The Accra meeting has a long-term strategic importance for the re-organisation of the aid system, which goes beyond the deadline set in the Paris declaration in 2010. The statement of the Conference will show some of the principles and pillars of the new aid structure, on which discussions will start between 2010 and 2011. The CINI hopes, in line with other organisations of civil society sof the North and South of the world, that Italy and Europe will take the most ambitious and innovative positions in respect of issues of democratic ownership, untying aid, transparency, technical assistance, aid predictability and conditionality to make Accra a crucial step of the reform of aid efficiency.

The draft of the Accra declaration recognises the aid efficiency limitations of the 2005 Paris Declaration, but proposes modest amendments without sufficiently clear commitments. Unfortunately, due to strong differences in opinions, all the deadlines of some of the objectives have been cancelled during the negotiations, significantly weakening the capacity of the document and the transparency of the commitments taken.

As regards to the ownership issue, it is positive that the new version points out the need for governments to increasingly involve parliaments and civil society in the planning of the national development strategies. However, neither the need to enrich the ownership’s monitoring indicator, nor the clear introduction of a reference to the “democratic” ownership, are recognised. We appreciate the fact that Italy has maintained the need to explicitly include the reference to “democratic ownership” in the final declaration.

Concerning the conditionality, the section opens with the ambitious title of “donors will no longer impose conditions”, however the text does not suggest any commitment to explicitly remove them – not even for those having a political nature. The EU, with its preference for results as opposed to pre-conditions, should push for the approval of a more ambitious stand compared to Accra’s current text, aiming at least to the removal of political conditions.

In the section on transparency, the text limits only points out the commitment of donor Countries to regularly communicate aid flows to Partners, without including obligations for a widespread circulation of the information, or establishing any deadline for deciding whether to develop independent aid monitoring systems, as included in the initial draft. The Accra declaration should provide the reference to a standard for aid transparency and a reference to independent monitoring mechanisms.
The section on **aid predictability** is not very ambitious, committing donors to a simple analysis of the most appropriate ways of increasing the predictability. The European position asks to include an indicator to assess donor’s medium-term predictability, without which, progresses in predictability shall not be guaranteed.

As to **untying aid**, it is limited to reaffirm the commitment taken by DAC in May last year, related to the enlargement of the disconnection of HIPC countries. The possibility that the international interconnected aid negotiation may restart after 2010, it depends on the fact that in Accra, the donor countries commit themselves to present national plans to untie their aids in 2010, with the objective of fully untie their aid.

Current initiatives of **technical assistance** mostly do not respond to the partner country’s needs and are used to hide donor countries’ administration costs for managing the development of initiatives. The objective of the Paris declaration aims too little ambitiously to “coordinate 50% off the technical assistance with the partner country” as already 75% of donor countries have already achieved the objective. It is necessary for 100% of the technical assistance proves to be coordinated with the partner country and that at the same is able to prove to sustain the development of local capacities.

**The future of aid after 2010**
The current aid system is facing new and difficult challenges that require a rapid adjustment in order to continue to guarantee the relevancy and effectiveness in the system of international relations. The reasons for the aid are changed throughout the years and the system managing the international assistance has become ever more complex and confused. The section on future views has to recognise that the aid aims to promote human rights, gender equality, social justice and environmental sustainability and the provision of a multilateral negotiation forum to discuss the reform, in which all subjects of aid are represented. During Accra, the decision should be made to let the next Forum in 2011 be organised by the UN’s Development Cooperation Forum.

**The future of aid efficiency in Italy**
The remarks set by the **Directorate General for Development Cooperation** in anticipation of the High Level Meeting and Accra’s conclusions represent an opportunity for Italian cooperation to face in a strategic and complete manor all the issues of aid efficiency, as shown in the Paris Dseclaration. We hope that following Accra’s conclusion, Italian cooperation will begin the planning of a **national plan for aid efficiency**, on the basis of other EU countries’ past experience as well.