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Expert Seminar “The Future of Civil Society Development Organisations (CSOs)” November 10-11, 2009

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Concluding remarks

The discussions showed that there is an interest to confront each other with the topics and different opinions around the role and future of CSOs. Such kind of clarifying discussions and productive debates are needed to find out - what do we really want and who does want to be involved in the process towards the Managua conference. We have some clear outcomes that we can follow up in the preparation process. The focus and shape of the conference will depend on those who will be involved. The involvement of CONCORD in the conference will be an important factor to determine the focus of the event and to interlink it with other ongoing processes related to the discussed issues.

As mentioned in the beginning of the seminar, the idea of continuing a dialogue and self-reflection on our role as development actors in a conference in the South was an outcome of the [Prague conference “Are we on the right track?”](#) in 2008. At that time, many of the participants felt that an open dialogue between CSOs from „West“, „East“ and „South“ should be intensified for reflecting together upon the principles which underlie our work and that such a dialogue should take place in the South.

The question why this conference is planned to take place in Managua, Nicaragua, was raised. There are three reasons for that:

- Nicaragua is a priority country of many old EU member states (OMS). Many CSOs from OMS have local offices and partners in Managua, Nicaragua.
- Many new EU member states (NMS) have historical ties and contacts to Nicaragua.
- Also very importantly, the TRIALOG lead agency HORIZONT3000 has an experienced local office in Managua which can support with the logistical preparation of the event on the spot.

Let me underline, that as for this expert seminar, participation for the conference will not be limited to those who have been involved in the process since the Prague conference. The event is open for everyone who is interested to further deepen the discussion on the role of CSOs in development. We will keep you informed and provide the documentation and outcomes of the Expert Seminar as soon as possible.

I am looking forward to your comments and further debates.