



## Stakeholder Forum

***“The role of national and local stakeholders in contributing to aid quality and effectiveness”***

**FAO Headquarters  
12-13 June 2008 – Rome, Italy**

### **DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA**

**Thursday, June 12**

#### **Plenary Hall**

**8:15 – 9:00 am      Registration**

**9:15 – 10:00 am    Opening of the Stakeholder Forum**

*Official Opening*

Representative of the Government of Italy

*Opening Statement*

Jacques Diouf, Director-General, FAO (*tbc*)

*Expectations for the Rome Stakeholder Forum*

Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General, UNDESA

*Introductions from:*

- Anders B. Johnsson  
Secretary General, Inter Parliamentary Union
- [Representative to be announced]  
United Cities and Local Governments
- Kumi Naidoo  
Secretary General, CIVICUS

## 10:15 am–12:15 pm Simultaneous sessions

Session I                      **a) Aligning aid to National Development Strategies: *the role of national and local stakeholders***

**Room A**                      CIVICUS and Action Aid  
**Room B**                      United Cities and Local Governments  
**Room C**                      Inter Parliamentary Union

### *Discussion*

- How do the three stakeholders participate in the development of national strategies? How do they interact with each other at the national level? How can they ensure consistency and predictability of aid to support national strategies?
- What is the interaction between the donor community and the three stakeholders in making decisions concerning aid allocations? How transparent are such decisions? How can coordination and consultative mechanisms be improved?
- What are the capacities required by stakeholders to strengthen ownership of national development strategies?
- How can key development concerns such as gender equality and the role of women in the economy be supported through aid? Do national strategies adequately reflect such priorities?
- What kind of role should local authorities play in the development of national strategies? What is the added value of implementation by local authorities?
- How can decentralized cooperation promote greater involvement of local governments in national development strategies? What is the role of national associations as counterparts to the national government?

**12:15–1:45 pm              Lunch**

**1:45– 3:45 pm              Simultaneous sessions (*continued*)**

Session II                      **b) Reforming conditionality and tied aid: *essential steps towards improving aid quality***

**Room A**                      CIVICUS and Action Aid  
**Room B**                      Inter Parliamentary Union  
**Room C**                      United Cities and Local Governments

### *Discussion*

- What kind of conditionality is acceptable to the national stakeholders? Should the same conditions apply equally to all countries or should they be determined on a case-by-case basis?
- What capacities do the stakeholders need to exercise their role to provide oversight?
- How informed are the stakeholders of the conditions that apply to tied aid? How can the quality of aid be monitored effectively?
- How does tied aid constrain capacity development at the local and national level? How do we ensure development results when local capacities are lacking?
- What are the consequences of current conditionality and tied aid nationally and at the community level?

**3:45– 5:45 pm                      Simultaneous sessions (*continued*)**

Session III                              **c) Assessing modalities of aid delivery: *budget support, project aid and technical assistance***

**Room A**                                      CIVICUS and Action Aid  
**Room B**                                      United Cities and Local Governments  
**Room C**                                      Inter Parliamentary Union

***Discussion***

- What are the best aid delivery modalities from the perspective of the three stakeholders at both the national and local levels? How to integrate a gender perspective in such modalities?
- How does budget support trickle down to the local level so that funds get allocated based on actual community needs? What mechanisms should be considered to incorporate gender-based budgeting and tracking of such funds?
- How are projects monitored and evaluated? What roles do local actors, including at the constituency level, play in that process? What types of mutual accountability mechanisms deserve consideration between donors and national stakeholders?
- How is official assistance coordinated at the national level with aid supplied by civil society organizations and local authorities?

**7:30 – 9:30 pm                      Official reception hosted by the Government of Italy (*to be confirmed*)**

**Friday, June 13**

**Plenary Hall**

**9:00 am– 1:15 pm**

**Joint session**

9:00 – 9:30 am

*Summary of Day 1*

- Summary of proceedings from Day 1 by Rapporteurs from each group and key recommendations

9:30 am – 1:00 pm

*Plenary discussions on the outcome of the three simultaneous sessions*

- Identifying common ground and complementarities, and Q&A

1:00 – 1:15 pm

*Wrap-up of the session*

**1:15– 1:30 pm**

**Closing of the Stakeholder Forum**

*Expectations for the 2008 Development Cooperation Forum*

Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary General, UNDESA

*Official closing*

Representative of the Government of Italy