



Is the current consensus on the post 2015 agenda favorable to Africa?

Dr. Ibrahima HATHIE



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OUTLINE

- Context of the Post 2015 development agenda
- The consultation processes in Africa (UN led, CSOs, African Union)
- The Common African Position: its strengths and weaknesses
- A closer look at national and continental priorities
- The CAP and the current international consensus
- Concluding remarks

Context of the Post 2015 development agenda (1)

- The MDGs praised for their ability to focus effort and attention of the international community on key issues relevant to the future of the majority of the world population;
- But the MDGs have been highly criticized for being donor oriented;
- The lack of voice and ownership of the intended beneficiaries has been a major weakness;
- This is certainly why participation of various stakeholders has become central to the formulation process of the post 2015 development goals;
- To date: extensive consultations (UN-led global consultations, other autonomous processes) and several institutional reports.

Context of the Post 2015 development agenda (2)

- The High Level Panel (HLP) of Eminent Persons on the Post 2015 development agenda proposed five transformative shifts among which **“Leave no one behind”**
 - “we should ensure that no person – regardless of ethnicity, gender, geography, disability, race or other status – is denied universal human rights and basic economic opportunities”.
- To achieve this aspiration, we must ensure that the various stakeholders are involved in the different processes:
“Leave no voice behind”
- How did Africa manage to reconcile the need to listen to all stakeholders and the necessity to speak with one voice?
- Is the current consensus on the Post 2015 agenda favorable to Africa?

- UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) commissioned papers (5 papers, 2011)
- Regional consultations (UNECA, AUC, UNDP/RBA, AfDB)
 - Accra, Ghana – November 2011
 - Mombassa Kenya – October 2012
 - Dakar, Senegal – December 2012
 - Hammamet, Tunisia – March 2013
 - Participants: Government, CSO, Academia
- Electronic Survey (UNECA, AUC)
- National consultations (UNDP, Ministry of planning)
 - 24 countries selected

- Underlying rationale
 - Africa must rely on its human capital and Africans must shape their own future taking into account their interrelation with the rest of the world.
 - African civil society must **speak with one voice** when the future of the continent is at stake
- CSO activities
 - July 2012:
 - African CSO Addis Ababa Forum / Side event AU meeting
 - Monrovia Presidential visit / President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf appointed Co-chair of the UN High Level Panel
 - 21-22 October 2012: Regional African Women's consultation on Post 2015 (Monrovia)
 - 23-25 October 2012: Africa wide CSO consultations on Post 2015
 - Creation of the African CSO Secretariat

African Civil Society Consultation Process

- January 2013: CSO Outreach with the 3rd High Level Panel meeting in Monrovia
 - Day 1: CSO outreach day - African CSO secretariat and partners engage with HLP members ('Town hall' event and four roundtable discussions)
- November 2013: ACORD, FEMNET and the Africa Women's Development Fund (AWDF) selected during UNECA's 8th Committee on Women and Development meeting to be part of an elected bureau of Member States to support UNECA's Africa Center for Gender to engender the common Africa position
- Through UNECA, an engendered draft CAP was finalized and submitted to AUC in December 2013.
 - Introduction of a sixth pillar on gender equality and women's empowerment.
 - Strong support by African Ministers of Gender

Paradigm Shift in African CSO's methodology

- Instead of focusing on advocacy, “ensure that CSOs find a seat at the table to be able to concretely contribute to the consultation processes”;
- Produce key content and link with other organizations (UNECA, NEPAD, governments);
- Go beyond normal CSO constituency and engage the private sector;
- Forge a narrative with the active participation of the youth, the private sector, policy experts, practitioners to inform CSO and inter-governmental consultations;
- Propose a common African position on the Post 2015 agenda, **making sure the voices of the most marginalized of the African citizens are heard** and taken into account at the highest level

- July 2012: The African Union Heads of State mandated the AUC to identify Africa's priorities for the post-2015 development agenda, with the support of AfDB, UNDP/RBA and UNECA (Technical Committee)
- May 2013: The AU established a High Level Committee (HLC) of 10 Heads of State and Government chaired by Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, to work towards a Common African Position (CAP) in the post-2015 development agenda
- Mandate of the HLC: To finalise a demand-driven joint African post-2015 perspective and to build regional and intercontinental alliances around it ; Heads of states represented by Sherpas / support of TC
- The HLC committed itself to include the outcomes of the various national, regional and continental consultations held in Africa into the draft CAP
- 31 January 2014: Adoption of the CAP by the 22nd African Union Summit with recommendation to the HLC for further refinement (to add a pillar on peace and security; the final CAP document adopted on 28 February 2014 in Ndjamen, Chad.

The Common African Position (CAP)

- The CAP is based on six pillars
 1. Structural economic transformation and inclusive growth
 2. Science, technology and innovation
 3. People-centred development
 4. Environmental sustainability, natural resources management and disaster risk management
 5. Peace and Security
 6. Finance and Partnerships

How African CSOs view the process and content of the CAP?

- + The CAP is bold and ambitious, calling for a complete end to extreme poverty in all its forms
 - It contains strong statement on gender equality and women's empowerment, through the eradication of all forms of violence against women and women's access to and ownership of land;
 - It confirms human rights for all, including sexual and reproductive health rights;
 - The CAP provides a chance to secure global commitment to an end to mothers and children dying from diseases that can be easily treated, an end to hunger, an end to people not being able to access clean drinking water and sanitation, and an end to children receiving little or no education, an end to violence and discrimination against women and girls, an end to insecurity and conflict;

How African CSOs view the process and content of the CAP?

- African CSOs concerned by the inclusion and consultation in the design of the 'road map' and the actual production of the outcome document.
 - The process has been limited to member states (through the HLC and their Sherpas), the AUC, the UN agencies and key regional institutions such as the AfDB.
 - African CSOs lobbied to no avail for the inclusion of CSO representatives within the AU Secretariat technical team to ensure the inclusion in the CAP of the aspirations and needs of the constituencies they represent.
 - The closed nature of the process has made it very difficult for key contributions from CSO's to get to the attention of the Sherpas.

Strengths and weaknesses of the CAP

+ One voice for Africa

- a genuine success as Africa will speak with one voice and present a unified set of priorities into the upcoming negotiation process; strengthen Africa's bargaining power
- Emphasis on domestic resources

+ Inclusiveness of the process

- Participatory approach (regional and national consultations)
- Synthesis from the consultation meetings has greatly influenced the final version of the CAP (4 pillars/6)

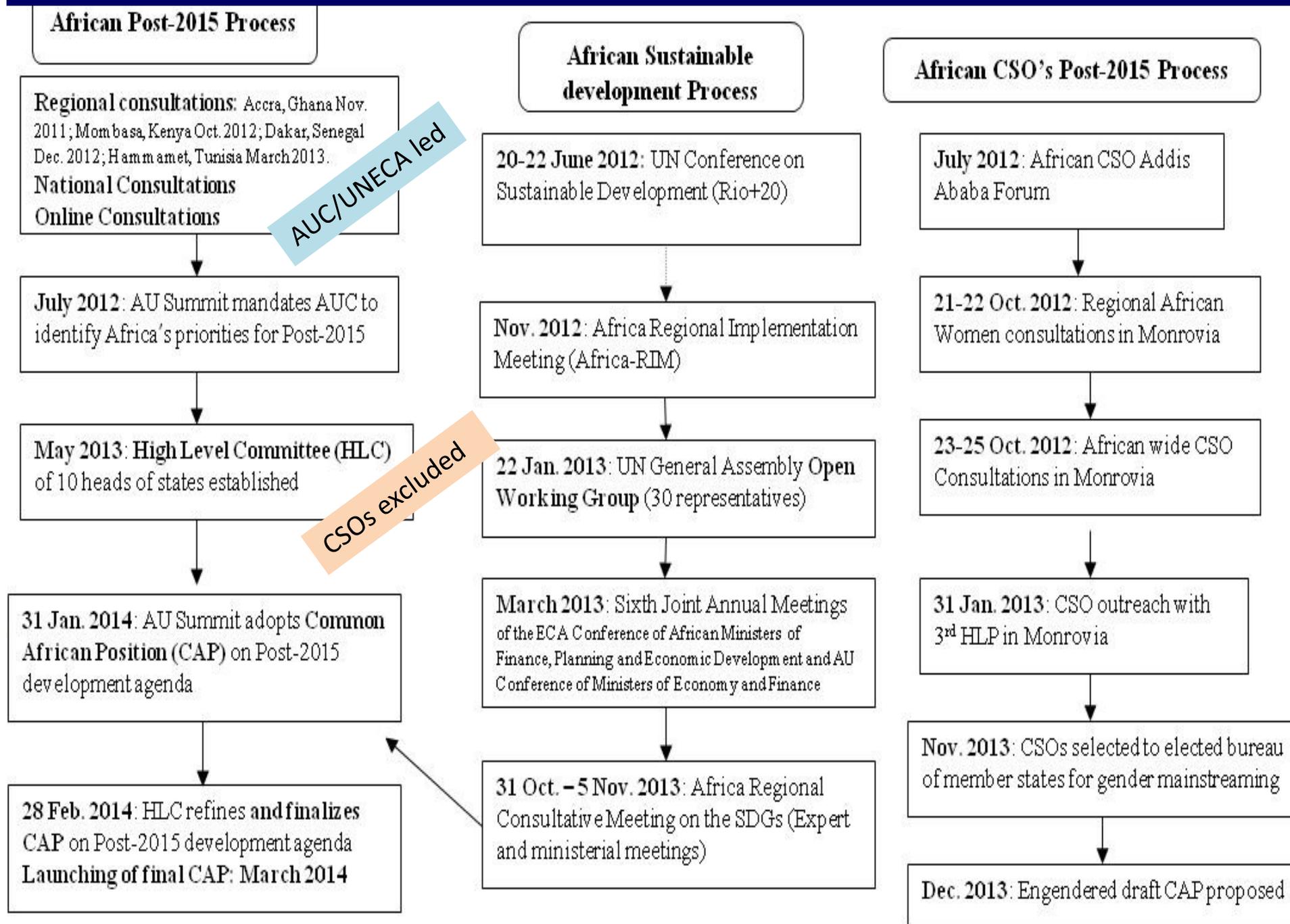
- CSOs' involvement

- Discontent of CSOs on limited involvement (roadmap and drafting of CAP)
- Process limited to HLC, AUC, UN agencies, and key regional institutions (AfDB)

Strengths and weaknesses of the CAP

- **Gender, youth employment and governance:** three hot topics hard to discard
 - Gender mentioned within pillar 3 but proposal to consider a standalone pillar on gender equality and to mainstream gender across the entire framework, ignored.
 - The weight of Africa's youth is recognized under pillar 3 but its visibility does not reflect its crucial role with respect to the fate of the continent.
 - Governance is absent and considered only an enabler despite the crucial role governance plays in securing economic and social development.

Formulation process of the Common African Position on the post-2015 development agenda



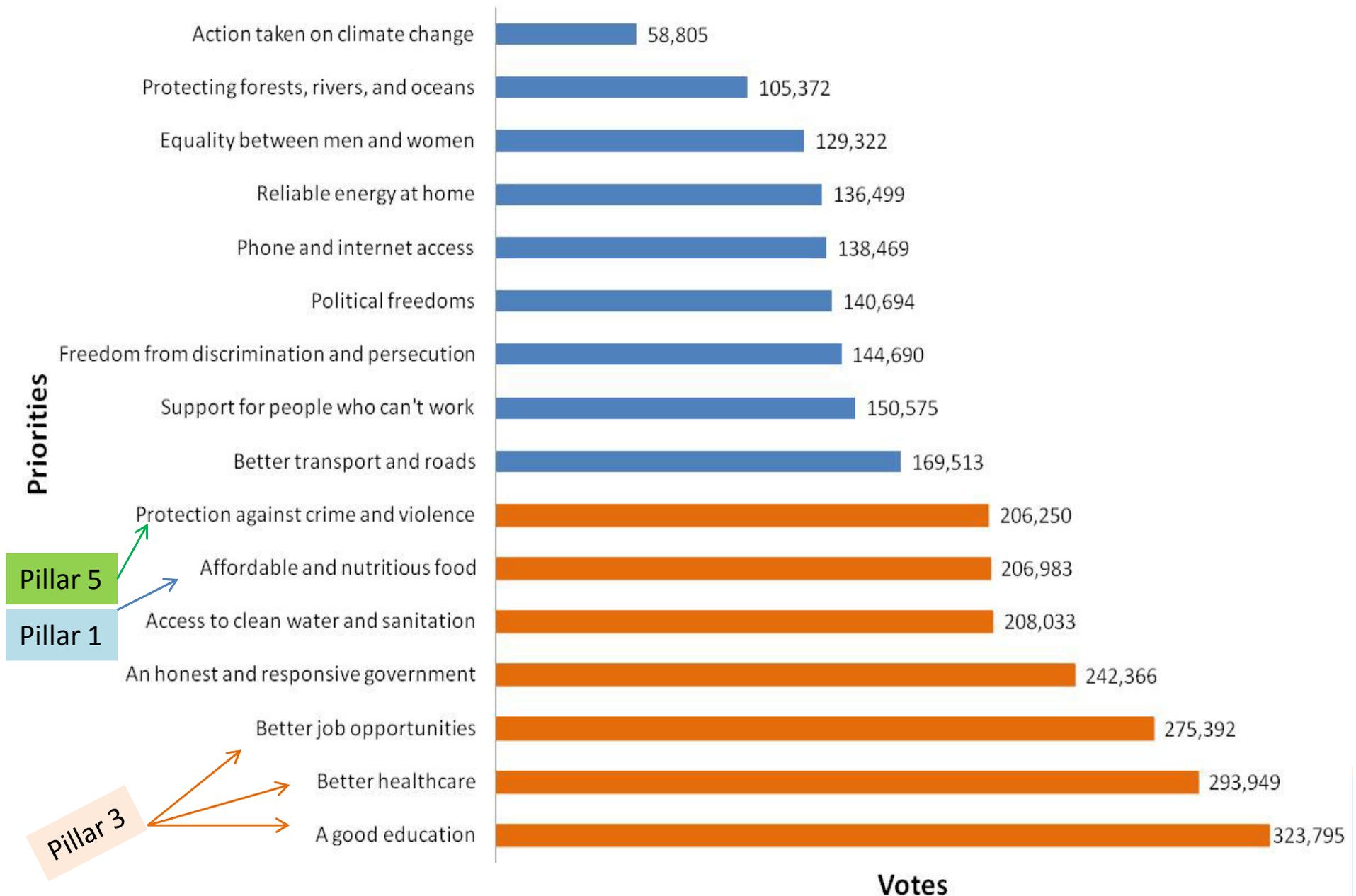
A look at some country priorities resulting from national consultations

Senegal	Mali	Niger
Strengthening the social base of human development	Governance, Peace and Security	Food security and nutrition
Promoting a competitive economy which creates decent jobs	Inclusive growth	Youth Employment
Establishing a favourable governance for sustainable development	Education and technological innovation	equitable and quality access to education, health, water and sanitation
peace and security	Sustainable human development	Governance
		Environment and access to energy
		women empowerment and equal opportunities

How do these national results compare to the CAP?

- Governance is a priority for all three countries although it does not seem to resonate loudly at the continental level (CAP);
- The main priorities are centred around three pillars of the CAP (pillar 1 on *structural economic transformation and inclusive growth*; pillar 3 on *people centered development*; and pillar 5 on *peace and security*);
- There are limited references to pillar 2 on *science, technology and innovation* and pillar 4 on *environmental sustainability, natural resources management and disaster risk management*. There is no reference to pillar 6 on *finance and partnerships*.
- Results of these three national consultations are consistent with the general picture of the output from the regional consultations.

African priorities - votes from MY World 2015



The CAP and the current international consensus: what's in?

- Pillar 1 (*structural economic transformation and inclusive growth*) and pillar 2 (*science, technology and innovation*) dedicated to the transformative agenda not central to the international community priorities even though they are fundamental to Africa;
- Pillar 3 (*people centered development*) and pillar 4 (*environmental sustainability, natural resources management and disaster risk management*) are the most likely to get full support from the international community;
- Pillar 5 and 6 pose different sets of questions.
 - Pillar 5 (*peace and security*): Africa should first consolidate its consensus within the continent.
 - Pillar 6 (*finance and partnerships*): decision to rely first on domestic resource mobilisation and private sector involvement. Risk that resource rich countries may concentrate on international financing and investments, thus eroding the current consensus of the CAP

Some concluding remarks

- The CAP on the post-2015 development agenda is a vital tool as it provides a negotiation framework for Africa.
 - Its impact depends however on the extent to which it is adopted by African governments and negotiators.
 - Ownership of these African priorities and a willingness to align with them in the course of the international negotiation process will determine whether Africa has succeeded in getting its voice heard.
 - The role of CSO is important at the national level to sensitize government for embracing the CAP
- The OWG – an emanation of the Rio+20 processes – published its final outcome document on 19 July 2014. This document is closer by far to Africa's priorities.
- The African leadership should find the appropriate links and partnerships with the global south to make their voice heard during the negotiation process set to end in September 2015.

Some concluding remarks

- “... The Common African Position must be backed by a robust roll-out, influencing and engagement strategy that brings in key internal and external stakeholders to ensure its alignment with the post-2015 agenda.” (*Special Advisor on Post 2015 Development Planning at the National consultations on Post 2015 development agenda, Kampala, August 2014*)

THANK YOU