

OPEN FORUM FOR CSO DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS
ASIA REGIONAL CONSULTATION
NOVEMBER 6-7, 2009 * Bangkok, Thailand

Annex 3. Presentations by Resource Persons

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Presentation 1. Introduction to the Open Forum

Introduction to the Open Forum
by
Anil K. Singh
SANSAD

What is the Open Forum?

An international CSO-driven process towards defining a global development effectiveness framework for CSOs. It will bring together CSOs and other development actors in consultations and multi-stakeholder dialogues at country, regional and international levels.

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Objectives of the Open Forum

1. To reach CSOs consensus on a global CSO development effectiveness framework: principles, indicators, implementation guidelines, good practices for accountability mechanisms and minimum standards for enabling conditions.
2. To provide a learning space, based on mutual trust, where CSOs can discuss issues and challenges relevant to their work and relationships as development actors.
3. To build understanding and support among official donors, governments and other development stakeholders for an enabling environment for CSOs.

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Who is involved in the Open Forum?

1. GFG - A Global Facilitation Group of 25 member CSOs acts as governance body, providing leadership to and representing the Open Forum.
2. Consortium - The GFG has delegated the day-to-day work on the Open Forum to a Consortium of six supporting CSOs.

Processes so far
2000

Millennium Development Summit (New York, 2000)
World leaders adopt eight **Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)** to be met by 2015:

- (1) End poverty and hunger; (2) Universal education; (3) Gender equality; (4) Child health; (5) Maternal health; (6) Combat HIV/AIDS; (7) Environmental sustainability; (8) Global partnership.
- (2) The MDGs provide a blueprint for international development.

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2002

Financing for Development (FfD) Conference (Monterrey, Mexico, 2002)
Adopted the **Monterrey Consensus** focusing on:

- (1) Mobilising domestic financial resources for dev't;
- (2) Mobilising international resources for development;
- (3) International trade as an engine for development;
- (4) Increasing international financial and technical cooperation for development;
- (5) External debt;
- (6) Addressing systemic issues

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2003

Rome High-Level Forum on Harmonisation (2003)

- Heads of multilateral and bilateral development institutions and representatives of the IMF, other multilateral financial institutions, and partner countries adopt the **Rome Declaration on Harmonisation**.
- This paves the way for significant reform in the aid architecture

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2005

MDG Review (NY, 2005) Consolidates the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, and establishes the UN Development Cooperation Forum.

Paris High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (2005)
Focuses the aid reform agenda on *aid effectiveness* centered on five key principles outlined in the **Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness**, which will expire in 2010

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2008

High Level Event on the MDGs (NY, 2008)

Renews commitments to (1) achieve the MDGs and to; (2) set out concrete plans; and (3) practical steps for action.

FfD follow-up Conference (Doha, 2008)

(1) Reaffirms the Monterrey Consensus, adopts Doha Declaration on FfD; (2) Calls for a UN conference on the impact of the world financial and economic crisis on development.

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2008

Accra High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (2008)

The outcome document of the meeting, the **Accra Agenda for Action (AAA)**, goes beyond the Paris Declaration in some aspects, but fails to deliver real progress in others.

One of the most notable elements of the AAA from a CSO perspective is the commitment from developing country governments to engage with CSOs in preparing, implementing and monitoring national development plans

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Expected Outcomes

1. A common understanding among CSOs of the challenges to realising CSO development effectiveness.
2. Increased accountability for principles of CSO development effectiveness.
3. Increased awareness and knowledge of existing tools, mechanisms and initiatives to promote and improve CSO development effectiveness at all levels of CSO activity, as well as increased awareness of how they can contribute to realising CSO development effectiveness.

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Expected Outcomes

- 4) Strengthened partnerships to promote development effectiveness** among CSOs and between CSOs and other development stakeholders, including official donors and governments.
- 5) Understanding and support among official donors, governments and other development stakeholders for an enabling environment for CSO actions.** This is also aimed at resulting in a multi-stakeholder agreement between all stakeholders, particularly official donors, governments and CSOs, on a set of minimum enabling conditions critical to the effectiveness of CSOs as development actors.

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Presentation 2. Dimensions of CSO Development Effectiveness

<p>Dimensions of CSO Development Effectiveness Antonio Tujan Jr.</p>	<p>Who are CSOs?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Non-market• Non-state• Voluntary organizations• To pursue common interests and goals• Private sector acting in public interest• Expression of human right• Subject to constant challenge bec of public interest re independence and legitimacy <p>1</p>
<p>Diversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Membership predominant CSOs• Specialized issue based• Specialized services• Community based• National federated organizations• NGOs• Issue or thematic networks• Broad platforms <p>2</p>	<p>General areas and types of csos</p> <p>What do CSOs do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expression and institution of democracy as interlocutors of government - watchdog• Services and issues of development• Empowerment of the poor• Social transformation and building of democracy <p>3</p>
<p>What do CSOs do?</p> <p>From the Rights perspective or approach -- Enable the people to claim their rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Build capacity to understand and speak- Build capacity and opportunity to participate- Build capacity to organize to address own concerns and problems<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Provide serviceso Organize around those serviceso Advocate for access to public services <p>4</p>	<p>What do CSOs do?</p> <p>As enablers at the national and international level Process of democratic development</p> <p>Act as interlocutors on governance Make representations for constituencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- on specific concerns- public interest issues and concerns <p>Development actors in their own right</p> <p>5</p>
<p>CSO legitimacy and accountability and the issue of development effectiveness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Rights foundation of cso legitimacy- Affirmation of cso legitimacy or general accountability questions- Development effectiveness as goal for improving quality of cso development practice- Hr framework and guiding principles- Accountability mechanisms <p>6</p>	<p>Areas of CSO dev effectiveness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Development effectiveness principles applied to CSOs as private voluntary actors in the public interest- CSO accountability mechanisms- Enabling environment<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Recognitiono Legislation and regulationso Government support mechanisms <p>7</p>

Areas of CSO dev effectiveness

- CSO community enabling environment - In what ways enabling
 - o CSOnetworking and federations
 - o CSO national platforms
 - o CSO international partnerships
 - Partnership principles
 - Funding modalities

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Dimensions of CSO accountability

- Principles of development Effectiveness
- Code of conduct
- Membership and constituency
- Interaction with the public
- Interaction with government
- Interaction within CSO community
- CSO partnerships

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Enabling environment for CSOs

- General recognition of CSOs
- Special legislation, regulation and protection
 - o Interlocution/accreditation mechanisms
 - o Funding activities and financial activities
- Government interaction
- Government support mechanisms

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CSO partnerships and networking

- Cso development effectiveness principles applied to partnerships and networks
 - o Empowering
 - o Autonomy and independence
 - o Pro-poor, just and transformative
 - o Transparent, accountable
 - o Solidarity and trust

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Presentation 3. Principles and Challenges of CSO Development Effectiveness

<p>Principles and Challenges of CSO Development Effectiveness</p> <p>Maria Theresa Nera-Lauron</p>	<p>Principles and Challenges of CSO Development Effectiveness Development Effectiveness</p> <p>Promoting sustainable positive change, within a democratic framework, that addresses CAUSES as well as SYMPTOMS of poverty, inequality and marginalization, through the DIVERSITY and COMPLEMENTARY of instruments, policies and actors</p> <p>1</p>
<p>Principles of Development Effectiveness</p> <p>Underlying <u>values</u> and <u>qualities</u> of <u>social</u> and <u>organizational relationships</u> that promote development in which those living in poverty may more ably claim their rights</p> <p>2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - People-centered - Poverty-focused - Based on human rights and social justice - Based on genuine and long term partnership, respect and dialogue, acknowledging diversity - Striving for sustainable impact and results - Continuous enhancement of transparency, accountability, autonomy from states and coordination <p>Principles of CSO Devt. Effectiveness as identified in 2007 Brussels workshop on Civil Society and Aid Effectiveness</p> <p>3</p>
<p>Principles (and challenges) of CSO Devt. Effectiveness</p> <p>- Development defined</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > addressing material needs of poor & marginalized – i.e. delivery of services equitable and efficiently (quite limited and limiting) > addressing human rights of poor may be quite limiting to addressing immediate problems of access to services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rights-based perspective to devt. must address the <u>social, political, economic, cultural processes</u> by which poor <u>claim</u> their rights - Development is the PROCESS and GOAL where the poor claim their rights in the context of <u>building a democratic society</u> that fulfills the human rights of people so they can develop their full potentials <p>4</p>	<p><u>'Democratic Development'</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - allows devt actors to correctly understand context, issues & challenges of the poor in claiming their rights, and properly identify directions towards meaningful change - allows one to 'graduate' from a limited/limiting rights-based approach to a more <u>effective</u> and <u>comprehensive</u> framework of democratic development - beyond claiming rights, the goal of development is the <u>positive transformation of society</u> – developing peoples' sovereignty as a key feature and requirement for the democratic transformation of society <p>5</p>
<p>Principles (and challenges) of CSO Devt. Effectiveness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <u>CSO Legitimacy, Accountability & Representativeness</u> ■ People create their organizations as <u>expressions of their rights</u> to association and as <u>instruments</u> that provide condition to enable them to claim their rights and build their democratic society ■ Through CSOs, people express their 'citizenship' as interlocutors of the state <p>6</p>	<p>-CSOs play distinct roles in promotion of social justice & social transformation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vehicles to address issue of social exclusion & poverty - Ensure access to human rights for the excluded + advocacy to rid society of socio-cultural & legal policies of exclusion - CSOs are imp't actors in social & democratic transformation of societies where structures of patronage & inequality prevail – and where institutions of democracy need to be built and strengthened <p>7</p>

On CSO accountability

- Upwards,downwards,inwards,horizontal
- While often interpreted in the context of fiduciary responsibilities, accountability addresses the more impt.concern of responsibility to the OUTCOME
- REALIZATION of poor claiming rights = DEMOCRACY
- Should be understood as a positive enabler rather than a matter of formal compliance with externally imposed obligations and requirements

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On CSO 'Legitimacy' and autonomy

Diverse, but should be ROOTED in communities

- Must express interests & vision of the poor – embody principles, values and actions promotive of peoples rights & democratic participation
- Self- reliance not in actual or absolute terms – but in the autonomous efforts of peoples to organize themselves and contribute to democratic development
- CSOs are political, by necessity:
 1. the process of claiming rights is political, esp. in repressive, undemocratic situations
 2. Embark on process of democratic reforms, which places CSOs in the political opposition
 3. where political institutions are weak, CSOs may graduate to build political parties as their contribution to democratic development

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Gender Equality

- Implies that the interests, needs and priorities of both women and men are taken into consideration, recognizing their diversity
- Women's rights are a cross-cutting issue, impacting on all aspects of devt
- Women's empowerment is a pre-requisite for devt. – poverty can't be tackled unless women's rights are placed center stage
- Many CSOs made women's rights & empowerment core areas of intervention – although impt women's HR issues have been pursued through specific women's rights programmes (and not mainstreamed)

There is perceived reduction in focus on gender equality by donors & govts. In recent years

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North-South/South-South CSO Relations

- Premised on cross-border intl solidarity – but reality is that of unequal relations of the dominant Northern CSO often leading to patron-client relationship
- CSO partnerships should adjust to needs and circumstances of inherently weaker partner and reduce 'partnership' demands- fiduciary, project mgt., program sustainability, etc.
- Building equal partnerships require an enlightened approach of affirmative action – providing allowances to weaker partner

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Need to question internationalization or homogenization of international CSOs

- Premised on globalization affecting all people around the world – or 'solidarity of shared problems' --- but globalization does not have the same impact between peoples in the North and in the South
- Erases distinctions and special problems of developing countries

Need to question 'nationalization' of international CSOs – do 'national' chapters create imbalances and unnatural inequities that do not reflect true level of development and linkages in national CSO evolution?

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Presentation 4. Guidelines, Indicators, and Mechanisms

<p>Guidelines for Applying Agreed Principles and Indicators Azra Talat Sayeed</p>	<p>Guidelines for Development Effectiveness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- list of good practices in compliance to CSO development effectiveness and accountability processes in participants' respective contexts.- a set of guidelines and indicators appropriate for our respective organizations, for CSOs with which we relate, for donors and governments that affect our environment for achieving development effectiveness. <p>1</p>
<p>What are Guidelines?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Basically codes of conducts for CSOs as they work to implementation of the core principles of development effectiveness- Guidelines are recommendations/advisory on how particular action may be taken to attain a principle- Are generally qualitative statements which provide a road map to attaining principles and help CSOs to be effectiveness and accountable <p>2</p>	<p>Enabling Environment</p> <p>A critical area of importance for achieving principles is the issue of enabling environment;</p> <p>Achieving principles cannot be done without taking in to account the political, social and economic larger societal environment;</p> <p>But will not be included in this input as it will be discussed separately on its own.</p> <p>3</p>
<p>What are Guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- In essence internal accountability measures for operational processes- Includes financial accountability but more emphasis on:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Representation- Equal partnership- Democratic ownership- Transparency <p>4</p>	<p>What are Mechanisms?</p> <p>Contextual processes needed to accomplish guidelines or principles</p> <p>This is the process or a set of processes through which guideline are implemented in attaining development effectiveness</p> <p>Mechanisms are meant to be clear set of actions which can be clearly chartered and provide a clear road map to attaining principles</p> <p>5</p>
<p>What are Indicators?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● These are concrete markers which would lend themselves to measuring change● Indicators could be qualitative or quantitative depending on the process that is being used for implementation of guidelines/principles <p>6</p>	<p>Some Core Principles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Local and democratic ownership- Human Rights approach to development- National Development- Gender Equality <p>7</p>

Accountability Mechanisms to:

- CSO community/constituency
- CSO Staff
- CSO and Partners
- CSO and Government
- CSO and Donors

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Principle of Local Ownership

The CSO could have as its Serving Constituency:

Grassroots/ communities, National Federation

In the context of local ownership, CSOs are responsible for providing an enabling environment for a particular constituency to have ownership of the process

Ex.: women representation in agrarian land reform:

What would be the mechanisms of ensuring participation?

- A written code of conduct by the CSO
- A Defined Charter
- An unwritten value-based informal system among smaller CSOs defining operational procedure?

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Ineffective mechanisms: paternalistic, dominant, prescriptive methods of engagement;

Effective Mechanism:

- Grass root membership Engage as equal partners in defining, implementing and monitoring land reform;
- Large representation of the poorest sectors of women;
- Capacity building processes of the constituencies to engage meaningfully in democratic processes;

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Indicators

How do CSO validate membership at the grass root level?

What would be the indicators to show that mechanisms are being followed:

- Regular meetings at the grass roots
- Membership base at the community level comprising of women coming from various sectors (sharecroppers, agricultural workers, single women; women from female headed households)

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Indicators

Indicators for Effective Mechanisms:

Action-based research to document hardships faced by poor women due to lack of access to land for fulfilling livelihood needs;

Visible organized groups in the masses such as the landless women

Space provided by CSO for grass root women to engage in consultations with government processes;

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Mechanisms

National Federations:

How do they validate membership?

How is leadership chosen?

How are provincial chapters defined?

How are issues prioritized across geographic lines?

How is consensus built?

How are diverse issues represented base on sectoral/geographical priorities?

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Principle of Local Ownership

CSO and Organizational Staff

- Mechanisms for capacity building of staff
- Mechanisms for interacting of staff with community based on local ownership and democratic ownership

Indicators:

- Document developed for operational procedures;
- Staff training/capacity building for understanding community needs and developing respectful relationships with constituencies;

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Principle of Local Ownership

CSO and Northern CSO Partners.

Southern CSOs shape the agenda to enhance local and democratic ownership

Indicators:

- core funding availability
- Non-market based development programs
- support of programs developed by southern CSOs;
- South-north civil society solidarity campaigns/dialogue;
- Capacity building of northern society by Northern CSOs to build awareness off democratic development context of south;
- Northern CSOs dialogue with donors advocating southern development perspectives

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Principle of Local Ownership

CSO and national governments. Mechanism for engaging with government

Indicators:

- Engaging with local, provincial, federal agencies to build awareness of issues of the marginalized (eg land reforms for women in the rural sector)
- Action Research sharing with government agencies
- Advocacy measures such as land reform policy; home-based women workers labor policy;
- Mass protests against anti-democratic measures such as creation of microfinance support institutions;
- Critique IFI dominant dev't agendas pursued by nat'l governments.

CSOs and donor governments:

Mechanisms for engaging with donor governments:

Indicators

- Consultations with donors;
- Capacity building of donors on local ownership through publications
- Donor support to nat'l governments for increasing democratic processes through stronger public institutions
- Advocating donors to curtail/eliminate role of northern corporations in public spheres that erode peoples ownership over resources (water, seed, agricultural land, etc)

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CSOs and Media:

Mechanisms for engagement

- Media briefing
- Press releases
- Capacity building of journalists' clubs
- Mass mobilizations on issues pertaining to local ownership (eg mobilising home-based women workers demanding for right to organize)

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PRESENTATION 5. ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

Towards an enabling environment for CSOs
Antonio Tujan Jr.

“enabling environment”?

- CSOs as process and product of people claiming their rights to association and other civil and political rights
- Providing an “enabling environment” as promotion, recognition and protection of those rights
- Beyond human rights, role of CSOs in building democracy

1

Who is responsible

- Role of the state
 - Role of the people themselves and the CSO community
 - Role of other democratic actors such media, church
- Plus
- Role of international community – csos and people, international organizations, intergovernmental organizations

2

Recognition

- De Facto - Recognition as a given
- Restrictions and repression
- CSO voluntary registration mechanisms
 - Avoiding restrictiveness and elitism
 - Proactive Registration
 - Registration as responsibility but not a requisite

3

Official Recognition

- Legislation and regulations - Promotive and liberal?
- When they are restrictive
- When less or none is better
- Affirmative mechanisms for marginalized sectors

4

Specific regulations

- Special regulations
 - Property, finance, banking
 - Taxation
 - reporting

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Voice

- Freedom of speech and related rights and liberties
- Access to public processes
- Access to information
- Program partnerships with government
- publication, information

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Capacity Support

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