

Challenges to NGOs in the Post 2015 World

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Agenda 2030: Sustainable Development Goals

- 1: Poverty
- 2: Food Security
- 3: Health
- 4: Education
- 5: Gender Equality
- 6: Water & Sanitation
- 7: Energy
- 8: Economic growth, employment, decent work
- 9: Infrastructure & Industrialisation
- 10: Inequality
- 11: Cities & human settlements
- 12: Consumption
- 13: Climate change
- 14: Oceans & Seas
- 15: Ecosystems, Forests, biodiversity
- 16: Peace & Security, access to Justice
- 17: Global Partnership

The Post 2015 Key Challenges for NGOs

1. Enabling Environment - emerging democracies coupled with **shrinking space for NGO/CSO** but rise of democratic virtual space, and different forms citizen activism
2. Increased dominance of the **Private sector** [mission creep]
3. **Scale and shape** – ODA flows based on lesser partners, deeper engagement, larger grants. This means less about individual NGOs - more about networks, platforms, coalitions, social movements
4. **Globalisation vs localisation** – resistance to global governance by the south – south/south cooperation
5. **ODA vs domestic resource mobilisation** – BRICS, middle income countries, graduation of LDCs
6. **Impact of Climate Change** – increased poverty – climate migration, food insecurity, human security challenges

Call for NGO Mission relevance & increased NGO accountability

**Accountability and legitimacy
relate to the ability and practice of
CSOs to represent and or service
their constituencies**

Accountability and Development Effectiveness

- Accountability is crucial principle and element of development effectiveness
- Other pertinent principles - empowerment and participatory governance; gender justice in process and results accountability
- Transparency as an element and implementation of participatory governance methods; need for full transparency including contracts and policy conditionality and impact evaluation
- Proactive approach to accountability – role of citizens and local organizations in program design and approval processes and the role of various governmental bodies, civil society and other actors (ex. Social acceptability clause in EIA)

CSO development effectiveness and accountability

- CSOs as development actors in their own right
- Substantial aid volumes, role in empowerment, democracy and as watchdogs
- CSOs accountability measured by their development effectiveness to constituencies, society at large, government and donors
- CSOs are expression of right to association, are private voluntary actors in the public interest – require their own appropriate principles and mechanisms of development effectiveness and accountability

Where is the demand coming from?

- **Growth in the size and influence of the CSO sector worldwide**
 - Increasing role in service provision, public policy and setting norms and standards is leading to greater influence and thus scrutiny of CSOs
- **Boomerang effect**
 - Increased demands on others to be more accountable has put CSOs accountability on the spotlight
- **Self-inflicted wounds**
 - Scandals and negative media coverage
- **Donor pressure**
 - Donors are having to justify aid money to their publics and therefore putting pressure on CSOs to demonstrate results and impacts
 - New philanthropists want a return on their investments
 - Individual donors are more discerning and want more information on performance before giving money **[Credit: one world trust]**

Why CSO Accountability?

- To promote public trust
- Improve transparency, legitimacy and raise standards of practice
- Organisational learning and knowledge sharing
- Concern about government encroachment and loss of flexibility

Types of accountability

- *Fiscal* – financial conditionality – donor, govt.
- *Market* – Membership, financial sponsorship
- *Supervisory* – regulatory/oversight by govt.
- *Legal* – pertaining to law e.g. registration
- *Peer* –collaboration with peers
- *Internal* – governance, staff
- *Constituency* – those being represented
- *Communities & partners* – those being served

Multiple accountability

- *Representative Accountability* – obligation to constituencies, membership
- *Principal-Agent Accountability*
- *Mutual Accountability* – mutual compacts
- *Moral accountability* – ensuring that activities of the CSO match its mission
- *Procedural accountability* – internal governance, financial management, procedural

Accountability mechanisms

1. *Transparency mechanism* – Free flow of information between organisation and stakeholders on decision making, performance – audited accounts, annual report
2. *Participation mechanism* – enable internal and external stakeholders to be involved in decision making – inclusion of stakeholders in Board of directors
3. *Evaluation mechanism* – possible for stakeholders and CSOs to assess activities, outcome, output and impact
4. *Complaints and redress mechanism* – vehicle for raising questions about CSO performance

Value of CSOs role in improving accountability

1. *Accessing, interpreting and distributing information* to multiple stakeholders in useable and accessible formats
2. *Demanding accountability of government directly*
3. *Supporting and encouraging formal oversight actors* to demand accountability (legislature, judiciary, auditors)
4. Supporting and encouraging other actors to demand accountability

Recommendations (Open Forum)

- Istanbul Principles as foundation for accountability standards but accountability mechanism must also address the broader question of organisational governance
- Be clear about who is accountable to whom for what
- Self-regulatory mechanisms work best with those whose work will be measured
- Code of conduct and accountability mechanisms should be meaningful to, and accessible for primary stakeholders
- Flexibility and adaptability
- Model good practice and not impose principles and results measurements on others that CSOs cannot accept for themselves
- Lessons learned to be used at the country level through associations of CSOs

Civil society advocacy – *theory of change*

- National building is a shared responsibility between government and her people. This requires, effective citizenship & coordinated civil society engagement and recognition of CSOs as equal development partners.
- Strong CSO leadership is necessary to impact on good governance, democracy, poverty reduction, equitable economic growth.
- CSO capacity strengthening is necessary – enabling legislative and policy environment, core funding support, visionary leadership effective coordination.

Thank you
Vinaka vakalevu



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