

## CRITERIA, PROCESS AND MECHANISMS FOR NEW CONSTITUENCIES

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### Background

The CPDE Paper, entitled *“Building a CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CSO Partnership)”*, states that its primary outcome will be to endeavour to have broad and inclusive participation of a range of CSOs from around the world, making concerted efforts to ensure gender parity in representation, overcome language and cultural barriers, and include groups from new countries and sectors, including those that are most commonly discriminated against and excluded. (§18, p.5)

Under its section on approach and ways of working, the Paper states that **regional** frameworks will operate to ensure policy engagement with relevant institutions and processes, will ensure CSO policy and operational coordination to support sub-regions, and will orient and facilitate country access to funding opportunities; and in general, regions and/or sub-regions will work to support local, national and/or sub-regional processes and encourage coordination, communication and multi-directional relations within, between and among countries, regions, and sectors. (§33, p.9)

The paper also acknowledges that working with **sector** and major groups is essential to guaranteeing broader outreach of the work of the CSO Partnership, as well as to ensuring our work follows a rights-based approach to development. Labour, feminist/women’s, rural, faith-based and global organisations have been active in the CSO Partnership’s precursors. Looking forward, the CSO Partnership needs to expand its constituency by reaching out to organisations that represent youth, indigenous peoples and other ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, migrant and refugee populations, as well as human rights and environmental organisations. (§34, p.10)

Having approved the entry of new sectors into the Council, the 2014 Global Council (GC) meeting in Mexico has instructed the Global Secretariat to reach out to migrants and people with disabilities (PWD). In the same meeting, the representative of the Pacific sub-region has initially raised their intent to have the Council recognise their constituency as a region separate from Asia and the Pacific.

The Coordination Committee (CC) Meeting in Incheon received the update that there is an expression of interest from the International Migrants Alliance to be part of CPDE as a result of the outreach work of the Global Secretariat. In the same meeting, the representative from Asia and the Pacific reiterated the intention of the Pacific to be recognised as a separate region. The CC deliberated and agreed that, since new constituencies impact on the structure and resources of the platform, there needs to be more clarity on the basis for such determination. Further, the CC Instructed the Outreach Committee to discuss and come up with recommendations towards this end.

This document culls the main points of the CC and Outreach Committee’s discussions. It responds to the decision of the Coordination Committee and seeks to outline criteria, process, and mechanisms for recognition of new constituencies.

### Criteria

The following are the proposed criteria for recognition of new constituencies:

- **Ensure broader reach of CPDE to civil society.** A new constituency should enable CPDE to reach out to a broader set of constituencies that is not allowed by the current structure. **Represent the interest of the impoverished and marginalised or ‘rights-holders.’** The new constituency should be able to represent the interest or rights claim of a group that otherwise are not or not fully represented in the current structure.

- **Organised within their constituency.** The CPDE is a network of networks. It is not designed for direct organising of constituencies. As such, the new constituency should be able to demonstrate a degree of organisation that enables it to engage on an appropriate level (whether regional or global).
- **Openness and commitment to the practice of inclusiveness in CPDE initiatives in relation to the constituency.** CPDE relies on focal organisations to lead in organising and coordinating all constituencies, at the same time recognises that no single organisation can claim monopoly of representation of any. Therefore, these focal organisations are expected to organise and coordinate beyond their own organisations to include others within the relevant constituency for the purposes of CPDE initiatives.
- **Work or interest to work on development effectiveness agenda.** The new constituency should be able to demonstrate its engagement of the development effectiveness agenda. Failing this, it should clearly articulate its intention and explain its capacity to do so. This includes a clear demonstration of the constituency's buy-in to CPDE's key strategies of policy advocacy ('inside and outside the tent') and capacity development.

## Process

The CPDE is an open platform. Any CSO wanting to be a member will be allowed to participate in appropriate levels, not necessarily going through the process described below.

The assumption is that the existing constituencies in CPDE (regional and sectors) cover all CSOs. In a way, the process of allowing additional constituencies is a just a corrective measure to address whatever weakness or gaps in representation/coverage the current structure has.

The recognition of new constituencies will go through the following process and timeline:

1. **Initial Assessment.** Any group seeking to be recognised as a constituency within CPDE will be encouraged to send an Expression of Interest addressed to the Co-chair for Outreach and CSO Effectiveness. The Global Secretariat, through the Membership Engagement Officer, together with the CPDE Co-chairs, will make an initial assessment of the group and the organisation, following the proposed criteria.

**Timeline:** One to two months

**Process:** Expression of Interest → Initial Assessment of group and pre-identified organisation → submission to Outreach Committee for review

**Responsible units:** Global Secretariat (through the MEO) and Outreach Committee (especially the Co-chair on Outreach and CSO Effectiveness)

2. **Orientation.** The next step would be to socialise the issues/interests/claims of the proposed new constituency to the platform. At the same time this step entails that the new constituency should understand and share in-depth the vision, mission, goals, values and ways of working of the platform. This is a mutual process where both CPDE (through its Outreach Committee) and the constituency will need to exert an effort and make an evaluation whether this step is fulfilled.

**Timeline:** One month

**Process:** Introduction to the CPDE → Group evaluation to continue process → Outreach Committee evaluation to continue process for group

**Responsible units:** Global Secretariat (through the MEO) and Outreach Committee (esp the Co-chair on Outreach and CSO Effectiveness)

- 3. Integration.** The new constituency is expected to participate within the existing structure even in the absence of the desired recognition as a separate constituency. This can be done concurrent with the second step. Arguably, in-depth understanding of the platform cannot be achieved without actual participation. The CPDE (through its Outreach Committee) will make the evaluation on whether this step is fulfilled.

**Timeline:** One to six months

**Process:** Group participation within the CPDE → Outreach Committee evaluation to continue process for group

**Responsible units:** Global Secretariat (through the MEO) and Outreach Committee (especially the Co-chair on Outreach and CSO Effectiveness)

- 4. Ensuring inclusiveness.** Any Expression of Interest to form a new constituency will necessarily come from a specific organisation. At the onset, the Outreach Committee will have a dialogue with the organisation submitting Eol on their level of 'representativeness' and capacity to represent the interests of the proposed constituency at the table. Prior step 5 (review and evaluation), the CPDE through the Outreach Committee will conduct activities to ensure that other organisations that are not within the network of the organisation that submitted the Eol will have an opportunity to participate. These activities will also identify who will represent the new constituency to the various units and bodies of CPDE.

**Timeline:** Concurrent with steps 1 to 3

**Process:** Outreach Committee dialogue with organisation submitting Mol → (organisation of meetings and assemblies for introducing CPDE and reaching out to other organisations) → Outreach Committee evaluation to continue process for group

**Responsible units:** Global Secretariat (through the MEO) and Outreach Committee (especially the Co-chair on Outreach and CSO Effectiveness)

- 5. Review and Evaluation.** Upon completion of the first four steps, the Outreach Committee (through the Co-chair for Outreach and CSO Effectiveness) will invite the specific constituency (through its pre-identified focal organisation) to submit a Request for Formalisation of Status as a constituency of CPDE addressed to the GC. This request should include the following:

- Its own understanding of CPDE's vision, mission, goals, values, and ways of working
- How it meets the criteria enumerated above
- What it expects from the platform
- What it commits to bring to the platform

The Co-chair will forward this request to the Global Secretariat, which in turn will conduct an analysis on the impact of the new constituency to the platform's structure and resources. As expected, the options will be either:

- 1. On structure:** increase the number of seats in the CC and GC or reduce number of seats of existing constituencies to allow entrance of new representatives and maintain the numbers in the CC and the GC
- 2. On resources:** similar to the structure, increase the budget or reduce allocation per existing constituency (in relation to what is in the indicative multi-year budget) to allow for resources to be allocated to the new constituency.

Note that in both cases, the option to increase seats and budget will require more time for the process to complete, as this will entail further fundraising. The GS will earmark funds in the anticipation of new constituency/ies on its annual budget.

The Global Secretariat will submit the impact analysis to the CC, including the options and expected timeframe of each option. The CC will deliberate on the new constituency's request and the analysis and make appropriate recommendations to the Global Council.

**Timeline:** One to three months

**Process:** Submission of Request for Formalisation of Status → Impact analysis → Submission to the Global Council

**Responsible units:** Global Secretariat (through the MEO), Outreach Committee (especially the Co-chair on Outreach and CSO Effectiveness), Coordination Committee and Global Council

- 6. Formalisation.** The GC in one of its annual meetings will hear the recommendations of the CC on the issue of a new constituency. At least one representative of the new constituency will be invited in this meeting should the GC have further questions. The GC will decide whether to confirm, reject, or indicate further requirements for the formalisation of the proposed new constituency.

## Mechanisms

**Membership Engagement Officer (MEO).** As the focal point for outreach in the Global Secretariat, the MEO will provide all staff support required to initiate and support the process of any CSO group seeking recognition as a constituency in CPDE.

**Co-chair for Outreach and CSO Effectiveness.** The Co-chair will provide leadership to the whole process.

**Outreach Committee.** The Committee is the working Committee of the CC that is expected to follow the process, deliberate in detail, and make recommendations to the CC, providing it with the essential details of the proposed new constituency, how it meets the criteria and the evaluation of the process detailed above.

**Coordination Committee.** The CC will deliberate on the recommendations of the Outreach Committee and the feasibility study of the Global Secretariat. It will make recommendations to confirm, reject, or require further steps.

**Global Council.** The Global Council will confirm, reject based on the recommendations of the CC, or indicate further requirements for the formalisation of the proposed new constituency.

## Contact Information

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