



August 21, 2015

GCAP response to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA)

While we welcome the objective of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) of achieving 'equitable global economic system in which no country or person is left behind' in its introductory paragraph, so also the mention of the productive employment, decent work and the social protection system, we fear that they may remain as mere rhetoric. While promising to end hunger, poverty and inequality, it has not addressed the structural aspects of the economy responsible for perpetuation of the same. Excessive importance given to the private capital for financing development legitimises the ongoing withdrawal of the state from providing essential services like education, health, water and sanitation and other sectors. While the PPP model has made quality education and health care almost out of reach for the people living in poverty and socially excluded groups, reposing faith on the same model for financing key social sectors reflects serious lack of commitment by the global leaders towards equality, justice and climate change. The question will always remain on how to ensure accountability of private funding to the people at large and of the private capital towards human rights, labour rights and safeguarding the environment.

The lacklustre outcome of Addis conference also has potential to undermine the credibility of the SDGs agenda and puts it at the risk of being mere promises, not reality.

AAAA lost an opportunity to create a body, universally accepted by the member nations of UN, for ensuring international cooperation on tax, working towards tax justice and create mechanisms to stop cross boarder illicit flow of wealth. It is also silent towards ensuring a just trade regime. The idea of financing gender equality and women's empowerment as a means to achieve economic growth is a tacit expression of using women as instruments of economic gain, which is unfortunate, as gender justice is an essential aspect of human rights.

The AAAA reiterated fulfilling the old commitment by the developed countries to provide 0.7 percent of their national income (GNI) as official development assessment (ODA) to the developing countries. However, we feel that this is not sufficient as new areas like climate change and natural disasters have been added to the kitty of development assistance.

Therefore, Addis action agenda failed to increase the contribution of the developed countries for ODA.

We demand that financing of development should be predominantly public funded with private players supporting the effort. And its implementation is done in a transparent and accountable manner while preserving the planet for generations to come and protecting human rights and basic human values. We demand that the global leaders should commit to take urgent measures in coming climate conference in Paris in December to stop climate change.

We, as the members of GCAP, endorse “Civil Society Response to Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development”, which was released on July 16, 2015.