



AFRICAN FORUM AND NETWORK
ON DEBT AND DEVELOPMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AFRODAD Clarifies Role in C20 Leadership

Harare, Zimbabwe, 09th May 2025: AFRODAD wishes to clarify it will not accept nor be part of the C20 leadership as stated in a [press release](#) by The Department of International Relations and Cooperation, Government South Africa, on 08th May 2025.

The [press release](#) sought to draw a close to the leadership stalemate that halted preparations of Civil Society Organisations participation in the ongoing South African Presidency of the G20.

The [press release by DIRCO erroneously](#) labelled AFRODAD partner, the Economic Justice Network (EJN) as the reason for the breaking down of mediation talks attempted to resolve the stalemate over leadership of the C20.

Over the past six months there emerged two groups vying for the leadership role of the C20. One group comprised AFRODAD and EJN, and the other group comprised NEDLAC, Show Me Your Number and Others. To resolve this stalemate the, DIRCO, facilitated a mediation of the two groups together with third party actors, Oxfam in South Africa. Regrettably, the mediation broke down due to irreconcilable differences between the two groups. AFRODAD and EJN officially stated the gap between the two groups were too wide and none of the proposals on the table could bridge the gap.

AFRODAD, therefore, takes this opportunity to categorically refute and disassociate itself from the press release issued by DIRCO on 08th May 2025, and further does not accept to be in any leadership position nor role as portrayed in the press release.

We reaffirm our solidarity with EJN in the journey we had begun in December 2024 to facilitate voice of the people during the South African Presidency of the G20, and we will continue to do so through other channels that align with our joint principles and values.

We have written officially to DIRCO to this effect with copies sent to the named organisations in the press release asserting our position not to be associated with the leadership and refute the claims scapegoating EJN for the breakdown in mediation.

AFRODAD's Executive Director, Mr Jason Rosario Braganza said *"AFRODAD does not agree with the contents of the press release, and we are not going to associate with it. There are several other channels to engage with the G20 process and we can ensure our constituency's voice is heard throughout South Africa's Presidency of the G20. Of paramount importance is shared Pan-African principles and values towards making Africa a Rule Maker not a Rule Taker!"*

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For media inquiries on this issue please contact Mr Jason R Braganza on info@afrodad.org