

# **CHRISTIAN RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION**

## **SUMMARY OF COMMENTS GIVEN AT THE CRDA PREPARATORY MEETING OF CRDA MEMBERS FOR THE FORTHCOMING CONSULTATION MEETING WITH THE PREMIER**

### **A. THE FOUR CATEGORIES PROPOSED BY THE MEETING:**

#### **1) The Recognition of the Role of the CSO Community as the Third Sector**

- ✓ Our presentations should effectively articulate why we exist, continue to exist and our accountability
- ✓ The contribution of the sector in past four decades in relief, rehabilitation and current development endeavor should be resonated by substantiating with latest and correct data and information. This may call for a neutral assessment.
- ✓ We present ourselves as concerned citizens but never marginalizing international NGOs. The representation should therefore be all inclusive: indigenous faith-based and secular organizations as well as international faith-based and secular organizations
- ✓ NGOs should not necessarily be associated with relief and poverty as they are part of every developed society such as France 750,000 NGOs, South Africa 50,000
- ✓ Reexamining and cross examining of the relevance of the social, cultural, economic and political background of Ethiopia against the model countries should still be reminded
- ✓ Our role should include right-based approach such as freedom of Association and self-governance
- ✓ The Government should consider the Third Sector as one of its development arm, provide technical and financial support to the Sector as it is done in other developing countries and use its potential for the national development

## **2) The Need to Adopt a Comprehensive National Policy for the Sector**

- ✓ The appropriateness of administering civil society under Ministry of Justice, rather than other related sector offices like Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs should be reminded
- ✓ Appeal for the issuance of a Comprehensive National Policy that can provide for all types of CSOs: indigenous secular and faith-based as well as international secular and faith-based organizations etc.

## **3) Creating an Enabling Working Environment and Conducive Operative System for the Sector**

- ✓ Appeal for an enabling working environment and conducive operative system for all types of CSOs: indigenous secular and faith-based as well as international secular and faith-based organizations, etc.
- ✓ Appeal for a continuous constructive engagement with the Government through revitalization/establishment of GO/NGO Task Force at Federal and Regional levels, and /or National Committee a body directly accountable the Office of the Prime Minister, etc.
- ✓ The CSO Sector should take this opportunity to invite parliamentarians and higher level authorities to visit their project/programmes and encourage the Third Sector as it is done for other sectors

## **4) The Issuance of an Enabling CSO Legislation for the Sector**

- ✓ Appeal for the issuance of an enabling CSO Legislation that provides to all types of CSOs: indigenous secular and faith-based, international secular and faith-based organizations, etc.
- ✓ Appeal for the careful consideration of each and every comment of the Civil Society and issuance of an enabling CSO Legislation as proposed by the Civil Society Organizations
- ✓ Appeal so that the participation of the Civil Society Organizations in the formulation process of the Legislation that was discontinued be resumed
- ✓ Religious institutions and their independent nature should be recognized by the proclamation
- ✓ The right of disabled and vulnerable should not be mixed, and over sighted

## **B. APPROACH FOR CREATING FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE**

- ✓ Our diplomacy and humble approach should never be at the expense of critical evaluation of issues – our approach should thus be concept friendly
- ✓ Creating friendly atmosphere is the basis of understating and sharing ideas
- ✓ We need to be prepared to respond to questions pertaining to curious enquiries informed by popular misconceptions like abuse of funds, our accountability and transparency, dependency on donors, working for donors' agenda etc.
- ✓ Our representatives presenting the issues should be people who have positive or neutral acceptance, including from religious domain, people with disabilities, etc.
- ✓ We need to adopt a resolution in the form of vote of thanks right at the end of Consultation Meeting so that we can follow-up the decisions taken at the Meeting and request for follow-up mechanism for the implementation of the resolution of the Meeting