ACCELERATING THE DEVELOPMENT PACE:
CIVIL SOCIETY’S CALL FOR REPLENISHMENT OF THE AFRICAN
DEVELOPMENT FUND (ADF-15)

Abidjan, 9 May 2019

1.0 Preamble

Mindful of our inherent mandate as representatives of the most marginalized African citizens,

Recognizing our catalytic role of fostering strategic partnerships with governments, businesses donors at regional and continental levels;

Cherishing the indispensable role we play together with other like-minded continental bodies in Africa’s social and economic transformation

Capitalizing on great gains already made through lobbying and policy advocacy at the global level and continental level in achieving developmental frameworks such as Sustainable Developmental Goals and Paris Agreement on Climate Change among others, and the development of global voluntary standards for industry, among others;

Appreciative of the African Development Bank’s commitment to enhancing its engagement and collaboration with Civil Society in delivering its High 5 priorities,

Convinced of the African Development Fund (ADF) significant impact through its financing of to low income Regional Member Countries with concessional loans and grants, towards projects that spur poverty reduction and economic development,

Encouraged by the numerous and untold success stories and impact that ADF-funded projects are making in transforming economies, creating new linkages to promote regional integration, commercial exchanges, and enhancing food security,

We, Civil Society Organizations meeting from 7 to 9 May in Abidjan at the African Development Bank Headquarters, for the AfDB-CSO Annual Forum, under the theme:
"Engaging Civil Society to Accelerate Regional Integration for Africa’s Economic Prosperity", hereby declare our full support for the replenishment of the African Development Fund.

2.0 Rationale of Our Support

Our support as civil Society Organizations towards the African Development Fund’s replenishment process is based on the following parameters:

Cardinal Role of the AfDB in the Continents Socio-Economic Development: As CSOs, we are undoubtedly aware of the AfDB’s role as a key continental institution that contributes to the economic development and social progress of African people. AfDB Group has a responsibility to ensure effective development with lasting impact on the lives of the people it serves. Through a well replenished ADF, such is a role is poised towards better results:

Incredible Success Stories and Transformation of Lives by the ADF So Far: In our everyday engagement with AfDB and ADF, we have exercised our obligation in tracking down the progress of ADF in all the 38 countries have come to the conclusion that meaningful impact has been registered on peoples’ lives through social and infrastructural projects. A well replenished ADF stands a better chance to do more.

AfDB’s Paradigm Shift Towards More Engagement with CSOs: Unlike before, we are more convinced that a well replenished ADF will serve its desired purpose largely due to the increased monitoring role that AfDB has entrusted to CSOs. The Banks trust in CSO as partners in development is now being visibly depicted through the Civil Society Forum which is a platform for dialogue between the African Development Bank (AfDB) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and the AfDB-Civil Society Committee which is Serving as an advisory body for the Bank and holding it accountable for the implementation of the AfDB Civil Society Engagement.

Africa’s development targets: It is beyond doubt that without the support of the ADF, Africa’s efforts towards meeting the SDGs and the targets set by Africa’s 2063 development goals will not be achieved. The well-being and dignity of millions of African lives depends on the support to their countries, through the ADF. Its replenishment is vital.

3.0 Conditions of Our Support

Our support for the replenishment of ADF is based on the following assumptions and conditions which we trust will be met in the replacement and usage process of ADF:
That the AfDB will strengthen and enhance its transparency and accountability processes in its engagement with its client member countries to ensure that the programmes and projects funded by the AfDB truly benefit its people.

That African countries will be engaged by the AfDB, with civil society’s support, to finance their own development by contributing to the ADF.

That civil society will be an integral partner in ensuring that the AfDB meets the needs of the peoples of Africa through its funded programmes with client member countries and that structured forms of engagement will be instituted at country and regional level to enable civil society’s participation in the AfDB’s processes.

That the AfDB will strongly urge its client member countries to engage civil society in their countries on the projects.

That the AfDB will make concrete efforts towards supporting civil society’s role in these processes with the needed technical, material and financial support.

Signed

Augustine B NJAMNSHI
Vice President, AFDB CSO Committee

On behalf of the Forum’s Participants,
The African Development Bank – Civil Society Committee,
Abidjan, 9 Mai 2019