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I would like to start with a general remark:

If we have understood Mr. Hlavacek well, he signaled two disadvantages or “traps” in the Paris declaration on donor coordination. We agree: a – we hope not intended effect - is that the role of NGO's / CSO's as action orientated implementers is getting more difficult by the day since a lot of donor money does not reach them. The budget support enforces a top down approach in stead of bottom up, demand driven approach and involving local communities. Secondly: it can not be the intention of good governance to have the people and especially the poor wait until their governments decide to behave according to international standards. They want to do things and - maybe on the way – “educate” their government.

Gender budgeting and gender impact assessment needs to be part of the preparation and monitoring process, as part of good governance.

Partnerships and networks, based on equal footing, are very effective vehicles for capacity building, knowledge exchange etc. Empowering these networks – especially women – and creating an enabling environment for them will speed up development. We therefore recommend donors do not only give budget support or project funding, but also look for ways to support the “human infrastructure” needed for development.

We fully agree with Switzerland about their remarks on the water and sanitation review – water also is a crosscutting issue for CSD16/ 17.

We are surprised to hear so little until now about water & sanitation constraints and review points. In the Year of sanitation in which the CSD will also review their commitments and recommendations from CSD13, to our mind not enough attention is given to drinking water and sanitation facilities (MDG7) and the lack of insufficient funding etc.

Sanitation will improve health but also can be a new source of fertilizer and so enhance the agricultural crops.

This alas is also true of irrigation methods.

On the question of the chair on the path needed to follow for the development of Africa, we think the answer should be: supply basic services (water, sanitation, energy, health care and (vocational training) as soon as possible through involving local communities and authorities as a pre-requisite for economic growth, education and poverty alleviation.

Build sustainable economic development following the guidance of Jo'burg PoI since nobody wants to create only ad-hoc solutions.

One of the key-note speakers said: Africa is the environmental creditor of the world – let's keep it that way.

On the question of the chair on bio fuels: Yes, it presents a new opportunity, provided the production is sustainable (safe, sound, affordable etc..) . There is no point in “throwing bad water into a bucket of clean water: all the water will be polluted”.

Bio fuels / biomass production will only be sustainable if first a local market is created and the farmer communities can also take part in the production of the fuels as well, thus adding value and getting better prices.

The position of smallholders – mainly women - has to be safeguarded and they need education and capacity building.

Biomass production for bio fuels should not lead to more use of pesticides/ chemicals and create new problems in terms of food supply and – safety.