

Busan Civil Society Forum

November 26 to 28, 2011

Busan, South Korea

Workshop description and agenda

“Towards improved CSO transparency and accountability: the Fifth Istanbul Principle in Action”

Workshop time and duration:

Date: Sunday November 27, 2011

Location: the Grand Ballroom A - 2nd Fl, [Grand Hotel](#), South Korea Uihang 651-2 Woo-Dong

Time: 9:00am to 12:45

Total time: 3 hours 45 minutes (including breaks)

Brief Description of Workshop

The issue of CSO accountability is the driving force behind the creation of the Open Forum on CSO Development Effectiveness; and the development of the International Framework on CSO Development Framework (agreed on in June 2011 in Cambodia at the Open Forum second Global Assembly), which is a global statement and reference for CSOs around the world, and which focuses significant attention on CSO efforts to improve their accountability.

CSOs have seen a significant change in their role and influence in society and politics. However, with this newfound influence worldwide, CSOs are facing growing pressure from governments, donors and the public to be more open about their funding sources and their governance structures, provide evidence of impact and of their legitimacy. While some are responding to these challenges by developing individual, organizational responses, others are coming together at national, regional and international levels to develop common norms and standards. These initiatives include codes of ethics and conduct, certification schemes, public accountability events, self-assessment tools and/or information services. Such sector level forms of cooperation and self-regulation have become an important means of increasing CSOs' legitimacy, transparency and accountability, building public trust, protecting the political space for CSOs to operate and enhancing effectiveness.

Nevertheless CSOs face numerous practical challenges in demonstrating their accountability to each other and to other stakeholders. There is a need to increase knowledge about how successful self-regulatory initiatives work, and share approaches to successful methodologies. There is also a need to create more sharing of best practices, challenges and opportunities within the CSO sector, to work more collaboratively and collectively to improve civil society accountability and effectiveness.

Workshop Purpose:

The overall goal is to dialogue, strategize and do some preliminary brainstorming around some of the *goals – methodology/tools – results, obstacles and lessons learned* from a variety of CSO accountability initiatives from across the globe

To do this, participants will explore some emerging long-term questions around CSO accountability arising from our experiences, as well as strategizing on some of the most pressing messages for and about the sector at HLF4, such as:

- *From an EXTERNAL viewpoint: How do we use CSO accountability to our advantage in HLF4 negotiations? Is there a tension between initiatives coming from within the civil society sector and those coming from donors or governments? What are some of the main differences between*

government, donor and CSO accountability frameworks, and how can we manage the challenges and opportunities these differences present, in order to improve our overall effectiveness as a sector, and our messages at HLF4?

- From an INTERNAL viewpoint: What are some of the key challenges and opportunities for accountability within and between CSOs moving forward? For example, how can we improve on the relationship between international CSOs and national-level CSOs? What are the next steps in terms of developing increased dialogue and cooperation within the sector on accountability issues?
- An OVERALL viewpoint: How can we start taking the steps to scale up the accountability activities of the sector? For example, should CSO accountability initiatives leave implementation fully in the hands of individual organisations, without setting standards or specifying the means through which implementation will be monitored and non-compliance sanctioned? What are the consequences of the different levels of oversight and coordination on the national, regional and global levels?

Proposed Workshop Agenda

Time	Session	People
9:00 to 9:15	Introduction and ice breaker	Session 1 – opening chair Rendir Cuentas /ALOP/AidWatch Canada/ Open Forum
9:15 to 9:30	CSO Accountability: The Open Forum process and Istanbul Principle 5	
9:30 to 10:15	Panel on National and Regional CSO Accountability <i>What are some of the challenges and successes of CSO accountability practice at the national and regional levels? What are some of the experiences of balancing government and donor accountability requirements within this context?</i>	Session 2 – chair The International Forum of National NGO platforms (IFP) PIANGO CONGAD CCC RENDIR CUENTAS
10:15 to 11:00	Panel on International CSO accountability <i>What are some of the challenges and successes of CSO accountability practice at the international level?</i>	Session 3 Chair ICSO Advisory Group (Robert Fox, Oxfam Canada)
11.00 – 11.15	Break	
11:15 to 12:15	Discussion groups <i>Based on the information shared and discussions above, participants will move into one of three groups:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>HLF4 STRATEGY: What are some of the key messages from the sector on our own accountability, which we should push within HLF4? For example, what are some messages to governments and donors so they understand our successes? Are there delegations/actors/sessions we should target with these messages?</i> - <i>INTERNAL STRATEGY: What are some of the key challenges and opportunities for accountability within and between CSOs moving forward? For example, how can we improve on the relationship between international CSOs and national-level CSOs? What are the next steps in terms of developing increased dialogue and cooperation within the sector on accountability issues?</i> - <i>LONG-TERM STRATEGY: How can we start taking individual and collective steps to scale up the accountability activities of the sector at the national, regional and international levels? (re: Open Forum Implementation Toolkit as a base?)</i> 	Chairs to help facilitate discussion in three groups
12:15 to 12:45	Short report back and final development of messages and	Three chairs 'co-chair

	strategy summary to take into HLF4 <i>(summary of longer-term and internal plans to be sent to participants after BCSC)</i>	final session
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Workshop Participants

This workshop is open to anyone who wishes to join