

## **Working Group Session Summaries**

April 29<sup>th</sup> Bogota, Colombia

*Working Groups will develop and deliver specific activities over the life of the initiative at the global, regional and national level, whether it is to deliver and coordinate on specific objectives of the platform (Monitoring & Accountability; Policy coordination; Public mobilisation; Innovative solutions etc.) or across more defined areas including expert areas (eg. Communications & outreach, Assembly logistics, etc.), thematic areas (e.g. particular platform themes related to the 2030 Agenda.), or any combination. Working Groups will be action-orientated, project groups, with clear terms of reference, inclusive, opt-in, consultative and work to the principles of the platform.*

### **Monitoring & Accountability Working Group**

The Monitoring and Accountability working group aims to determine indicators to analyze the implementation of the SDGs and other processes, while providing a mechanism that holds institutional processes accountable to civil society.

We had a great conversation about how to use monitoring tools to demand that our governments have policy coherence and take action to achieve the ambition of the Agenda 2030. Participants stressed the importance of efforts led by national and regional partners, creating engagement opportunities at the national and local level. In the next few weeks, we will share a draft Framework Document to start the discussion on the governance structure for this working group, as well as a list of potential activities for the coming year. Among the demands from participants were activities such as mapping existing civil society and citizen-generated data (CGD) across SDGs and regions, national and local level workshops and capacity development initiatives.

On Thursday (5 May 2016), our partner DataShift participated in a webinar about the potential of citizen-generated data to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The webinar was recorded and can be accessed [here](#). Participants and practitioners are now invited to share their own examples of citizen-generated data, challenges, and ideas for further collaboration through [a two-week forum](#) hosted in the Global Partnership for Social Accountability (GPSA) Knowledge Platform until 19 May. We are looking forward to continuing this conversation in coming weeks!

### **Public Mobilisation Working Group**

The Public Mobilisation working group aims to outline key moments to encourage partners to mobilise around, in solidarity internationally while focusing on issues nationally. Mobilisation efforts can include digital and physical participation. The working group has identified two major key moments coming up that would benefit from coordinated public mobilisation: the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) meetings in July and the UN General Assembly in September.

The working group discussed strong digital action surrounding the HLPF. The HLPF will be the first of its kind since the 2030 Agenda was launched in January. This year's focus will be *Leave No-One Behind*. Action for Sustainable Development's public mobilisation group will carry out 11 days (TBC) of digital activity, including social and editorial online activity. We will develop communication in line with advice from the Policy and Monitoring working groups. Example message: 'We won't be left behind. And we will hold leaders to account on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)'. More ideas are included in the concept in the following link: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aWSMUMV91\\_OUPKU5Z05\\_1bFB2xtzduzt0UTIQA9UY1Q/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aWSMUMV91_OUPKU5Z05_1bFB2xtzduzt0UTIQA9UY1Q/edit)

On the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2015 the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda were approved. This year, from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> of September, the working group will plan an Action Week to demand the implementation of the SDGs. The objectives of the action week are to make politicians and civil society aware of the SDGs and to raise public attention. The working group will agree on the key messaging and proposed action and will circulate it for feedback and inputs. They will then release a call to action and toolkit with suggested action ideas by the end of June.

Other moments and international days can also serve as mobilising opportunities.

### ***Policy Coordination Working Group***

With the first HLPF to begin the review process of SDG implementation approaching in July, many CSO initiatives have the opportunity to work together to ensure collaboration on the SDG process. The 22 countries that have volunteered to be evaluated during this process, must provide a 3 page summary in May, and a larger report in July on the first phase of the SDG process. CSO national platforms have already begun engaging with these initiatives, and many have already been in touch with the coordinators of the Action for Sustainable Development Working Group on Policy & Advocacy.

The Action for Sustainable Development Policy & Advocacy Working group will work with national CSO platforms to develop short summaries of the actions of the government to engage with civil society in developing national action plans and review mechanisms so far. Given that the theme of the HLPF this year is '*Leave No One Behind*', there is an interest to understand how governments are engaging, not only within the 22 voluntary countries, but across all countries internationally. This can provide a strong base to share best practices, innovative strategies, and to develop networks for solidarity across countries on SDG implementation.

The key action points that the working group would like to focus on are to create a mailing list with focal points from regional representatives to share resources such as government position papers, and to map the progress of the 22 countries. The mapping exercise is not limited to the 22 countries but can follow the HLPF timeline, as the working group can begin analyzing

summary reports after they begin submission after 16 May. National CSO coordination will be facilitated regionally to encourage focused coordination.

### ***Innovative Solutions Working Group***

As civil society we need to challenge ourselves to find and showcase innovative solutions. This working group could begin to determine what innovation means, and describe the innovative approaches of A4SD. This shift of paradigm is linked to the redefinition of the overall narrative of developmental vocabulary. Innovative solutions should not be limited to the SDGs or to NGOs, but can create parallel frameworks to work with communities, other human rights initiatives, universities, businesses, think tanks, professional groups, research innovation etc.

We should also find ways to create innovation in our current practices. For example we should discover innovation on access to funding and grants by adapting the processes to local contexts. Some examples of innovative solutions are implementing local currencies, SDG indicators combined with other indicators, and engaging with different levels of governments (ie. Municipalities). We need to work on capacity strengthening rather than the current narrative of capacity building.

To approach this task, the working group will create a section on the A4SD online platform where people can share their experiences of effective solutions that people have implemented in their communities. This online platform can provide a sense of inspiration and excitement of new, working solutions for people to adapt. This can also provide a base for brainstorming around proposals or open ended questions to change the power dynamics of the conversation. This will help the community to share what is working and to build upon each other's' successes.