

① AFRICAN FORUM AND NETWORK
ON DEBT AND DEVELOPMENT

② Report on SADC - ECOSOCC
consultative meeting

DC - ECOSOCC Consultative Meeting

29 - 30 November 2006

Emperors Palace, South Africa



A REPORT

Supported by:



African Forum and Network
on Debt and Development

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About AFRODAD

AFRODAD Vision

AFRODAD aspires for an equitable and sustainable development process leading to a prosperous Africa.

AFRODAD Mission

To secure policies that will redress the African debt crisis based on a human rights value system.

AFRODAD Objectives include the following:

- 1 To enhance efficient and effective management and use of resources by African governments;
- 2 To secure a paradigm shift in the international socio-economic and political world order to a development process that addresses the needs and aspirations of the majority of the people in the world.
- 3 To facilitate dialogue between civil society and governments on issues related to Debt and development in Africa and elsewhere.

From the vision and the mission statements and from our objectives, it is clear that the Debt crisis, apart from being a political, economic and structural issue, has an intrinsic link to human rights. This forms the guiding philosophy for our work on Debt and the need to have African external debts cancelled for poverty eradication and attainment of social and economic justice. Furthermore, the principle of equity must of necessity apply and in this regard, responsibility of creditors and debtors in the debt crisis should be acknowledged and assumed by the parties. When this is not done, it is a reflection of failure of governance mechanisms at the global level that protect the interests of the weaker nations. The Transparent Arbitration mechanism proposed by AFRODAD as one way of dealing with the debt crisis finds a fundamental basis in this respect.

AFRODAD aspires for an African and global society that is just (equal access to and fair distribution of resources), respects human rights and promotes popular participation as a fundamental right of citizens (Arusha Declaration of 1980). In this light, African society should have the space in the global development arena to generate its own solutions, uphold good values that ensure that its development process is owned and driven by its people and not dominated by markets/profits and international financial institutions.

AFRODAD is governed by a Board of seven people from the five regions of Africa, namely East, Central, West, Southern and the North. The Board meets twice a year. The Secretariat, based in Harare, Zimbabwe, has a staff compliment of Seven programme and five support staff.

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African Forum and Network on Debt and Development

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1.0 Opening Session

Session 1 Chairperson: Dr Bhekinkosi Moyo (IDASA)

1.1 Welcome and Introductions

Ms Linda Kabwato (IDASA)

In her welcome she noted the presence of Hon. Prof. Wangari Maathai, the Interim Presiding Officer of ECOSOCC Bureau. An apology from IDASA's Executive Director, Mr Paul Graham was noted. She indicated that conference was organised by IDASA and AFRODAD in a very short notice. The partnership between IDASA, AFRODAD and all invited CSOs was emphasised as one of the most important partnership in advancing the course of democracy and public participation throughout the region. She briefly explained the background and programmes offered by IDASA. It was also said that all programmes within IDASA are intending to promote a strong relationship between the state and citizens. All delegates were requested to introduce themselves and the register is attached.



1.2 Opening Remarks

Mr Charles Mutasa (AFRODAD and Deputy Presiding officer of ECOSOCC)

Mr Charles Mutasa acknowledged the presence of Hon. Prof. Wangari Maathai. All Development Partners who assisted the conference financially were thanked. The attendance and participation of all speakers and delegates who positively responded to the invitation were welcome and appreciated. This consultative meeting aims at strengthening the engagement of CSO's in AU, PAP, other Continental Initiatives, Regional Bodies and at various national platforms. ECOSOCC should grow strong so that it can impact positively in all continental programmes particularly with regard to the socio economic, good governance and poverty alleviation issues. The success of ECOSOCC depends largely on the following areas:

- Political will by heads of state in the continent
- Support from CSO's
- Support from International community

The partnership between the Heads of State and ECOSOCC is very critical, as it will enable the continent to achieve its millennium goals.



1.3 Keynote Address

Hon. Prof Wangari Maathai (Presiding Officer of ECOSOCC)

In her keynote address Prof W. Maathai thanked the Deputy Presiding Officer Mr Charles Mutasa, members of the Interim Bureau, representatives from participating Organisations and the organisers of the conference which are AFRODAD and IDASA. She indicated that it is for the first time for her to come to the South because she could not attend the SADC - CSO Consultative meeting on AU-ECOSOCC held in April 2006 in Harare, Zimbabwe. She informed the conference that ECOSOCC has established an Interim General Assembly of 150 members. During the establishment of ECOSOCC she was requested to be the Presiding Officer of the Bureau. The main task of the Interim Bureau is to facilitate the process of launching national chapters of ECOSOCC and the establishment of permanent General Assembly before the end of 2007. ECOSOCC is organised into 10 Cluster Committees which are also relevant to the MDGs. There are countries which have established their national chapters and therefore this process should be accelerated in other countries. CSOs should make themselves relevant and visible in dealing with all national, regional and continental programmes and therefore ECOSOCC should be strengthened to influence AU agenda. It has been difficult for CSOs to influence agenda of the Heads of State but since the launch of the AU and ECOSOCC there has been positive changes with regard to the role of CSOs in matters of governance within the continent. She also indicated that the name ECOSOCC should be reconsidered because it does not relate to the context of African development and therefore there is a need for creativity by changing the name to have a clear identity. ECOSOCC has been invited to participate in the Heads of State Summit which is an opportunity for CSOs to present recommendations and influence the agenda of the AU. The Presiding Officer is responsible for reporting progress to the AU. A Strategic Plan was developed with a Budget of \$3.7m which was presented to the AU for consideration.

1.4 Plenary Discussion

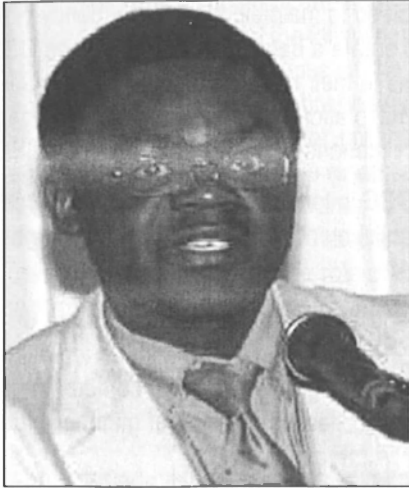
- ECOSOCC is an AU Advisory Organ which is organised into ten Clusters of which the CSOs are supposed to organise themselves around since they work in various sectors. CSOs at national level in each member country should be mobilised along these areas because most organisations are working on. The formation of national chapters should also take into account these clusters.
- ECOSOCC developed a Strategic Plan with a Budget of \$3.7m and the AU provided only \$1m in July 2006 therefore there is a shortfall in funding. The main goal of ECOSOCC is to establish the General Assembly with two representatives per each member country. There is a need to find partners around specific clusters and most Development Partners are interested in the Health and Environment Clusters which are also linked to the MDGs.
- The deadline for the establishment of national chapters was set for end 2007. The AU provided two Officials in November 2006 who are based in Addis Ababa to support the process of establishing national chapters. The process of bringing CSOs together is a challenge and there is a need for common understanding. The establishment of national chapters should be an inclusive process. The South African chapter was established even before the AU's ECOSOCC was launched and now the challenge is what should be done but discussions are underway to reach an agreement between CSOs. The South African chapter was involved in the country's Peer Review Mechanism process.
- ECOSOCC is one of the AU's institutional arrangements that exist and there is a working relationship with institutional like Citizen Directorate Organ (CDO) which plays a Secretariat role. The CDO Officials were supposed to be present in the Regional Meeting but they are having their Strategic Planning session. ECOSOCC is one of the major organs reporting to the Heads of States of the AU.

Session 2: Regional CSOs/NGO Participation on the ECOSOCC

Chairperson: Ms Marta Cumbi (FDC)

2.1 Presentation: Briefing on ECOSOCC and basis for Regional CSOs Engagement with the ECOSOCC (Rationale and Mechanisms) 1:

Charles Mutasa: (Deputy Presiding Officer of ECOSOCC)



Interim ECOSOCC was launched in March 2005 and the name comes directly from the AU Constitutive Act. The Working Group of 20 people was constituted to work with the AU in the development of Code of Ethics and Statutes to be presented to the Heads of States. The first draft was rejected by the AU in Maputo because some member countries argued that the process was not consultative enough to CSOs in their respective countries. Currently ECOSOCC is identifying key national Organisations to drive the processes of mobilising CSOs prior to the launching of national chapters which will elect their two representatives to sit in the General Assembly.

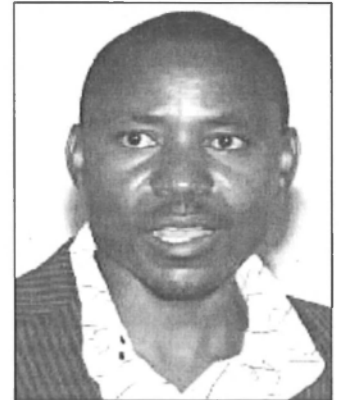
Challenges:

- Financial viability of the ECOSOCC of which AU also is facing because of dependency on donor funding and therefore there is a need to mobilise resources and not rely only on AU.
- Commitment and consistency of members who were elected into the General Assembly because some of them cannot be located and there is a need for member countries to address these matters.

- ECOSOCC does not have an office and the Secretariat is located in CDO which is housed at the AU Offices.

2.2 Discussant: Dr Bhekinkosi Moyo (IDASA)

ECOSOCC is a work in progress and there are three questions which need to be answered: is this body an invited space or a free space or an invented space. The nature in which ECOSOCC was established and is functioning is more an Invited space which is an Advisory Body constituted by 150 Organisations. There is a need to look into the Statute because of the criteria for membership because of some of the provisions like Registration in countries which is more an endorsement as well as providing information of funding of which is a problem. The issue of Code of Ethics and Conduct, 50% of funding should be from members and most CSOs are not membership based except Trade Unions, Credential Committee might be a dangerous body and its powers must be looked into, ECOSOCC is also least prioritised by the AU, the body is also under researched even if there are number of academics which are within the CSOs.



2.3 Presentation 2: Developing the Regional Process: The Options, Strategies and the Challenges Regional Organisations - Knowledge, Involvement and Expectations of ECOSOCC

Mr Helder Malaune (FCD)

The criteria for the selection of the two Regional Networks to represent the SADC-CSOs at the AU should be developed by the CSOs within the region. The two Regional Networks are supposed to be well rooted and have an understanding of the region as a whole. There is a need of establishing the Regional Co-ordination Mechanisms and the procedure for the election of two Regional Representatives.

The Operation of the Cluster Committees and the co-ordination of information from the national chapters to the Standing Committees, General Assembly and the Bureau prior to presentation by the Presiding Officer to the AU's Heads of States. There is a need to finalise this mechanisms prior to the expiry of the mandate of the Interim General Assembly which is scheduled for end of 2007.

2.4 Discussant: Ms Chengetai Cecilia Madziwa (SAHRIT)

There is a need to create ownership of the processes by CSOs at grassroots level through information sharing, commitment and feedback by member organisations and the Regional Networks which are participating in the various forums. Co-ordination and collaboration within member countries should be encouraged. The continent should also develop its own mechanisms for funding rather than relying on donors.

2.5 Plenary Discussions

- The best way for ECOSOCC as an Invited Space and an Advisory Body there is a need to maintain the independency of the CSOs and the critical role of monitoring of governments and AU. There is a need to create a balance in roles because CSOs are provided a space and need to play a role of changing undemocratic governments in their respective countries in order to make the AU a strong democratic continental body. Since ECOSOCC provide a formal platform and invited space of engagement with AU there is a need to allow the informal platforms of engagement for the maintenance of independency of the CSOs.
- The accessibility of the Secretariat, the Bureau and the sustainability of the ECOSOCC in terms of its structural arrangement should be looked into. The Heads of States and Governments encourages the establishment of ECOSOCC and its Statutes and therefore it state driven in terms of the Statutes.
- The Religious Networks are the best definition of membership based Regional and Continental Networks. Some of the Regional Networks are also sector specific and there is a need to create a balance. The selection process for 2 Representatives per each country should be highly guarded because some of the mainstream CSOs might be excluding some of the key organisations. The decision to nominate the country and regional representations is a collective decision of member organisations.
- CSOs' Registration and funding are the two critical provisions of the Statutes which are suppose to be reviewed because they are critical provisions which might exclude CSOs into the ECOSOCC.

Session 3

Chairperson: Ms Namhla Mniki (African Monitor)

3.1 Presentation 3: A Critical Analysis of the CSO Engagement with the AU (Agenda and Strategies)

Mr Ozias Tungwarara: (Afrimap)

He presented the finding of the study on the relationship between AU Organs and the Civil Society and they include some of the following: The AU does not live up with its ambition and vision of linking with the Civil Society because of the nature of its institutional arrangements. Information on AU agenda and strategies does not go beyond the Presidency and Foreign Affairs in member countries. The AU Commission is under pressure because of the scheduled bi-annual summits and they cannot implement some of the resolutions taken by the Heads of States. The AU Commission does not provide information in advance to the member countries prior to the Summits and therefore this also disadvantages CSOs. The pre-Summit meeting of CSOs which is organised by CDO is not transparent and therefore the role of these two bodies should be clarified. The Study also brought the following recommendations which need to be addressed: ECOSOCC's interim structures are weak and need for improvements. Selection of representatives to the General Assembly and National Chapters need to be revisited. ECOSOCC rely more on CDO for its operations, advise and funding.



3.2 Discussant: Mr Che Ajulu (Institute for Global Dialogue)

Civil Society's role in opposition politics creates a problem of engagement in policy matters and partnerships with governments and Regional Bodies and AU Organs and this need to be addressed. CSOs need to sort consensus amongst themselves for effective utilisation of the contested spaces at national, regional, continental and global level.

3.3 Plenary Discussion

- Organisations and Networks which are already working with the Governments, Regional Bodies, AU and Global Bodies should continue because ECOSOCC and National Chapters are not the only channel of engagement with these bodies of governance. ECOSOCC is an institutionalised channel which gives CSOs platform of engagement with Heads of States at the AU and therefore there is a need to be utilised. CSOs need to be pro-reform and engage in democracy and democratisation process at all levels.
- AU is an inter-governmental body governing the continent and therefore there is a need to re-define the definition of CSOs and membership of ECOSOCC as outlined in the Statutes. CSOs need to maintain its independence and mobilise other role players as well as engaging each other independently from the invited spaces created by governments.

Session 4: Linking SADC with AU (Agenda and Strategies)

Chairperson: Dr Bhekinkosi Moyo (IDASA)

4.1 Presentation 4:

Dr Siphamandla Zondi (Institute for Global Dialogue)

Regional Integration in SADC context has progressed at the state level and there is a need for the acceleration of Civil Society integration. AU recognises five regions in the continent out of eight but the three unrecognised regions remain active. The questions which need to be posed are the definition of what constitute a region, what constitute building blocks, linkages between SADC and AU Plans, the co-ordination role of AU, role of Regional Bodies in AU, relationship between AU and NEPAD and model which supposed to be followed in the regional and continental integration?

4.2 Discussant: Mr Abie Dithlake (SADC - Council of NGO)

There are attempts to clarify the relationship and interface between AU and SADC. SADC need to open-up and it seems there is no commitment but the Declarations makes provisions for engagement with CSOs. CSOs need to identify key issues of engagement with SADC and shape the regional agenda and strategies.

4.3 Plenary Discussions

- CSOs need to conduct research on the political and economic configuration and operation of the SADC in order to understand the processes of regional integration. SADC is currently controlled by technocrats and experts from foreign countries of the west and that creates a problem and causes a disjuncture between member states and the technocratic administrative arrangements.
- The role of CSOs should engage their countries on the implementation of policies at national level and this will also influence the engagement at SADC level. CSOs should also play a role of influencing the regaining the control of SADC and its structures.
- Need for CSOs to get involved in the economic integration to achieve the issue of self funding.

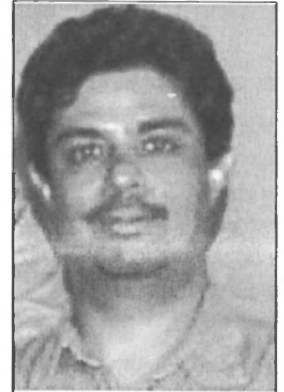


Session 5: ECOSOCC, MDGs and Sustainable Development

Chairperson: Prof Bahati Lukwebo (Society Civile Du Congo)

5.1 Presentation 5: Essential Services MDGs - and Oxfam's Perspective Mr Mohamed Motala (OXFAM)

ECOSOCC should ask "The Why Question and in Whose Interest?" when addressing the types of modalities which include: institutional arrangements; legislative frameworks; administrative structures; financial arrangements; and systems and procedures. Globally there is a shortage of health workers teachers. More died in 2005 due to HIV / AIDS and many more are living with HIV. Only half of all boys, and even fewer girls, complete primary school in Sub-Saharan Africa and the average African 16 year old girl have had less than three years of schooling. Women in developing countries have a one in four chances of dying from a pregnancy-related cause compared to 1 in 800 in developed countries. Many of the developing countries spend more on military than education and health combined. Annually the world spends US\$1 trillion on defence, around 325 billion on agriculture and only 60 billion on aid. Generally there is failing basic services: 1,400 women will die needlessly in pregnancy or childbirth; 4000 children will be killed by diarrhoea, a disease of dirty water; 100 million school-age, most of them girls, won't be in class.



ECOSOCC should also ask "What is going Wrong?" because governments in poor countries are failing people by not spending enough and or spending on the wrong things. The governments in rich countries and international agencies such as the World Bank should be crucial partners in supporting public systems but instead they don't give enough aid; they push privatisation while rich countries on the other hand steal health workers and teachers from developing countries. The private sector is notoriously hard to regulate especially when governments are weak. There is a need for massive expansion of public services. There is a trend where countries which rank low on income tend to rank high in basic services or vis-a-vis.

5.2 Discussant: Mr Thomas Deve (MWENGO)

There is a need for CSOs to engage with MDGs to ensure that the targets are realised in each member country. CSOs should also play a critical role in challenging capitalism as part of the contribution to various states which are fighting neo-liberalism agenda. CSOs should also hold government accountable to their citizens in the fight against poverty and exploitation.

5.3 Presentation 6: NEPAD, The APRM and ECOSOCC - Synergies and Divergences for CSOs Engagement

Ms Litha Musyimi-Ogana (NEPAD Secretariat)

The formation of AU was so dynamic and there are spaces for engagement because there is a framework which is open and CSO should explore these spaces. NEPAD is supposed to provide technical support to AU and member states through programmes like APRM. CSO's have to be knowledgeable about all the processes that are taking place in their member countries, regions and the continent. There is a need to strengthen the networks and sharing of information. There is a need for ECOSOCC to link with Think Tank at the NEPAD and APRM.



5.4 Discussant: Mr Richard Kamidza (ACCORD)

ECOSOCC should not focus on what Heads of States are doing because that can shift the CSOs advocacy on specific Agenda and Strategies. CSOs should utilise the invited space as provided through ECOSOCC and be guided by own principles. Building synergies at policy; institutional and process level from local, national, regional and continental platforms.

5.5 Plenary Discussion

- ECOSOCC's agenda should focus on macro issues in the engagement with Heads of States including the focus on Debt which affects the poor countries and the causes of problems rather than symptoms.
- Need to conduct comparative analysis of NEPAD Framework with purpose of understanding what informs countries to take specific decisions on various choices and determine whether they are influenced by global forces or by the needs of the population on the choices.

- ECOSOCC should always ask a question of why there is a need to engage on particular advocacy strategies. CSO's should engage in process levels, consultation, implementation, monitoring and review of all programmes in AU
- ECOSOCC should also safe guard the principle of APRM's semi-autonomous status from the NEPAD to ensure integrity of Country Reports.

Session 6

Chairperson: Ms Chengetai Cecilia Madziwa (SAHRIT)

6.1 Presentation 7: ARPM and Challenges of Good Governance in Africa Mr Grant Masterson (EISA)

The underlying ideology of NEPAD is problematic and the APRM is at a critical stage of its development. Only 25 countries have adopted APRM because it is voluntary and not mandatory and therefore the AU cannot adopt it as its own programme. Each country design own structures and processes in accordance with its own environment and there are lessons from the first five countries which underwent the Peer Review. Ghana's process was controlled by the Civil Society with four Institutions of Higher Learning. Rwanda's government controlled with two external Institutions from South Africa. Kenya's process was opened for the CSOs to determine their role but they failed due to individual interests of those CSOs which were serving in the forum. Mauritius's process is driven by both government and CSOs and it has taken long time from 2004 and there is no report yet. South Africa's process was a joint process between government and CSOs but it seems government had pre-occupied ideas and therefore not transparent.



The lessons which can be drawn from these five countries indicate that: CSOs should act as key players and there is a need to encourage their active participation in the process, co-ordination and on the content of the reports. ECOSOCC should play a role of advocating for the ratification of Country Reports as well as monitoring and evaluation of both processes and contents at regional and continental level with a purpose of following-up on Country Action Plans.

6.2 Discussant: Ms Namhla Mniki (Africa Monitor)

There is a need to contextualise good governance principles as defined in the African context and therefore CSOs and ECOSOCC should take a lead in the interface since ARPM is set to strengthen good governance. CSOs should also utilise the invited and or invented spaces since the APRM is mostly government driven process. CSOs should also balance their focus on both the process and content of the reports in a co-ordinated manner in these spaces. ECOSOCC should drive a process of developing strategies for integration and co-ordination.

6.3 Plenary Discussion

ECOSOCC should play a role of monitoring the processes and contents of the reports with purpose of providing advice especially on all thematic areas. There is a need to strengthen Interim Country Representatives and build capacity of CSOs to participate effectively in the APRM processes.

Session 7: Breakaway/Group Sessions

Session Chairpersons: Mr Charles Mutasa (AFRODAD)

7.1 Break-away Group Reports

7.2 Group 1: Regional CSOs Support for the ECOSOCC Process in SADC and at National Level

- Research production, policy development and analysis
- Advocacy and awareness from the Regions to the Continent
- Capacity building of national CSOs
- Priority setting of issues
- Strengthening of National Bodies and Regional Co-ordinating Bodies
- Need for strong co-ordinating body as a focal point
- Information sharing and communication
- Re-looking at the current Interim National Chapters and General Assembly to ensure proper representation.
- Maintenance of other existing platforms
- Revisiting the Statutes

7.3 Group 2: Mechanisms and Modalities for Operationalizing ECOSOCC Representation for Regional CSOs

- Setting a Task Team to look into the Criteria for Regional Networks and other CSOs
- Balancing the current representation by reducing of Diaspora representatives to 10 and increase Regional Network representatives to 20.
- Participation of Diaspora should not be work on issues affecting Africa and work with African CSOs
- Need for three further consultative Regional meetings and participation should be inclusive. The two first meeting should be scheduled for February 2007 and March 2007 to focus on other organisations which did not participate in this meeting. The third meeting should be the SADC Regional meeting scheduled for June 2007 to select the permanent Regional Representatives before the next ECOSOCC General Assembly.
- These changes in the Statute should be taken by the new leadership based on the provision of the Statute as provided by Article 20.

7.4 Group 3: Integrating and Harmonizing Regional CSOs' work on ECOSOCC, NEPAD, APRM and Other Activities

- Activities identified: ECOSOCC, NEPAD, Gender Unit and Task Team, Post Conflict Reconstruction Working Group, MDGs, SADC Secretariat, and other engagement by various CSOs.
- Need to take stock of existing CSOs in the Region and their activities.
- CSOs should work together to harmonise their work along side the Clusters as well as the existing Networks
- Selected Regional Representatives should be the Focal Point for activities within their constituent region.
- Focal Points should work very closely with the National Representatives of National Chapters.
- Need for Regional CSOs to utilise ECOSOCC as a channel or platform of engagement with AU and its Organs.
- Need for continuous engagement as CSOs and Regional Networks.

8.0 Consolidated Conference Recommendations

- 8.1 The process of launching ECOSOCC national chapters in all member countries should be accelerated with the intention of adhering to the launch of permanent General Assembly by the end of 2007.
- 8.2 There is a need to strengthen working relations and clarity of roles between ECOSOCC and Citizen Directorate Organ (CDO) which is currently playing the Secretariat role to ECOSOCC.
- 8.3 ECOSOCC's Code of Ethics and Statute should be revisited because some of the provisions like: CSOs Registration in member countries, Credential Committee, Membership and Representation are problematic.
- 8.4 A Task Team should be established to look into the criteria for selection of 2 Representatives from member countries and Regional Networks as well as reporting mechanisms and accountability of all ECOSOCC Structures. The Task Team report should be completed prior to the expiry of the Interim General Assembly's mandate.
- 8.5 ECOSOCC should balance the current representation by reducing of Diaspora representatives to 10 and increase Regional Network representatives to 20.
- 8.6 ECOSOCC as an Advisory Body should clarify its mandate of either the invited space, or invented space, or free space or contested space with a purpose of maintaining the independency of CSOs and utilisation of both formal and informal platforms. CSOs should also maintain their current working relations with the governing bodies in pursue of their own individual mandates.
- 8.7 ECOSOCC should develop funding mechanisms for all its structures and national chapters rather than relying on donors.
- 8.8 ECOSOCC should encourage member organisations to conduct research and analysis of the political, social, and economic aspects as well as framework of all programmes of the governing bodies with a purpose of advocacy on macro issues like Debt which affects the poor countries.
- 8.9 ECOSOCC should also safeguard the principle of APRM semi-autonomy status from NEPAD to ensure integrity of member countries' reports and effective participation in the processes, consultation, implementation, monitoring and review of all programmes.
- 8.10 SADC - ECOSOCC should conduct three further consultative Regional meetings and participation should be inclusive. The two first meeting should be scheduled for February 2007 and March 2007 to focus on other organisations which did not participate in the November 2006 meeting. The third meeting should be the SADC Regional meeting scheduled for June 2007 to select the permanent Regional Representatives before the next ECOSOCC General Assembly.
- 8.11 Integration of all Regional Work in the ECOSOCC Website which will be linked to the AU and setting of E-Communication for information sharing.



The 2006 gathering of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Heads of State and Government (HOSG) in Durban, South Africa.



Annex 1

Presentation 1: Briefing on ECOSOCC and basis for Regional CSOs Engagement with the ECOSOCC (Rationale and Mechanisms)

Charles Mutasa: (Deputy Presiding Officer of ECOSOCC)

Formation of the OAU

OAU was inaugurated on 25th May 1963. 30 of the then 32 independent states joined. OAU Head quarters is Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Purpose of the OAU

- To eradicate colonialism and apartheid
- To promote unity and solidarity among African States
- To protect the territorial integrity and consolidation of the independence of the African States
- To promote international co-operation within the framework of the United Nations.

Successes of the OAU Include

- Elimination of political colonialism
- Elimination of Apartheid
- Strengthened solidarity at political level
- Conflict management and resolution of some conflicts
- Generated a lot of literature on African Countries.

Some of the Challenges of the OAU

- Protection of dictators
- Failure to intervene in "internal" matters of member states
- Lack of visibility to ordinary Africans
- Lack of resources (finance) to run African programmes
- Power politics by rich states

CSOs and Democracy

- Lie between two power domains –Gvt & Corps
- Partisans of democratic struggle, economic & social justice
- Pillar of constitutional democratic regimes
- A prerequisite for democratization
- A means to strengthen the liberty of individuals (indpnt & autonomous).
- A celebration of multiplicity/plurality.
- A guarantee of accountability & openness

Relevance of CSOs in Africa

- Better awareness & informed citizenry
- Build social capital, trust & shared values
- A check on government performance

- Policy input leads to good governance
- Mechanism for CSOs input.
- The quest for a peo-union Vs Pol club
- Value addition –Alternatives & Solns
- Rule of law & Constitutionalism
- Watchdogs of the continent
- Proactive popularization of the new Africa Union

Steps to ECOSOCC

- Observer Status
- Abuja Treaty on RI
- Arusha Declaration on popular Participation
- Grassroots Agents of Moblzn
- Peace & Security contrib. (CSSDCA)
- Policy Analysis & Dialogue
- Push by Globalization (NEPAD)
- Transition from OAU to AU (Article 22 AU Act)

Launch of ECOSOCC

- 1997 Sec..Gen Presn to Summit
- 2 AU-CSOs conferences (2001 & 2002)
- Birth of a working Group (Statues, Code & Procedures)
- 2005 March Interim ECOSOCC Launched
- Current process

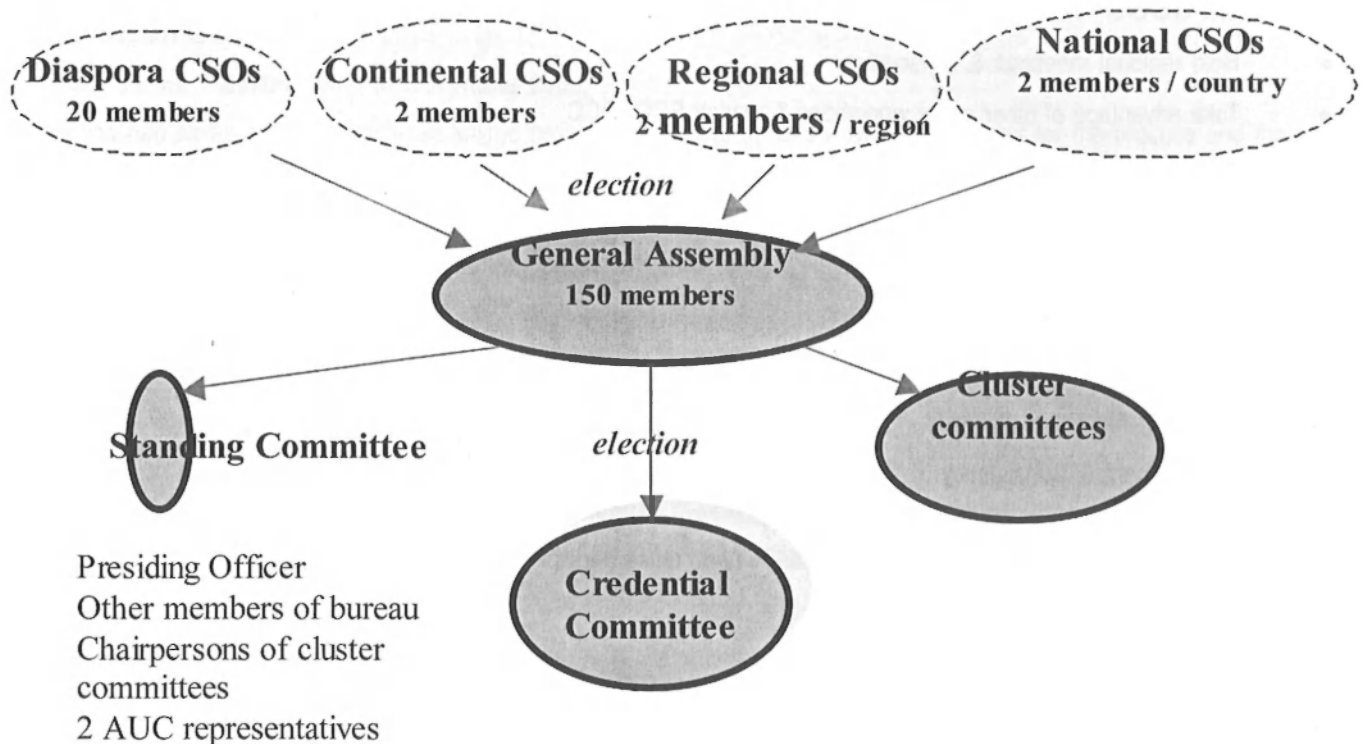
ECOSOCC Membership

- 150 member ECOSOCC with
- 106 country reps (2 per state)
- 8 Continental CSOs
- 10 from Regional CSOs
- 20 from Diaspora
- 6 CSOs in ex-officio capacity

Vision & Mandate of ECOSOCC

- Have national chapters
- Engage AU ion issues of concern
- Pre-Summit consultations
- Peo & Human Rights matters
- Condemn and condone

ECOSOCC organs



Organs of the AU from Top

- The Assembly of the AU
- The Executive Council
- Permanent Representatives Committee.
- The Commission
- Pan-African Parliament; The Court of Justice;
- Specialised Technical Committees; Financial Institutions; Economic, Social and Cultural council, etc.

AU Organs Suited for CSO

- The Economic, Social and Cultural Council
- The Pan-African Parliament
- The Commission
- Specialised Technical Committees

National Scene-setting Steps

- Identify key National Players in each country (Umbrella NGOs +ECOSOCC committee members)
- Strategic road mapping Have an interim committee selected.
- National Outreach & Select Reps

Regional CSOs

- Hold regional meetings & conscientize
- Take advantage of other major workshops & market ECOSOCC
- Social Forum
- NGOs Explo/convention
- Use community radios/national TVs

Challenges for CSOs

- Financial viability
- Building alliances at all levels
- Commitment & Consistency
- Membership criteria and accreditation clarity
- Afro-Pessimism
- AU bureaucracy Vs CSOs flexibility
- Accountability, transparency, legitimacy & autonomy issues
- Information dissemination & inclusiveness
- NGOs skepticism & pessimism of ECOSOCC
- Engaging the media

Annex 2

Presentation 2: Developing the Regional Process: The Options, Strategies and the Challenges Regional Organisations - Knowledge, Involvement and Expectations of ECOSOCC

Mr Helder Malaune (FCD)

1. Progress Made So Far on the ECOSCC Sharing and Consultation - Focusing Southern African Countries

a) Zimbabwe - Meeting held in November 2005

This meeting had as an added value result for the process the setting up of the National Chapter for the process and the role of secretariat was given and assumed by the Poverty Reduction Forum.

b) Meeting held in Zimbabwe in April 2006

The meeting was held to set up the and agree on the process and the rules of engagement to be followed for the regional process of the ECOSOCC.

c) Zambia launching of the process

It was presented in a meeting where there were key players of Civil Society in Zambia that got the presentation about the ECOSOCC and to be given the challenge and the mandate of making the process move forward countrywide so that at the end of the process the Zambian Civil Society can consensually elect their representatives for the ECOSOCC after the interim period.

d) Lesotho Meeting - (during the last SADC Summit)

The process taken forward in this regional country it was the same done in Zambia and with the same objectives.

e) Efforts for the Meeting in Namibia

During the last meeting held by NANGOF, the Namibian NGO Forum, it was wished to present in their working program, the same information presented in Zambian and later in Lesotho, but it didn't happen because those who were supposed to do it were involved in other process both regional and continent wide.

Therefore, planning is being made to make it happen if possible before the end of 2006 or in earlier 2007.

f) Mozambique process

In Mozambique the process has already took two stages of development in the sense that it has already been launched the consultation process in which there were the key players of National Civil Society (Networks, Forums, Thematic Groups, Coalitions and others) that agreed in being on a Coordinating Group for the national process.

The following stages took the processes to part of the national level at the provinces which have already achieved about 60% of country and some planning already made for the follow up so that by the end of first semester of 2007 the two national representatives will be elected.

2. Developing a Regional Process

For this to happen we are expected as regional networks and forums of Civil Society to own the information, the process and follow up the given information and challenges so that we as regional organizations or actors of Civil Society get consensus about who should represent the region in the ECOSOCC processes.

As regional actors we should look at the platforms that would deal with the Cluster Committees to give it added value.

Regarding the Options, Strategies and Challenges these should be seen, developed and dealt with by the regional CS actors being the ones who better know the realities of regional networking.

The ECOSOCC is expecting that according to the Statutes we do, as regional Civil Society actors, a process that will allow the achievement of expected number of regional representativeness number (election of two regional networks for the ECOSOCC).

Summary of Approved Information for the ECOSOCC Establishment Process

Sectoral Cluster Committees

- **Peace and Security**

Conflict anticipation; prevention; management and resolution; post conflict reconstruction and peace building; prevention and combating of terrorism; use of child soldiers; drug trafficking; illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons and security reforms etc.

- **Political Affairs**

Human rights; rule of law; democratic and constitutional rule; good governance; power sharing, electoral institutions; humanitarian affairs and assistance etc.

- **Infrastructure and Energy**

Energy; transport; communications; infrastructure and tourism etc

- **Social Affairs and Health**

Health; children; drug control; population; migration; labour and employment; family; aging; the physically challenged; sports; culture; youth and protection and social integration etc.

- **Human Resources, Science and Technology**

Education; illiteracy; information technology; communication; human resources; science and technology etc.

- **Trade and Industry**

Trade; industry; handicrafts; customs and immigration matters etc.

- **Rural Economy and Agriculture**

Rural economy; agriculture and food security; livestock; environment; water and natural resources and desertification etc.

- **Economic Affairs**

Economic integration; monetary and financial affairs; private sector development including the informal sector and resource mobilization etc).

- **Women and Gender**

Women; gender and development as a crosscutting issue etc) Cross-Cutting Programmes (all other cross-cutting issues that are not covered in above clusters including HIV/AIDS, international cooperation, coordination with institutions and organs of the Union.

Adopted Way Forward from Interim ECOSOCC

- The Interim General Assembly Members together with other competent, Civil Society Organizations in their respective countries (for this case the region), should strive to establish consensual and functional national (and regional) coordinating mechanism for the ECOSOCC process as soon as possible. It must be noted that the mandate of the Interim General Assembly for ECOSOCC will expire in 2007. All stake holders must therefore make commitments to this process and follow through with them.

- The African Civil Society must recognize that they must be change they want to see in Africa. It is the African people who must live the dream of a United Africa in their every day lives. And with increasing international attention being directed to Africa, this may be an ideal time to draw on an African example as a motivational force; ECOSOCC provides this opportunity.

Main Objectives adopted for follow up

- The establishment of national (regional in this case) coordination mechanisms for purposes of popularizing ECOSOCC and election of two CSOs (regional networks) to the substantive ECOSOCC General Assembly;
- Operationalisation of cluster committees;
- Development of strategies and mechanisms for resource mobilization;
- Participation and provision of input to the AU through cluster committees.

Challenges for Southern Africa Networks

- Ensure the inclusion of all interested parties in the process at the regional level;
- Take their concerns to the ECOSOCC and bring back the results of its participation to the SADC Civil Society;
- Start an internal process of consultation so that at the end of the Interim period of the ECOSOCC General Assembly there could be indicated consensually the Networks that will represent Southern Africa in the ECOSOCC.

Annex 3

Presentation 3: A Critical Analysis of the CSO Engagement with the AU (Agenda and Strategies)

Mr Ozias Tungwarara: (Afrimap)

Introduction

- Share insights into quality and nature of CSO engagement with the AU
- Observations based on findings and recommendations of research commissioned by Afrimap, AFRODAD and OXFAM GB
- Purpose of research to contribute to effective CSO participation in continental policymaking

Background and Context

- Engagement between AU and CSOs has significantly increased since transition to AU
- AU has made strong commitments to involving CSOs in its processes
- Big gap in CSO understanding of how governments relate to AU
- Serious gap between state and non-state planning for AU processes
- Generally poor and last minute preparations and planning for AU meetings and summits –constraining government capacity to consult and plan adequately around key issues

Scope

- Covered 11 countries looking at:
- How the AU Commission effectively communicates with governments
- How inter-ministerial coordination at national level works in responding to AU issues
- How ambassadors in Addis relate to their home governments
- The role of ECOSOCC national chapters in preparations for AU meetings
- The extent to which CSOs and parliamentarians have information about and are able to influence processes

Methodology

- Key informant interviews – civil servants in ministries of FA, Legal Affairs, Addis embassy staff, CSO policy analysts, journalists, etc
- Literature review of primary and secondary sources – AU constitutive documents, AU government and CSO websites, press statements, etc

Findings

- Key finding – the AU's vision of a "partnership between governments and all segments of civil society to strengthen solidarity and cohesion among our peoples" is being undermined by a combination of policies, procedures and relationships between member states, the AU Commission and other specialized organs and civil society – the AU does not yet live up to its ambition to build a partnership between governments and all segments of civil society
- Member states and the AU at the national level – key agencies are the Office of the President and the ministry of Foreign Affairs – there is little evidence that member states have made the transition from the OAU to the AU in terms of institutional arrangements – little sharing of information beyond the executive branch
- Member states in AU decision-making fora – critical for CSOs to access AU decision-making processes e.g. PRC, Executive Council of Ministers, Assembly of heads of state
- Failure to comply with rules of procedure e.g. late submission of agenda items hinders CSO engagement – no time to translate and distribute documents
- 2 summits a year puts pressure on the AUC to prepare for and implement decisions of heads of state including CSO consultations

- The role of RECs and political blocs adds to lack of transparency about how African regions formulate positions at the AU level
- Problems in getting access to hosting countries (visas) and space to hold independent meetings
- AU Commission – accessing information major problem – late distribution of documents hinders member state participation and CSOs seeking to obtain information about what will be discussed at AU meetings
- Pre-summit CSO and women's forums are important spaces for CSOs – but lack of clarity about who is supposed to attend and how participants are selected
- Not clear how CIDO and ECOSOCC are supposed to interact
- Member states to create CSO/ECOSOCC focal points in their departments of FA to provide guidance to embassies in Addis to respond to requests for information from CSO orgs
- Provide adequate budget to AUC or reduce the number of meetings, e.g. summits from 2 to 1

ECOSOCC and CSO

- Establishment of ECOSOCC opportunity to strengthen CSO engagement in AU affairs
- Potential to become genuine voice for Africa's citizens within AU organs
- As implemented so far ECOSOCC structures have proved to be weak
- Little clarity on how members of the General Assembly and national chapters are selected
- In many countries national chapters are non-existent or poorly functioning
- Interim standing committee of ECOSOCC is too reliant on CIDO for funding, advice and positioning within AU processes to reflect an independent voice of CSOs
- Evidence that CSOs are engaging with the AU and its decision-making processes independently of ECOSOCC on HIV/AIDS, women's rights, debt trade, human rights, etc – little debate about these key issues connected to the formal process – important that ECOSOCC establishment not stunt such initiatives

Recommendations

- Ministries of FA to ensure that all relevant ministries and other branches of the executive are informed about relevant agenda items at forthcoming meetings and invited to contribute
- Min of FA to broaden set of institutions that contribute to development of national positions to include MPs, CSOs, media, national ECOSOCC chapters
- Any country hosting AU summit to commit in advance to facilitate CSO access including granting of visas, absence of harassment, unblocking of meeting space, etc
- Use of new media technologies to disseminate and distribute documents
- CIDO should be more transparent in organizing pre-summit CSO forums
- Ecosocc Interim Steering Committee should provide guidelines on procedures and mobilize existing resources to ensure that election of final ECOSOCC structures at national and continental level is as transparent as possible
- The ECOSOCC ISC should publicize its role and purpose through active participation at the AU-CSO Forum – also explore the CSO Forum functioning as the ECOSOCC Assembly
- Information distribution roles of ECOSOCC chapters to be strengthened – AUC to distribute documents related to AU meetings directly to national chapters that should be obliged to distribute documents to national CSOs
- ECOSOCC is one among many mechanisms and opportunities that CSOs can use to influence AU decision making – important to protect the right of organizations and citizens to have direct access to various AU organs
- Rules of procedure of PRC, Executive Council and Assembly should be amended to require ECOSOCC to be consulted before a recommendation for a decision is forwarded to heads of state by PRC or Executive Council

- Mobilize resources to support the establishment of an Addis based facility that facilitates access for African citizens to AU institutions and disseminate information

Conclusion

- Opportune time to discuss engagement of CSO with the AU – AU has come end of 1st phase of strategic plan (2004 – 07)
- Huge disparity between the ideals at the AU level and arrangements on the ground
- Disillusionment with the state of unending transition
- Serious need to maintain a monitoring brief of AU decisions and policies

Annex 4

5. Presentation 5: Essential Services MDGs - and Oxfam's Perspective

Mr Mohamed Motala (OXFAM)

Today.....

- Globally there is a shortage of 3.8 million health workers – 1 million of these in Africa – and 2.5 million teachers.
- More than three million people died in 2005 due to HIV/AIDS; 40 million people are living with HIV and these numbers are still rising.
- In 2000, 45% of graduating teachers in Zambia died of AIDS. Over the next decade, one in three health workers is likely to die of AIDS.

The Why Question

- In Whose Interest
- What Type of Modalities
- Institutional arrangements
- Legislative frameworks
- Administrative structures
- Financial arrangements
- Systems and procedures
- Then cut the cloth to suite emperor

Today....

- Only half of all boys, and even fewer girls, complete primary school in sub Saharan Africa: the average African 16 year old girl has had less than three years of schooling.
- Women in developing countries have a one in four chance of dying from a pregnancy-related cause compared to one in 1:800 in developed countries.
- Many developing countries spend more on the military than education and health combined.
- Annually the world spends US\$1 trillion on defence, around 325bn on agriculture and only 60bn on aid.
 - Failing basic services
 - Failing basic services
 - Failing basic services
 - What is going wrong?
- Poor country governments failing their people:
 - Not spending enough
 - Spending it on the wrong things

What Is Going Wrong?

- Rich country governments and international agencies such as the World Bank should be crucial partners in supporting public systems but instead they:
- Don't give enough aid (a study of technical assistance in Mozambique found that rich countries were spending \$350 million per year on technical experts, while the entire wage bill for Moz's public sector was just \$74 million.
- Push privatisation (a 2006 study of 20 countries receiving WB and IMF loans found that privatisation was a condition in 18 of them)

- Rich countries steal health-workers and teachers (of the 489 nursing students who graduated from the Ghana Medical School between 1986 and 1995, 61% have left Ghana for the UK and the US)

What Is The Role Of Civil Society?

- Plays a critical role but is no substitute for the government.
- Can develop and pioneer innovative approaches to service provision and support citizens in claiming their rights to health, education and water.
- But... coverage is partial, services are hard to scale up and quality can vary greatly.
- Evidence shows that citizens initiatives work best when integrated into a publicly-led system, with their contribution formally recognised and supported by government.
- In Kerala State in India and in Malaysia and Barbados, governments have built bridges with civil society, for example by funding the running costs of church schools, and have regularly monitored them to maintain standards.

What Is The Role Of The Private Sector?

- When a state is broken, the market cannot fix it.
- Privately-provided services are usually too expensive for poor people so when they don't have the money they can't go to school or if sick are left to die.
- Private providers are notoriously hard to regulate, especially when governments are weak.
- For eg when China phased out free public health care in favour of profit-making hospitals and health insurance, household health costs rose 40 fold and progress on tackling infant mortality slowed. Today health insurance only covers 1 in 5 people in rural China.

It Doesn't Have To Be This Way

In Sri Lanka where one third of the population live on less than one dollar a day:

- 96% of births attended by midwives
- Maternal mortality rates are among the lowest in the world
- Sri Lanka's income per person is \$4,000; in Swaziland it is 20% higher at almost \$5,000 but a Sri Lankan child is 10 times more likely to survive it's first five years than a Swazi child and she is far more likely to go to school.
- Almost 9 out of 10 adult Sri Lankan women can read and write.
- Life expectancy among women is 74, only four years less than women in Canada despite their income being 10 times smaller.

How Did Sri Lanka Achieve This

- Free public healthcare within walking distance – few people live more than 1.4 km from their nearest centre.
- Enough qualified and well paid doctors and nurses
- Free education, for girls all the way up to university resulting in 88 percent literacy among adult women and a rise in the age of marriage.
- In the last 50 years Sri Lanka has managed to cut child deaths by 40 to 70% and got every girl and boy through school – took developed countries 200 years to achieve this!

What Is Needed?

- Massive expansion of public services
- End of user fees for basic education and health, subsidised and affordable water
- Millions more teachers, doctors, nurses

- Greater commitment from southern governments to the rights of citizens
- Supported by long term aid from rich countries

Is Oxfam Telling Poor Countries What To Do?

Absolutely not! Our report focuses on the evidence of what has worked historically in poor countries that have been successful in getting services to all those in need. It is not a blue print but a pragmatic assessment of the evidence of what has worked in both the history of rich countries and successful developing countries. In fact it is the WB and IMF that tell poor countries what to do by making aid conditional on countries adopting economic policies such as privatisation.

"As long as there is breath in my body, I will continue to teach." 76 year old teacher Mother Viola Shaw-Lewis, Kingsville school, Liberia.

Wanted: 4 Million Health Workers

Wanted: 2 million teachers

Demand that leaders act

The How Question

- In Whose Interest
- What Type of Modalities
- Institutional arrangements
- Legislative frameworks
- Administrative structures
- Financial arrangements
- Systems and procedures
- Then cut the cloth to suite emperor

Finally....

In the words of Nelson Mandela:

"Poverty is not natural. It is man-made and it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings. And overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice. It is the protection of a fundamental human right; the right to dignity and a decent life. While poverty persists, there is no freedom".

Annex 5

Presentation 6: NEPAD, The APRM and ECOSOCC - Synergies and Divergences for CSOs Engagement

Ms Litha Musyimi-Ogana (NEPAD Secretariat)

Hon Prof. Wangari Maathai,

Nobel Peace Laureate

Distinguished delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

I wish to start by thanking the organizers of the SADC - ECOSOCC Forum for inviting the NEPAD Secretariat to this exciting forum giving NEPAD the opportunity to make this intervention on the "The Relationship between NEPAD, APRM and ECOSOCC with relevance to CSOs engagement"

The Framework

The principle of popular participation of African people in the activities of African Union is a prerequisite to success of the AU as enunciated in the African Charter for Popular Participation. To quote from the ECOSOCC Statute this principle is "guided by a common vision of a united and strong Africa and by the need to build strong partnerships between governments, and all segments of Civil Society, in particular women, youth and the private sector in order to strengthen solidarity and cohesion among our people" This spirit is enshrined in the objectives and Principles of the Constitutive Act which provides for the establishment of the Economic Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) under Article 5 and 22 of the Act.

Articles 41 of the NEPAD Foundation document calls for CSOs commitment among key partners in the NEPAD process, while Article 45 of the same document recognises the efforts that the CSOs have put in reinforcing the call for greater democratization and good governance. This call is echoed by the appeal by the political leaders in the continent under Article 55 and 56, to all the African people in their diversity to recognise the challenge facing the continent and rise up to it.

For NEPAD Secretariat to implement mandates under the principle of popular participation and also related mandates under AU and NEPAD policy documents, it had to put in place a requisite institutional mechanism in the form of the Gender and Civil Society Unit. The Unit has a twin mandate to both spearhead the gender mainstreaming of NEPAD Policies, programmes and the entire implementation process and also ensure CSOs are mobilized to effectively participate in the NEPAD implementation process.

The Background

The launch of NEPAD in Lusaka in October 2001 was probably one of the most intellectually explosive phenomena in Africa. The NEPAD foundation document was received with dramatic excitement. As a result the Secretariat was swarmed with overwhelming responses mostly targeting the NEPAD foundation document. They included critiques, analysis, recommendations and sometimes condemnation. The Secretariat took time to respond and it was not until early 2003, that mechanism for a substantive dialogue with the Civil Society Organizations, academia, gender experts, the youth, trade unions and so on, was put in place.

By the end of the Maputo consultations consensus had already emerged on the need for an institutional mechanism at NEPAD that could deal with CSO matters and also that gender was a cross cutting issue which needed to be addressed at policy and programme level across all its sectors. From these consultations it was becoming evident that the Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and gender issues could easily be considered under the same umbrella.

By September 2004, the NEPAD Secretariat had put in place institutional mechanisms to deal with gender and CSO matters as proposed by different stakeholders and gender experts. The creation of this office was a clear commitment by the Secretariat to gender issues and a demonstration of the Secretariats desire to actively involve CSOs in the implementation process, as NEPAD projects move into the implementation mode

The Process

The African CSOs engagement with the NEPAD process has come along way. Indeed, one could almost say it has undergone a complete metamorphosis. By looking more deeply into dynamics of the consultation process that African CSOs have held among themselves and with NEPAD one appreciates the efforts that both sides have put to bear. Four phases seem to have emerged from this engagement and I would like to briefly highlight the salient features of each phase.

Phase 1

Phase one was a CSO-only type of engagement which occurred immediately after the release of the NEPAD document in Lusaka. It was the immediate reaction to the new document, and was characterized by anger resulting from exclusion of CSOs in the development of the document and scepticism on the political will to implement the commitment as expressed in big CSO forums such as the CSO forum in Bamako. I have often referred to this phase as a mis-understanding phase.

Phase 11

Phase two was characterized by ah-hoc engagement between African CSOs and the architects of NEPAD and one is persuaded to refer to the engagements during this phase ad-hoc because of the way it unfolded. African CSOs would often confront the NEPAD initiating Heads of States in global meetings such as the Financing for Development (FfD) and World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and demand an immediate explanation on the evolution of NEPAD, its vision and issues around stakeholder involvement, and hence the name Ad-hoc phase.

Phase 111

Phase three was characterized by the NEPAD Secretariat trying to reach out to the CSOs to understand their concerns and led to NEPAD organizing a series of CSO forums such as the Elmina-Ghana CSO/NEPAD, the Accra-NEPAD/private sector forum, the Gabon Gender Summit, the Maputo African Union CSO/NEPAD, the Mali NEPAD Communication and Advocacy workshop and the Dakar NEPAD Media workshop, hence the name reach out phase.

Phase IV

Phase four saw the NEPAD Secretariat hold wide ranging consultations on the kind of institutional mechanisms it should put in place to spearhead CSO participation and gender mainstreaming of its policies, programmes and structure, hence the name consultation phase. The consultations focused on an appropriate institutional mechanism within NEPAD that could both ensure CSOs issues in general and gender issues in particular could be mainstreamed in the NEPAD processes, policies and programmes. At the end of the consultation process, the Secretariat committed to put in place an institutional mechanism to deal with CSOs and gender mainstreaming, hence the formation of the Gender and CSO Unit.

APRM and spaces for CSO engagement

Definition

The APRM is a voluntary instrument acceded to by Member States of the African Union as an African self-monitoring mechanism.

Mandate

The mandate of the APRM is to ensure that policies and practices of participating Member States conform with agreed values, codes and standards as stipulated in the Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate governance.

Purpose

The Purpose of APRM is to foster adoption of policies, standards and practices that lead to:-

- Political stability
- High economic growth
- Sustainable development and
- Regional integration

Principles

Every review process carried out under the APRM must be:-

- Technically competent
- Credible
- Free of Political manipulations

Participation in APRM

- Countries that have acceded to the APRM
- Minimum number required was 16, but the figure has since risen to 23
- The first batch of 4 now under-going different phases including preparation are Ghana, Rwanda, Kenya and South Africa

Structure- Hierarchically

- Heads of States and Government
- Panel of Eminent Persons
- APR-Secretariat

Types of Reviews

There are four types of reviews

- Base Review carried to provide background information, which is the 18 months after a country accedes
- Periodic review under APRM (2-4 years)
- Self review that a country could undertake on its own
- Special review instituted by Heads of States e.g. to avert a crisis

Review Tools and Nature

Information on APRM gathered using a comprehensive questionnaire completed through consultations and effective involvement of stakeholders including government, private sector and civil society, with thematic participation of various sectors, gender interest, youth and relevant players at national level.

Stages

Stage 1

Preparatory i.e. study of political, economic, corporate and development environment document

Stage 11

Review team visits with consultation at country level including all state holders

- Government
- CSO
- Private sector
- Political parties
- Parliament

Stage 111

- Preparation of team report
- Discussing finding with country first
- Seeking further clarification

Stage 1V

- Submission of APRM team report to HSG for adoption
- Followed by constructive dialogue between HSG and the country

Stage V

Dissemination to AU, PAP and ECOSOCC

Annex 6

Presentation 7: ARPM and Challenges of Good Governance in Africa

Mr Grant Masterson (EISA)

Background

- APRM emerged as part of the NEPAD framework, and has been hailed as the most unique and significant aspect of the NEPAD framework
- At present, 25 states have adopted the APRM
- Its voluntary nature means that it is NOT an official African Union institution

The APRM in Theory

- States volunteer to "open their books" to review by peers to enhance and improve the practices and policies in four key areas: political, economic, corporate governance and socio-economic development.
- States produce a summary report of governance challenges and commit to a medium-term (5 yr) Program of Action to address these challenges

APRM Process and Structures

Each country responsible for determining its own self-assessment methodologies and structures, as well as how to interact with the "broadest range of stakeholders possible".

The APRM and Civil Society

"...requires that each country carefully develops a Programme of Action with time bound objectives and linked to national budgets to guide all stakeholders in the actions required by all – government, private sector, civil society – to achieve the country's vision"

Objectives, Standards, Criteria and Indicators for the African Peer Review Mechanism

Ghana

- 1st country to undertake peer review
- A very broad and inclusive process of consultations including: a national survey, research institutions doing desk research, a national APRM 'road show' to sensitize the public and gather local inputs
- Civil society given the lead in Governing Council
- Expensive and time-consuming

Rwanda

- APRM took place against backdrop of fear and suspicion between civil society and government as a result of 1994 genocide
- Civil society involvement largely limited to invitations by central government to organisations to make inputs at stakeholder conferences
- Government dominated the process
- Used South African rather than Rwandan research institutes to conduct background research

Kenya

- Provided opportunity for civic organisations to elect their own Governing Council representatives
- Process was hijacked by individual self-interests on the Governing Council
- Final report compiled "in a rush" towards the end of Kenya's process
- Points to dangers of lack of structure to civil society involvement

Mauritius

- Seems to have joined the APRM without a clear understanding of and commitment to its underlying philosophy
- Stalled in its implementation due to the weakness of MACOSS as the country's governing council & change of govt during 2005 elections.
- Has yet to complete the process, and govts final commitment has yet to be determined
- Demonstrates the dangers of committing too casually to the APRM process

South Africa

- Potentially the most disappointing case thus far
- Govt very heavy-handed and showed little flexibility
- Very powerful state machinery rendering irrelevant the quality of contributions, whilst seeking to maximise their quantity
- Lack of transparency & preconceived plans
- Not linking the Program of Action to specific governance or even government objectives
- The Panel of Eminent Persons (the watchdog of the process) has largely given the SA process a clean bill of health
- Potentially serious consequences for future participating states

Lessons Learned From Country Experiences

- Civil society can act as a key determinant in the success or failure of a country's participation in the APRM
- Poor participation of CSOs in a national process invariably weakens the final products and results
- Govts which have acceded to the APRM do not always understand or buy into what they have acceded to

Potential Role of ECOSOCC

- Can play a valuable role in monitoring the adoption and discussion of country reports to the AU Heads of State summits
- Can highlight and draw attention to relevant findings in the reports at Heads of State summits
- Can act as an important source of information for CSOs engaged in monitoring and engaging the process who do not have direct access to AU summits.
- Encourage AU to speed up process of ratifying reports, Kenya report only adopted more than 1 year after it was finalized

Annex 7

APRM and Challenges of Good Governance in Africa

Discussant: Ms Namhla Mniki (Africa Monitor)

Firstly, what is the definition of Good Governance from an African perspective?

Good governance tends to be defined in terms of the characteristics/qualities that a capable state must have. Most prominent of those qualities are:

- Democratic governance - which goes beyond periodic elections to the way the state carries itself and treats its people.
- Rule of law - guided by a sound constitution
- Broad citizen participation
- Human rights and dignity upheld
- Peace and security
- An enabling political and legal environment for economic growth and development
- Sound macro-economic management, institutional reform, and investment in human resources development.
- Builds an enabling environment for the private sector to generate economic growth, jobs and income

Africa Taking Charge of the Good Governance Debate

The African Union through NEPAD and APRM have gone a long way to show that African governments are taking ownership of their own state development, and paving the way towards the attainment of good governance in each African state.

The Reason Why the APRM Was Formed

To increase good governance in the focus areas of:

- Democracy and political governance
- Economic governance and Management
- Cooperative governance
- Socio-economic development

Key Question Is:

- If the APRM is set up to increase and strengthen good governance in the economy, politics, etc
 - What becomes the role of CSO's in that process?
 - Particularly where does ECOSOC fit in in the areas of good governance?
1. Firstly is the process question: What are the avenues of Participation for CSO's within the APRM process. APRM documents impress the importance of all stakeholder participation. Existing avenues for CSO's:
- Country Governing Councils
 - Technical experts
 - In-putting on the country reports (engagement with CSO's)

Challenge

- Leadership of govt. institution, participation of CSO's and others. Is this a contradiction in terms? Is that one of those cases of invited space, therefore limited in possible impact?
- When the reports get to the HOD's the assumption is that those consultations have taken place. That they were effective, broad-based, and legitimate. But really, are they?
- What of countries where CSO's are restricted or where participation is poor? Can the country reports be rejected?

- What are the consequences of participating in forums and processes that are decided without consultation? Is our participation an endorsement and legitimizing those processes, or do we make the best of what is a not so perfect system.
 - Yes we want to participate - but can we decide how we want to participate and influence, or is the balance of power tilted against us?
- 2. Secondly, is the content question. Good governance is not about participating for the sake of participating. We need to participate so that we are raising issues of economic, political or social relevance, be it health, elections, or war.

Now, I agree that the best place by far to do that is at a country level.

However,

Where sub-regional and regional processes are concerned:-

- a. How do we come together to coordinate content messages to effect change?, whether it is ECOSOCC, NEPAD GENDER DESK or APRM PROCESS?
 - The country action plans are a key
 - What is the process of the action plans?
 - Can CSO input (both in policy and implementation) of those?
- b. Is it too much to expect CSO's somehow coordinate consistently and strategize? The thematic networks exist, but they all have their coordination problems. What are CSO's strategies to deal with this?
- c. Coordination across the different processes is becoming an emergency. 3 months, 74 meetings organized by different groups on how to interface with NEPAD, AU, PAP and APRM. One cannot help but wonder if really this is not a diversion strategy. Surely we can do better than that.
- d. Issue of monitoring also important. But our own participation in making the plans and vision of good governance is crucial.

Recommendation:

Before the end of the interim structures term, a strategy proposal must be drawn for coordinating between NEPAD, PAP, the APRM and ECOSOCC.

Conclusion

- In the development context we do not talk about good governance as a form of citizen control and management of state resources as it was seen in the olden days.
- We talk of good governance is an essential pre-requisite for the alleviation of poverty that plagues our people.
- Good governance of not only about the process of governance, which includes participation of the citizenry.
- It is also effective management of state resources to improve the livelihoods of citizens
- Lets not spend all our time talking about process, when what matters is how we change policy, programmes and strategies to meet the needs of the people.

Annex 8: List of Participants

1. Prof W Maathai
(Nobel Peace Laureate and Presiding Officer ECOSOCC Bureau)
2. Mr Charles Mutasa
(Executive Director AFRODAD; Southern Africa Ecosocc Representative and Deputy Presiding Officer ECOSOCC Bureau)
3. Ms Esther Mbuya
(Assistant to Prof Maathai)
4. Ms L Ranko
(Institute of Southern African Studies, Lesotho)
5. Mr Abie Dithlake
(SADC Council of NGOs)
6. Ms Lydia Katjita
(Pan African Women's Organization - PAWO - Angola)
7. Mr MT Haikali
(Media Institute of Southern Africa - Namibia)
8. Mr Hemsing Hurrinag
(Development Indian Ocean Network, Mauritius)
9. Mr D Babooa
(Mauritius Council of Social Service - MACOS)
10. Mr Malcolm Damon
(Economic Justice Network, South Africa)
11. Ms Chengetai C Madziwa
(Southern Africa Human Rights - SAHRIT - Zimbabwe)
12. Ms Petronella Ndebele
(Southern African Trust, South Africa)
13. Ms A October
(Media 24 representative - South Africa)
14. Ms Litha Musyimi Ogana
(NEPAD Secretariat, South Africa)
15. Ms Vivian Kazi
(Economic and Social Research Foundation, Tanzania)
16. Mr Moses Kachima
(Southern Africa Trade Union Coordinating Council, Botswana)

17. Mrs Edwige Dukhie
(Southern Africa Human Rights NGO Network, Mauritius)
18. Ms Dot Keet
(Alternative Information and Development Center, South Africa)
19. Ms Marta Cumbi
(Foundation for Community Development, Mozambique)
20. Dr Michelle Ruiters
(Institute for Global Dialogue, South Africa)
21. Mr Grant Masterson
(Electoral Institute of Southern Africa, South Africa)
22. Mr Thomas Deve
(MWENGO, Angola)
23. Mr Mohamed Motala
(Oxfam, South Africa)
24. Mr Kwezi Mngqibisa
(ACCORD, South Africa)
25. Mr Mandla Hadebe
(AFRODAD, Zimbabwe)
26. Mr Richard Kamidza
(ACCORD, South Africa)
27. Mr Dereje Wardofa
(American Friends Service Committee, South Africa)
28. Prof Bahati Lukwebo
(Society Civile Du Congo)
29. Ms Caroline Nengwke
(Southern African Trust, South Africa)
30. Mr V Vallalobhai
(Department of Foreign Affairs, South Africa)
31. Dr Bheki Moyo
(IDASA, South Africa)
32. Ms Linda Kabwato
(IDASA, South Africa)
33. Mr Helder Malauene
(Foundation for Community Development, Mozambique)
34. Ms Brenda Mofya
(CPIA, Zimbabwe)

35. Ms Michelle Pressend
(Institute for Global Dialogue, South Africa)
36. Mr Che Ajulu
(Institute for Global Dialogue, South Africa)
37. Ms Namhla Mniki
(African Monitor, South Africa)
38. Dr S Zondi
(Institute for Global Dialogue, South Africa)
39. Mrs Lois Chingandu
(SAFAIDS, Zimbabwe)
40. Mr Sherpard Zvigadza
(ZERO Regional Environment Organisation, Zimbabwe)
41. Mr Bekezela Mathe
(African Monitor, South Africa)
42. Mr Ozias Tungwarara
(AFRIMAP, South Africa)
43. Rapporteurs: Mr Benjy Mautjane and Mr Nkanyiso Mveli
(IDASA, South Africa)
44. Interpreter: Mr Etienne Yemek
(IDASA, South Africa)
45. Administration: Ms Selinah Morley and Ms René Botha
(IDASA, South Africa)



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TENTATIVE PROGRAM

SADC CSO CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON AU - ECOSOCC

EMPERORS PALACE CONVENTION CENTRE

Johannesburg - South Africa

29 and 30 November 2006

Date	Time	Name of person and organization presenting	Session
28 November 2006	ARRIVAL OF DELEGATES		
DAY I 29 November 2006	Opening Session PAWO Director (In Chair)		
SESSION I	0830 - 0900	Registration	Registration
	0900 - 0915	Ms Linda Kabwato (IDASA)	Welcome Speech and Introduction
	0915 - 0930	Mr. Charles Mutasa – Executive Director AFRODAD; Southern Africa ECOSOCC Representative and Deputy Presiding Officer ECOSOCC Bureau	Opening Remarks
	0930 - 0945	Dr Jinmi Adisa Director CIDO unit, CSSDCA Africa Union	An update on ECOSOCC Strategy & upcoming events
	0945-1000	Hon. Prof Wangari Maathai , Nobel Peace Laureate and Presiding Officer ECOSOCC Bureau	Keynote Address
	1000 - 1045	Plenary Discussion	Plenary Discussion

	1045 –1100	TEA BREAK	
SESSION II	Regional CSOs/NGO Participation on the ECOSOCC Chairperson: Ms Marta Cumbi (FDC)		
	1100 - 1120	Charles Mutasa - Executive Director AFRODAD; Southern Africa ECOSOCC Representative and Deputy Presiding Officer ECOSOCC Bureau	Briefing on ECOSOCC and basis for regional CSOs Engagement with the ECOSOCC (Rationale, and mechanisms)
	1120 – 1130	Dr. Bhekinkosi Moyo (IDASA)	Discussant:
	1130 – 1150	Mr Helder Malauene FDC	Developing the regional Process: The options, Strategies and the Challenges
	1150 – 1200	Ms Chengetai Cecilia Madziwa Southern Africa Human Rights SAHRITs	Regional Organizations- Knowledge, Involvement & expectations of ECOSOCC
	1200 – 1300	Plenary Discussion	Discussant: Plenary Discussion
SESSION III	1300 – 1400	Lunch Break Chair: Namhla Mniki Africa Monitor	
	1400 – 1420	Mr. Ozias Tungwarara AfriMAP	A Critical Analysis of the CSO Engagement with the AU (agenda and strategies)
	1420 – 1430	Mr. Che Ajulu (Institute for Global Dialogue)	Discussant
	1430 – 1530	Plenary Discussion	Plenary Discussion
	1530 – 1550 Chair	Tea/Coffee Break Dr Bhekinkosi Moyo (IDASA)	Tea/Coffee Break

Session IV	1550 – 1610	Dr Siphamandla Zondi Senior Researcher, Institute of Global dialogue	Linking SADC with the AU (agenda and strategies)
	1610 – 1620	Mr. Abie Dithlake (SADC- CNGO)	Discussant
	1620 – 1720	Plenary Discussion	Plenary Discussion
	1720	End of Day 1	
ECOSOCC, MDGs and Sustainable Development Chair: Prof Bahati Lukwebo (Society Civile Du Congo)			
Day 2 SESSION V	0830- 0900	Mr Mohamed Motala (OXFAM)	MDGs Target and Civil society inclusiveness, strategic ideas for ECOSOCC as platform for engagement
	0900 – 0920	Mr. Thomas Deve, MWENGO	Discussant
	0920- 0940	Ms Litha Musyimi-Ogana (NEPAD Secretariat)	NEPAD, The APRM and ECOSOCC .-Synergies and Divergences for CSOs Engagement
	0940-1020	Mr Richard Kamidza (ACCORD)	Discussant
		Plenary	Plenary
SESSION VI	1030 – 1050	Tea/Coffee Break	
		Chair: Ms Chengetai Cecilia Madziwa (SAHRIT)	

Session VII	1050 – 1110	Mr Grant Masterson (EISA)	APRM and Challenges of Good Governance in Africa
	1110 – 1120	Ms Namhla Mniki Africa Monitor Director	Discussant
	1120- 1140	Plenary & group breakout formation ¹	Plenary
	1245 – 1400	Lunch Break In Chair: Mr. Charles Mutasa & Dr. Bhekinkosi Moyo	Lunch Break
	1400 – 1515	Breakout sessions	Breakout sessions
	1515-1545	Breakout session reports	Breakout session reports
	1545-1615	ECOSOCC Bureau	Way Forward & Closure
	1615	TBA	Closing Remarks

¹ Group 1 to discuss, “ Regional CSOs support for the ECOSOCC process in SADC and at national level”
Group 2 to discuss, “Mechanisms and modalities for operationalizing ECOSOCC Representation for regional CSOs”
Group 3 to discuss, “ Integrating and Harmonizing regional CSOs’ work on ECOSOCC, NEPAD APRM and other activities”

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