which assistance can be easily channeled. CSOs advised government to use the various community groups attached to national organizations as these already have well established representative structures.

On whether the ordinary Zambian had a place in trade, as the government currently focused on private sector led growth, government explained that mechanisms were being put in place to create a multi economic facility to focus on all citizens as opposed to large sectors focus only. On Aid for Trade, explanation was that a committee was currently being put in place to scrutinize how this could work in Zambia. Members were further learnt that Zambia Development Agency was under formation to act as a one-stop shop for processing all licenses in trade, as opposed to having distant offices processing licenses.

(iv) Civil Society Presentation: Zambian Stakeholders actions to date around the CFA recommendations

Jack Jones Zulu from the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflections (JCTR) made the presentation highlighting some of the activities being undertaken by the Zambian civil society organizations that can be linked with the recommendations and commitments of the CFA. The JCTR presentation focused on four main areas- Debt, Trade, Aid and Governance.

1. Debt

Civil Society Organizations have noted that public debt slows progress in developing countries by diverting resources from education, health, water and sanitation etc to creditors. Africa's debt cannot be repaid without hurting the poor, especially women and children. In Zambia CSOs led by the Jubilee-Zambia have waged a sustained and rigorous campaign for a 100% unconditional debt cancellation. The outcomes of this campaign include the fact that donors are now delivering debt relief in the context of HIPC and MDRI initiatives of a selected number of African HIPCs. CSOs have however noted that a number of deserving countries have been left out of the current debt relief initiatives, and therefore campaigns for the inclusion package for all deserving countries.

2. Trade

CSOs have noted that despite the CFA recommendations being clear on the need for a fair trading system between the West and Africa, the G8 and EU agricultural sectors are heavily subsidized and hence wipe out rural incomes of the poor in Africa. Rich countries spend about US\$ 350 billion a year on agriculture protection and subsidies, which is 16 times their aid to Africa.

CSOs have initiated a number of initiatives. They have held a number of meetings in Lusaka and Livingstone prior to the Hong Kong Ministerial meetings with specific demands on increased market access, removal of trade

subsidies and quotas etc. CSOs also made an input in the government official paper for the Hong Kong meetings. Several follow up meetings to the WTO have been planned for 2006.

3. *Aid*

There is need to double the current aid as global aid still falls far short of what is needed to reach the MFGs and latter on propel the CFA. There is a strong feeling among the CSOs that donors should meet the target 0.7% of their GNP to go towards aid. However, it is not so much the quantity that counts, but the quality of the aid. African NGOs, including Jubilee-Zambia, made very clear in Paris and elsewhere that aid should be untied, predictable, harmonized and linked to the decision making budgetary processes of the receiving country. Due to such CSOs advocacy, it has been noted that donors are now moving towards direct budget support and hence cutting down on transaction costs of aid management.

The CG meetings are the main official platforms for lobbying both government and donors on aid and CSOs have participated in these meetings in the past. Important to note is that aid issues are highly technical, hence therefore need for CSOs build their capacities in order to engage these discussions effectively.

4. *Good Governance*

CSOs have been pushing for a more inclusive participatory mechanism in the formulation of national plans. They have also been instrumental in calling for best practices in the management of public affairs. Currently CSOs are calling for a people driven constitutional making process.

Plenary: CS presentation

The civil society presentation observed that inspite of the initial euphoria and emphasis around concepts of participation and the need to prioritize engagement at all levels, there has over the years been a lull in participation as there has been no information from the coordinating agency, the Ministry of Commerce trade and Industry on the next course of action regarding taking forward the CFA commitments. The JCTR concluded that there is need for government to be more proactive in keeping participation and discussions around the CFA 'alive'.

The JCTR presentation further observed that the CFA initiative has been overshadowed by the G8 debt relief proposal. This could be because the G8 proposal directly and immediately affects Zambia and 13 other countries in Africa. The fact that no CSO in Zambia is directly relating to the CFA process is in itself a weakness. Many CSOs took the CFA as a by-the-way issue and one off event.

It was also noted that the media plays a cardinal role in information generation and dissemination. The media in Zambia, however, has not been active in popularizing the CFA and later on its recommendations. Reasons could be that the media finds the contents highly technical and hence needs capacity itself to be able to report effectively.

In terms of Civic Education, CSOs were identified as social partners who could be responsible for educating the public in their own constituencies. Where some CSOs have tried to do this, it has mainly been confined to the capital city, Lusaka. There is need therefore for more people to be reached.

The JCTR presentation concluded by noting that the CFA report has correctly identified and diagnosed Africa's problems based on that it is hoped that both governments and donors will take correct remedial measures. CSOs need to continuously invest in training of its personnel to be able to keep abreast with new country, regional, continental and global development initiatives.

(v) SARPN Presentation: Regional perspective, civil society expectations from the CFA its key commitments to both the process and the content.

Barbara Kalima-Phiri of the Southern Africa Regional Poverty Network (SARPN) made the presentation on behalf of SARPN. The presentation gave a background to the CFA process including the regional consultations that were held in all four geographic regions each being organized by an organization with the appropriate contacts in the relevant region.

SARPN consultations for Southern Africa region, Lusaka, Zambia from 13-14th December 2004 and other such consultations culminated into the March 2005 report. This covered a vast array of issues such as governance, peace and security, investment in people, trade, aid and debt, growth and poverty reduction.

Our Common Interest Report- Assumptions and Expectations.

The presentation highlighted some assumptions and expectations contained in the report, these being;

- It recognizes that Africa is a continent endowed with immense natural and human resources as well as great cultural, ecological and economic diversity, and yet it remains underdeveloped.
- Most African nations suffer from military dictatorships, corruption, civil unrest and war, underdevelopment and deep poverty in spite of this, Africa still has the potential to chart and drive its own path to development.
- It highlights expectations that the rich nations should support Africa's efforts because it is also in their interest to make the world a more prosperous and secure place. But Africa needs to create the right conditions for development if any amount of outside support is to succeed.
- There is over expectation that the CFA recommendations, if implemented, should give Africa a stronger voice in international fora as it would have increased the capacity of its key institutions such as the African Union, sub regional institutions such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and others.
- Importantly, there is expectation that poverty will end and African countries would be able to achieve sustainable economic growth of 7%. Also, that there would be major investments in the people of Africa which will help spur new opportunities, accelerate progress towards the achievement of MDGs and other desired development plans.
- The report sought to win over support for, and interest in Africa's development plan, the New Partnership for African's Development (NEPAD) and the G8-Africa Action Plan. Hence, the plans, recommendations and commitment in the context of the Commission for Africa would serve as a barometer for commitment to NEPAD and the G8-Africa Action Plan.

Key Commitments /Recommendations.

The Presentation highlighted the following key commitments and recommendation at the continental level;

1. Governance.

African leaders must improve accountability and they must do so by broadening the participation of people in governance process and getting governance systems right through capacity building. There are specific commitments for the developed countries to provide resources needed to strengthen institutions like Parliaments, local authorities, trade unions, justice system and the media. There is plea for resources to go to civil society actors.

2. Peaces and Security

Africa should take a lead through the AU, to opening up negotiations on the international arms trade treaty no latter than 2006. In addition the continent's peace making, mediations and facilitation capacities should be strengthened.

The report urges developed nations to help bolster Africa's peace, support capacity building operations by making resources available that would strengthen sub regional bodies, strengthen the continent's negations capacities, make available peace keeping equipment and other financial resources. Donors were asked to agree to fund 50% of the already existing African Union Peace Fund.

3. Investing in People

There are calls for participation and investments in schools, clinics and other educational and health policies. There are recommendations on the funding of these social policy areas on the basis that poverty is on the increase and HIV/AIDS is killing more people in Africa than the rest of the world and so new measures on social protection are essential.

Recommends education for all so that every child in Africa goes to school through removal of school fees for basic education. There were international recommendations in 2005 to give US\$ 500 million a year over 10 years to revitalize African institutions of higher education.

In health, recommendations are that an additional investment of US\$ 20 billion in Africa's health systems to ensure free basic health care for all, eliminating preventable diseases. Further there should be made available funds for training and retention of skilled workers to ensure that there are an additional one million health workers in Africa by 2015.

Recommends that there be full funding of the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS tuberculosis and Malaria, and the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI). An additional US\$ 10 billion a year for HIV/AIDS to ensure people's right to prevention, treatment and care.

4. Growths and Poverty Reduction

Encourage public and private sectors growth to create jobs, promote entrepreneurship and engage in foreign and domestic investment. Specifically advancing public-private partnership initiatives.

An extra US\$ 10 billion a year until 2010 for investment in infrastructure, and subject to review then, an increase to US\$ 20 billion for the next five years.

5. Trades, Debt and Aid.

Reiterates calls already made by various actors on the need for better and more effective aid, free but also fair trade as well as debt cancellation. On Aid and Debt, there are calls for a move from tied aid on the part of donors to give more predictable and harmonized aid, to be linked to the decision making budgetary process of a country. Aid to Africa should be in form of grants and not loans.

There is call for a broad proposal for the establishment of a transparent debt compact to provide 100% debt cancellation for all Sub-Saharan countries that need it for investment purposes and to reach the MDGs by 2015. There is call to double aid to Sub-Sahara Africa front loaded by an immediate launch of the International Finance facility. There are proposals to explore the introduction of levies such as on airline tickets as one way of financing development.

On Trade, it reiterates the constant calls for the dismantling of trade barriers of all exports from low-income Sub-Sahara African countries and the extension of quota and duty free access.

Another recommendation on trade was urging the developed countries to make development a priority of the Doha Round. Specifically that developed countries should agree to an immediate elimination of trade distorting support to cotton and sugar, an end to all export subsidies and trade distorting support to agriculture by 2010, and to progressively reduce all tariffs to zero by 2015. There are also calls that transitional support be provided to help African countries adjust to new trading regimes by improving preferences and ending rules-of-origin barriers. This could raise annual incomes in Africa by US\$ 5 billion.

6. On Governance

It is noted that Africa is making slight progress in governance. For example the AU, unlike the old OAU, now has a policy of non-indifference in Africa's problems. More than two third countries in Sub-Sahara have had multiparty elections in the last five to ten years. As of 2005, twenty-four African nations have already signed up to African Peer Review Mechanism, an indication of good efforts for countries to be open and transparent. However, despite constitutional government taking root in terms of electoral processes being more transparent and voter participation increasing, political parties are often weak and ineffective.

7. Economic front

Over the last decade, 16 African countries have had growth rates of over 4%. Ending poverty and stagnation still remain the major challenges. Africa still threatens to be the only continent likely to miss the MDGs. The G8 Gleneagles Summit agreed on a US\$ 50 billion boost to aid and EU members pledged to reach a collective aid target of 0.56% of GDP by 2010 and 0.7% by 2015, but this falls short of what was agreed on 30 years ago. Also agreed to full debt cancellation for the poorest 18 countries as these countries are still paying close to US\$ 15 billion annually in debt servicing obligations. There was also agreement on universal access to anti HIV drugs in Africa by 2010.

8. Agriculture

Critical decision to eliminate export subsidies by 2013 defeats the need to correct the trade imbalances that exist in the global trading arena especially that the damages to African farmers caused by domestic support measures in the rich countries continue to be a serious developmental gap. The domestic support in the EU amounts to 55 billion Euros, while export subsidies amount to 3 billion Euros.

Suggestions for CSOs Monitoring

- Reflect upon its own capacity within the context of the recommendations and define its role in the process. This is usually not clear including the stages at which CSOs should be involved.

- Take full responsibility to place pressure on all relevant stakeholders to commit to the initiatives (be it donors, government and to themselves). The CFA does not have a clear cut implementation framework, but makes strong recommendations on key development issues.
- CSOs can begin to explore sets of indicators and criteria for monitoring progress and development in line with already existing instruments such as the budget, MTEF and others. Monitor the implementation of and adherence to the recommendations of the CFA.
- Create alliances with other groups of civil society including those in the North so that they can hold accountable their governments in fulfilling the CFA recommendations.

Plenary : SARPN Presentation

There was general agreement among the members for the need to consolidate activities aimed at engaging in development work by CSOs and avoid working in fragmentation if they were to have impact. Members also agreed that CSOs need to base their advocacy on research-based facts. Further it was agreed that CSOs need continuity in their work towards development initiatives as opposed to shifting focus towards latest identified development initiatives, e.g from NEPAD to completely change and start activities around CFA.

Members further agreed that CSOs should tie their work towards national/international initiatives. Currently, a lot work being carried out by CSOs is related to initiatives such as the MDGs, but organizations do not realize it. The CSOs present noted that CSOs needed to clearly identify their roles in development and work at improving their capacities towards the identified roles.

Members also saw a perceived difference between the UK and EU towards trade and debt issues. UK was seen to have the responsibility of reaching out to the rest of EU and have them commit themselves to the Africa development initiatives.

(vi) Group work Session:

After Lunch the meeting broke into group work sessions to discuss specific issues that were proposed resulting from the morning presentations and agree on specific steps , the following were the proposed discussion themes for the groups;

- 1. With regards to the CFA themes/commitments, what is your organisation specifically following upon? How are you monitoring these commitments?*
- 2. What are the (3) potential challenges and expectations of civil society with regards to monitoring the CFA commitments?*
- 3. What are the two (2) priority advocacy actions/issues around the CFA commitments that civil society needs to embark on in regard to your theme?*

Results of Group work:

- (1) (a) The following were the key identified areas that can or are linked with the CFA process in which CSOs in Zambia are currently doing some work;

- Debt
- Trade
- Aid
- Poverty Reduction and Public Expenditure Management.
- Governance
- Government indicated that they work in line with all CFA themes, through the different ministries.

(b) Methods of monitoring currently employed by various actors in Zambia include:

- Regular meetings with relevant stakeholders by government.
- Participatory Poverty Assessments.
- Budget tracking
- Poverty monitoring
- News paper articles
- Feedbacks from the communities and reports
- CSOs participation in donor coordination groups, government Sectoral Advisory Groups (SAGs) and Aid Technical Committees.

(2.a) Potential Challenges anticipated included:

- Information dissemination from government to civil society and vice versa.
- Inadequate capacity by both government and civil society. To engage in some of the issues
- Lack of synergy among the participating actors.
- Understanding current development concepts and jargons.
- Harmonization/ Alignment of the various development initiatives.
- Lack of consistent reliable information (too many inconsistent sources)

(2.b) Expectations towards CFA in Zambia :

- Find effective and innovative information dissemination mechanics, which should include simplified information resource centers.
- Enhancing government and non state actors through increased training.
- Coordinate activities effectively and to broader development agendas.
- Develop networks among CSOs.
- Deliberate and institutionalized forums for CSOs participation.

(3) Priority advocacy issues identified:

- Civil Society Organizations should advocate for inclusion of all actors in monitoring of CFA commitments implementation.
- CSOs should advocate for harmonization of international development initiatives.
- Awareness around CFA to be broadened to CSOs based in rural areas.

(vii) Closing Remarks.

Mrs Kalima-Phiri in closing the meeting thanked all the members for the valuable input and also for their contribution towards the success of the meeting. She further said as a way forward, SARP would facilitate and support the works of CSOs around the CFA. Representing CSPR Mrs Teresa Chewe thanked SARP for the support towards the successful convening of the meeting. She urged the CSOs presents to carry forward issues raised in the meeting and enhance what they were already doing.

CFA MEETING ATTENDENCE LIST

	NAME	ORGANISATION	CONTACT NUMBER
1	Anne.Z.Chime	CUTS/ARC	224992/ 096 430185
2	Saul Banda	JCTR	290410
3	Jack Jones Zulu	JCTR	290410
4	Nchimunya Chiyombwe	CSPR	290154
5	Barbara Kalima-Phiri	SARPN	+27-12-3429499
6	Grace Chibowa	DFID	251164
7	Chungu Kapembwa	MCTI	224115
8	Gregory Chikwanka	CSPR	290154
9	Pauline Muswala	ZLA	222432
10	Gabriel Chansa	OYV	097 810200
11	Stephen Muyakwa	CSTNZ	293416
12	Theresa Chewe	SACCORD	250017/27
13	E.J.Sikazwe	WOMEN FOR CHANGE	224309

14	Katongo Kalyata	ODCMT	231322
15	Jessy Zulu	ZCSD	212948/ 097 808244
16	Mwaubwa Mwendaweli	EAZ	225305/ 097 774302
17	Savior Mwambwa	CSPR	290154
18	Emmy Ndhovu	CSPR	290154