

MANDATE GIVEN TO THE CONSORTIUM OF SUPPORTING ORGANISATIONS

BY THE GLOBAL FACILITATION GROUP

Approved at the GFG meeting in Kuala Lumpur (20 and 21 January 2009)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. As innovative agents of change and social transformation, civil society organisations (CSOs) have a crucial role in fighting poverty and social inequalities and saving lives. All other actors in this process – donor and recipient country governments, multilateral development institutions, and developed and developing country communities – have a stake in ensuring that CSOs realise their full potential. CSOs have themselves acknowledged their own obligation to conceive and take forward a process to improve their own effectiveness as development actors.

1.2. At the end of June 2008, more than 70 CSO delegates, representing a diversity and large constituency of CSOs, from both developed and developing countries, gathered in Paris to review and agree on actions to meet this obligation - CSO effectiveness in development. They agreed to launch a global three-year Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness, to operate from January 2009 up to the next High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in 2011.

1.3. The delegates formed a governing body of 25 national, regional, global and thematic CSO networks and platforms, the Global Facilitation Group (GFG), to oversee the implementation of the Open Forum. The Terms of Reference of the GFG (see www.cso-effectiveness.org) are informed by the discussions during the Exploratory Meeting on CSO Effectiveness in Paris. To help implement the overall objectives of the Open Forum, the GFG gives a mandate to a consortium of supporting organisations (“Consortium”), initially composed of:

- CONCORD (European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development)
- InterAction (American Council for Voluntary International Action)
- APRN (Asia Pacific Research Network)
- ALOP (Asociación Latino-Americana de Organizaciones de Promoción al Desarrollo)
- AACC (All African Conference of Churches)
- Civicus (World Alliance for Citizen Participation)

2. CONSORTIUM MANDATE

2.1. This mandate is to assist the GFG in meeting its Terms of Reference through technical, administrative and logistical support. More specifically, the Consortium’s mandate includes:

1. to facilitate the overall operation of the Open Forum;
2. to assist the GFG and its members in framing and facilitating a political dialogue with other key stakeholders such as multilateral and donor and recipient government entities;
3. to mobilise, manage and report to the GFG on the use of (financial and technical) resources to implement the objectives of the Open Forum at the global and regional levels;
4. to ensure and support the implementation the approved work plan and report periodically on progress; and
5. to design, plan and conduct outreach to make the Open Forum as broad and inclusive as possible.

3. CONSORTIUM GOVERNANCE

3.1. Consortium members are collectively accountable to the GFG, through a joint Memorandum of Understanding signed by each member, guiding the relations within the Consortium.

3.2. CONCORD will serve as the coordinator of the Consortium. The coordinator is accountable to the GFG and to donors regarding all activities, income and expenditure related to the Open Forum. The coordinator will assign appropriate staff resources dedicated to the Open Forum.

3.3. Consortium members are mutually accountable to each other regarding their respective roles and responsibilities in the Consortium. Their individual roles and responsibilities will be outlined in bilateral agreements between the consortium coordinator (CONCORD) and each Consortium member.

3.4. Consortium members will assign appropriate staff resources dedicated to the Open Forum.

3.5. Consortium members should clearly identify when they are acting/communicating as Consortium (members) and when as members of the GFG.

3.6. Consortium members shall respect the objectives, principles and benchmarks of the Open Forum that were agreed at the Exploratory Meeting on CSO Effectiveness (29/30 June 2008, Paris), as interpreted in subsequent decisions by the GFG.

3.7. All information about the Consortium's operations, including all agreements, activities and progress reports, and income and expenditure will be published on www.cso-effectiveness.org.

3.8. The Consortium strives for consensus decision making. The GFG is the ultimate mediator between parties of the Consortium

4. CHANGES IN CONSORTIUM MEMBERSHIP

4.1. Should any member of the Consortium terminate their participation in the Consortium, the Global Facilitation Group must immediately be informed by the consortium coordinator (CONCORD). The consortium coordinator should also suggest appropriate actions to minimise interruption in the Consortium's operations, including recruiting potential replacement.

5. DURATION OF THE MANDATE

5.1. This mandate of the Consortium was endorsed by the meeting of the GFG, held in Kuala Lumpur on 20/21 January 2009. The mandate for the Consortium can be reviewed in 2010 and ends with the 4th High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in 2011.