

WG 2 Resourcing & Projects

Wed 27 Jan 14:00 GMT/ 09:00 EST

1. Introduction from co-facilitator

Overall process- reminded all the participants of the road travelled so far, with key meeting in Tunis (World Social Forum), Addis Ababa (Financing for Development), New York (SDG Summit) & Paris (COP21), in a dialogue with over 1,000 people involved over the past year

There has been a Transitional Steering Group and at the moment the key facilitation is coming from major global networks: CIVICUS, IFP, GCAP and CAN International at this stage.

This process is learning from the experiences of A/2015, B2015 and GCAP. It is a collaborative process, takes time but it's important that all voices are heard and that the process is shaped by civil society across the world, from local to national and global... 'if you want to go fast walk alone, but if you want to go far walk together'!

In December, following meeting in Paris an Action Plan was released and we are now working over the next 3 months to agree on key framework including: Communications & Outreach; Resourcing & Projects; and Governance & Membership.

These will be finalised between now and April so that we come together in Bogota and plan ahead for coming years. Join us at the International Civil Society Week!

2. Round-table on potential suggestions for project areas

Do you already have plans for programmes in this area? Are you looking for partners?

Are there upcoming project opportunities?

Would organisations be able to provide support in kind, such as capacity development or network support?

The conversation focused on how to build an effective coalition. A number of participants raised the point that we must now focus on the national level- including: setting the indicators and clear approach to a dialogue on national action plans. Many of the participants highlighted that conversations are already underway in a number of countries and there is a real need for support to enable national dialogue and improve national advocacy.

The action plan circulated in Dec & Jan highlights some key steps forward. We are engaging online through Feb, followed by a face-to-face meeting in Feb/March to work through key areas of operation. During Feb & March the group will flesh out a more comprehensive concept note. 4 areas of work: Implementation; Monitoring & Accountability; Policy Coordination; Public Mobilisation.

It was also highlighted that any future plan must build from the bottom-up; so the process must reach below the national level, down to community groups and enable the most marginalised voices

to be effectively included, such as indigenous peoples, trade unions, young people, persons with disability, LGBTI community.

It was also pointed out that similar conversations are underway at regional level in a number of parts of the world, including Asia at the Asia Development Alliance and Europe in 'SDG Watch Europe'.

It was suggested that this conversation is very important and that we need to find ways to work together. Now is a key time to have those conversations with regional and national platforms, to find ways to connect these initiatives.

There was a strong urging to work together across civil society- it was highlighted that it would be better for all civil society if the major international and regional platforms can work together, while recognising that there will be regional and national differences in approach. Coordinated participation of civil society at national level is crucial.

There was also a sense that in some countries the dialogue on implementation is only just beginning, there is still limited knowledge and not much information from governments; therefore there needs to be support to start dialogue with governments.

How do we communicate the SDG agenda in a simple form? Need to identify various means, such as through info graphics and other means to different communities so that they become aware that this could be a useful agenda for them.

There are also thematic groups that may be useful to engage with, such as those working on water and sanitation.

ACTION:

Commitment to develop an operational plan which addresses the need for an inclusive approach to marginalised communities and builds a bottom-up approach, this will be based on the Action Plan that has already been shared and will be prepared ready for the meeting in Bogota.

3. Consideration of potential funding sources

How do we finance this coordination activity?

There may be potential support from European agencies; should we also consider potential from foundations? How can we ensure that the funding base is diversified and includes Southern-based funding? Is there a potential role for crowdfunding?

We are aware that there are likely to be opportunities from traditional donors, like EC, DFID, Swedish, Danish, so would be keen to work with partners. But if we are truly aiming to move away from the lens of development assistance, we should also look at new ways to support community based organizations. There may be Southern-based foundations or crowd-funding that could enable a more decentralized model of funding where we are not dependent upon traditional donors.

There was a strong emphasis on 1) We should rely on our strengths, that includes the bottom-up approach which is really needed in the next few years. 2) community-based organizations (like the ones involved in Action 2015) 3) bringing a broad based coalition forward, support at the start by four global networks: CAN, IFP, GCAP, CIVICUS.

Suggestion that we need to start exploring new ways of working. Bilateral relations with governments will continue, but most of time we work independently. This is an opportunity to have coordinated programs. When it comes to multi-stakeholder dialogues and the development of national level platforms, task forces, committees, how can we ensure that civil society is involved? We can diversify our funding through these partnerships, if we can demonstrate our capacity. There was a suggestion that there may be opportunities with Public Private Partnerships, but we must continue advocating for crucial role of CSOs, building from community-based organizations.

Need to focus on direct support at the national level. Organize meetings at capital city of national organizations, or national coalitions across sectors. A good way forward suggested would be a series of meetings, to get to know one another. It was proposed to start with a few countries to work through this approach. There was a desire to build that coalition among ourselves. If we work together there is a sense that this will enable us to secure agreement to embed the SDGs in national programs and agendas through national level advocacy. Proposal to experiment with a few countries.

We should have consultation with people on the ground; aiming to work with unorganized civil society, youth, disabilities, LGBT, right to work groups. Let's identify what are the different groups that can work together. Many of these groups are quite sceptical about the SDGs and UN approach. There is a sense that we need to make clear that the SDGs are not a continuation of the MDGs, so that all local and national groups should own this agenda. There was a recognised need to engage ourselves at national and local level.

But let's be aware that not all countries have started yet. We could also involve parliamentarians. In Pakistan there is a special task force on SDGs that includes parliamentarians.

ACTION:

Commitment to work together to develop funding proposals based on key activities, the EC is one potential source of support. There are already discussions on support for national level platforms, not specifically targeting 2030 Agenda, but a broader agenda. UN DESA has also been engaged in identifying good practices at national level. It will be good to secure funding to initiate some of these national dialogues.