

Welcome!

Dear Open Forum stakeholder,

It has been a busy few months at the Open Forum, with the national consultations now well underway in over 70 countries across the globe. To keep people updated on the progress of the work of the Open Forum, we are all very excited to be re-launching the Open Forum newsletter, and we welcome your feedback, comments, contributions and suggestions as we work to make this an exciting, engaging and relevant tool to keep informed about our collective work. In this issue, you will find information about the Open Forum activities past, present and future, as well as reflections and updates from the Outreach Officers and the national consultations. We hope, in future issues, to feature more content and links from Open Forum partners, stakeholders and participants, and we look forward to your contributions! Please send your comments and contributions to Amy Bartlett, Global Coordinator of the Open Forum, at info@cso-effectiveness.org.

We look forward to hearing from you, and hope you enjoy this first edition of the Open Forum newsletter!

How did all begin?

The Open Forum initiative is a process conceived of and led by a coalition of CSOs from around the world to discuss their development effectiveness and to state a global CSO consensus on the principles to define and promote their roles in development.

After a long-way process of discussion around the changes in aid architecture and the place and role of CSOs in the decision-making process of donors, CSOs decided not to consider the Paris Declaration applicable to them and resolved to start their own process.

That's how the Open Forum was officially born in June 2008 during the Exploratory Meeting on CSO Effectiveness in Paris, where over 70 CSO representatives gathered to discuss how to take the global process towards agreeing on a CSO-suitable effectiveness framework forward.

In order to accomplish this mandate, the Open Forum is conducting consultations with a wide range of CSO representatives, as well as non-CSO stakeholders, in over 50 countries by the end of 2010. [More details...](#)

Civil Society upcoming events

7-10 July, Istanbul, Turkey

9th International Conference of the International Society for Third Sector Research (ISTR): "[Facing Crises: Challenges and Opportunities Confronting the Third Sector and Civil Society](#)"

26-30 July, Madrid, Spain

Summer Course on [Aid Effectiveness: Challenges of the implementation of an Ambitious Agenda](#), Universidad Complutense de Madrid (in Spanish only)

20-23 August, Montreal, Canada

[Civicus 9th World Assembly](#)

28-30 September, Istanbul, Turkey

First Open Forum [Global Assembly](#)

Inside the National Consultations

Russian Development Cooperation – Where To? By Franz Berger

Like other countries in the so-called BRICS group (a group comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa), Russia has intentions to start its own development cooperation programme. An Open Forum consultation on 10 and 11 June 2010 in Moscow was a demonstration of interest of Russian CSOs to be fully involved in this programme.

At the consultation, Russian CSOs sent out a clear message: they want to be part of the future aid programme of Russia as both implementation agencies of projects and as stakeholders in policy dialogue on Russia's development policies and practices. To continue reading, [please click here](#).

OPEN FORUM Asian Countries Briefing – by Lyn Angelica Pano

To date, six Open Forum country consultations have concluded in Asia and MENA, beginning with Northern India, South Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Indonesia and Morocco. Consultations are ongoing in Bangladesh from June 15-17, to be followed by Vietnam, Tajikistan, Cambodia, the Philippines, and China.

Northern India: Improved CSOs-government interface towards an enabling environment. To continue reading, [please click here](#).

Reflections on Open Forum Consultations Held in the North America/Oceania Region - By Kimberly Darter and Carolyn Long

In all Open Forum consultations held thus far in North America and the Oceania region, participants have enthusiastically engaged in the process of identifying development effectiveness principles that guide their work. Although several common principles were affirmed in all cases (a rights-based approach to development, being people-centered, promoting local ownership, striving for social justice and

inclusion, transparency and accountability), each group of CSOs in national consultations in Canada, New Zealand and the United States and in the regional consultation in the Kingdom of Tonga put their own particular stamp on the process. (An earlier national consultation had taken place in Fiji.) To continue reading, [please click here](#).

Open Forum launches INGO Outreach Plan by Jeannet Ligan

The Open Forum has recently launched an outreach plan to work with international non-governmental organisations (INGOs). INGOs are key actors in the development architecture. They channel significant resources to developing countries, support local capacity building and have the capacity to mobilize resources and people in order to

influence policies at local and international level.

In the last years, there have been important efforts and discussions around strengthening their accountability and effectiveness. To continue reading, [please click here](#).

Consultations Schedule in July

1-2 Honduras
7-8 Bolivia
7-9 Tajikistan
9-10 Mexico
14-16 Sri Lanka
15-16 Peru
20-22 Cambodia
27-28 Rwanda
27-29 Philippines

Photo Gallery of the Open Forum National Consultations



National Consultations Reports

Several National Consultations Reports are already available on the Open Forum website!

Read the following [reports](#):

- Benin
- Canada
- Colombia
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Finland
- Mali
- Mozambique
- Nicaragua
- Nigeria
- Tonga

First Global Assembly

The first Global Assembly of the Open Forum will be held in **ISTANBUL TURKEY** from **28 to 30 SEPTEMBER!**

After a series of regional and country consultations organised by CSOs to discuss the principles for CSOs development effectiveness, the mechanisms for their implementation as well as minimum standards for enabling conditions, the Global Assembly will be held to present a draft holistic framework with the consolidated results of these consultations. The proposed framework will remain under discussion in the months following the first Global Assembly until a second Global Assembly in mid-2011, where CSOs will finalise the framework and mobilise for the High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Seoul in late-2011.

Also, it will serve as an opportunity to discuss experiences and practices of the Open Forum to date, exploring new perspectives on CSO development effectiveness, debate with governments, donors and other stakeholders and development actors and renew the mandates of the Open Forum Facilitation Group (GFG).

Information on how you can participate in the Global Assembly will be forthcoming shortly. Please, keep visiting the Open Forum website for [more details](#) and we look forward to seeing you there!

Keep on connecting!



Open Forum
Blog

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