

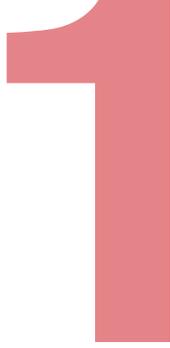
CSOPartnership 
for Development Effectiveness

eBULLETIN

The CSO Partnership is an open platform that unites CSO voices from around the world on the issue of development effectiveness.

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CSO Development Effectiveness at the Heart of Montreal

Through its Working Group on CSO Development Effectiveness, the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE) conducted two events during the World Social Forum (WSF) in Montreal in August 2016: a sharing session on the Action Research on CSO Development Effectiveness (DE) and Accountability and a workshop titled *The Istanbul Principles Five Years after (IP+5): Civil society development effectiveness and accountability in a changing landscape*.

8-9 August 2016 With an action research project around CSO Development Effectiveness and Accountability, CSO participants were convened for a sharing session on the status of their country researches in Vietnam, Canada, Dominican Republic, Bolivia, and Zimbabwe. The migrants sector was also a research participant. Aside from sharing the statuses of their researches, it was an opportunity to exchange constructive feedback and to understand the different contexts in implementing the Istanbul Principles. From these exchanges, lack of and eroding enabling environment at country level emerged as a common theme.

The CSO DE Working Group also shared its initiative called the CSO Effectiveness Awareness Check (CSO Check), an enhanced version of the Istanbul Principles Self-Assessment Checklist. [The CSO Check](#) is an online self-assessment tool that aims to help CSOs assess how the Istanbul Principles of CSO Development Effectiveness are being practiced by an organisation. The test also aims to help organisations reflect how they are improving in their commitment to development effectiveness.

11 August 2016 To socialise the Istanbul Principles with all CSOs participating in the WSF, the IP+5 workshop was registered as part of the WSF. The workshop was conducted in two sessions: the first tackled reflections and challenges on the implementation of the Istanbul Principles since its landmark adoption five years ago, and the second session discussed the state of enabling environment (EE) for CSOs.

**THE ISTANBUL PRINCIPLES
FIVE YEARS AFTER (IP+5):
Civil Society Development Effectiveness
and Accountability in a Changing Landscape**

Anas El Hasnaoui of ESPACE, also co-chair of the CSO DE Working Group, chaired the first session of the workshop. The first panel featured CPDE Co-Chairs Jorge Balbis and Maria Theresa Lauron, and former CPDE Co-chair Antonio Tujan, Jr. All of them participated in the processes that eventually came up with the Istanbul Principles. The second panel, on the other hand, featured case stories on the implementation of the principles at country level from Management for Sustainable Development-Vietnam, Alianza ONG-Dominican Republic, and the Pacific Women's Indigenous Networks - migrants sector.

CPDE Co-Chair Justin Kicullen chaired the second session of the workshop. It featured an interview with Maina Kiai, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association, which focused on the global phenomenon of shrinking spaces for CSOs and the opportunities for CSOs' accountability. Case stories showing the relationship of enabling environment and CSO accountability, as well as the implementation of Istanbul Principles were presented by researchers from the National Association of Youth Organisations-Zimbabwe, Unión Nacional de Instituciones para el Trabajo de Acción Social-Bolivia, and council members of the Canadian Council for International Cooperation.

Aside from the workshop and sharing session, members of the CPDE present in Montreal participated in the opening march of the WSF, in solidarity with other CSOs advocating for enabling environment not only in Canada but also in other parts of the world.

Remarkably, from the original 14 confirmed participants of the sharing session, only seven (7) were able to make it due to rejection and non-action of Canadian embassies on visa applications. According to reports from the WSF organising team, these were not isolated cases. More than 200 visa applications, largely from the global South, were denied by Canada. Truly, spaces for CSOs are closing down for both the South and North.



Photo: <https://tonyseed.wordpress.com/2016/08/11/onkwehonwe-lead-spirited-opening-march-of-world-social-forum-in-montreal/>

2 Special Series:

CPDE Member Countries on the GPEDC Second Monitoring Round

Cambodia

A Restricting Space for CSOs in Cambodia

Cambodia undertook a survey exercise in the first three months of 2016 to monitor the progress in implementing the commitments made at the Busan High-level Forum in December 2011. As the leading membership-based organisation for local and international NGOs in Cambodia, Cooperation Committee for Cambodia (CCC) engaged in Aid and Development Effectiveness agenda at both the national and international levels. From there, CCC became the CPDE's country focal point for Cambodia, leading CSOs in engaging the Second Monitoring Round of Busan commitments.

CCC, in partnership with the NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF), NGO Education Partnership (NEP), and Advocacy and Policy Institute (API), collaborated to produce the CSO Report on the Second Monitoring Round of Busan Commitments in Cambodia. This report is based in the collated data from discussions, meetings, consultation of CSO leaders, participation in multi-stakeholders' consultation, and data validation with the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC).

A Technical Working Group (TWG) composed of representatives of NGOs was created by the RGC to validate information on the Busan monitoring report. The TWG is an existing mechanism to discuss development effectiveness in Cambodia. H.E. Chhieng Yanara, Minister attached to the Prime Minister and Chairman of the Partnership and Harmonization of TWG, acknowledged strong commitments made by the RGC, development partners and the NGO community to promote development effectiveness through the implementation of the Development Cooperation and Partnerships Strategy (2014-2018).

CCC engaged in this monitoring initiative with a focus on Indicator 2 (Enabling Environment). The following summarises the findings in this report.

On space for multi-stakeholder dialogue on national development policies

CSOs are engaged by the government in a mechanism known as Technical Working Groups (TWGs), which include CSOs as members to institutionalise arrangements for providing inputs to the formulation of the national plan. At the same time, CSOs also conduct independent consultations to generate inputs that they share with the government. So far, CSOs have not been provided with opportunities to meaningfully engage in the government's policy development process due to restricted access to the government's draft laws, policies, and plans. CSOs have limited access to public information. Despite government commitment to partner with CSOs through a Social Accountability Framework, subordinate officials at local levels do not take the framework into account. Cooperation and openness remain issues faced by CSOs.

Some resources are available but these are limited. Public Administration Reform and various donor-funded programs include trainings and resources for supporting multi-stakeholder dialogue, improved communication, and stakeholder consultation. NGOs have staff and technical resources to engage meaningfully in multi-stakeholder dialogue, both within a civil society framework and with government and donors. However, access to resources for trainings and capacity development are limited.

On CSO development effectiveness: accountability and transparency

CSOs have launched their own transparency and accountability initiative that includes a verified scheme related to attaining prescribed standards on reporting, accountability, and transparency. The CCC, an umbrella organisation established in 2004, introduced and manages NGO Code, Standards and full process of certification through the NGO Governance and Professional Practice scheme. This scheme enables NGOs to strengthen their own systems and processes to ensure that they can report to all stakeholders, members, and donors, as well as to the wider public on their funding, activities, and results.

Albeit some weaknesses in harmonisation among them, CSOs have established an effective network for coordination, policy research, advocacy, and for engaging in policy dialogue.

The Istanbul Principles and the International Framework for CSO Development Effectiveness have been ratified and implemented by the NGO community in Cambodia. The IPs are mainly integrated through the training course on Governance, Professionalism, and Accountability (GPA) and other related events under the coordination of CCC.

On official development cooperation with CSOs

At national level, some providers (such as the European Union and its member countries, the UN agencies, the World Bank) hold consultations with civil society, or engaged civil society in their consultation process in order to formulate their national development priorities. However, there is no clear feedback mechanism to indicate that inputs from civil societies are taken into account. Other providers work closely with NGOs by introducing the grant scheme, which can be directly accessed by civil society.

Almost all providers recognise and formally acknowledge the importance of civil society as a development actor. Some providers actively promote an enabling environment between the government and civil society. Majority of the donors promote a CSO enabling environment in their cooperation with CSOs, but in terms of funding approach, support provided to the government is through basket funds, while support for CSOs are project-based.

A number of development partners such as US Agency for International Development (USAID), European Union (EU), and United Nations (UN) were very active in dialogue with government during the formulation of the Law on Associations and Non-Governmental Organisations (LANGO), which was passed in 2015. They continue to emphasise the positive role of NGOs in national development and act as an intermediary in dialogue with government. However, some donors are soft when it comes to advocating CSO enabling environment with the government. The soft approach of the donor left CSOs enabling environment in a worried position.

On legal and regulatory environment

The Constitution guarantees these basic freedoms but contradicts them in practice. The LANGO is one proof that NGO formation, funding, and activity are regulated by the government.

Space for civil society to participate in the formulation of laws and policies is not guaranteed through any official mechanism, but is rather dependent on the discretion of the government and the issues at hand. One possible reason could be because CSOs are home to many activists who were imprisoned or at the very least intimidated by the government in the past.

Recommendations

CSOs believe that in order to address the development challenges in Cambodia, some key interventions are needed from the international community such as:

- Inspiring the RGC to review the legal frameworks including calling for amendment of the relevant laws and policies that impacts on shrinking civic space;
- Intervening to have the government fully comply with national constitution, human rights commitments, national and international legal frameworks. Increasing support and collaboration from international community with Cambodian CSOs particularly in terms of capacity development, exchange of experiences, best practices, and information sharing; and particularly, ensuring the implementation of Busan Outcome Document, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the Paris Agreement on Climate, recognizing the role of CSO to lead in monitoring the implementation of the multilateral agreements;
- Putting more collective efforts in supporting the 2017 and 2018 elections by pushing RGC to speed up voter registration and ensure free and fair election process and results management; and
- Reinforcing the implementation of 1991 Paris Peace Accord and other commitments.

Cameroon

Reinforcing Civic Space for CSOs in Cameroon

Africa Development Interchange Network (ADIN) was the CSO National Focal Point designated both by the Government of Cameroon and CPDE for the monitoring exercise of the Second Monitoring Round of the Busan commitments in the framework of the Global Partnership on Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) conducted from November 2015 thru March 2016.

ADIN engaged in this monitoring initiative with a focus on Indicator 2 (Enabling Environment) and Indicator 3 (Engagement and contribution of the Private Sector to Development). For Indicator 2, data collection involved multi-stakeholders in 10 regions, from ministries to grassroots levels. For Indicator 3, small- and medium-size enterprises (SME) from Entreprises du Cameroun (ECAM) and private sector operators outside of ECAM were surveyed.

The following summarises the findings in this report.

On space for multi-stakeholder dialogue on national development policies

CSOs are consulted by the government in the design, implementation, and monitoring of national development policies. However, involvement of CSOs is not systematic, i.e. in a precise framework with a pre-defined and shared schedule. Access to information is guaranteed by law, but in practice, it is not easy for CSOs to obtain information on request.

There are a few mechanisms to facilitate coordination of programming between CSOs and other development actors or collaboration to maximise impact and avoid duplication of effort, but CSOs communicate very little about their funding, except for some government-funded activities.

On official development cooperation with CSOs

Most Cameroon Development Partners involve CSOs in defining policies and programs they support through workshops and awareness raising. These consultation processes are institutionalised, inclusive, and accessible, but there is no feedback mechanism on how contributions from different stakeholders have been taken into account. In general, external partners encourage the Cameroonian government to ensure CSOs' inclusion in the cooperation process, and sometimes require this as a precondition. They often remind of the need to enforce ratified regional and international agreements and legal instruments.

Legal and regulatory environment

The legal and regulatory environment enables the creation, registration, and operation of CSOs. Examples of regulations are: Law 90/053 on freedom of association, 1992 law on cooperatives and Common Initiatives Groups (CIG) and Law 99/014 governing Non-Governmental Organisations. In Cameroon, freedom of association is recognised and respected in the Constitution and other laws and regulations.

Private sector participation in growth and development

The private sector is ready to interact and communicate with the government and vice versa, but the level of that communication is still low because public agents do not provide the private sector with enough information. The working together is thus not yet effective because there is no permanent constructive and mutual dialogue. Private sector is considered as legitimate by its actors. It has the capacity to coordinate and harmonise its different components. It also has a certain level of influencing power on public actors and is ready to invest time and money in the related collaboration.

The private sector is motivated in the conduct of public-private projects. However, most of the national economic strategy is generally inspired and carried out according to the government's sole perspective. There are public sector bodies in charge of dialogue with the private sector and the government has the capacity to effectively monitor public-private projects. The Cameroon Business Forum (CBF) constitutes a space for exchanges between the government and the private sector on how to allow a conducive business environment, but CBF's recommendations are not always implemented nor enforced.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The CSO landscape in Cameroon is diverse and the overall engagement in development policies and monitoring development practices still face a lot of challenges. There is an active CSO participation in the monitoring and follow-up of public policies, but this in general is done on a self-sustained basis with a number of hindrances linked to the state of bureaucracy and non-enforcement of existing legislation on civil society activities. Engagement in official multi-stakeholder dialogue mechanisms with government and other stakeholders has been in progress over the years, as a result of personal efforts and insistence on the part of CSOs, but are yet to be meaningful as would allow a better political will accompanied with concrete allocation of public resources.

However, country-level CSO monitoring mechanisms on government performance with regard to development goals would also be improved if CSOs adjust their internal practices towards more effectiveness, accountability, transparency, communication, as well as vertical and horizontal collaboration among themselves. Internal CSO capacity building will support upgrading civil society leverage over major policy decisions at local or national level.

In general, it appears from the data collection process that even though answers collected with the questionnaires show some level of diversity, depending on the level of information of CSOs and on their area of operation (rural or urban), there is a trend that there are legal and institutional achievements in Cameroon with CSOs on the one hand. But on the other hand, a lot still needs to be done in terms factual application, implementation or law and regulation enforcement, information sharing, and capacity building or financial support for CSOs, to ensure an enabling environment.

Financing and capacity building instruments to support the public-private dialogue is not enough. These instruments exist but are rarely used. Their effectiveness is not yet really noticeable due to operational difficulties. There is not a program or quality mechanism for private sector development. There are specific sectoral instruments that meet the strategic needs of the private sector, but access to these instruments are dictated by the bureaucracy. It is not certain that stakeholders have the capacity to support innovative projects that could be used later as a case of success.

As for the GPEDC monitoring process in itself, the challenge remains to be providing enough resources for the National Focal Points to be more effective. Resource limitation also restricts the relevance and faithfulness of the report. The monitoring process would also gain much in having permanent features, with clear connection to the SDGs agenda implementation, before the period on consolidation. This portrays the need for a sustainable functioning monitoring, evaluation and accountability system in the country.



**CSO Validation Workshop
(GPEDC monitoring)*

CSOs' participation in the process was characterised by a clearly-expressed willingness by the government to involve CSOs, albeit with level of preference. It is also worth mentioning that CSOs achieved relatively high mobilisation and participation around the monitoring process. However, the lack of financial and logistical resources posed a serious challenge in achieving the desired level of participation.

Technically, there were some issues with the monitoring tools. Some parts in the questionnaire were not clear enough for some stakeholders.

A number of lessons could be learnt from the monitoring process. The monitoring exercise could be an opportunity for a constant assessment of development services provision, beyond the traditional GPEDC monitoring agenda. In fact, it has created emulation for a CSO work on an accountability framework for implementation of the 2030 Agenda on the SDGs in Cameroon.

From the results analysis, 10 key areas of improvement to ensure an enabling environment for CSOs in Cameroon were identified for final recommendations: (1) inclusion of marginalised groups; (2) CSOs' access to information; (3) CSOs' capacity building; (4) CSOs' engagement on transparency and accountabilities; (5) facilitation and coordination of CSOs' interaction; (6) CSOs' related institutionalised mechanisms, accessibility, and inclusion; (7) CSOs' collaboration with Development Cooperation Providers; (8) CSOs' funding; (9) social dialogue; and (10) CSOs' enabling environment in general. Thus, the CSO recommendations that transpired from the GPEDC monitoring process in general and the CSO validation process in particular are as follows:

- Identify and categorise CSOs by thematic area, share the updated directory with the government and Technical and Financial Partners so that CSO contacts by category and thematic areas are permanently available for any inclusive consultation or invitation to public dialogue, and their voice to be taken into account.
- Consolidate thematic networking through exchange of acquired experience between CSOs. Institutionalise processes, plan consultations in advance, and make documents available to relevant stakeholders before data collection.

- To make information available in a timely manner, legislation is needed on CSO access to information. Information should be updated instantly and posted on the websites of the government and other state structures.
- Allocate resources specifically for a structured capacity building of stakeholders, particularly CSOs involved in the GPEDC.
- Vote the trade unions law provided for in the 1990 law on freedom of associations. Create a specific framework for the management and funding of CSOs, as well as formalise and harmonise a code of ethics for civil society. Encourage skills transfer and exchanges between CSOs operating in the same field of action.
- Establish mechanisms that allow better public funding for CSOs as stakeholders in effective development processes, or their direct funding by development cooperation providers, and involve the state and districts in monitoring and validation based on specific criteria. Extend legal exemption benefits and aid to all categories of CSOs. Advocate the implementation of all legal provisions related to CSO funding.
- Systematically introduce the publication of CSOs' strategic and operational plans, as well as their annual balance sheets.
- Prioritise the development of national laws internalising international mechanisms or instruments ratified by Cameroon.
- Increase the number of civil society representatives in dialogues with development cooperation providers and communicate on procedures to access these bodies.
- With the view of improving monitoring mechanisms for Busan commitments at the country-level, allocate substantial public resources to the CSO monitoring process to also encompass the setting up of a national sustainable and functioning monitoring, evaluation and accountability system, with effective and inclusive framework and institutionalised multi-stakeholder dialogue features.

3 Stories from the Sectors

Coordinadora de la Mujer Participates in the 2030 Agenda Analysis During EC Regional Forum
Guatemala, 11 July 2016

Feminists



On 7-8 July in Antigua (Guatemala), Mónica Novillo of Coordinadora de la Mujer and Ana Tallada of Red Latinoamericana de Mujeres Transformado la Economía represented the CPDE in the European Commission Policy Forum on Development where implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the region was the main focus.

The forum did not only aim at analysing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean, but also aimed at promoting dialogue between civil society organisations and local authorities.

The forum gathered 80 CSO representatives and a large group of feminist organisations, including Coordinadora de la Mujer representing CPDE feminist constituency, Articulación Feminista Marcosur, Centro de la Mujer Flora Tristán, Cotidiano Mujer and Asociación Feminista La Cuerda. Non-government organisations, cooperatives, trade unions, private sector, and representatives of local authorities throughout Latin America were also present.

In this plural space comprised of multiple actors, the challenges faced by CSOs and local authorities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda were analysed, with particular emphasis on gender issues.

The outcomes of this meeting should be reflected in a series of recommendations in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the region, which will be endorsed by the different stakeholders and promoted jointly with the European Union and several regional and global spaces and dynamics.

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Trade Unions

The High Level Political Forum was held New York from the 11th to the 20th of July 2016. It provides a space for national governments to review their progress towards achieving the SDGs defined within the 2030 Agenda.

SDGs' first review: what happened in New York?

Matt Simonds (TUAC/TUDCN)

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The second week and High Level Segment of the [High Level Political Forum \(HLPF\)](#) in New York, on 18-20 July 2016, saw presentations from 22 governments about the steps being taken to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The National Voluntary Reviews, as they are known, are a key component of the follow up and review process which underpins the 2030 Agenda. They are the mechanism for governments to report on progress and challenges to achieving the targets set out by the SDGs. Each UN member state is "encouraged" to report to the HLPF at least three times over the fifteen-year period.

For the first year of these reviews, it was to be expected that countries would have little to present by way of progress against the SDGs and targets, since the agenda was only adopted one year ago, and the indicator framework for monitoring implementation is still being fine-tuned. It is therefore hard to pre-judge this year's HLPF, since the presentations could really only go as far as to indicate what measures are being taken to implement and achieve the 2030 Agenda. Nevertheless, the reviews felt very shallow, giving an air of simulation to the HLPF (a prepared brief/summary of each of the reviews can be found [here](#)).

Nearly all of the country presentations simply ran through the various initiatives under way and described how they would guarantee the realisation of the SDGs. Presentations were then followed by a series of planned interventions from one or two Member States and one representative from Major Groups and other Stakeholders (MGoS). The interventions of MGoS were in some way curated ahead of time and sent to the governments that were presenting reviews.

Something to note is that oddly and without much explanation some of the reviews were presented in blocks (i.e. four countries presenting in a row) with the ensuing discussion cutting across all country reviews while other countries chose to make longer, more comprehensive, individual presentations and have a focused discussion. As a result the presentations of the national reviews felt more like scripted theatre than interactive debate. An official UN summary of the presentations and ensuing discussions can be found [here](#).

Taking into account that this was the first HLPF since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and consequently withholding some criticism, civil society groups felt the program of the HLPF could have been much better designed to spur more interactive debate. In light of this, civil society groups prepared a letter suggesting three areas where the HLPF could be improved. The letter can be found [here](#). In summary, the program would be improved by reversing the order of the High Level Segment and the thematic segment so that the reflections gleaned from the national reviews could inform the more policy oriented thematic debates.

Following this, the national reviews are perhaps the most important part of the HLPF and should therefore be given more time to encourage deeper debate. The thematic discussions gave a great deal of space for dialogue and inputs from MGoS while the national reviews gave very limited opportunities—the national reviews should provide the same opportunity for input. Finally, national reviews need to better incorporate views from the non-executive, which was a common criticism across contexts. Overall, there is a serious need to reconsider how the High Level Segment is designed to effectively serve the “accountability” function for the SDGs and targets for which it is meant.

Running in parallel to the national reviews and part of the High Level Segment was the General Debate where heads of Member State Delegations intervened and where Davids Etyang from the Eastern Africa Trade Union Confederation (EATUC) [intervened](#) on behalf of the Workers and Trade Unions Major Group.

As an outcome, the HLPF produced a Ministerial Declaration (soon online [here](#)) which is more a matter of form than function. While some civil society groups were unhappy with the content and ambition in the declaration, expectations for a strong negotiated outcome should have been tempered by the event's proximity to the adoption of an ambitious agenda which took nearly three years to construct. At the very least having a negotiated and agreed declaration with some content sets a positive precedent going forward.

See [here](#) for the HLPF updates from the trade union delegation.

**This blog was originally published [here](#).*



Trade union delegation to the HLPF High-Level Segment. From left to right: Gustavo Suárez (CUT Colombia), Davids Etyang (EATUC), Jorge Robles (UNT Mexico), Antonia Wulff (Education International), Matt Simonds (TUDCN/ TUAC), Alex Nkosi (ITUC Africa), Julius Cainglet (FFW Philippines), Joan Lanfranco (TUDCN), Jiheon Lee (FKTU South Korea), Thierry Dedieu (CFDT France), Giulia Massobrio (CSA-TUCA).

Indigenous Peoples

World Social Forum: Indigenous Peoples' Struggles and Resistance

International Indigenous Peoples Movement for Self Determination and Liberation (IPMSDL)



MONTREAL - The International Indigenous Peoples' Movement for Self-Determination and Liberation was the host topic for a panel discussion by Tom Goldtooth-Dine' and Mdwakanton Dakota from Minnesota, Manari Ushigua Kaji of the Sapara Nation of Ecuador, brothers Joseph and Jacob Owate of the Anishnabe Nation, and Romeo Saganash, MP, of the Cree Nation.



Manari Ushigua Kaji of the Sapara Nation of Ecuador comes from an ancient civilization that once was a nation of 200,000 people who spoke 39 languages or dialects but now number only 555 people. They inhabit original forest land and maintain their clean air and water free of contamination. He said that for his people, there is no future, only a past and that what happens to them takes place in the spiritual world before it happens in the material world, "For us there is no future, only a past."

Ushigua Kaji described a spiritual connection between material objects in the non-native world to that in the spiritual world, "Petroleum has a spirit. Uranium has a spirit. Trees, water have a spirit. We are taking down the trees and using oil just for ourselves. There are spirits that are taking care of them. Spirit connects us with the rest of the universe."



Joseph Owate (Anishnabe Nation) was forcibly taken from his parents to attend boarding school ten months out of the year. He recalls earlier spending most of his life in the bush learning to hunt, trap, and fish.

In 1987 lumber companies entered the territory of his people through a trilateral agreement between the band council and the Quebec government. He protested and was jailed. He said he was charged with "mischief." He said in court he was asked directly for permission to cut lumber in his territory to which he responded, "This is unceded territory and you have no rights here. The next day they arrested me."

Owate said that about 85 percent of the wildlife reserve has been cut. Only one species of tree is left using the clear-cut method rendering the forest uninhabitable for many species, "The moose have left."

He wept when he described the trees that had been cut and had been discarded and left by the forestry companies, "You can not imagine how it looks. Because if you would see the images of what they've done to our land, to our territory, our way of life. They're destroying completely our way of life. And yet they want us to live in the city or on a reserve."



Jacob Owate was also arrested protecting his territory from deforestation, "We did some blockades and we got arrested." He founded Cocoville Academy for the purpose of preserving traditions among the younger generations.

"When I kill a moose, it becomes a resource, when I put it in my freezer it becomes my capital. Now my capital is being disposed of as if I didn't exist in the forest. The medicine is being crushed, nature is being changed, the animals are moving, and this is what is happening on our land. This is why I created Cocoville Academy, to show the world how did we exist prior to the arrival of the Europeans before colonization."



Romeo Saganash from Waswanipi in northern Quebec was also taken from his family at age seven to attend boarding school. He began his presentation saying that 57 percent of the energy in the province of Quebec comes from his territory. He is a member of Parliament and introduced bill C-262 in Parliament that passed 1st reading in April. Saganash was one of the original negotiators of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, "It took a long time for us to get the member states that we negotiated within that process to recognize that Indigenous Peoples were Peoples like all other Peoples. It was important because only Peoples under International Law have a right to self-determination." The four countries that voted against the UN Declaration in 2007 were Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States.

**This blog originally appeared [here](#).*

4 Blog

“We Are the Istanbul Principles!” My Impressions from the World Social Forum in Montreal

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The World Social Forum (WSF) took place on 8-14 August in Montreal. Central to the discussions were the Istanbul Principles, which were adopted in 2010 by the international civil society organisations (CSOs) in Turkey. The Principles serve as an important reference for CSOs for effective, modern development cooperation including human rights, gender equality, participation, and transparency.

In one of the side events called “The Istanbul Principles Five Years After (IP+5): Civil Society Development Effectiveness and Accountability in a Changing Landscape,” CSOs placed the eight (8) Principles under the microscope. As a representative of VENRO, I also took part in this workshop.

The event aimed to reflect on the progress of implementation of the Istanbul Principles since its inception. The CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE), which campaigns for the implementation of the Istanbul Principles, organised the workshop.

The Good-Humoured Chaos of the WSF

For this year, the WSF was held at the University of Quebec in Montreal. The Workshop took place in one of a vast number of buildings there on 11 August. Just as other participants experienced in other workshops, I too was lost and managed to find the correct building only after the third attempt. Other WSF participants only managed to locate their correct rooms towards the end of their workshops.

From the beginning, the CPDE was impressive: the workshop featured international speakers who critically reflected on the establishment of the Istanbul Principles. Three themes became prominent: civil society identity, “shrinking space,” and accountability.

We Are the Istanbul Principles

Antonio Tujan, civil society representative during the Fourth High-Level Forum in Busan, clarified the relationship of civil society to the Istanbul Principles: “The Istanbul Principles are not a goal that we strive for as civil society. It is concerned rather with how we do things, and who we are. We are the Istanbul Principles.”

There was a consensus among the participants that the Istanbul Principles were not new. The Principles were best practice standards already applied by majority of CSOs long before their adoption in 2010 – whether they were aware of the Istanbul Principles or not. At the same time, the Istanbul Principles are important as an instrument to position effectiveness and accountability as crucial themes in non-state development cooperation.

From “Shrinking Space” to “Closing Space”

Maina Kiai, UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, spoke about “shrinking space” – i.e. the constantly decreasing space in which CSOs are able to operate.

In his speech, Kiai proclaimed that the “shrinking space is increasingly becoming a closing space.” This is not only a problem of the South but also of the North. All countries are affected. However, the methods of repression at fault differ from country to country. A common problem is the incarceration of those who have differing political perspectives. Worsening attacks on activists are another sign of closing space.

It is necessary to work towards solutions to this problem. Maina Kiai urged that international civil society must itself face this challenge. It can learn from other successful social movements, such as the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) movement, which has, in recent years, achieved much progress. The closing space threatens CSO efforts worldwide.

Accountability to Target Groups Is as Important as Accountability to Donors

As another of the Istanbul Principles, the issue of accountability had a place on the agenda. NGOs have increasingly professionalized their financial and content reporting with respect to their donors. Meanwhile, their own target groups have often been left behind. The participants all agreed that “accountability” must not only mean accountability to donors. CSOs should do more to uphold accountability towards the beneficiaries of their projects. There is still much work to do in this area – but work that is well worthwhile. People have a right to know what happens to the resources intended to benefit them. Here the keyword is “participation” – which is another Istanbul Principle. The purpose of modern development work is to empower local communities as participants in planning and implementation.

Self-Assessment with the CSO Self-Test

In conclusion, the CPDE network presented the new self-test for CSOs (CSO Effectiveness Awareness Check) based on the Istanbul Principles. This assists development CSOs to examine how they have applied the Istanbul Principles – as compared anonymously with other organisations.

VENRO also deals extensively with the issues of effectiveness, accountability and transparency, for which there are individual workgroups. The new VENRO training series “Partnership for Quality and Effectiveness” aims, for example, to improve the effectiveness of CSO efforts.

The CSO Effectiveness Awareness Check will soon be made available online.
[Editors note: The CSO Effectiveness Awareness Check is online and can be found [here](#).]

**This blog was originally written in German and was originally published [here](#).*

5 Community Bulletin

CONCORD launched its survey on EU delegations' engagement with civil society. The survey aimed to assess the quality of relationship between CSOs and EU delegations. More specifically, it looks at how EU delegations are supporting an enabling environment for civil society at field level (for example, by fostering CSOs' participation in development programmes, political dialogue and decision making processes).

The report will be an advocacy tool that we will use to give feedback and make recommendations to the EU (delegations and headquarters), to EU member states, and to the civil society community. EuropeAid, in particular, has already welcomed this report since it will be useful for receiving feedback on its work. The findings will be presented in Brussels-based EU institution meetings and events and, as it was for the [previous report](#), it is likely that it will be presented also to EU Delegations/CSO focal points during their next encounter in Brussels.

The report will allow CONCORD to make a comparison with previous findings and to identify possible progresses.

For inquiries, contact Claudia Conticello at Claudia.Conticello@concordeurope.org.

CONCORD EU Delegations Report

CSO Awareness Check

**Test your accountability.
Reflect on your
effectiveness.**

**[Take the #CSOCheck
NOW!](#)**

Six years ago, civil society organisations embarked on a 3 year-long process of consolidating principles, indicators, and guidelines that guide our work as independent development actors. The outcome of this process, known as the Istanbul Principles, serve as guideposts for the global CSO community in improving our work and making it more meaningful to the people we serve.

In our continuing pursuit in turning these principles into practice, the CPDE developed the **#CSOCheck** (CSO Effectiveness Awareness Check) - a new web-based tool to help CSOs around the globe to check their progress in implementing the Istanbul Principles. Each Principle comes with four (4) simple questions to review how your organisation is faring in implementing the Istanbul Principles, all answerable in 20 minutes or less. Results will be sent to respondents and these can be used as reference for your organisation's semestral and annual assessments.

For inquiries, contact Marjorie Pamintuan at mpamintuan@aprnet.org.

The Reality of Aid Network released its [Global eNewsletter for January-June 2016](#).

The Reality of Aid E-Newsletter aims to complement network consolidation efforts by promoting membership awareness on the work of RoA in both global and regional levels, and creating spaces for learning and collaboration. Contributions to future editions are highly welcomed. Please get in touch with Erin Palomares at epalomares@realityofaid.org.

Reality of Aid Network Global eNewsletter

Upcoming Events

6

HLM2 Advocacy Strategy Meeting
Rome, Italy

21 – 22 September

To finalise the HLM2 Advocacy Strategy of CPDE, members of the platform's HLM2 Negotiation Team and HLM2 Core Group decided to conclude online discussions with a two-day face-to-face meeting.

10th CPDE Coordination Committee Meeting
Nairobi, Kenya

26 November

4th CPDE Global Council Meeting
Nairobi, Kenya

27 November

HLM2 Part 1: Preparatory Forums – Youth Forum and Women Forum
Nairobi, Kenya

28 November

HLM2 Part 2: CSO Preparatory Forum
Nairobi, Kenya

29 November

HLM2 Part 2: Ministerial Days
Nairobi, Kenya

30 November - 1 December

CPDE Coordination Committee Debriefing
Nairobi, Kenya

2 December

Contact

Know more about the **CSO Partnership**.

www.csopartnership.org

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Take part in the **CPDE eBulletin**.

Submit updates to comms@csopartnership.org.