

Welcome!

Dear Open Forum stakeholder,

The last couple of months have been busy ones here in the Open Forum, and with the first Global Assembly just THREE weeks away, excitement is mounting! The Global Assembly promises to be a landmark occasion for civil society organisations from across the globe. With close to 200 participants expected to attend, including donors, governments and Civil Society Organisations from Fiji to Finland, the discussions will focus around the draft Global Framework, as well as plotting ways forward towards the HLF4 in South Korea. Therefore, in anticipation of the Open Forum Global Assembly, we are dedicating the entirety of our September Edition to this event, and to the results of our national consultations which will be discussed in the context of the draft Framework. In particular, check out our 2010 National Consultation highlights section! And for those who will not be able to attend the Global Assembly, not to worry: we will be producing daily newsletters, as well as Facebook updates and a dedicated Twitter account so you can follow the proceedings. The countdown is on!

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 **70 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.

Additionally, 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).

THE DEADLINE TO REGISTER TO ATTEND THE GLOBAL ASSEMBLY IS SEPTEMBER 14, 2010.

Please visit the Open Forum website for [more details](#) and we look forward to seeing you there!

Preparing the framework

The draft holistic framework for CSO development effectiveness is currently being prepared, and will be available for review by September 16th!

This framework is based upon the 70+ national consultations across the globe and will be discussed during the Open Forum Global Assembly.

It was with the draft framework in mind that regional outreach officers and report writers met in Brussels at our headquarters in Concord on the 18th and 19th of August.

During this two-day meeting, regional outreach officers brainstormed on the main findings of the national consultations: principles, guidelines and mechanisms to promote and implement CSO development effectiveness. This should ensure that all regional perspectives are taken into account.

All in all, the writing workshop was a fruitful opportunity for our global report writers and outreach officers to meet, share ideas and discuss the agenda for the forthcoming Assembly.

More on the Assembly

The Agenda

Issues discussed at this year's Assembly will be focused primarily on the draft Global Framework, which is a compilation and synthesis of the dozens of national consultations undertaken across the globe in the past few months.

For the Global Assembly itself, we have an ambitious agenda. The first two days of the Global Assembly are intended to leave space for discussion of, and the debate surrounding the draft framework, and in particular an endorsement of the principles identified during the national consultations. CSOs will discuss the global framework, emerging perspectives on CSO development effectiveness, the

Open Forum position on the global framework, as well as future initiatives and work moving forwards as the main conclusions of the two day event.

On the third day (September 30th), we will engage in a multi-stakeholder dialogue, and CSOs will meet with donors and governments representatives from around the world to discuss key issues on CSO development effectiveness, and in particular the conditions needed to foster an enabling environment for CSOs. We have entitled this day the 'multi-stakeholder event' as we aim to

include a divergent range of opinions, representative of all sectors of society.

An updated and more detailed version of the agenda will be available very shortly. For more information on the agenda for the Global Assembly, please [click here](#).

Want to Attend the Global Assembly?

The Open Forum has set up a booking service and online registration system to help centralise the booking process for self-funded delegates.

Please note the deadline for registration for self-funded participants is SEPTEMBER 14, 2010!

Please [click here](#) to access the Open Forum Global Assembly registration site, where you will be able to book flights and hotels and get more information on visa and other such logistical matters!

NOTE: Registration to attend the Global Assembly is **obligatory!**

National Consultations 2010

Did you know that during the National Consultations in...?

Argentina

A lively discussion was generated amongst participants on the issue of gender.

China

The national consultation in China served as a good opportunity for participants from CSOs to learn more about CSO Development Effectiveness, but also for CANGO's staff. They took the opportunity to reflect on what they had learned.

Finland

Participation was their biggest challenge, small CSOs 'don't have the resources and bigger CSOs are engaged in their own activities.'

Georgia

The fact that most donors are leaving the country was high on the Georgian agenda. Taking into consideration that income sources of most Georgian CSOs are less diversified and are almost entirely dependent on donor funding this has had a huge impact on the sector's development and sustainability.

Indonesia

Development and sustainability were major factors in the national consultation, delegates discussed the fact that people are regularly evicted from their lands in the name of development

Mongolia

As a result of the Mongolian consultation, a strongly-worded letter was sent to the Mongolian Prime Minister.

New Zealand

As a result of the national consultation in New Zealand, A Development Effectiveness Group is being formed (starting on 21st of September); harmonizing and aligning the New Zealand international development sector's activities and also improving the understanding of the sector's role with the aim of preparing the sector for the next High Level Forum in Seoul.

The New Zealand report has also enjoyed wide readership amongst government officials!

South Korea

A heated debate arose on whether or not Korea can be defined as a donor or recipient country:

'Given that South Korea is now as an emerging donor country, there was a debate among the participants on our identity as donor or recipient since Korea has recently become an official donor by joining in OECD/DAC. One participant believed South Korea was a recipient country until our discussion during the event.'

Tajikistan

A new project was conceived of and developed which focuses on increased capacity building of CSOs in Tajikistan.

U.S.A

Participants agreed to follow up on the national consultation with a subsequent on-line discussion, which resulted in ultimate consensus on principles. As funding for CSOs is constantly under threat, many others may follow suit!

Uganda

As a result of the national consultation, the Uganda National NGO Forum was able to sensitize CSOs on the importance of NGO Quality Assurance Certification Mechanism (QUAM) as a self-regulation instrument.

Ukraine

In Ukraine, the Open Space methodology was used, which was 'really brilliant'. This methodology very much speaks to the nature of the Open Forum process (bottom up nature, ownership, creativity etc.).

Uruguay

Discussions centred on the fact that 80% of funding comes from government sources. Participants were informed about the Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Change. The debate also focused on the fact that South-South cooperation is largely limited to bilateral agencies.

And on the lighter side...the 2010 Open Forum National Consultation Award goes to...



Austria

Award for

Most eloquent description of the difficulties with the Open Forum process: Austria faced: 'Semantic hurdles' !!

Bolivia

Award for

Being one of the most popular consultations: the organisers were inundated with requests to participate at the consultation!

Cameroon

Award for

Pioneering a new reference tool: their national consultation has 'practically become a reference tool for most CSOs in the country.'
AND for the formation of: AID Group Cameroon. Results from these discussions will be presented to the Camerooni government!

Fiji

Award for

The best media coverage of the national consultations! See our website for more juicy details.

Mongolia

Award for

Highest female representation: 81%!

Russia

Award for

Highest government representation: 11%!

Switzerland

Award for

Most encouraging words for the Open Forum--- thank you Switzerland!

Tonga

Award for

Smallest country in which the open Forum conducted a national consultation, with only 104,000 inhabitants.

Uganda

Award for

Highest turnout rate! Uganda invited sixty participants but to their surprise, seventy-one showed up!

Vietnam

Award for

Most balanced female: male ratio with an astonishing ratio of 50:50!

National Consultations continue!

Consultations Schedule in the upcoming months

September :

31-2 Sri Lanka
14 United Kingdom
14-16 Egypt
19-21 India (Bangalore)

November:

18-19 Sweden

The Americas Trade Unions Thematic Consultations will be held in Paraguay, on the 13th and 14th September 2010.

Multimedia work!

Facilitators of the Georgian National Consultation, prepared a video on the event:



National Consultations Reports

Dozens of National Consultations Reports are now available on the Open Forum website!

Read the following [reports](#):

- Albania
- Australia
- Colombia
- Georgia
- Philippines
- Senegal
- South Korea
- Tonga
- African Trade Unions
- African Regional Report

Upcoming Events

IBON and Reality of Aid launched the schedule of CSO workshops and multi-stakeholders consultations on aid effectiveness and development effectiveness in the Asia and Pacific region. These

activities will take place from September 2010 to March 2011 in countries such as India, Bangladesh, China, among others.

To see the complete schedule of activities, as well as reports and background documents, please [click here](#).

Keep on connecting!



Open Forum
Blog

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