

**Submission by Juan Castillo, from Fundación Solidaridad, Dominican Republic, read at the Substantive Informal Session on “Enabling and conducive governance, including global economic governance”**

**11 December 2014, 3 p.m. – 6 p.m – Preparatory Process for the third International Conference on Financing for Development**

Budget transparency is essential for the socio-economic development of countries since it contributes to equitable and accountable public investments.

In my country, the Dominican Republic, transparency of information and data from the public budget were essential to the success of the Campaign for a Dignified Education – Yellow Umbrellas. Through this campaign civil society and ordinary citizens were able to successfully monitor and advocate so that the legal mandate that 4% of GDP be spent on education was finally met.

Related to this, the **OBS Tracker** initiative monitors the public availability of eight key budget documents. This contributes to the empowerment of citizens to discuss throughout the budget cycle how State revenues, expenditures and budget execution have an impact on the quality of public services (such as education) that citizens receive. It also helps to improve the dialogue/discussion with donors on investment priorities for development.

Based on this, I want to make the following three recommendations:

**FIRST:**

The need for **complete transparency about international aid, domestic revenues and spending** towards each of the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To that end, all governments must publish timely, accessible and comprehensive information on their SDGs commitments throughout the budget cycle.

**SECOND:**

**A mechanism to monitor expenditure and results of each goal and target** should be created –this could take the form of Development Finance Tracker. Governments would adopt it to monitor and report on their SDGs commitments.

**THIRD:**

**Support the creation of mechanisms for citizen participation in monitoring SDG commitments in the context of the entire budget process –from preparation to evaluation.** This could take the form of required public hearings

**Notas de las propuestas presentadas por Juan Castillo  
de la Fundación Solidaridad, de República Dominicana**