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Spotlight



A new publication from FSS

Land and the Challenge of Sustainable Development in Ethiopia

Conference Proceedings

Edited by
Dessalegn Rahmato
Taye Assefa

2nd UECSA Discussion Forum on Civil Society

The Union of Ethiopian Civil Society Associations (UECSA) is a union of 32 civil society associations engaged in service delivery, development and advocacy activities. Its membership includes professional associations and local NGOs.

UECSA conducted a one-day discussion forum under the theme of “*Civil societies and their role in Ethiopia*”, which was held on 3rd August 2006. The workshop was the second one in a series of workshops planned with the aim of building consensus on the definition, minimum defining criteria, legal status, roles, and mandates of civil society in Ethiopia.

Sixty eight representatives of CSOs and NGOs participated in the workshop (55 male and 13 female).

The following four papers were presented for discussion:

- “Brief Analysis on Validity of Criteria, Mandate and Role of Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations”, by Yitagesu Zewdu;
- “The Ethiopian Legal Registration Procedure in the Light of Citizens’ Right to Association, by Debebe Hailegebriel;
- “Civil Society Organizations in Ethiopia: Achievements, Challenges and Solutions”, by Minas Hiruy;
- “Community Based Organizations in Southern Ethiopia Regional State: Achievements, Challenges and Solutions”, by Hussiya Bekele.

After discussions on issues raised by the presenters, the participants deliberated on the on the future strategic directions of

the Union and the dialogue initiatives the Union is to undertake in order to achieve its set goals. To this end, the following recommendations were made by the participants:

1. The Union and its members should organize promotional activities and symposiums;
2. The Union should develop and publish a database of its members’ profile;
3. The Union should organize a series of forums where its members, other NGOs, donors, and other partners/stakeholders hold dialogue;
4. The Union should develop projects that could bring its members and partners together;
5. The Union should organize confidence building dialogues and other such forums with the government;
6. The Union should strive to participate in the process of legal reforms being undertaken by the government;
7. The Union should encourage and actively support active participation of each of its members in its future undertakings;
8. The Union should capitalize on previous efforts in formulating CSOs’ code of conduct;
9. The task of developing a common definition of CSOs should be an outcome of a slow process in which all previous studies are referred to; all stakeholders’ interests are assessed; all modifications and tuning pertaining to the Ethiopian context are made;
10. All members of the CSO community should develop a culture of partnership and cooperation amongst themselves and other potential partners.

Election of CSO/NGO Representatives to PBS Steering Committee

Background

Following the political events after the May 2005 elections, Ethiopia's development partners have suspended direct budget support. In order to mitigate the possible deterioration in basic service delivery (education, health, water, agriculture, etc.), several development partners have offered to assist government through a new aid instrument preserving some flow of donor resources for basic service delivery. In this context, government and development partners prepared the "Protection of Basic Services" (PBS) project that will be co-funded by DFID, CIDA and other donors.

The PBS is a package consisting of four main parts:

1. Component 1: Sub-national basic Services
2. Component 2: Health MDG Performance Facility
3. Component 3: Financial Transparency and Accountability
4. Component 4: Social Accountability.

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee (SC) is part of the overall governance structure of PBS and is a high-level advisory body with oversight of Component 4. The SC will not directly manage any of the financial resources allocated to Component 4. Nor will civil society members of the SC be eligible to participate in implementation of Component 4. The SC will be composed of 3 representatives from civil society, 3 representatives from Government and 3 representatives from development partners.

CSOs/NGOs representatives' election

At the meeting organized on July 28, 2006 to discuss the process relating to the election of the three CSO/NGO representatives to the Steering Committee, participants drawn from CSOs/NGOs agreed on a transparent and inclusive nomination procedure and a review process that will ultimately culminate in a secret ballot to elect the three CSO/NGO representatives.

Subsequently, a total of 53 organizations nominated 35 organizations to be on the list of nominees for the election of the three CSO/NGO representatives to be members of a Steering Committee of Component 4 of the PBS Project.

An Election Monitoring Panel consisting of three organizations, i.e. TROCAIRE-CAFOD, Union of Ethiopian Civil Society Associations, and the Ethiopian Bar Association were given the mandate to validate the reliability and integrity of the voting processes, to observe the counting of the

ballots and to receive and investigate inquiries and complaints from CSOs/NGOs regarding the legitimacy of the election process.

All CSOs/NGOs that were legally registered in Ethiopia were allowed to nominate three CSOs/NGOs to represent them on the Steering Committee. FSS was represented during the election by Ms Aynalem Asheber, Program and Administration Director.

The election was held at the CRDA conference hall on August 30, 2006. The total number of voters was 77. The election winners based on the highest number of votes were:

1. Christian Relief and Development Association (CRDA) - 48
2. Consortium of Reproductive Health Association (CORHA) - 35, and
3. Poverty Action Network Ethiopia (PANE) - 32.

New Executive Committee for ELIA

A national meeting for the formation of a new Executive Committee for Ethiopian Library and Information Association (ELIA) was held on 31st August 2006, at Sheraton Addis.

This meeting, which was jointly organized by The British Council and National Archives and Library Agency, was continuation of the first national conference on "Library and Information for Development and Education Agenda" held on 23rd of March 2006.

Opening speech was made by Mr. Michel Moore, Director of The British Council and a Keynote address was delivered by H.E. Ambassador Mohammed Dirir, Minister of Information and Culture.

In his address, Ambassador Mohammed underscored the need to build a knowledge based society in this information age which he said is one of the primary tasks of the professionals gathered in the meeting.

The aim of the meeting was to establish an active executive committee which would serve ELIA for the next two years.

During the meeting, a report on the work of ELIA over the past years was presented by Ato Tamirat Motta, the Chairperson of ELIA, and a discussion held on the future direction of ELIA.

In addition, the following two papers were presented and discussed by the participants:

"Professional Associations: Roles, Responsibilities, and Significance", by Ato Wondimeneh Mammo, Addis Ababa University.

"The Status of Libraries in Ethiopia", by Ato Hailemeleket

Taye, The British Council.

Furthermore, MKTY Information Technology Services Plc. made a half-hour demonstration for Library and Resource Management System.

Following these deliberations, the ELIA members held an election and formed a new executive committee of seven members.

In his concluding remark, Commissioner Atkilt Assefa, Director General of the National Archives and Library Agency, said that the country expects more professional outputs from the newly established Executive Committee.

Over 1200 librarians from different organizations and regions attended the meeting.

New Acquisitions of FSS Documentation Center

Ake, Claude. 2000. *The feasibility of democracy in Africa*. Dakar: CODESRIA.

Carley, Michael. 2000. *Managing sustainable development*. 2nd ed. London: Earthscan.

Christie, Ian, and Diane Warburton. 2000. *Form here to sustainability: Politics in the real world*. London: Earthscan.

Cimadamore, Alberto D. 2002. *Best practices in poverty reduction: An analytical framework*. London: Zed Books.

Daviron, Benoit and Stefano Ponte. 2005. *The coffee paradox: Global markets, commodity trade and the elusive promise of development*. London: Zed Books.

Driscoll, Ruth. 2005. *Progress reviews and performance: A survey of current thinking and practice*. London: Overseas Development Institute.

Fukui, Katsuyoshi. 2005. *Ethnicity and conflict in the Horn of Africa*. Oxford: James Currey.

Hovland, Ingie. 2005. *Successful communication: A toolkit for researchers and civil society organization*. London: Overseas Development Institute.

Hyden, Goran, Julius Court and Kemmeth Mease. 2004. *Making Sense of Governance: Empirical Evidence from 16 Developing Countries*. London: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

Kahn, Alfred J. 2002. *Beyond child Poverty: The social exclusion of children*. New York: Institute for Child and Family Policy at Colombia University.

Kimambo, Isaria N. 2003. *Humanities and social sciences in East and Central Africa: Theory and practice*. Dar es

Salaam: Dar es Salaam University Press .

Lumumba-Kasongo, Tukumbi. 2005. *Liberal democracy and its critics in Africa: Political dysfunction and the struggle for social progress*. London: Zed Books.

Malik, Khalid. 2002. *Capacity for development: New solution to old problems*. London: Earthscan.

Manger, Leif, and A. M. Munzoul, eds. 2006. *Diasporas within and without Africa: Dynamism, heterogeneity, variation*. Uppsala: The Nordic Africa Institute.

Micheal, Sarah. 2004. *Undermining development: The absence of power among local NGOs in Africa*. Oxford: James Currey.

Moser, Caroline, and Andy Norton. 2001. *To claim our rights : Livelihood security, Human rights and sustainable development*. London: Overseas Development Institute.

Nustad, Knut G. 2005. *State formation: Anthropological perspectives*. London: Pluto Press.

Okello, Benson. 2002. *History of East Africa*. Kampala: Fountain Publishers.

Pilcher, Jane. 2004. *Fifty key concepts on gender studies*. London: Sage Publications.

Roche, C. J. 2005. *Impact assessment for development agencies: Learning to value change*. Oxford: Oxfam.

Rurevo, Rumbidzai, and Michael Bourdillon. 2003. *Girls on the street*. Harare: Weaver Press.

Shortall, S. 2006. *Rural gender relation: Issues and case studies*. London: CABI Publishing.

Smeeding, Timothy M., and Koen Vleminckx. 2000. *Child wellbeing, child poverty and child : What do we know?* Bristol: Policy Press.

Snyder, Margaret. 2000. *Women in African economies: From burning sun to boardroom*. Kampala: Fountain Publishers.

Ssekamwa, J.C. 2001. *A history of education in East Africa*. Kampala: Fountain Publishers.

Stillwaggon, Eileen. 2006. *AIDS and the ecology of poverty*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Stokke, Olav, and Edward Clay. 2000. *Food aid and human security*. London: Frank Cass Company.

Velde, Dirk Willem. 2004. *Foreign direct investment, income equality: Experiences and policy implications*. London: Overseas Development Institute.

White, Howard. 2001. *African poverty at the millennium:*

Causes, complexities, and challenges. Washington D.C.: The World Bank.

Research Grants

Sustainable Sanitation in Developing Countries

Deadline: December 31, 2006

IFS, in partnership with Sida, calls for research grant applications both from individual researchers and teams, in the area of sustainable sanitation and grey water re-use in developing countries. More information can be found from the web: <http://www.ifs.se/>

World Wildlife Fund

Deadline: November 15, 2006

World Wildlife Fund is announcing the opening of its 2007-2008 Kathryn Fuller Fellowship competition. Two post-doctoral fellowships will be awarded for a two-year period to individuals with outstanding research proposals that are of fundamental and immediate importance to global biodiversity conservation. Fuller Fellows can be based at any institution, including at World Wildlife Fund, and will be co-advised by one academic and one WWF mentor. Fellows are provided a stipend of \$50,000 per year, as well as a \$15,000 annual research allowance.

Applicants should have received a doctorate degree between January 2002 and January 2007. Offers will be made in the spring of 2007, with fellowships to begin in the fall of 2007.

For more information, application guidelines, and on-line application forms see: Web: www.worldwildlife.org
<http://worldwildlife.org/fellowships/fuller-fellow.cfm>

Sub-Saharan Graduate Student Thesis Support

Deadline: October 15, 2006

Up to \$25,000 Fellowships for graduate students for thesis or dissertation research. Graduate students are eligible if from the following 41 African countries, including Ethiopia. Another eligibility requirement is that students should be working in the following fields broadly related to agriculture: *"the science and practice of activity related to food, feed, and fiber production, processing, marketing, distribution, utilization, and trade, and also includes family and consumer sciences, nutrition, food science and engineering, agricultural economics and other social sciences, forestry, wildlife, fisheries, aquaculture, floriculture, veterinary medicine, and other environmental and natural resources sciences."*

See details, including work with a CGIAR scientist, at: <http://leap.ucdavis.edu>

Democratization and the Dilemmas of Media Independence

The dilemma of sustainability was first summed up for me in 1999, in a conversation with Sheila Coronel, a distinguished investigative reporter in the Philippines who is now the executive director of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism in Manila. Good journalism that survives the worst political and social conditions, Coronel said, may have trouble when it faces competition from a variety of other outlets, including many that trade in entertainment and sensationalism, and others that are subsidized by governments. Reflecting on her time working as a journalist during the Ferdinand Marcos era, she said, "Tyranny of the state may be better than tyranny of the market. As journalists we knew what to do with the state – you topple it. But what do you do with the market?"

(Quote from "Democratization and the Dilemmas of Media Independence", by Craig LaMay, *International Journal of Not-for-Profit Law* / vol. 8, no. 4 / August 2006 / 65.)

Publishing Opportunities Offered by FSS

Since its establishment in 1998, FSS has been producing a variety of good quality publications on different development issues. While a lot of these publications are products of its research and public debate programs, a number of them are also the outputs of independent research carried out by individuals outside FSS and selected for publication by FSS on the bases of the originality of their research and the social significance of their subject matter.

FSS would like to encourage authors of such good quality works to submit their manuscripts for publication in its book and monograph series.

FSS also invites authors to submit contributions for publication in the quarterly *FSS Bulletin*, which carries short articles on current development and policy issues, book reviews, communications and short notes on ongoing research.

FSS provides a modest honorarium for approved manuscripts that can be published as books, monographs or *Bulletin* articles and book reviews.

For more details, contact:

Research and Publications Department, email: fss@ethionet.et, phone: 011-1572990/91