

WORKING GROUP REPORTS: SESSION 4 KEY POLICY ISSUES

Instructions

- Appoint rapporteur
- Brainstorm 1: the key problems currently facing Ethiopia (economic, political, social, cultural)
- Brainstorm 2: what should government do in respect of each problem?
- Brainstorm 3: what should NGOs do in respect of each problem?
- Brainstorm 4: what should donors do in respect of each problem?
- Brainstorm 5: are there other important social actors? what should they do?

Group 1

- Threats to Ethiopia:
 - Eritrean
 - Environment
 - Instability of land tenure
 - Market structural bottlenecks
 - Problems of credit access
 - HIV/AIDS
 - Recurrent and current famines
 - Population explosion
 - Conflicts over resources, social etc
 - Poor performance in Human Rights
- What Government should provide:
 - legal guarantees
 - property rights
 - rule of law
 - security
 - accommodation of interest groups
 - greater public/private dialogue, including with farmers, pastoralists etc – ‘government knows it all !!!?’
 - mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating policy implementation
 - safety net institutions
- What donors should do
 - respect national policies
 - reduce tied aid
 - involve themselves in long-term programmes and projects
- What NGOs should do
 - respect national policies
 - complement government
 - provide services in remote and diversified areas
 - avoid duplication of efforts
 - reduce relief and focus on development and capacity building
- What other social actors should do
 - CBOs
 - religious organisation
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Group 2

- The key socioeconomic problems (not in order of severity) are:
 - unemployment
 - crime
 - prostitution
 - overpopulation
 - lack of social services
 - HIV/AIDS
 - land holding related problems
 - lack of economic diversification
 - famine/drought
- The key political problems are:

- political instability
 - ethnic tensions
 - neglect of the regulatory administration of law and justice
- The key cultural problems are:
 - ethnic tensions
 - inappropriate consumptions (festivities)
 - addiction (areki, chat)
 - negligence of indigenous knowledge
- Government should provide an enabling environment for economic and social development by legislating appropriate law
- Government should devise and implement proper policies
- NGOs:
 - should adopt an advocacy role
 - should adopt a catalyst role, filling gaps until government takes responsibility
 - should increase transparency and efficiency of resource utilisation
 - should not be donor driven but need driven
- Donors
 - should avoid speedy shifts of paradigms and policy imperatives
 - should avoid conditionalities that are not agreed with the nation state
- Other actors: professional associations and trade unions can serve as public watchdogs to make government accountable and transparent