CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT IN THE MKUKUTA REVIEW PROCESS

1.0 BACKGROUND

In 2001, the Government of Tanzania developed and implemented the Poverty Monitoring System (PMS). The system was reviewed in 2005/06 in order to monitor the implementation of MKUKUTA, which is broader, comprehensive and more outcome-focused than PRSP. The revised monitoring system is known as MKUKUTA Monitoring System (MMS). MMS which was approved by the Government through the MKUKUTA Technical Committee (TC) in February 2006 is built on the previous system. *MKUKUTA Monitoring Master Plan* is a working document that guides the implementation of the MMS. The two policy frameworks have been set to run between 2005/2006 and 2007/2008 respectively and ending in the financial year 2009/2010.

The Government has provided a guideline that informs the review process both for the MKUKUTA [Mainland] and MKUZA [Zanzibar]. The review will observe principles of National ownership; Local partnerships; Strengthening Capacity; Government Leadership; and Transparency.

The review will combine three methods: first *specific analytical studies* on substantive issues, second, *structured guiding tools* for collecting stakeholders' views; and third, *consultations* on outputs produced from analytic studies and views collected from the stakeholders

According to the Strategy Draft Review Guidelines issues by the Government in August 2009, Civil Society Organisation through their umbrella and networks are expected to coordinate their engagement in the process. These terms of reference proposed here are aimed at providing guidance to the CSO MKUKUTA Review Steering Committee in facilitating effective CSO engagement in the review process in all the four phases.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

Under the auspices of the United Nations Civil Society Advisory Committee (UNCSAC) a meeting of Civil Society was called on the 6/09/2009 at UNICEF Conference Hall, this meeting had the presence of the MKUKUTA secretariat officials that elaborated on the Review process, the road map, essence of the CSOs engagement and coordination issues looking at different actors. The MKUKUTA Secretariat officials also gave out the reporting format for the consultation process which is to be used by organizations/institutions engaged in the review process.

3.0 CSO ENGAGEMENT IN THE REVIEW PROCESS: THE ROAD MAP

The CSOs that attended this meeting felt the need to engage and have a coordinated process within the CSOs in order to influence the mainstream MKUKUTA review process and hence having key issues from the CSOs taken onboard.

4.0 OWNERSHIP AND LEGITIMACY

The first meeting of the civil society was attended by about 30 CSOs mainly from Dar es Salaam. These CSOs unanimously agreed to form a voluntary steering committee that was meant to do follow-up on the issues of CSOs-MKUKUTA Review engagement, to develop its terms of reference and to come up with a programme of work. MKUKUTA Review is not just another process; it is a very significant process for country's development hence the commitment of CSOs to engage should not be inspired by opportunities but by true need of shaping the national development agenda. This demands every CSO to have deliberate agenda to engage and ensure popular participation of all possible constituencies.

Proposals

A larger CSOs meeting be called with participants drowned from the first CSOs Meeting at UNICEF and new CSOs that already are engaged in the MKUKUTA process or by nature of their existence can rich out large audiences. This meeting is going to bless the work plan, indorse the Steering Committee and assume the overall responsibility of the CSOs MKUKUTA engagement as the supreme decision making body. Proposed date for the meeting is 30/09/2009

5.0 INTERNAL ORGANIZATION AND COORDINATION

It has been echoed at different forums that CSOs are not organized and especially when a common statement has to be given from the CSOs to a government policy process. At this stage when the government is reviewing the MKUKUTA, with a very tight schedule that involves last minute deadlines and consolidated inputs while ensuring that our quality inputs are well captured. So far CSOs seems to have a general consensus that PF takes the lead, this has been from the UNICEF Meeting but also the meeting of CSOs working addressing issues HIV/AIDs within the MKUKUTA has indorsed PF to take the lead??

Proposals

That the Policy Forum takes the responsibility of the coordination and administrative tasks including information sharing, dissemination and harmonizing inputs as the SC may deem so. That there is a need to supplement the PF Human Resources particularly in this engagement that can be through additional staffing or staff time compensation [again as the SC may deem so]

6.0 CSO MKUKUTA ENGAGEMENT STEERING COMMITTEE

Members were asked to nominate their institutions to be part of the steering committee and having PF proposed as a lead organization in terms of providing base for the work of the steering committee. This SC still needs to be qualified in order to take the responsibility of coordinating CSOs engagement into the MKUKUTA Review process. The first voluntary steering committee comprises of Local NGOs and some International NGOs [as from UNICEF]

Proposals

In order to have the legitimacy and mandate of representation, it is proposed that the SC be composed of networks, coalition and umbrella organizations that have a broad coverage and the mandate of representation. This will ensure that there is representative democracy but also these networks and umbrella organizations are accountable to their constituencies. A steering Committee should have an optimum number of 12 members [for efficiency and organization]. This Steering Committee is guided by the Terms of Reference (TORs) attached to this discussion paper.

The following entities have been proposed based on the nature of representation and geography;-

1. Tanzania Association of NGOs (TANGO)
2. TGNP-FEMACT Coalition
3. HAKIELIMU
4. Tanzania Ecumenical Dialogue Group (TEDG)
5. Trade Union Congress of Tanzania (TUCTA)
6. Shirikisho la Vyama vya Walemavu Tanzania (SHIVYAWATA)
7. Tanzania AIDS Forum (TAF)
8. TACOSODE
9. Policy Forum (PF)
10. United Nations Association Tanzania (UNA)
11. TENMET
12. Tanzania Youth Coalition (TYC)

PF should take the lead role in informing and inviting these members to the first meeting.

7.0 ENGAGEMENT WITH INGOS AND LOCAL FUNDING AGENCIES

There have been concerns from members of the steering committee on the involvement of International NGOs and Funding Agencies as part of the steering committee. There needs to be clear lines of duty that different partners play, this includes issues of capacity building, resource mobilization and implementing parties [at activity level].

Proposals

That a meeting of International NGOs and Local Funding Agencies be called to discuss and harmonize their efforts at this time of the MKUKUTA Review. This discussion paper further suggest that a CSOs Development Partners Group be formed with members from INGOs and Local Funding Agencies e.g. Foundation for Civil Society (FCS). The CSOs-DPG shall facilitate further efforts in the areas of lobbying, financial mobilization and capacity building

8.0 THE SECRETARIAT

PF has assumed already the role of a secretariat for the CSOs MKUKUTA engagement.

9.0 PROGRAMME OF WORK

Refer the CSOs MKUKUTA Work Plan. Further to the discussion paper the SC will need to agree on how work will be undertaken to include more CSOs including those in the rural areas.

10.0 WAY FORWARD

1. A meeting of CSOs to deliberate on amongst others the SC TORs, commitment of CSOs to the process and Issues suggested by this discussion paper.
2. Receive Feedback on the progress so far on the Review Process and the CSOs engagement
3. Develop a CSOs-MEDIA engagement plan/strategy for Advocacy and awareness creation
4. Approve SC Members and the TORs