



PIANGO

Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations
Association des ONGs des Iles de Pacifique

P. O. Box 17780, Suva, Fiji. 256 Waimanu Rd, Suva. Phone: +679 330-2963 / 331-7048
Fax: +679 331-7046 Email: piango@connect.com.fj Web: <http://www.piango.org>

PRESS RELEASE

Busan Partnership a compromise, says civil society Civil society standards acknowledged but enabling environment remains stumbling block

1 December, Busan, Republic of Korea "By participating in high level negotiations on aid and development for the first time, people's organizations can take credit for cementing democratic ownership and human rights in the Busan Outcome Document – but more work needs to be done on advancing favorable conditions for civil society," said Open Forum co-chair Em ele Duituraga in response to the newly agreed Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation.

Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness – a global civil society platform engaging thousands of organizations worldwide – is very pleased with the acknowledgment of its main outcomes as the guiding reference for civil society in their development work. Indeed, the Istanbul Principles and the International Framework for CSO Development Effectiveness are both quoted in the Busan Partnership document.

Civil society is however deeply disappointed that commitments from partner governments and donors on providing favorable conditions for people's organizations to operate are not fully defined according to international rights standards on which they can be held accountable, particularly in light of the growing evidence of a crackdown on civil society in many parts of the world.

"Governments must recognize CSOs as not only social actors but also political actors in the democratization of our societies. For this purpose, we need an enabling environment that has been threatened by violence towards CSOs, shrinking political and legal spaces, and a huge lack of financing", said Ruben Fernandez of the Latin America CSO network ALOP.

Although civil society representatives are proud to be part of the newly forged global partnership, they recognize that they had to compromise. CSOs will therefore continue to pursue a stronger commitment to an enabling environment for civil society to fulfill their role in development by taking the Istanbul Principles and the International Framework for CSO Development Effectiveness forward as the globally legitimate standards for the future of people participation in development.

ENDS

For more information, please contact:

Olgakozhaeva - info@csso-effectiveness.org
[+32 477 68 61 53](tel:+32477686153) (international) - 010 8679 0735 (Korea)

[Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness](#) is a global, fully participatory consultation process run by and for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to build and advance an international CSO consensus on development effectiveness standards and enabling conditions required from governments and donors. The Open Forum has finalized the International Framework for CSO Development Effectiveness – that includes the Istanbul Principles – as a political statement on CSOs' role in development and a distinct long-term reference for the development work of CSOs worldwide. www.cso-effectiveness.org.

[BetterAid](#) unites nearly one thousand development organizations from civil society worldwide, and has been working on development cooperation and challenging the aid effectiveness agenda since January 2007. BetterAid is leading many of the civil society activities including in-country consultations, studies and monitoring in the lead up to the 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF4) in Busan on 29 November – 1 December 2011. www.betteraid.org.