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Recent developments in international development assistance indicate that the role of Northern development NGOs (NDNGOs) is likely to change in different ways in the years to come. Current tendencies include:

- Bilateral donors increasingly prefer to support civil society in the South directly, e.g., through local civil society support funds, instead of channelling resources through NDNGOs.
- South ownership of development activities should be strengthened in all possible ways;
- CSOs in the South increasingly possess the necessary technical capacities to carry out their work;
- Developing countries are becoming an increasingly heterogeneous group; and
- Aid becomes more and more interrelated with other policy areas such as security, trade, climate, immigration, etc.

For Danish development NGOs depending to a very large extent on state funding, these trends are likely to have a very significant impact. It is not evident that they will continue to receive substantial funds from Danida particularly as the current government appreciates their role and work in a lukewarm manner. In Norway and Sweden, civil society seems to be a much more integrated part of the relationship between these countries and the South.

Danish development NGOs may consider different options in this context:

- to join an international NGO ;
- to provide services to Southern CSOs (the consultancy option);
- to focus on development education in Denmark;
- to link up with organisations in other policy areas to be able to provide comprehensive advocacy work across these policy areas.

