



Centre for Citizens Participation on the
African Union (CCP-AU)
in partnership with the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES)



**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON ECONOMIC JUSTICE IN AFRICA
24 – 25 January 2012, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

A: Introductions:

All delegates were requested to introduce themselves, their institutions and give a brief summary of the work they do. The list of the participants is in the appendix.

B: Background:

The Centre for Citizen Participation on the African Union (CCP-AU) was established in 2007 as an independent platform committed to the actualization of a people-driven African Union. CCP-AU aspires to broaden and strengthen opportunities for substantive engagement between the AU and civil society. CCP-AU was established with the mandate to coordinate and facilitate civil society organizations around the continent to engage with the AU so that it can be a Union that delivers to African peoples and addresses their issues. This requires for the organisation to assist civil society demonstrate competence and credibility and at the same time develop relationships and mechanisms with the AU and its organs to enable desired engagement.

The organization is seeking to develop a 3-year strategic plan for the three years of 2012 – 2015. To effectively do this, the process that has been developed includes thematic consultation strategy sessions for each of the CCP-AU 5 themes, a consultation meeting for regional CSO networks and a board and other stakeholders strategy session.

The five priority areas of focus identified by CCP-AU stakeholders include ;

- i) Peace and Security
- ii) Democracy, Good Governance and Human Rights
- iii) Gender Equality and Women's Rights
- iv) Economic Justice
- v) AU Government and Regional Integration

As such, the CCP-AU has organized the thematic cluster meetings of which 3 have been held at the margins of the 18th AU Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and two are expected to take place in February 2012. The objectives of the meetings are to

- i) bring stakeholders actively working on Economic Justice in Africa so as to brainstorm and strategise on what the current issues and priorities are for the theme;
- ii) identify 2 to 3 areas the CCP-AU can focus on in the next 3 years 2012 – 2015 under the theme mindful of the role and aspirations of the CCP-AU to broaden and strengthen substantive engagement between the AU and Civil Society

- iii) develop strategies for deeper Civil Society Organisations (CSO)/African Union (AU) engagement and for enhancing Civil Society Organisations' engagement on Economic Justice issues; and
- iv) form a thematic cluster core group that remains engaged with the issues relevant to the theme in the next three years of implementing the strategy.

The Economic Justice thematic meeting was held on the 24th to the 25th of January 2012 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. 16 participants took part in the discussions (see list of participants attached as Annex A). The programme is also attached as Annex B.

C: Opening Remarks: Ambassador Nathan Irumba

There is a new economic geography. The West is going through their own economic structural adjustment. There is a new scramble for Africa. On the value chain, Africa is at the lowest end. Even though there is a commodities boom, Africa is not benefiting from it. There is a lot of extracting (and not constructing) from Africa. We have new partners such as China, India and Brazil and our challenge is to define these new relationships in a way that is different where they don't just come and extract. The AU is currently a union of leaders and should really be a union of the people. It passes good resolutions but they remain resolutions and not a reality. We need to find ways of using the spaces that the AU has given us to inform policy. If you are going to be relevant, you must be persuasive and persuasion will come with generating outputs that prove you are relevant and useful. Issues include unemployment, and technology amongst others. We need to make our governments accountable to us; this includes parliamentarians and civil society itself.

D: An overview of Africa's Economic Justice Issues: Charles Mutasa

The Global Outlook

- 2008-2009 global financial and economic crises
 - 2010 – 2011 Moderate “temporary recovery
 - 2011 Europe debt crises (trade & aid reduced)
- Africa recovered better from the global economic crises

Economic headaches

- upswing of exports in 2010
- rising grain (food) prices
- remittances not very stable

What does Africa need to tick

- need for sustainable economic growth and social development (increase the cake before you share it)
- need for economic diversification and structural transformation
- inclusive, transparent and comprehensive development strategies especially at national level
- a strong democratic developmental state that is able to bring together economic and social policies through disciplined planning

Africa's biggest problem

Forced to liberalise too rapidly with a bias towards its development partners's interests, especially the west.

Current economic challenges for Africa

- Need to mobilise domestic resources – we are still too donor dependant and thus open to donor influence and playing to the donors (less than 20% GDP of most African economies are local)
- Mixed progress towards the MDGs as progress varies per region, country & by goal (maybe due to quality and quantity of public service delivery)
- Climate change bringing in question of climate financing
- Land grabbing and issues of bio fuels promotion
- EPAs dividing our regions and continent and compromising continental Regional Integration efforts
- Democratic deficits in the IMF, WTO, WB etc
- Shrinking policy space and development options – need to renegotiate this space
- Our national development strategies don't have a relationship with the regional and continental development strategies
- Institutions that don't work

Recommendations

- Diversification of Economies & Greening of agriculture, industry & service sectors so as to :
 - Meet continental food demand
 - Take advantage of increasing global markets for organic food & drinks
 - Efficient use of resources & alternative energy sources
- Address the issue of shrinking policy space through renogiation.
- Tighten harmonization & coordination within RECs especially their relationship to national development strategies.
- Africa Needs a developmental state that is capable of inter-twining the economic and social policies through disciplined planning.
- Africa needs institutional effectiveness evaluation which then informs us on the recommended changes & existing gaps.

Participant interaction, questions and comments

- How do we finance our own development? Do we have alternatives we can proffer to leaders? How do we overcome the limitations such as infrastructure? The AU has been speaking of mobilizing domestic resources; Member States (MS) do not want to do what needs to be done with regard to generating and mobilizing its own resources. How do we push the decision making from egg walking to actually concrete action? The issue of self reliance for Africa is important. What is making MS reluctant to take that concrete action.

- With World Trade Organisations (WTO) – what are our proposals on how to democratize these spaces? Have we as Africa resolved our own sovereignty issues versus the regional integration issues.
- As CSOs we are doing brilliant work at national level, regional and even at continental level but we are failing to link that work with policy makers at these levels and more so at the continental level. How do we capitalise on the knowledge of CSOs and ascend it to the regional level.
- We need trade diversification – we have a good opportunity to strengthen South South trade and intra-regional trade. It would be less difficult to trade within Africa than it is to trade internationally. We face many barriers to enter western markets yet if we invested in regional markets in Africa it would be so much easier.
- One of our biggest problems is the African mindset. If you already see yourself as less/ inferior you can not engage with strength. Our people think the world out there is better than the world here within our continent.
- The Extractive industries are clearly a good alternative to aid and debt. The money would be significantly more than whatever aid is coming from the west; those resources would come without the conditions that aid brings. African CSOs will have to know and understand what is happening in that sector. The AU has all the right big principles and policies but what is happening to making those a reality.
- Black economic empowerment has been used as a strategy in some countries
- Where do we place informal trade in Economic Justice? Formal trade actually leaves out informal trade which is where the majority of African citizens are.

E: Environmental Scan

1. Key trends, patterns or developments on Economic Justice in Africa over the last 5 years?

- a. The financial and economic crises
- b. Formulation of policy
- c. Multilateral agreements – unfair rules to South South countries
- d. EPA processes
- e. No diversification of partners – concentrating on US & EU
- f. No implementation of policies
- g. Gap between the poor & rich
- h. Resources not being used well
- i. Chinese lending
- j. Collusion between lenders & aiders
- k. Weak currencies
- l. Peace & security issues; mixed and decreased security issues
- m. Climate change a central/topical issue
- n. Regional integration rejuvenise/ rhetoric high
- o. Increased solidarity and mass mobilization – strong social movements
- p. Decreased space for civil society
- q. Modern technology – unprecedented development

2. What is driving those trends

- Africa not financing itself
- Lack of solidarity
- Countries not giving sovereignty to regional entities
- African States, Regional bodies, Donors, Civil Society

3. Predictions for the next five years

- Trends observed are unlikely to change
- Increased role for regional bodies leading to regional economies
- redefined role of the state
- closer collaboration of the RECs
- continued restrictions to freedom of movement for African citizens within Africa
- Increasing FDI from BRICS
- Africa increasingly defining its agenda and asserting its-self
- Shrinking space for civil society
- Increased unemployment
- Increasing population putting pressure on natural resources
- More extraction of natural resources

F: Assessing the Opportunities & Threats

Redefined role of the state	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Building a strong democratic developmental state * Ability to learn from other developmental states that have achieved success (Malaysia) * Redistribution of wealth & resources * Space for a vision that is people owned * Increased space for CSOs * Raising the level of accountability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A strong state where there are no strong institutions that work and deliver for the people is dangerous * Corruption * Limiting state of private sector * Growing inequalities
Closer collaboration of the RECs	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Intra-trade * Greater Economies of Scale * Addresses overlaps & duplication * Learning experiences form each other * Better coordination & 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Sub-regional divergence from continental agenda * Too many institutions and divisions * Absorption and dilution of weaker economies by bigger ones

<p>harmonization greater African integration in all spheres</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Create economies of scale and more opportunities for production and consumption of African products 	
Increasing FDI from emerging economies	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * South Africa is able to counter the economic influence of external countries * Diversifies sources of resources * Ability to learn from these countries that have walked the paths Africa is walking * Growing investments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * South Africa can be become big brother * Civil society becomes seriously threatened. * Substitution of western contributions with Chinese * They too can be too dominant and influence our national agendas * Lack of respect of locals norms and values * Domestic industries affected * Regional integration compromised
Africa increasingly defining its agenda and asserting its-self	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Stronger ownership of developmental agenda * Increased accountability to citizens * Issues and solutions rooted in Africa's realities * Improves socio-economic development issues * Ability to negotiate Africa's position * Shared values and shared reliance * Breaking colonial boundaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Donors will not like it and therefore less support * More corruption to facilitate foreigners hidden agenda * Focus on common agenda * Limited competition amongst Member States
Shrinking space for civil society	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Further engagement with AU & international partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Lack of citizen engagement * Civil society will become irrelevant
Increasing unemployment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Increased need for entrepreneurship programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * More uprisings, civil unrest * Radical changes in governments
Increasing population	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Sustainable use of resources * Potentially growing market and a large labour force 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Putting pressure on natural resources * Quality of life compromised

Not much will change	
* CSOs could build on experiences and knowledge of the current space and gain more space. * There is a need to improve the capacity of existing institutions	* Worsening of conditions of peoples of Africa
More extraction of mineral and other natural resources	
* Independence from foreign resources * Exchange resources for technology * Own resources to finance Africa development	* environmental degradation * Conflict

Key Issues

- Raising awareness and capacity building amongst CSOs on economic justice issues
- Regional integration intra-Africa trade (Bilateral trade and investment agreements which are prevalent as a result of the stalling of the WTO)
- Domestic resource mobilization and management including the extractive sector (Reform of natural resource mobilization management policies)
- Addressing informal sector needs and unemployment
- Promotion of agricultural production and value addition
- Intellectual Property Rights and quality certification

G: Streamlining: What CCP-AU can focus on

1. Intra-Africa Trade and Trade Agreements

Intra-Africa Trade

- Advocating for freedom of the movement of people and goods.
- Advocating for an Africa single currency (currency convertibility).
- Trade barriers.
- Intellectual property rights.

Trade Agreements

- An analysis and assessing impact of new trade agreements.

2. Domestic Natural resource mobilization and management Background

- Setting appropriate policy procedures, legal instruments and intuitions.
- Ensuring the benefit of citizens to a greater extent
- Ensuring the existence of transparency and accountability both from the companies and the states (the amount of money invested, paid and the profit made)

- Extractive Industries Transparency Initiatives, Publish What You Pay, the Kimberly Process

Problems to act up on for CCP-AU

- Inadequate awareness on the existing continental instruments and frameworks (e.g. The African Mining Vision)

Actionable Points

- Building the capacity of African CSOs to have an effective advocacy and lobbying strategies
- Initiating a continental advocacy and lobbying strategy so as ensure Economic Justice at the continental level with regard to natural resource
- Taking a specific case study to understand the context particularly with regard to royalty issues [oil, gas, forestry, fishery, mining]

3. CCP-AU Economic Justice Working Group

- Sharing experiences
- Coordinating CSO work on these key issues
- More reflection and adjusting of the agenda

H: Engaging the AU

What Worked Well

- 1) The creating of engagement mechanisms by the AU such as
 - ECOSOCC
 - MoUs with different Directorates / Commissions / Organs
 - Policy frameworks / AU instruments create an entry point for civil society – they provide space for civil society input
- 2) There are individuals in the AUC willing to work with civil society
- 3) Working through the Africa group at multi-lateral level

What Has Not Worked Well

- 1) ECOSOCC Structure limited and restrictive and is not inclusive. It is an invited space hence has limits, has its rules and regulations on what one can say and do so as not to offend MS
- 2) Gate – keeping elements within the AUC
- 3) Relationships are personal and not institutional and technocrats in the AUC prefer to work this way
- 4) Dealing at multi-lateral level has the challenge of the influence of foreign agendas and influences which divides the Africa group
- 5) When it comes to Economic Affairs issues – the AUC has very little expertise
- 6) Need to massage egos so as to have positions taken and issues dealt with

- 7) The relationship between the AU and CSOs is at the macro level – there are no building blocs to it
- 8) There are no rules of procedure of engaging the AU
- 9) CSOs are not coordinated, are harp hazard, rude etc hence inundate AU officials
- 10) International CSOs are currently dominating the CSOs spaces

Lessons for CCP-AU engagement with the AU

- Establish an effective line of communication.
- Compliment each other with others doing similar work.
- Seek institutionalized relationships through MoUs.
- Work with other AU organs and institutions – do not focus only on the AUC
- Present our work as relevant and legitimate – be an authority and a resource.
- CCP-AU could create a database for organisations working on specific issues with the AU.
- Hold a meeting for CSOs working with the AU to facilitate coordination.
- Those organisations that have not worked with the AU work through other networks and organizations.

I: Proposed Working Group – Proposed Organisations

A list of organizations was proposed to form the CCP-AU thematic working group. The CCP-AU will write to each of these organizations inviting them to be members of the working group. For those organizations represented at the meeting, they already confirmed and expressed commitment to be members of this cluster.

1. Economic Justice Network – Southern Africa
2. ENDA – International
3. MWENGO – East & Southern Africa
4. SEATINI – East & Southern Africa
5. AFRODAD - (Pan African)
6. Southern Africa Youth Movement – Southern Africa
7. PUBLISH WHAT YOU PAY AFRICA (International)
8. African Development Interchange Network (ADIN) International
9. Africa Trade Network (ATN) (Pan African)
10. Third World Network Africa (TWN) (Pan African)
11. Go Ahead Africa (Pan African) – *Eyong to give contacts*
12. Central Africa – *Bathie to give contacts*
13. North Africa – *Bathie to give contacts*

Conclusion of the Meeting

The meeting was closed with thank you note by the Executive Director of CCP-AU and the thematic lead for Economic Justice.



ANNEX A

ECONOMIC JUSTICE ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION, 24-25 JANUARY 2012, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS		
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ANNEX B

Centre for Citizens Participation on the African Union (CCP-AU)
In partnership with the
Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES)

ECONOMIC JUSTICE MEETING
24 - 25 January 2012 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia,

Programme

DAY ONE 24 JANUARY 2012

- 8:30am Arrival of delegates and Registration
- 9:00am **Introductions**
- 9:15am **Opening Remarks**
Ambassador Nathan Irumba Executive Director SEATINI & CCP-AU Economic Justice Theme Board Representative
- 9:45am **Overview of Economic Justice Issues in Africa**
Charles Mutasa, Executive Director MWENGO
- 10:30am Tea/Coffee Break
- 11:00am **Environmental Scanning – Economic Justice Issues in Africa continued**
Dr. Chiku Malunga
- 12:30pm LUNCH
- 2:00pm Key Opportunities and Threats
- 3:30pm Tea/Coffee Break
- 4:00pm Session Continued
- 5:00pm End of day one

DAY TWO 25 JANUARY 2012

- 9:00am Key issues and Priorities for CSO engagement on Economic Justice
- 10:30am Next steps for CCP-AU / Action Plan
- 12:15pm Closing remarks
- 12:30pm LUNCH