

Statement by Bond representative Mareen Buschmann on behalf of the wider Civil Society Group at the Second drafting session on the outcome of the Third Financing for Development, New York, April 14 2015

My name is Mareen Buschmann, I work for the UK National Platform Bond, and I speak on behalf of the wider civil society group.

I would like to address 3 specific points:

We welcome the clear and unambiguous recommitment to the 0.7% aid target and the call for timetables. We suggest strengthening this commitment to read as follows:

“(…) ODA starting immediately with a view to implementing by 2020 their commitment to allocate 0.7 per cent of GNI as ODA to developing countries – **including to MICs**, with 0.15-0.20 of GNI to LDCs. **Developed countries must also commit to provide at least half of their official development assistance to LDCs.** We strongly encourage all donor countries to establish, by the end of 2015, indicative timetables **at the national level** to illustrate how **and where** they will increase their assistance and reach their goals-“

We further recommend adding a new last sentence that states: **“We will scale up the share of ODA for achieving women’s human rights and gender equality, and ensure that additional funding is in place to implement the Sustainable Development Goals.”**

We are **concerned that emphasis is being placed not on the effective use of ODA to support sustainable development** but instead on using aid as a catalyst to crowd in other finance without clear evidence of the development impact.

We therefore suggest adding, to the beginning of the Paragraph, the following text: **“The catalytic role of ODA should be subject to close scrutiny to assess consistency with the effectiveness principles and whether there is any added real value whenever international public finance is diverted from more direct interventions to blending with or leveraging private finance.”**

More and better aid has a crucial and irreplaceable role to play to achieve sustainable development. Therefore, we recommend amending the current last sentence to read as follows:

“(…) modernization of the ODA definition, **which ensures ODA excludes debt relief, imputed student costs, refugee costs and tied aid**, and on the proposed indicator of “total official support for sustainable development (TOSSD)”.

And we further suggest adding a new final sentence that reads as follows:

“ODA will supplement, not replace, other types of international public finance, and will be provided in addition to climate finance, innovative financing, other non-concessional flows and South-South cooperation.”