



**Third Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) for the Fourth International Conference
on Financing for Development (FfD4), NY, 10-14 February, 2025**

February 12, 2025

**Luca De Fraia, ActionAid on behalf of the CS FfD Mechanism Intervention delivered
at the Zero draft para by para comments: A global financing framework**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. In the interest of time, I will focus on select items related to international cooperation on behalf of the CSO FFD Mechanism. More detailed language suggestions are available from our collective submission.

Let me start with a preliminary observation before providing a more detailed points. I would like to highlight the strong messages emerging from various countries—including South Africa, Pakistan, and others—on key issues.

- In particular, there is a need to clearly delineate and differentiate quantitative targets for climate challenges and long-term development goals.
- The recurring references to these issues underscore the recognition of the need for additional resources when addressing climate action alongside broader development targets.
- Moreover, preserving the concessional nature of official assistance remains crucial. It is essential to reverse the current trend favoring loans over grants, as grants play a fundamental role in tackling sustainable development challenges.
- There is also a pressing need for a truly inclusive process to agree on ODA reporting directives, aligning with concerns raised by the international civil society community and the UN Convention on international cooperation.
- Lastly, within these general comments, I would also like to note the recurring emphasis on effectiveness and alignment with national priorities.

Regarding the quality of ODA, we propose that the outcome document, in Para 38, explicitly affirm that the concessional nature of aid must not be diluted but rather safeguarded. This is particularly relevant given recent decisions by traditional donors under the so-called modernization process.

Furthermore, we suggest that the document include a strong reference to ensuring ODA alignment with the SDGs, particularly incorporating the no harm principle. In this regard, we urge all donors to uphold the “leaving no one behind” pledge and ensure that ODA remains focused on poverty reduction, social services, and social safety nets.

In paragraph 40, development cooperation should maintain a strong focus on results, ensuring that policies and programs are designed and implemented in a way that delivers measurable, sustainable impact. Strengthening accountability mechanisms and evidence-based approaches will enhance effectiveness and responsiveness to development needs.

In paragraph 40a, country leadership in development cooperation must be firmly based on democratic ownership, ensuring that national priorities and strategies are shaped through inclusive processes. Partnerships among all development actors—governments, civil society, the private sector, and multilateral organizations—should be explicitly recognized as fundamental to fostering sustainable and equitable development outcomes.

In paragraph 40c, a whole-of-society approach should be adopted to ensure coherence and alignment across all development efforts. This entails broadening engagement beyond government institutions to include all relevant development actors, particularly civil society, which plays a critical role in promoting accountability, ensuring policy coherence, and enhancing participatory decision-making.

In paragraph 41c iv, the role of monitoring and a strong evidence base should be explicitly recognized as essential to informing policy and programming. Strengthening data collection, evaluation, and feedback mechanisms will improve the effectiveness of interventions, enable adaptive programming, and enhance accountability in development cooperation.

You're right to point that out. Here's the revised version, ensuring the paragraph numbers are included while maintaining clarity and emphasis:

Para 41. We welcome this paragraph, as the development process must be country-led and country-owned. However, we propose replacing "country platforms" with "country frameworks," as country platforms require resources to sustain. Additionally, we recommend adopting a whole-of-society approach, ensuring that civil society organizations are recognized as relevant stakeholders in the design of country-led plans.

We support para 41(b) and propose that the convening role be explicitly utilized to establish a UN intergovernmental process aimed at agreeing on a legally binding convention on development cooperation that ensures policy coherence.

We propose that on ii to delete specific references to sources of data and instead commit to work towards suitable measures of development impact of all types and modalities of development cooperation, building on ongoing efforts

The detailed language of our proposal from CSOs is readily available on our website.

Thank you