

## **BRIEF REPORT ON THE 7:30 BREAKFAST DEBATE – APRIL 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2008**

### **“DELIVERING AS ONE: UN REFORM IN TANZANIA”**

In January 2007, Tanzania was handed a unique opportunity by being selected as one of eight countries to pilot the new United Nations (UN) reform initiative known as 'Delivering as One'. Albania, Cape Verde, Mozambique, Pakistan, Rwanda, Uruguay and Viet Nam are the other countries piloting the reform in the period 2007-2008. The aim of the reform initiative is for the UN as an organization to achieve better results within its work in Tanzania by becoming more efficient through closer cooperation and coordination both internally, among the UN agencies, and externally with government, civil society, and the private sector and development partners.

In order to attain a grasp of what this UN reform initiative entails, Policy Forum and HakiElimu decided to dedicate April's debate to the issue by inviting Mr. Oscar Fernandez Taranco, the UN Residential Coordinator to make a presentation. The Debate was facilitated by Albanie Marcossy from the Policy Forum Secretariat.

Mr. Taranco began by giving the audience the rationale for the reform which was to strengthen management and coordination of UN assistance so as to maximize UN's contribution in helping countries like Tanzania achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other national development priorities. After much consideration of UN's activities in developing nations, it was observed that implementation of development assistance was fragmented and duplicated resulting in high transaction costs and unpredictable funding.

He said in Tanzania, the overall goal of the initiative is to make the UN an effective partner to the Government of Tanzania in its pursuit of development goals and tackling of humanitarian challenges. The initiative, he added, was about the UN doing business differently, that is, all UN agencies, funds, and programmes in Tanzania being better coordinated so that they are more efficient.

He further explained that the initiative in Tanzania has recorded progress thus far with the government and the UN team forming a joint task force and a joint steering committee. There was also a framework in place to consult with development partners and Civil Society organisations whose members have provided valuable inputs to the process. Mr. Taranco said that there was a lot of willingness to take risks and more focus on changing the way UN staff thinks to enable the organisation to 'Deliver as One'. This involved a conceptualisation that is known in the process as 'Four Ones' which entails one programme, one budgetary framework, one office and one Leader.

**The One Programme:** This will require harmonised and simplified UN procedures and systems for overall implementation. National agencies will be required to work with country institutions, so as to reduce the running and management costs. Hence, there will be one UN programme in a country instead of individual country plans being implemented by separate UN agencies as is the case now.

**The One Budget Framework:** This has the purpose of streamlining accountability, simplifying and reducing transaction costs and fostering harmonisation of processes. The 'One Office' simply means harmonisation of operational processes like having common banking, joint human resources management, joint communications, shared procurement and joint premises.

**One Leader:** This intends to strengthen the role of the residential coordinator mainly in terms of dialogue with the government by having the leader speak on behalf of all UN agencies.

He also said that the United Nation Civil Society Advisory Committee was important in deepening the mutual understanding of Civil Society in Tanzania, the UN System in Tanzania and UN Reform in Tanzania.

### **Comments and questions from Plenary Discussions:**

- ❖ The bureaucracy involved in the UN Reform makes it more complicated than it was before
- ❖ The Reform cannot work unless the problem of trade fair is resolved, how do we support the government in its negotiations or how do we increase the voice of poor countries?
- ❖ Is the UN reform going to be another NGO in other ways because it does not show how it is involved in poverty reduction?
- ❖ What is the position of political parties in this UN Reform Programme?
- ❖ How do we measure the impact of this UN Reform Programme?
- ❖ What is the biggest challenge in this reform process?
- ❖ Is there any example to demonstrate on how the UN involves the government in this reform?
- ❖ What is the lead role of UN in poverty reduction in rural area and how is the issue of reform featured in vision 2025?
- ❖ How can CSOs get involved in the UN Reform and how were selected in the in the steering committee?
- ❖ Is the UN One Programme going to be one basket fund/centralised?

### **Respond to the comments and Questions:**

- We will try to reduce the level of coordination and decision making so as to reduce bureaucracy.
- There is a mechanism for setting policy priorities involved in the UN reform like MKUKUTA and MKUZA (poverty reduction strategies for mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar respectively).
- Timeframe for implementation of this reform is two years, hopefully this is enough to change the way things are managed at the UN Tanzania mission. We agree that this is a challenge and big responsibility.
- On poverty reduction, we do help the government to define some development policies and build their capacity to implement.
- There was the involvement of CSOs like TAMWA, TUCTA, TACOSODE, TANGO, TGNP, Religious organisations, etc. so as to provide the UN with advice. CSOs also take back what they gather from these consultations to larger community.

Mr. Marcossy from policy forum closed the discussion and welcomed the participants to the next scheduled monthly breakfast debate.

policy forum