

# **Pushing the boundaries of Official Development Assistance**

## **Challenges and opportunities**

**When - Tuesday 23 May, 6.30-8.00 pm**

**Where - UN, Conference Room 7**

### **Background**

Aid is changing - from what counts to how it is measured. New development challenges and ambitious, multi-faceted development goals do mean that development finance, aid included, need to change. But this is also pushing the boundaries of the traditional understanding of what aid is and how donors spend it. Already it is clear that aid will be used in more strategic or catalytic ways with increased focus on leveraging aid to blend with private investment or to serve the dual purpose of supporting development as well as donors own national and security interests. These changes are creating new opportunities but also carry risks. This is particularly true for blended finance where the AAAA also commits to developing, in an inclusive manner, principles and standards for blending - an area that is also being developed in the OECD.

The process of redefining ODA was kicked off in the OECD Development Assistance Committee but broadened in the Addis Ababa FfD negotiations with the AAAA committing donors to ensuring that this process is both transparent and inclusive of the broadest range of development stakeholders. The ECOSOC FfD Forum in New York provides an obvious opportunity to engage the diversity of development actors in this process and deliver on that promise. This event will seek to provide a forum for all actors to engage and contribute to the modernisation of ODA with a particular focus on blended finance.

### **Speakers**

- Chair - Pierre Habbard, Senior Policy Advisor, TUAC
- Jorge Moreira da Silva, Director, OECD Development Cooperation Directorate
- Shari Spiegel, Chief of Branch, UN ECOSOC FfD Office
- Dr Fanwell K. Bokosi, Executive Director, Afrodad
- Ana Gallo-Alvarez, Team Leader Financing for Development, Directorate-General International Cooperation and Development, European Commission
- Representative of G77 (invited - tbc)

### **Questions**

- What is to be decided and what will happen next with the ODA reform process? What's at stake and do these issues reflect your own/national priorities?

- How can we ensure this process is genuinely inclusive in keeping with the commitments from AAAA? Has this happened so far?
- What impacts will the changes already agreed have in/on your country? Do you see these changes delivering the quantity and kind of financing needed?
- Blending is apparently the (not so) new silver bullet to development, what safeguards and principles should guide its use?

*Facilitating organisations:*

