



## **Summit of the Future Action Days Side Event**

### ***Redefining and Enhancing the Quality of Official Development Assistance (ODA) for Sustainable Development***

9:00 am New York time / 1:00pm GMT/UTC, 20 September 2024, Virtual Event

Organised by: Forus with the participation of the Pakistani government and key civil society organisations and Forus members, including ADA, Concord, Plataforma ONGD, NNNGO, Bond, Lithuania NGO Platform, Cooperation Canada, PIANGO, JANIC, La Coordinadora, KCOC, UNNGOF, Coordination Sud, VANI, Civil Society Mechanism Financing for Development Mechanism (International Development Cooperation Workstream); and Eurodad.

#### **Background on the event**

This event brought together experts and stakeholders to discuss the current state of Official Development Assistance (ODA), propose a redefinition that shifts the power towards recipient countries and communities, and explore ways to improve the quality and coherence of ODA, particularly in the context of global challenges such as climate change, peace and security, and sustainable development. As global challenges intensify, particularly in the Global South, participants discussed how the existing 0.7% GNI target for ODA must evolve to better align with the needs of recipient countries. The event focused on supporting ownership by local communities, improving the quality and coherence of aid, and encouraging collaborative approaches. Through expert presentations and interactive discussions, the event aimed to develop actionable strategies for making ODA more effective and responsive to today's challenges.

#### **Key Issues discussed**

- Need to redefine ODA to prioritise recipient countries' agency and ownership
- Challenges of inflated aid and resource diversion

- Importance of localisation and of empowering local actors in decision-making
- Prioritisation of investment in essential public services as well as the social elements of ODA
- Call for multi-stakeholder collaboration for effective ODA
- While peace and security are important, Official Security Assistance (OSA) should not undermine ODA's primary mission. There should be greater recognition of the balance between ODA and peace and security funding
- Concerns about risks associated with the privatisation of ODA
- Necessity of governance reforms for inclusive decision-making processes and spaces

### **Key recommendations for action**

- Redefine ODA to align with the priorities of recipient countries and communities. Greater localisation efforts are needed through empowering local actors in ODA decision-making and project implementation.
  - Implement stricter guidelines to ensure ODA remains focused on development objectives rather than inflated aid.
  - The balance between OSA and ODA's primary mission must be carefully managed to ensure development remains the focus.
  - Enhance investments in basic public services, including healthcare, education, and sanitation, to support sustainable development.
  - Establish collaborative partnerships among governments, civil society, and international organisations to improve ODA effectiveness.
  - Advance governance reforms that enable greater participation and representation of recipient countries in ODA processes. To overhaul the structure of the rules set by the OECD DAC, the FfD4 must agree that a new international development cooperation architecture and framework with universal representation and equal voice in decision-making are needed.
  - Increase transparency and accountability in mobilisation of private finance and focus on the quantity and quality of ODA.
- [Watch the recording of the event.](#)
  - [Read the article on the event](#)