

Global Facilitation Group for the Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness (GFG)

Background

The concept note of the CSO effectiveness process states: “The international process is led by a representative and dedicated body”, and defines as one of the outcomes “a legitimate, global facilitation group for the process”.¹

During the International Conference on Civil Society and Aid Effectiveness (Ottawa, 3-6 February 2008), a preliminary Global Facilitation Group was set up with the mandate to prepare a concept note for a process on CSO effectiveness and to organise the Exploratory Meeting on CSO Effectiveness (29-30 June 2008, Paris). This preliminary group was composed of the following organisations: ACFID, APRODEV, BOND, CARE, CCIC, CONCORD, Coordination SUD, IBON, InterAction and ITUC. CONCORD was designated to coordinate the preparatory work of the preliminary GFG towards the meeting in Paris. A call for interest to join the GFG was launched via the CSO effectiveness mailing list on 28 February 2008 and again on 26 June 2008.

Terms of Reference (ToR)

1. Duties, Responsibilities and Outputs

The GFG is an international body to provide overview, coordination, leadership and visibility to the Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness. The GFG oversees the different dynamics and aspects of the global process and its work plan and fosters coherence and inclusiveness. The GFG makes sure the principles of the process (as outlined in the concept note) are respected.

The Global Facilitation Group is a political body, the main role of which is to promote cooperation and to create an enabling environment between participating regional and national CSO bodies and networks. Through this, the GFG provides global political leadership for the international process. The GFG is responsible for: carrying forward, implementing, monitoring and assessing a multi-year work plan on all the aspects of the process²; interlinking with each other national, regional and global levels, designating and supervising the Supporting Organisation (SO) of the process, and implementing the interaction with official donors, governments and other stakeholders. Specific regional, national and sectoral aspects are set at those levels.

The GFG supervises and supports outreach efforts and ensures subsidiarity of the process. The GFG can create working groups on specific issues of the process and approves their terms of reference and their composition. The GFG will organise global annual fora on CSO effectiveness.

The GFG will choose a Supporting Organisation (SO) for the CSO Effectiveness Process. This SO will be in charge of practical aspects of the CSO effectiveness process: internal communication flow, website, logistical and administrative support, and fundraising.

Any mandate to represent and speak on behalf of the CSO effectiveness process will be limited to the international level (representation on the national level shall remain within the remit of national platforms). Representation is limited to questions related to the effectiveness of CSOs as development actors. The GFG is responsible that the principles of the process established during the Exploratory Meeting on CSO Effectiveness (Paris, 29 and 30 June 2008) are observed by all involved.

The GFG does not deal with financial matters nor does it play a grant-making role, but may set top-line political criteria for decisions about the sources and use of any funds the CSO effectiveness process receives globally. Funds received at regional and national levels are the responsibility of those levels. The GFG is responsible for the overall political coherence, transparency and accountability of the CSO effectiveness process.

The process will be accountable to civil society as a whole. This will be ensured by the website, a proactive communication strategy and wide dissemination of information as well as reporting. CSOs, in giving the GFG a mandate to speak on their behalf, retain their right to put forward their own specific and maybe diverging perspectives. Diversity should be safeguarded.

The GFG will operate in complete transparency. Collectively and individually, the GFG and its members

¹ Concept note “Framing and Promoting the Effectiveness of CSOs as Development Actors”, available online on <http://www.concordeurope.org/Public/Page.php?ID=11872>

² The process of formulating the work plan is ongoing.

are accountable to the wider CSO community and specifically also to their respective constituency.

The GFG will be operating in three languages: English, French and Spanish.

2. Membership

The composition of the GFG should reflect the diversity of global CSOs and will be balanced in terms of regional representation (minimum 1/2 from Global South), gender (minimum 1/3 from either sex) and type of organisations (2/3 from national/regional CSO associations, 1/3 from international CSO networks). The GFG should be a mix between CSO policy/advocacy specialists, CSO practitioners, CSO managers and CSO quality experts. The membership within the GFG is given to organisations or consortia of organisations (not individuals). GFG members must have a mandate of the largest constituency possible. GFG members must link up with / reach out to dynamics on CSO effectiveness within their category (country, region or sector) and are focal points for the category they represent (country, region or sector). The total number of its members will be 25, and will comprise representatives of:

- Asia (4)
- Africa (4)
- Latin America and the Caribbean (3)
- Europe (3)
- Middle East and North Africa (1)
- North America (2)
- Pacific (1)
- Women's organisations (1)
- International CSO networks (6)

The GFG should also include representation of social movements and grassroots organisations and/or establish links with such groups.

Members of the GFG were nominated during the "Exploratory Meeting on CSO Effectiveness", on 30 June 2008 in Paris. Should the final number of 25 members not be met, the members of the GFG can co-opt representatives according to the criteria mentioned above. Any decision will be preceded by GFG consultations with major stakeholders from CSOs in the relevant category.

The same co-optation procedure will be respected should a GFG member decide to step down.

3. Internal Structure of the GFG

The GFG will elect a Steering Group whose role and responsibilities will be:

- to represent the CSO effectiveness process in important fora, regional meetings and other fora related to the CSO effectiveness process.
- to provide guidance in the on-going discussion on the future of the CSO effectiveness process.
- to be consulted on organisational management issues regarding the CSO effectiveness process.
- to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Supporting Organisation (selected by the GFG).
- to guide and overview the Supporting Organisation's work on CSO effectiveness (or to nominate other GFG members for this task).
- to chair monthly GFG conference calls on a rotational basis, which includes also helping the Supporting Organisation draft the agenda and deal with matters arising from discussions and decisions.

The Steering Group is composed of:

- National/regional CSO associations from the North (2)
- National/regional CSO associations from the South (2)
- International CSO network (1)

4. Duration of the Mandate of the GFG

Until December 2010. The composition and mandate of the GFG can be reviewed during the foreseen annual global meetings of the CSO effectiveness process.

5. Competency Criteria for GFG members

The members of the Global Facilitation Group

1. Agree to the principles and objectives of the CSO effectiveness process.
2. Must represent / be mandated by a CSO (network) involved in the CSO effectiveness process and have support from the country / region / sector that he/she represents or from a specific constituency.
3. Must have experience and been involved in CSO effectiveness issues at national, regional, sectoral or global level.
4. Are willing to give the time required for the functioning of the GFG.
5. Must have knowledge of global issues, and experience in participation in global arenas, and proven expertise on CSO effectiveness and aid / development effectiveness issues (political, policy, implementation).
6. Have Leadership abilities, and a proven track record in participating in inclusive multi-actor processes.
7. Have networking and linkages abilities with capacities to involve growing and wider constituencies, engaging them for better ownership and participation.
8. Are part of democratic processes and have the ability to engage with other GFG members in democratic decision making. They are able to deal with majority positions and respect minority opinions. They are also able to follow-up and deliver on decisions and agreed points.
9. Understand and commit themselves in practice to learning and accountability in political matters (accountability and monitoring).
10. Must accept the role of “multiplier” within their respective constituency and beyond.
11. Must be fluent in at least one of the three languages: English, French, Spanish.

6. Maximum Level of Engagement

1. Time allocation for preparations, participation and follow-up on GFG conference calls/meetings:
One day a month
2. Connecting to and consulting his/her own constituency (country, region, network) on CSO effectiveness:
Two days a month
3. Time for face to face meetings (GFG and Global CSO effectiveness meetings):
4 days per year
4. Time for other activities identified in the work plan (outreach, interaction with donors/governments, expert meetings ...):
2-5 days per year

7. The Way Forward

The names of the GFG members will be announced before the end of July 2008. Depending on funding, the first face-to-face meeting of the GFG, where an updated version of the concept note and the work plan of the global CSO effectiveness process will be endorsed, should be held before the end of 2008. The GFG will also elect the Steering Group.