

Opening Remarks for the CSO break-out session

“Monitoring for Accountability: Civil Society Organisations on GPEDC’s Second Monitoring Round”

by Tetet Lauron, CPDE Co-chair and CPDE Task Team representative
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Distinguished colleagues,

Welcome to the civil society break-out session on “Monitoring for Accountability: Civil Society Organisations on GPEDC’s Second Monitoring Round”. Allow me to start by **thanking again the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Korea** for giving us the opportunity to come together and share the views of civil society on the state of implementation of the Busan agreement in the post-2015 context.

Civil society is a driving force within GPEDC. We from CPDE and the Task Team on CSO Development Effectiveness and Enabling Environment have decided to focus this session on GPEDC’s second monitoring round because **we regard it as crucial in holding GPEDC members to account** for implementing and making progress on their promises. **CPDE is already making a proactive contribution** to the success of the monitoring exercise, having identified country-level civil society focal points in 57 out of the 76 participating countries. Our colleagues on the ground will strive to support this process through national advocacy, capacity-building and internal accountability on CSOs’ own development effectiveness.

What we have learned from the first monitoring round is that for this exercise to be useful **we need to create better conditions for inclusive dialogue among different constituencies** – government, civil society, providers, etc – **at country level**. We would like this session to be the first of many focusing on sharing lessons learned from the monitoring process, and discussing challenges in promoting mutual accountability at national level.

These needs are particularly acute when it comes to assessing the environment in which CSOs operate to determine if they can make a full contribution to development as independent actors in their own right. **Indicator Two** of the GPEDC global monitoring framework is meant to measure just that - the **CSO enabling environment** - and we strongly encourage country-level stakeholders to make sure it can be done in a multi-stakeholder and inclusive way, through dialogue.

For those of you who are less familiar with Indicator Two it assesses **four key areas**:

1. Space for multi-stakeholder dialogue
2. CSO development effectiveness, accountability and transparency
3. Official development cooperation with CSOs
4. and the legal and regulatory environment in which CSOs operate.

We recognize that the four-part framework of Indicator Two may make monitoring of this indicator seem challenging relative to other indicators. However, we believe that this approach is necessary as it affirms that **each stakeholder** – governments in aid recipient countries, provider governments, and CSOs – **has a responsibility** in their own practice to create the conditions for an enabling environment.

Through the Task Team we plan to carry out a “**stock-take**” of **Indicator Two monitoring** next year. The stock-take will produce commentary on the process, challenges and opportunities of the Indicator Two monitoring exercise. We hope it will help inform the GPEDC second monitoring round and the assessment of the global monitoring framework by the Monitoring Advisory Group. We also hope to gather good practices and country-relevant sources for the **CSO Enabling Environment Guidelines** that the Task Team will produce for the next High Level Meeting of GPEDC. This is one of the commitments of the Global Partnership Initiative we launched in Mexico last year (Initiative 12 – CSO Enabling Environment Framework and Guidelines). The Task Team Secretariat may be in touch with some of you on this stock-take and the guidelines to gather information in the coming months.

Let me finish by stating that **civil society organisations are fully committed** to do their part to make this second monitoring round a useful exercise for country-level accountability and ownership. We stand ready to help GPEDC at each step of the process, on Indicator Two in particular, but **also on the other nine indicators and beyond**. We look forward to hearing from some of our civil society monitoring focal points today, as well as from a few developing country governments and providers, to learn how we can work better together to improve GPEDC accountability at country level. We also want to hear from other civil society platforms and international organisations that are spearheading accountability through other fora, such as the **New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States**.

This is meant to be an interactive discussion and I hope you will want to engage in a frank debate across constituencies. I will now give the floor to my colleagues from Malawi and El Salvador, who will present some of the opportunities and challenges faced by civil society organisations in participating in the second monitoring round of GPEDC in their own country.

Thank you.