

CSO Partnership 
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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CPDE calls on accountability of all development actors and genuine multistakeholder partnerships at this year's HLPF

Global Secretariat

For more information, please get in touch with Mayang Azurin at comms@csopartnership.org

New York, USA - The 2017 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) was conducted last July 10 to 19 at the United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York, USA. The HLPF is the UN's central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For this year, the Forum focused on "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world." The theme assessed SDG goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 14, and 17. This is a significant platform for CPDE to promote development effectiveness through collaborative efforts of all actors involved. Guided by the principles of effective development cooperation—country ownership, inclusive partnerships, a focus on results and transparency and accountability—the actors could develop their initiatives for individual to collective action and good.

CPDE's engagement with the HLPF was guided by the following objectives:

- 1** EDC framework includes emphases on accountability of all actors in development cooperation;
- 2** the importance of a genuine multistakeholder partnership to the 2030 Agenda follow-up and review process is elevated; and
- 3** CSO participation in multistakeholder partnerships and all of the sustainable development goals.

To carry out these objectives, three Co-Chairs and four other members participated in the forum. A CPDE members' meeting was organised by the Co-Chairs to facilitate all attending CPDE members in contributing to the results of the forum. Aside from this, CPDE also initiated a social media campaign, media releases, and blogs to cover and provide updates of the nine-day forum.

CPDE made substantial inputs during side-events and the official forum. Addys Then Marte, who represented CPDE and the NGO major group, [made an intervention](#) which centered on facilitating environment for organisations and called for an end to restrictive policies that limit NGOs.

CPDE Co-Chair Tetet Nera-Lauron also prepared a speech during *Session 13 Thematic Review: Investing in and Financing for SDGs During* her speech where she strongly registered CSO calls for 'a strong Ministerial Declaration with strong commitment to Means of Implementation, Gender Equality, Women's Human Rights.'

The Ground Level People's Forum (GLPF) was also co-organised by the CPDE, together with the Asia Pacific Forum for Law, Women, and Development (APWLD), Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (AP RCEM), Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN), Migrants Centre, ESCR, GABRIELA-USA, WE DO, and International Migrants' Alliance (IMA). GLPF was an opportunity for the CSOs and people from the ground to be heard and consulted regarding the Voluntary National Review (VNRs) of Member States.



After the release of the Forum's Ministerial Declaration, CPDE also released a statement with assessment of the Forum, the VNR process, and discussion on the means of implementation, among others.

CPDE hit the 'business-as-model' of development that continuously govern the means of implementation and financing for development. CPDE sees a drawback of many countries in terms of complying with the set of goals of SDG. Instead of attending to the needed services and unrealised multistakeholder partnerships and breaking away from restricted civic space in many countries, international public finance to attract private investments is given more priority.

It was also evident that the donor governments continue to fall flat on committing to official development assistance (ODA) and development cooperation.

These implementations entail few benefits on eradicating poverty and could only lead to private capital and the maximisation of profits, arising military bodies in countries affected by terrorism and conflict, and limitations to ongoing programs. At the least, the steps to make should adhere with inclusive and democratically set national and local priorities. In addition, accountability mechanisms, indicators, and guidelines must be in place to make sure that the processes will not elicit irregularities in society. CPDE considers a more participative action from all parties.

For the inclusiveness of the 2030 Agenda process, CPDE pointed that it should not just rely on the lessons learned from the review process but should be more inclined towards the inclusivity and participatory approach that amplifies transparency and accountability of the overall process.

For the HLPF and the voluntary nature of national reviews, CPDE noted the efforts of 44 countries in their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), only that it falls short on committing to accountability, universality, and the global commitment made two years ago. The VNRs were comprehensive, exclusive, selective, and lacking in depth and reality. CPDE conveys to the HLPF to strengthen VNRs through global, regional, and national levels.

Yet, it appears that civil society does not totally have a voice even to the Member States who presented their VNRs. The Member States should make an action to provide space for civil societies in order to achieve a positive environment for sustainable development, peaceful societies, and accountable governance.

This can be through a form of setting institutionalised participation of civil society and peoples' organisations at all levels of the review process. Also, the poor and vulnerable sectors, which are the primary stakeholders of the 2030 Agenda, should have participation in monitoring, reporting, and review processes.

For the multistakeholder partnerships in the 2030 Agenda, CPDE also hoped for a detailed presentation on how multistakeholder partnerships could be strengthened. There should be an outline based on the principles of Effective Development Cooperation, which are transparency, accountability, democratic country ownership, focus-on-results, and inclusive development partnerships.

Generally, CPDE believes that the success of implementation of 2030 Agenda as well as the achievement of SDGs lie on the delivery of adequate public finance to developing countries and regular consultation with the people who are the beneficiaries of development initiatives. CPDE continuously calls for effective development cooperation in the universal arena.

More information on CPDE's participation:



CPDE Reaction to the 2017 High Level Political Forum (HLPF) Ministerial Declaration

CPDE commends Member States and other stakeholders, including civil society, for their sustained ambition around the 2030 Agenda. CPDE acknowledges the engaged participation of all stakeholders in the HLPF, and in particular the 44 VNRs that were presented as a manifestation of governments' commitments on the road to achieving the 2030 Agenda objectives.

CPDE acknowledges the inclusion of the right to development (§2 and §4) and gender equality (§5); and the importance given to countries in special situations such as countries in conflict and post-conflict situations, African countries, Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States.

CPDE also appreciates the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration that continues the momentum of the process and adherence to people-centred and universal attributes of the 2030 Agenda. CPDE cautions that while the Ministerial Declaration is important, if it were to only reflect the minimum agreeable points between Member States then it betrays the ambition of the 2030 Agenda and hampers the momentum for the next years to come.

On the skewed Means of Implementation (MOI)

The means of implementation - the most vital component of the 2030 Agenda follow-up and implementation processes, however, is unmistakably skewed.

CPDE is concerned that the delivery of SDGs in many countries falls short of the transformation needed to realise the ambitious set of goals.

CPDE stresses that infrastructure, industry, and innovation does not directly translate to the goals of socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable economic development (§3 and §18). These are often geared more

towards private capital and the maximisation of profits, with only minimal and indirect benefits for poverty eradication. At the very minimum, these should be aligned with inclusive and democratically set national and local priorities. Accountability mechanisms, indicators, and guidelines must also be set in place to ensure that these processes do not magnify the current inequities in society (§18).

The "business-as-usual" approach has the counterproductive consequence that it delays or impedes addressing the structural or root causes of poverty in all its forms. In particular, tackling the systemic barriers that are resulting in ever growing inequalities within and among countries is fundamental if we are to realise the transformative promise of the 2030 Agenda.

We are seeing a shift towards using international public finance as catalyst to attract private investments instead of directly supporting needed services, unrealised multistakeholder partnerships, and a continued restriction on civic space in many countries.

CPDE underscores the need to continue and conclude the discussion on MOI. Donor governments continue to fall short on their commitments on ODA and development cooperation. We urge all parties to take steps to urgently fulfill commitments made to untying of aid, ending policy conditionality, use of country systems consistent with human rights principles, transparency of information and development flows, and upholding Common But Differentiated Responsibility (CBDR).

CPDE also takes note that while the special needs of countries in challenging situations, including those affected by terrorism and conflict, have been recognized (§2) there are no explicit references to halt militarism and the increasing role of development finance in funding militarism. CPDE stresses that the 2030 Agenda should reverse the trend of using development finance to support military endeavours and acts of aggression.

On the HLPF and the voluntary nature of national reviews

CPDE recognises the efforts made by the 44 countries in their VNRs at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF), especially those that engaged civil society in their respective review processes. The voluntary nature of the review process, however, undermines accountability, universality, and the global commitment made two years ago.

We caution against the continued voluntary nature of reporting and participation and how it results in differing levels of quality amongst the reports, where some are comprehensive while others are exclusive, selective, and lacking in depth and reality.

CPDE reiterates its call for the HLPF to strengthen the guidelines for review at the global, regional, and national levels for this process to be truly effective.

On inclusiveness of the 2030 Agenda process

Lesson learnt from the review process cannot be the only basis in enhancing the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda of Member States as the declaration suggests (§24). The 2030 Agenda process should embody a more inclusive and participatory approach to improve transparency and accountability of the process.

The continued closing space for civil society is alarming and is still present even in many of the Member States who have presented their VNRs. This runs counter to the inclusive nature of the 2030 Agenda and its ambition to leave no-one behind. Member States, in keeping with the ambition of the 2030 Agenda, should set out to reverse the trend of closing spaces for civil society to build a positive environment for sustainable development, peaceful societies, and accountable governance. Minimum standards must also be set for the institutionalised participation of civil society and peoples organisations at all levels of the review process.

The declaration should have also emphasised the need for primary stakeholders of the 2030 Agenda, which are the poor and vulnerable sectors, to participate in the monitoring, reporting, and review processes (§9).

On multi-stakeholder partnerships in the 2030 Agenda

While the declaration acknowledges the importance of multistakeholder partnerships for ending poverty, it goes to no lengths in detailing how exactly these multistakeholder partnerships will be strengthened (§20).

CPDE stresses that the international community must outline the modalities that will help improve the quality of these partnerships, particularly in the light of the increasing role of private sector in delivering 2030 Agenda. Principles of Effective Development Cooperation, namely transparency and accountability, democratic country ownership, focus-on-results, inclusive development partnerships, in addition to the respect of human rights, must be the foundation of these multistakeholder partnerships. These principles ensure that multistakeholders partnerships enable development to become meaningful to people and to make stakeholders accountable to people.

CPDE strongly believes that success in implementing the 2030 Agenda and achieving the SDGs is only possible if the long-standing commitment of the international community to provide adequate public finance to developing countries (in particular Least Developed Countries, landlocked and island states, and countries in conflict or recovering from natural disasters) is fulfilled and the ultimate beneficiaries of development initiatives - the people - are consulted.

CPDE stresses that the hard reality about the 2030 Agenda is that it is ultimately an aspirational agenda with no enforcement mechanism built in. CPDE's concern is compounded by the fact that the declaration is also devoid of Effective Development Cooperation principles. CPDE, through its engagement with the 2030 Agenda, continues to call for the universal application of effective development cooperation in this process. These principles are crucial for the global partnership for sustainable development and the implementation of the SDGs.

[Download the statement here.](#)

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CPDE Blogs



Patricia Blankson Akakpo
CPDE Co-Chair
NETRIGHT Programme Manager

Reflections on the HLPF2017 and the Ministerial Declaration: What is at stake for the people?

Development must be by the people, for the people, and of the people and **NOT** against the people. Genuine sustainable development can only be achieved if the '*powers that be*' shift the game from '*business as usual*' to discussing the realities on the ground in order to find practical people-centered solutions which address the needs of those who elected them to power.

The hassle and tassel is over. The 2017 High Level Political Forum (HLPF) ended with the adoption of a Ministerial Declaration (MD). Is the MD an antidote for the realities on the ground? What were the issues, gaps, challenges, and achievements? All these are questions that require answers that I don't have.

For me, the 2017 HLPF was a challenging space to penetrate, with civil society out of their wits to pose questions within very limited time-frames (if they were lucky enough to be recognised at all by the moderator in the first place), to Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) countries presenting reports – in which most were far from reality. Almost all the reports championed public private partnerships (PPPs) as the remedy for the means of implementation (MOIs) to promote sustainable development without analysing the cost of these partnerships to the livelihoods of their people. This can only point to the lack of comprehensive and inclusive multistakeholder processes at the country level during the voluntary national reporting process where governments pick and choose which stakeholders to engage with, thus leaving behind majority of the people who suffer the consequences of neo-liberal policies.

The reality is there are still structural and systemic challenges that have created barriers inhibiting women and girls from enjoying their basic human rights. Gender inequality is pervasive on all counts, with majority of women living in poverty. Many countries have discriminatory laws/policies targeting women and girls, including unequal inheritance, property rights, and accessibility of resources/services. Social protection is a huge challenge. Unpaid care work remains a significant barrier to women's labour force participation and economic empowerment. The time and opportunity costs of unpaid care work have a severely negative impact on women's access to paid employment, and define the types of jobs women are able to do. Although every society and economy benefits from women's unpaid care work, it has largely been ignored by economic and social public policy initiatives. While civic space continues to shrink with constant struggle by civil society to remain relevant due to unfavourable environment and many CSOs in particular, women's rights/feminist organisations folding up, the private sector – mainly multi-national corporations (MNCs) - is increasingly gaining unregulated environments and preferential treatment at the expense of indigenous people and businesses.

The 2017 HLPF Ministerial Declaration may not be the best, but it serves as the basis for advancing and achieving the sustainable development goals put forth, agreed to and adopted by all member states in 2015.

“Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world” where just eight men hold the same wealth as the poorest half of the world requires tackling systemic barriers and structural inequalities, including neo-liberalist capitalism, fundamentalisms, racism and patriarchy, that cause and exacerbate inequalities; it also requires addressing issues of militarism, corporate influence, consumption and production and shrinking civil society space.”¹

To leave no one behind, it is critical that the voices of the poor, vulnerable and marginalised are heard as well as allowed to take part in decisions that affect them. There is the need for the establishment of more effective and inclusive formal structured mechanisms to encourage sustainable development at the country level. Unfortunately, current mechanisms for multistakeholder partnerships do not provide enabling environment for citizens’ engagement to ensure ‘no one is left behind.’ Country-level mechanisms and partnerships must create a space that enables the voices of the most marginalised and vulnerable to be heard and needs addressed (institutionalised policy dialogue and civic space is key - tokenistic representation is not the solution).

¹ Quoted from WMG Statement

HLPF 2017 and challenges in realising Development Effectiveness Agenda

CPDE participation at the UN HLPF 2017 helped to realise the persisting challenges in achieving development effectiveness agenda, especially within the UN mechanisms. A pertinent question is whether the HLPF is progressing towards a transformative development agenda by continuing with the same business-as-usual development model or by undoing it.

CPDE positions on the HLPF and its Ministerial Declaration (MD), such as respect and promotion of CSO enabling environment, adoption of human rights-based approach to development, gender justice, ensuring private sector accountability, inclusive multistakeholder partnership and so on can indeed help answer this question. The MD has outlined strong language on right to development and recognition and for efforts to end foreign occupation. The slight reference on human rights to development is conspicuous, however, with an absence of corresponding languages and text on commitments on practices to adherence to human rights principles in development processes and in the means of implementation section. There continues the overt focus on private sector role in development financing as well. Further, there are challenges with the explicit lack of reference to CSO’s rightful role at the National and sub-national context, both in devising policies on SDGs realisation and also in the follow up and review of such processes, including the HLPF VNRs.

The HLPF processes and subsequent negotiations on the MD reveals how several powerful, rich and developed countries are unwilling to assume responsibility for much of the world’s crisis and the insistence of a development model that unleashed much of the world’s “unsustainability.” The insistence of several UN member states in continued pursuance of unsustainable, environmentally-destructive and socially-problematic development discourse based on profits is a clear challenge.

Indeed, multinational companies from major developed countries continue to unleash unsustainable development practices, including mining activities, oil explorations, and large infrastructure projects that have led to large-scale cases of land grabbing, plunder of natural resources, disasters, and human rights violations. CPDE members strived to add pressure on several countries responsible for causing much of the world’s environmental challenges to support people-oriented actions and adopt strong measures to mitigate the impacts of climate change.



Jiten Yumnam
CPDE Indigenous
Peoples Constituency

Overt Focus on Private Sector Role: Despite concerns raised, there is an overt focus on the private sector financing for means of implementation (MOI) without clearly addressing the need for their accountability based on full implementation of human rights standards. Private sector financing is still a contested and critical area of concern for CPDE, which requires a stronger focus and also commitments from the member states of the UN. The sessions on partnership exchange and “Role of Business for Sustainable Development” too are also loaded with testament of partnership of corporate bodies, financial institutions with minimal focus on community participation and recognition of their inherent rights. For instance, the full day session on partnership exchange on July 17 was more of examples of agri-business companies like Syngenta presenting cases of how it pursued its business plan through micro-credits with farmers in Peru. The challenge however again is the limitation of space and time of civil society organisations to respond and discuss the larger implications of such partnership models and financings.

The overt focus on the private sector role and financing in the means of implementation for SDGs continues to be a common denominator for most of the powerful countries, both OECD and major developing countries.

The centrality of private sector role in realising SDGs seems further reinforced in the MD, which clearly is a concern. This is notwithstanding the lack of fresh commitment from OECD countries to fulfill their ODA commitments on development financing.

This is despite the fact that there is the expressed need for a clear regulatory and accountability mechanism to hold private sector and corporate bodies accountable for undermining development effectiveness principles.

CSO participation in VNR during HLPF: The challenges in realising CSOs’ enabling environment can easily be gauged from the VNR review processes as the involvement of CSOs in VNR monitoring and review is a serious area of concern in HLPF. The involvement of CSOs in the preparation of VNR report at the national and sub-national level, and also in the direct VNR review, during HLPF is negligible in most countries under review. It is highly appreciable that countries such as Sweden set an example by including CSOs in its delegations for the country’s VNR review. However, the extreme limitation of space to present statements and to highlight the challenging realities within communities’ context is again a major concern.

Further, an exclusive and limited form of review, where countries report only the glory and aspirational development model without insisting on CSOs’ role and participation in defining development effectiveness and the partnership processes will do little in realising SDGs. The dismantling of regulations towards imposing restriction on CSOs and their functioning at country and sub-national level seems to extend to the United Nations HLPF review itself, as several countries, like India and Tajikistan failed to entertain comments and interventions from CSOs on development realities. Indeed, the most remarkable feature of India’s VNR is that at the end of review, none of the civil society representatives from the major stakeholders were able to make statements. The shrinking space of civil societies is already a matter of concern in India, including targeting of human rights and environmental organizations, restrictions on Foreign Contributions Regulation Act (FCRA), etc. The purpose of VNR review is simply defeated.

The real purpose and meaning of the review is lost if alternate realities could not be discussed alongside the VNRs. An absence of a critical reflection of the gaps and failure to set of appropriate regulatory mechanisms, such as on high prevalence of corporate unaccountability, increased militarization, etc. will never lead to sustainable development.

Not only is the voluntary nature of the VNRs a concern, but the lack of an integrated and holistic review of the SDGs goals is also deeply alarming. The review modalities of countries need a serious overhaul. This is to ensure that realities at sub-national level are reflected and communities’ voices are well represented for a real and meaningful review at HLPF. CPDE needs to stress this in the lead up to the review of the HLPF slated in 2019.

From the Sectors

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Trade Unions | Trade unions take on the UN High Level Political Forum 2017

International Trade Union Confederation

For more information contact [Joan Lanfranco](#)

The original article can be read [here](#).

The [High Level Political Forum](#) 2017 on Sustainable Development (HLPF) took place at the United Nations headquarters in New York from 10-19 July 2017, under the overall theme of "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world." A trade union delegation attended the event.

The first week of the HLPF (10-14 July), which has a thematic focus, reviewed [SDGs](#) 1 (no poverty), 2 (zero hunger), 3 (good health and well-being), 5 (gender equality), 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure) and 14 (life below water), including goal 17 (partnerships). During the second week of the HLPF (17-19 July), [44 countries presented voluntary national reviews](#) (VNRs). Trade union representatives from a number of these countries attended under the TUDCN-ITUC delegation, some of which within government delegations.



Reflections on this year's HLPF

The level of interest this year's HLPF generated across the international development community is encouraging and is a sign of some degree of commitment to this process. However, it is also quite clear that the HLPF remains a work in progress, which faces many challenges if there is any hope of maintaining the same level of interest in the years to come. Some of these challenges can be resolved through the program and modalities of the HLPF itself, while other issues are more deeply political and will require more earnest efforts from governments.

After the second review year of the HLPF, it is quite clear that the program needs to be adjusted to allow for greater discussion on the national level review processes. This can be done by extending the length of the VNR week from three to five days or by reversing the program so that the thematic week runs three days and the VNR week runs five days. The thematic week provides significantly more space for inputs from civil society groups, but still little in the way of interactive dialogue.

By contrast, the VNR week faces a much more fundamental challenge in that there is precious little time for any type of input from civil society groups, let alone for an interactive dialogue, which it should naturally lend itself too. The process risks becoming purely for show if it continues in its current formulation. At present UN Member States make publicity statements rather than genuine presentations and show little by way of ambition or sincere prospective analysis as to the situation in 2030. This is partly due to the fact that many VNR presentations are still in an implementation or stock taking phase.

Voluntary national reviews at country level

Experience with the VNR process at national level suggests a need for improvement. As the [Trade Union Focus on SDGs](#) in 8 VNR countries showed, governments need to improve their methods of consultation with civil society. Experience has been mixed in terms of openness, transparency and inclusion of the VNRs. This is due to a range of reasons, from governments not having any intention to consult, to governments themselves being under severe time pressure and not well coordinated to prepare the reviews.

To improve the VNR process there is a need for better coordination at all levels. This starts with the creation of an institutionalised setting for these reviews that brings together all relevant actors. This would improve the transparency and predictability of the consultations. This would also help to ensure that the VNRs do not become one-off reports with no follow-up action at national level.

Official channels need to be established to receive civil society input, supported by guidelines, for the integration of the national reporting. Following the production of the VNRs, governments would do well to undertake a validation exercise whereby civil society can “vet” the information which will be presented to the HLPF.

Finally, parallel monitoring of national reviews needs to be encouraged and space needs to be given to officially convey the messages that come out of such exercises so that they can complement the findings of the national reviews.

Read the trade union HLPF2017 highlights and interventions [here](#).

Trade Unions

Trade Union SDG Monitoring

Trade unions, through the Trade Union Development Cooperation Network (TUDCN), are heavily involved in the SDG process at global, regional and national level. Through their everyday work on upholding freedom of association, social dialogue and collective bargaining, on promoting decent work and the rights of working people, trade unions are instrumental to achieving the SDGs. The members of the TUDCN are conducting their own national monitoring and analysis to make sure that countries are on track to fulfil their commitments. The review takes into account the trade union priority SDGs: SDG1 (end poverty), SDG5 (gender equality), SDG8 (decent work), SDG10 (reduced inequalities), SDG13 (climate action) and SDG16 (peace, justice and strong institutions). The reviews will be promoted during the UN’s High Level Political Forum (HLPF) and the UN regional fora on sustainable development, which are the follow-up and review mechanisms of the 2030 Agenda.

The key messages emerging from the trade unions’ national monitoring and analysis are presented in the country profiles, are available [here](#).

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Update from the Global Secretariat

CPDE units meet for 2nd All Secretariats Meeting, related meetings

For more information, please contact [Jodel Dacara](#)

Hong Kong SAR, China—CPDE gathered all secretariat coordinators in Hong Kong from July 13 to 14, 2017 for the second All Secretariats Meeting (ASM). Members of the ASM are tasked to ensure that their constituency plans and imperatives align with the general program, and initiatives are synergised with other units.

This year's ASM was conducted against the backdrop of worsening economic, political, and social crises, as underlined by Tony Tujan in his keynote speech. The world, as CPDE has noted, is facing unprecedented rise of inequalities at various levels--between and within regions, countries and communities, between men and women, as a result of profit-driven development model that only benefits the elite. ODA is failing to deliver its intended mandate of addressing poverty and social inequality. Global challenges like security, militarism and conflict, crisis of migration and climate change have exposed the growing contradiction and tension between and within developed and developing nations to the detriment of the people.

Internally, as explained by Amy Padilla, CPDE is in the process of realising the outcomes of the strategic planning that are framed towards realising and universalising effective development cooperation as the platform's response to global challenges.

Programmatically, the platform is poised to implement subsequent agreements and decisions made by the Coordination Committee (CC) and Global Council (GC) to operationalise the strategic plan. The platform is also ending its first Multi-Donor Programme, while continuing year 2 of the European Commission-Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) project. A Bridge Funding Programme (BFP) is also expected to roll out by second half of 2017. These programmes are the mechanisms used by the platform to support and resource its strategic plan.





Participants went through a discussion of the CPDE's general and specific workstreams. Reviews of the past ASM agreements and 2016 programme work were provided to the participants. Members of the Global Secretariat went through a number of issues that affected CPDE work and practice. These issues were divided into: (a) policy, outreach, and external communications, (b) membership engagement, (c) country work, and (d) programme compliance. Commissions were formed to solicit recommendations how best to address these key issues. Recommendations were presented to the plenary and discussed before agreeing on action points and ways forward.

Constituency plans were also presented through Core Business and the five advocacy priorities of the platform. This was done to draw alignment and synergy between initiatives. Participants were also acquainted into the 2017 CPDE programme and financial plans, as well as the planning process for the new programme for the next three years. At the end of the training, secretariats had major agreements on resolving issues raised as well as the process for implementing the 2017 plans and developing the new programme.

On 15 July, regional secretariats gathered for the Strategic Planning Session on regional observatorio work. The said session was part of CPDE's capacity development work on monitoring development cooperation and partnerships. The activity was aimed at consolidating plans for the CSO Regional Skills Training on Monitoring Development Cooperation and Partnerships to be led by regions.

All seven regions presented their initial plans to other regions and the GS which in turn provided substantive comments for the plan's revision and improvement. At the end of the training, everyone agreed that a global framework shall be developed by the GS to guide the revision process for all regional plans.

On the same day, sectors sat together with the Working Group on CSO Development Effectiveness and the GS to discuss their initial ideas for the sectoral skills training on CSO DE. The initiative, which is under the EC-SIDA action, seeks to develop sectoral guidelines to assist the implementation of the Istanbul Principles. Aside from these guidelines, sectors also discussed how to contribute to CPDE's objective of developing country compacts for CSO DE.

The observatorio and sectoral CSO DE works will start rolling out by second half of this year.

Meet the Global Secretariat

The Global Secretariat, based in Manila, Philippines, supports the day-to-day operations and specific work streams of the CPDE platform. Below are the people that make up the GS.

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Calendar

September

- 6-8** UN Development Cooperation Forum High Level Symposium | San Martin Palace Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA
- 14-15** CSO-Development Assistance Committee Strategy Meeting | Paris, FRANCE
- 20-22** Stockholm Civil Society Days | Stockholm, SWEDEN

October

- 3-4** Policy Forum on Development Multi-stakeholder Forum in Jordan for the Neighborhood Region (Arab)
- 5 (TBC)** 13th meeting of the Task Team on Partnership Forum on Development
- 9-10** CPDE Feminist Constituency Meeting
- 11** 12th Coordination Committee meeting | Berlin, GERMANY
- 12** 5th Global Council meeting | Berlin, GERMANY

For the list of those attending, please refer to this [link](#).

Contact

Know more about the **CSO Partnership**.

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Submit updates to membership@csopartnership.org.