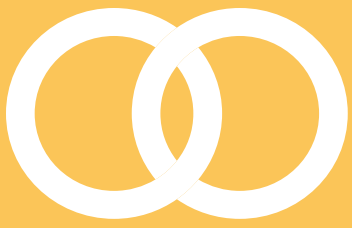




CPDE Constituencies

Gaining Ground,
Facing Challenges





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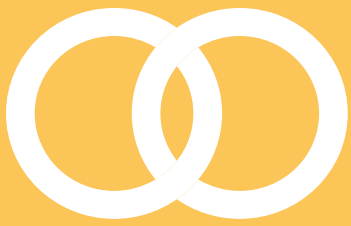


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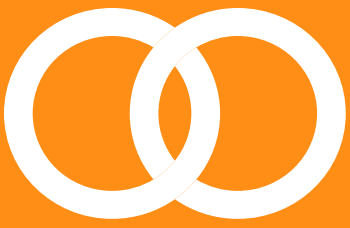


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Summary Paper



Background and methods

Key findings

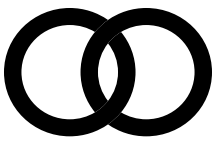
Part I:
Reviewing Key Developments in EDC

Part II:
Capacity development work of constituencies

Part III:
Grounding EDC

Part IV:
Sharing best practices and relevant policy arenas,
strategies and capacities





Background and methods



As part of the program on grounding effective development cooperation (EDC) and development partnership in peoples' realities and realisation of their rights, CPDE embarked on the challenge of concretising the EDC discourse/agenda to constituencies' realities. To do this, CPDE has sought to clarify important linkages and ground its advocacies to broaden ownership.

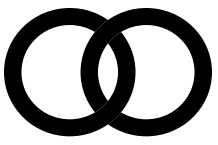
CPDE conducted consultations with the regional and sectoral constituencies and working groups through their respective secretariats regarding their practices and capacities in linking EDC principles and commitments to their realities and advocacies. These consultations aimed to: 1) discuss and ground the EDC principles and commitments around the issues that are relevant to their respective contexts; 2) know the outcomes of capacity development activities of CPDE constituencies in order to identify challenges and best practices; 3) identify relevant regional/sectoral development cooperation policy arenas or partnerships where they can advance the discourse on EDC, and 4) identify needed capacities to do such.

The design, workplan and instruments were submitted to and approved by the Global Secretariat. A pre-test for the instrument was conducted then the instrument was revised accordingly. Upon the finalisation of the design, the network manager communicated with the constituency secretariats about the study.

A review of the reports submitted by the constituencies to the Global Secretariat was done prior to the conduct of the consultations. The review resulted in initial matrices of capacity development activities and reported outputs and results, which were then validated during the key informant interviews.

Interviews with constituency secretariats were done from November to December 2019 (except for one consultation that was conducted in February). Two secretariats were not available: Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) constituency and International CSO constituency. One secretariat (Pacific constituency) turned in responses via email. The first drafts of the constituency papers were sent to the secretariats for validation and were revised accordingly.

The limitation of this endeavour is in relation to constituency programming. Since constituencies have had more autonomy in designing their programs, capacity development was not done in a programmatic manner, i.e. capacity development was not an explicit part of the global program. As such, there are no common assessment parameters that have been agreed upon prior to this activity. It was up to the constituencies to determine their capacity needs and activities, if and when applicable to their mandate and program. Thus, the assessment of the constituency themselves and/or with the secretariats holds primary importance in this endeavour.



Key findings



1

Constituencies have a generally comprehensive understanding and appreciation of capacity development. This means that developing capacities are not only through targeted trainings and workshops but also through policy advocacy activities, researches and monitoring activities.

2

Capacity development among the constituencies in the last two years was uneven. The constituencies planned their programs based on what have been done in the past years and what they identified as necessary in this particular period. Some of these programs have not been planned to include capacity development activities. Given that, constituencies acknowledge that capacity development should be programmed or a capacity development component should be included in conceptualising major activities (e.g. 3rd monitoring round, high-level engagements, Aid Observatorio etc.)

3

The constituencies in general are satisfied with the results of their capacity development efforts (both under the current CPDE program or as complement to the CPDE program). However, they recognise that much more needs to be done in achieving results and they are facing challenges of shrinking democratic spaces, coordination, communication and participation problems within constituencies, lack of sufficient financial resource and other internal limitations.

4

Capacity development is also key to sustainability. This means that constituencies need to be conscious in building capacities of second-liners in policy advocacy, multi-stakeholder engagements and partnerships, research and monitoring, administrative, financial and organisational development, among others.

5

Constituencies do not, in general, have difficulty in using the principles of effective development cooperation to engage policy actors and other CSOs on their day-to-day issues. However, they are confronted with shrinking or closing democratic spaces and the lack of enabling environment. There is a challenge, however, on using EDC principles in arenas where EDC is not the main agenda, such as international sector-specific or issue-specific bodies and regional blocs, on the lack of democratisation in engagement arenas, on shifting CSO and donors' priorities in times of war and conflict and a host of internal challenges within constituencies and CPDE structures.

6

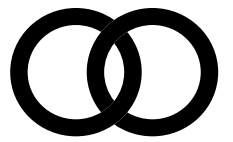
The best practices of constituencies are reflections of how they have developed their engagement and partnership strategies to advance EDC. Still, there must be a rethink on how constituencies consciously document good practices and a systematised way of sharing these to facilitate co-learning.

7

Capacities that constituencies want to be developed revolved around: policy and program monitoring and research, messaging, effective and results-oriented international engagement, fund-raising and finance management.

Part 1

Reviewing Key Developments in EDC



The constituencies are bound by their commitment to promote EDC principles and the concrete commitments in the Nairobi Outcome Document (NOD). These commitments are reflected in the Civil Society Manifesto for Effective Development Cooperation (CPDE Manifesto).

The Busan Principles

The Busan Principles (also known as the EDC principles) is the international standard on effective aid and development policies and practices agreed upon by key development stakeholders during the 4th High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF4) in Busan, South Korea in 2011. To recall, these principles are:

Ownership of development priorities by developing countries.

Partnerships for development can only succeed if they are led by developing countries, implementing approaches that are tailored to country-specific situations and needs.

Focus on results.

Our investments and efforts must have a lasting impact on eradicating poverty and reducing inequality, on sustainable development, and on enhancing developing countries' capacities, aligned with the priorities and policies set out by developing countries themselves.

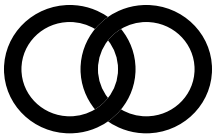
Inclusive development partnerships.

Openness, trust, and mutual respect and learning lie at the core of effective partnerships in support of development goals, recognising the different and complementary roles of all actors.

Transparency and accountability to each other.

Mutual accountability and accountability to the intended beneficiaries of our co-operation, as well as to our respective citizens, organisations, constituents and shareholders, are critical to delivering results. Transparent practices form the basis for enhanced accountability.¹

¹ Busan Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation. Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness. Busan, Republic of Korea, 29 November-1 December 2011. <https://www.oecd.org/dac/effectiveness/49650173.pdf>



To support the implementation at the political level and to monitor these commitments, the HLF4 established the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC). The GPEDC monitoring framework was refined before the 3rd monitoring round in 2018. The framework tracks SDG targets 17.15, 17.16 and 5c according to the Busan Principles:

1. Focus on results:
 - 1b. Countries strengthen their national results frameworks
 - 1a. Development partners use country-led results frameworks
2. Country ownership:
 - 5a and b. Development cooperation is predictable (annual and medium term)
 - 9a. Quality of countries' public financial management system
 - 9b. Development partners use country systems
 10. Aid is untied
3. Inclusive partnerships:
 2. CSOs operate within an environment that maximises their engagement in and contribution to development
 3. Quality of public-private dialogue
4. Transparency and mutual accountability
 4. Transparent information on development co-operation is publicly available
 6. Development co-operation is included in budget subject to parliamentary oversight
 7. Mutual accountability among development actors is strengthened through inclusive reviews
 8. Countries have transparent systems to track public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment (SDG 5c)²

At the last Senior Level Meeting of the GPEDC in 2019, the CPDE noted that the GPEDC moved closer to integrating EDC within the 2030 Agenda and related multilateral processes. However, the implementation of the four EDC principles and commitments are unremarkable and to some extent regressing. In particular, regression in the aspect of enabling environment, space for parliamentary scrutiny, and use of country systems and procurement policies were observed.³

The CPDE also noted that this lack of progress in EDC is also reflected in the lack of progress on the 2030 Agenda, especially in terms of inequality, climate change and biodiversity. The EDC agenda is a requisite for and part of fulfilling Agenda 2030 (on Means of Implementation). This lack of progress is attributed to the lack of political will to implement long-term measures, the focus on easily measurable results and to the overall abandonment of States and development partners of their EDC and SDG commitment to private, corporate sector.⁴

The Nairobi Outcome Document (NOD)

After the Second High-level Meeting (HLM 2) in Nairobi, Kenya in 2016, the CPDE released its analysis on the Nairobi Outcome Document (NOD), which outlines the commitments of governments, stakeholders and civil society at various levels as means to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.⁵

In general, CPDE lauded the NOD as it sought to fulfil, uphold and monitor commitments and principles on aid and development effectiveness. EDC commitments made since Paris were upheld in the NOD, including a monitoring framework and commitment to inclusive ownership and conduct thorough transparent and regular consultation with relevant stakeholders. The issue of shrinking and closing civic spaces was also recognised with GPEDC recommitting to provide an enabling environment for CSOs. The role of women, youth, migrants and other peoples' groups were also recognised for the first time in the GPEDC.⁶

There was also mutual agreement on the private sector accountability in its development interventions in the NOD. However, CPDE cautioned that because the current dominant discourse in GPEDC is in how to attract private investments through development cooperation, all members of the GPEDC should ensure that development cooperation funds are used to leverage only private investments that have clear development objectives. In the end, CPDE finds it alarming that this complex challenge to leave no one behind is promoted as yet another financial opportunity for private capital. Ultimately, ODA's role in reducing poverty clashes with big business' primary goal of maximising their profit.⁷

The CPDE likewise reiterated the need for the GPEDC to be maintained as an inclusive multi-stakeholder platform through parity in representation in leadership and notion of shared benefit instead of mutual benefit. It also highlighted the importance of protecting the integrity of the EDC agenda and the current global monitoring framework by refraining from defining development co-operation as merely a catalyst for other kinds of financing. Though the NOD still emphasised the economic impact of investing in gender equality than access to economic rights and autonomy.⁸

2 The Monitoring Framework of the Global Partnership. Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, No date. <https://www.effectivecooperation.org/system/files/2020-06/20170510%20Monitoring%20Framework%20Review%20Strategy%20%2801%20June%202017%29.pdf>

3 CPDE Statement on the 2019 GPEDC Senior Level Meeting. CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness, 3 September 2019.

<https://www.csopartnership.org/single-post/2019/09/03/CPDE-STATEMENT-ON-THE-2019-GPEDC-SENIOR-LEVEL-MEETING>

4 Ibid.

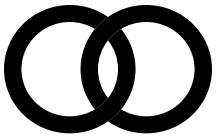
5 Civil Society Assessment of the Nairobi Outcome Document. CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness, 10 February 2017,

<http://edclibrary.csopartnership.org/bitstream/1/225/1/Civil-Society-Assessment-of-the-NOD-07Feb2017.pdf>

6 Ibid.

7 Ibid.

8 Ibid.



The CPDE Manifesto and Key Asks

Nearly a decade since the Busan Principles and nearly five years since the Nairobi Outcome Document, progress in these commitments have remained slow, and in some areas, have regressed. To serve as the general document that guides CSOs in their policy and advocacy work in the GPEDC, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC) and United Nations (UN) process, CPDE drew up the CPDE Manifesto.⁹

The CPDE Manifesto recognises that while CSOs are acknowledged as important partners in development, they experience shrinking and closing public spaces and funding support. Donors and partners have shifted their priority areas from human rights, gender equality and democratic ownership to donor concerns such as security and migration and market-based climate solutions. These, alongside the private sector's greater involvement in policy, partnerships and programs and the dominant paradigm of using aid and development finance to woo private investments have ushered in a new development architecture that is veering more towards a corporate agenda on development.¹⁰

The CPDE has recommitted itself to demanding accountability from development actors to fulfil their commitments to the EDC principles. These are:

Ensure that Private Sector entities adhere to all Development Effectiveness principles and implement Human Rights and gender equality standards, and at the same time, promote and practice decent work and adopt transparency and accountability standards

Uphold principles of horizontal development cooperation – including solidarity, mutuality, human rights, respect for sovereignty, non-conditionality, particularly with respect to unequal conditions of partnership that often prevail even within South-South cooperation

Take concrete actions to reverse trends of shrinking and closing civic spaces in development and attacks on human rights defenders

Use ODA to address the root causes of conflict and fragility and end its misuse for security, military and corporate interests

Channel development cooperation, in particular ODA, to development policies and programs that will build and sustain structures addressing the drivers of migration, prevent the violation of migrants' human rights, and enable the sustainable return of migrants and diaspora in developing and underdeveloped countries¹¹

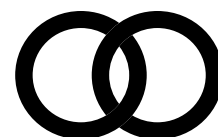
⁹ Civil Society Manifesto for Effective Development Cooperation. CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness, No date. https://c419de57-e749-4591-9016-5feb763746da.filesusr.com/ugd/9f29ee_c6e57e2feb4a49428bc8ea2b2cc8fe64.pdf

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

Part 2

Capacity development work of constituencies



Anchored on the commitments of the CPDE Manifesto and the current work program, the constituencies have embarked on activities that have capacitated them as a whole or several of their members.

The CPDE constituencies

There are currently 19 CPDE constituencies: six (6) regional, eight (8) sectoral and five (5) working groups. (See Table 1) The working groups are advocacy groups, comprised of organisations from the regions and sectors, working on identified priority themes by the platform.

Key to these constituencies is their commitment to the Istanbul Principles or principles of CSO development effectiveness. This is a statement of and commitment to common values and approaches to improve and be fully accountable to their development practices, which are adaptable to the highly diverse country contexts and CSO approaches.^{12 13}

Table 1.
CPDE constituencies

Regional

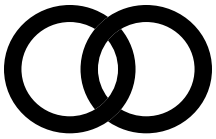
Africa
Asia
Europe
Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) Middle East and
North Africa (MENA) Pacific

Sectoral

Agriculture and rural development Faith-based
organisations (FBO) Feminist group (FG)
Indigenous Peoples International CSOs
Labour
Migrants and Diaspora
Youth

¹² Istanbul CSO Development Effectiveness Principles. Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness. Istanbul, Turkey, 29 September 2010.
http://cso.csopartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/hlf4_72.pdf

¹³ Istanbul Principles for CSO Development Effectiveness. CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness, 15 February 2018.
<https://www.csopartnership.org/single-post/2018/02/15/Istanbul-Principles-for-CSO-Development-Effectiveness>



Appropriate capacity development for constituencies

At its core, capacity refers to the ability of various entities – individuals, organisations, networks etc. to do something. The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) noted the evolution of the concept from capacity building to capacity development to emphasise a process that is more complex and holistic rather than the traditional North to South concept of transferring technical knowledge or development models. The UNDP further emphasises that endogenous processes of capacity development initiatives that come from the will of recipients themselves, are crucial to their success and sustainability.¹⁴

Broadly, capacity development that is important to CPDE constituencies revolve around effective engagement and/or partnership with development actors – fellow CSOs, government bodies, multilateral institutions and the private sector – in order to substantially and meaningfully influence development policies and, contribute to achieving Agenda 2030.

The constituencies consider the following as key to capacity development:

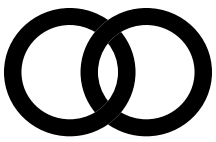
Regional Constituencies:

- Building a network of experts for research and advocacy;
- Applying capacities acquired from previous years to country-level work using the multi-stakeholder approach;
- Having sufficient funding and good programming for country-level work with development of second-liners based on identified priorities;
- Raising the knowledge of CSOs on EDC and Istanbul principles to effectively engage and influence relevant policy arenas and development actors; and,
- Building regional platforms on key issues, consolidating positions on important regional and national policies

Sectoral Constituencies:

- Ownership of Istanbul Principles by women's organisations and on various advocacy issues which goes beyond formal workshops to include participation in working groups;
- Understanding DE and partnerships for development to work together for a common goal;
- Laymanising EDC; holistic undertaking and capacitating the constituency based on the program and targets of CPDE while being supported by other efforts outside of CPDE to maximise resources;
- Engaging in national, regional and international platforms;
- Locating the Istanbul Principles in the work of the constituency, including the advocacies of its members; and,
- Participating in and leading advocacy activities within CPDE structures e.g. working groups;

¹⁴ A Capacity Assessment of CSOs in the Pacific. United Nations Development Program. No date.
http://www.undp.org/content/dam/rbap/docs/Research%20&%20Publications/democratic_governance/UNDP_PC_DG_A_Capacity_Assessment_of_CSOs_in_the_Pacific.pdf



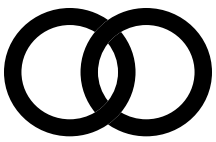
Capacity development efforts

In general, there is unevenness in the capacity development efforts of the constituencies. One of the main reasons is the diversity of constituencies in terms of how long they have been functioning, or even according to the constituencies' identified framework of cooperation or workplan. For example, some sectors or working groups have had major international advocacy platforms, thus activities have mainly revolved around these events.

Second, there is still diversity in the appreciation of where to locate capacity development in EDC work. Some constituencies appreciate capacity development more in the form of external intervention and some consider almost all of their activities to have some form of capacity development objective and result.

In general, as presented in the latest reports of the CPDE constituency secretariats and as the result of interviews, capacity-development activities can be categorised into five types:

1. Conceptual framework (setting the objectives, understanding the principles, strategising)
2. Organisational development/structures/ways of working including coordination and internal communication
3. Research and monitoring
4. Advocacy engagement (messaging, navigating the processes of key actors or policy arenas)
5. Stock-taking and assessments



Regional Constituencies

The regional constituencies implemented organisational development activities, research and monitoring and advocacy engagement as capacity development activities. (See Table 2)

In terms of organisational development, regional constituencies implemented regional planning meetings and convening of regional platform and coordination work (both general coordination and engagement-specific coordination).

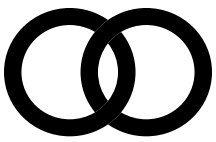
Research and monitoring activities included monitoring development partnerships, analysing militarism within the frame of development cooperation, analysing EDC practices of IFIs, research work on business and human rights and monitoring for voluntary national reports (VNRs). Asia and MENA both produced research reports that were aimed to equip CSOs in the region in advocacy.

Among the advocacy activities implemented by regional constituencies are engagement with policy platforms such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB), World Bank, UN institutions and larger CSO events or platforms.

The engagements of Asia resulted in higher visibility and recognition of CSOs in formal spaces and increased capacity for research. MENA reported improved engagement with government and multilateral bodies such as the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development and in processes related to the League of Arab States. Africa has been able to equip CSOs to monitor DE implementation in the region and create a road map to push for what they wanted to accomplish.

Table 2.
Capacity development activities reported by regional constituencies

	Organisational development	Research and monitoring	Advocacy engagement
ASIA		<p>CSO regional skills training on monitoring development cooperation and partnerships</p> <p>Regional policy research on militarism and development cooperation</p> <p>CSO review of the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) development effectiveness</p>	Workshop on policy engagement and IFI monitoring
AFRICA	Planning meeting for Western and Southern Africa Sub-Regional Focal Points		Workshop on CSO development effectiveness
EUROPE	Coordination work to facilitate the participation of European CSOs in CPDE activities and to reach out to various stakeholders		Organisation of CPDE activity in Belgrade
MENA		Work with members of academe on business and human rights	<p>5 trainings on Agenda 2030</p> <p>Participation in the training program of the Third World Network South Center</p>
PACIFIC	Convening of regional platforms where CSOs in the Pacific participated in the comprehensive process of development policy formulation	Technical support to build CSO capacities on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and Voluntary National Reporting (VNR)	



Sectoral Constituencies

The sectoral constituencies reported activities related to conceptual framework, organisational development (including stock-taking and assessments), and research and monitoring.

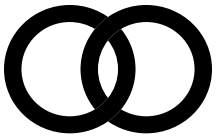
Most of the sectoral constituencies implemented workshops and trainings in this period. The training/workshops were on the conceptual understanding and application of Istanbul principles among the constituency and/or advocacy strategising, Agenda 2030, development of and trainings on sectoral guidelines on development effectiveness and on the 3rd Monitoring Round. (See Table 3)

Aside from the GPEDC and UNDP High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), important arenas of engagement are the ADB, African Interfaith Initiative on the Post 2015 Agenda, Financing for Development Forum (FfD), Beijing+20 (UN Women), Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) and Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) and Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism (CSM).

Key results include: the institutionalisation of constituency participation in vital processes in various levels, strengthening, expansion and revival of formations important to advancement of DE, and consolidation of constituency understanding and commitment to DE principles.

Table 3.
Capacity development activities reported by sectoral constituencies

	Conceptual framework	Organisational development	Research and monitoring	Advocacy engagement
FBO Sector	Development of FBO Sectoral Guideline on DE	Regional meeting on the gaps of the Post-2015 Agenda in the African continent		Trainings on FBO Sectoral Guideline on DE
ICSO Sector	Development of the ICSO Sectoral Guideline on DE			Engagement during the Financing for Development (FfD) forum
Labour Sector		Annual general meetings for coherence in the global, regional and national programs	Preparation of country reports for UN Regional Fora and High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)	SDG engagement at the country, regional and international arenas Business accountability activities to promote the alignment of private sector investments in development
Rural Sector	Development of the rural constituency guidelines on DE			Training on the Istanbul Principles Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism on peasant rights, land issues and the importance of recognising food sovereignty instead of merely food security
FG Sector		Communication and information materials about the workings of the constituency	Face-to-face training, webinars and communication materials development on monitoring Indicator 8 Support to develop manual for trainers for Indicator 2	
Youth Sector		Regional consultations to incorporate the development effectiveness guidelines		Training on the Istanbul principles
IP Sector				Study conference on shrinking spaces
Migrants Sector			Paper on Private Sector and Migration Sectoral Guidelines for Development Effectiveness	Training on the Istanbul principles International engagements on migration and development

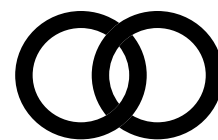


Challenges

The constituencies presented several external and some internal challenges in advancing their capacity development work. A big hindrance is the overall shrinking or closing of democratic spaces. Without the involvement of other CSOs in this issue, barriers to CSO engagement in policy arenas will increase.

Some regional constituencies are concerned with the delayed release of funds; better flow of communication (including language limitations) within working groups, constituencies and country members; lack of funds and human resource; a need to review the development cooperation policy to promote multi-stakeholder partnerships; lack of engagement of other CSOs on private sector accountability; and lack of ownership of EDC principles. Some regional constituencies also noted that in the past years, money allocated to country-level activities was not enough to properly build capacities at the country level. There are also concerns that the same set of people are being capacitated. Thus, there should be a rethink on how to develop capacities sustainably.

The sectoral secretariats, owing to the diversity of organisations under the various formations, consider general coordination work as a huge part of constituency activities, so better communication and beefing up secretariat capacity are major concerns. Other concerns include earlier approval of plans and release of budget and sustaining capacities over time.



Constituencies have a general grasp on relating and articulating their day-to-day issues to EDC principles. In order to be more effective in the next and higher level of advocacies, they recognise that it is important to broaden ownership of these principles.

Advocacy using the EDC lens

Since the ties that bind CSOs together in this platform are their work on development cooperation and commitment to the Istanbul Principles, there is an understanding that the issues that constituencies face every day are related to EDC. Thus, in general but more prominent regional constituencies, EDC principles have been applied in the analysis of and consequent engagement on these issues.

Sectoral constituencies, on the other hand, have more nuancing in terms of their engagements. The main engagement platforms of sectoral constituencies are particular to their concerns as a sector wherein the main framework of discussion is not EDC per se. However, they have been managing to use and apply EDC principles in these policy arenas and among CSOs in the same sector. (See Table 5)

Engagement strategies

Working groups have been focusing on campaign issues identified as priority not only by the platform but also by the international development community. Approaches and strategies may differ from constituency to constituency, but groups can learn from each other based on their analysis of the context and campaign needs. (See Table 6)

Challenges to advocacy engagement

All of the constituencies have raised the issue of shrinking or closing democratic spaces and the lack of enabling environment as major challenges. These challenges have limited CSOs' engagement with government bodies, multilateral institutions and other CSOs, and in general have hindered their operations. Organisations have experienced harsh responses from their governments ranging from difficulty in registration and funding restrictions to outright harassment and persecution. Some CSOs still need to assert their role as development partners. For example, the participation of women's groups in SDG process is still not institutionalised in many countries.

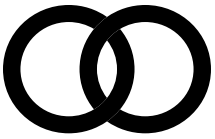
CSOs, especially in the MENA region, also cited instability, war and conflict in the region that change CSO priorities from conducting policy dialogues to humanitarian concerns. Donors also impose high reporting requirements, which pose limitations to participation.

Table 4.
EDC engagement of sectoral constituencies

	Day-to-day issues	Engagement	Principles Applied
FBO Sector	Youth, migration and displacement, humanitarian crisis, gender justice, climate issues, extreme poverty alleviation	UNDP HLPF (VNRs on SDGs), OECD-DAC, SIDA, UNEP	Focus on results of the SDG goals Inclusive partnerships
Labour Sector	Poverty, decent work, inequalities, climate and peace, justice and strong institutions	OECD-DAC, UNDP HLPF, ILO	Inclusive partnerships among development actors based on mutual trust Country leadership and ownership of development strategies
Rural Sector	Land issues, food sovereignty, infrastructures and environmental impacts	CSM, represented in engagement with ADB, OECD-DAC	Private sector accountability and democratic ownership of development strategies
FG Sector	Violence against women (VAW), women in political participation, economic empowerment, women refugees and migration and women	Ministries of Finance, UNECE, Beijing+25, UN, UNDP HLPF, GPEDC SLM, OECD-DAC	Transparency and shared responsibility and partnerships for development Women's rights and accountability issues
Youth Sector	1) employment, income and wages and economic independence, 2) lack of access to education, 3) lack of access to other services such as housing, health (mental and reproductive including right to safe abortion), 4) environment (including climate change), 5) social concerns (cultural, addiction, gender violence, religion and equality) and 6) political repression.	UNDP HLPF, Ecosoc Youth Forum, UN MGCY and FfD	Inclusive partnerships among development actors based on mutual trust Transparency and accountability
IP Sector	Environmental sustainability, defense of ancestral land, resource plunder, displacement, big infrastructure projects and human rights including right to self-determination and development	GPEDC, UNDP HLPF OECD-DAC, IFIs e.g. World Bank and ADB	Ownership of development priorities through recognition of their right to self-determination and cooperation based on investments that have sustainable impact; Transparency and accountability of governments, transnational corporations, IFIs and the private sector
Migrants Sector	Genuine development in the country of origin, necessity of shifting the current migration and development framework, which is problematic	GFMD, GCM, GCR, GPEDC, UNDP HLPF	Inclusive partnerships among development actors based on mutual trust; Country leadership and ownership of development strategies

Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank	ILO	International Labour Organization
CSM	Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism for relations with the United Nations Committee on World Food Security	OECD-DAC	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee
FfD	Financing for Development Forum	SIDA	Swedish Development Cooperation Agency
GCM	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration	UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
GFMD	Global Forum on Migration and Development	UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
GPEDC SLM	Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation Senior Level Meeting	UNDP HLPF	United Nations Development Program High-Level Political Forum on SDGs
GR	Global Compact on Refugees	UN MGCY	United Nations Major Group on Children and Youth
IFIs	International Financial Institutions	VNR on SDGs	Voluntary National Reviews on SDGs



There are also challenges within the platform's structures and financial capacities. Regional constituencies raised the challenge of budgetary limitations in translating core documents in appropriate languages that hinders a broader reach and results in limited engagement; and, challenges in effective strategies for lobbying and messaging. Sectoral constituencies raised coordination and communication challenges within the constituency to articulate sectoral position using the EDC lens; low level of understanding of EDC principle and its applications, especially in relation to accountability of primary stakeholders; the need for clearer common memory on what has been achieved by the platform so far; and, lack of resources to implement initiatives at the country level.

There are also challenges within engagement arenas. CSOs find that EDC engagement arenas are not that accessible to grassroots organisations (e.g. extremely difficult accreditation process). Also, the highly technical terms and jargon being used in EDC engagement arenas initially prevent buy-in of some CSOs. IFIs tend to engage bigger CSO coalitions instead of grassroots organisations. In addition, some unities reached at international multi-stakeholder levels are eventually watered down at the country level.

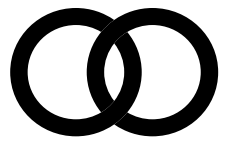
Specific contexts of CSOs likewise pose challenges to effective EDC engagement. Some regional CSOs have high prioritisation for other issues other than EDC, such as in the case of CSOs in Europe in relation to EU accession. Some grassroots organisations have limited understanding of the finance side of development and aid. The issue of bigger CSOs outside of the platform figuring in various scandals such as sexual harassments has also presented challenges in terms of promoting DE.

Acronyms

BAPA+40	Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation
CSPPS	Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding
GPEDC	Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation
OECD-DAC	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee
UNDP HLPF	United Nations Development Program High-Level Political Forum on SDGs
UNOSSC	United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation

Part 4

Sharing best practices and relevant policy arenas, strategies and capacities



Despite the host of challenges that the constituencies are experiencing, it is clear to them that moving forward to advance EDC means consciously learning from each other's practices and experiences, based on a correct analysis of the context and identification of relevant strategies and needed capacities.

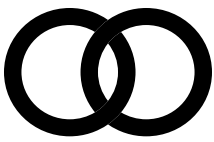
Best practices

In summary, the best practices reported by the constituencies involve research and monitoring, coordination and internal communication, multi-stakeholder partnerships, popularisation and appropriate messaging, stock-taking and assessments and higher level of advocacy. (See Table 7 and constituency papers)

The diversity of the constituencies is also a strong point in terms of sharing best practices. Hence, it would be beneficial for the platform to develop a more systematised way of co-learning.

Table 5.
Best practice strategies of CPDE constituencies

	REGION	SECTOR
Research and monitoring	Asia	Rural, Feminist
Coordination and internal communication	Asia	Feminist, Youth
Formation of multi-stakeholder and broader platforms for partnerships	Africa, Pacific, Middle East and North Africa	Faith-Based, Labour
Popularisation, appropriate messaging		Indigenous Peoples, Migrants
Stock-taking and assessments	Africa	
Higher level of advocacy	Europe	



Relevant policy/engagement arenas

Constituencies identified UN institutions and processes, regional blocs and European institutions, GPEDC, OECD-DAC and international and regional financial institutions (World Bank, ADB, African Development Bank etc.) as relevant engagement arenas. Aside from these, relevant policy arenas of regional constituencies are regional blocs or government in the case of Europe, members of the academe and the private sector. While there is focus at the international level for advocacy, many regional constituencies have emphasised the need for more comprehensive country-level and multi-stakeholder work as strategy.

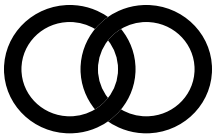
In addition, as reflected in the challenges identified by the regional constituencies, many of the relevant strategies are ways on engaging other CSOs within the constituency to be more active and participative. Among these strategies are knowledge-sharing and information dissemination, regular communication with members including check-ups and discussion on EDC topics and facilitation and coordination work. (See Table 8) These inward-looking strategies are necessary as the democratic space gets tighter and some of the commitments by development actors regress, requiring constituencies to become more consolidated and focused in their ways of working.

Table 6.
Relevant policy/engagement arenas and strategies of regional constituencies

	Relevant policy/engagement arena	Relevant strategies
Asia	AIIB, OECD-DAC, IMF-World Bank, ADB	Upscaling Aid Observatorio Reactivating members via newsletter and other communication tools Implementing country-level work
Africa	GPEDC, OECD-DAC, governments at the national level	Implementing country-level work (create country structures such as formal stakeholder dialogues, strengthening CSO capacities to take up responsibilities and create and assert spaces for CSOs to be on equal footing with other stakeholders)
Europe	GPEDC, UN and EU institutions	Knowledge-sharing and information dissemination work Doing monthly calls among the membership on various EDC-related topics Facilitating meeting between EU institutions and EU members of the CPDE Conducting follow-up engagements to activate constituency members
MENA	Private sector, media, academe, EU institutions	Ensuring more communication among the constituency members
Pacific	Finance and Economic Ministers Meeting, private sector	Bringing in more CSOs to participate in the dialogue and influence the agenda of the FEMM meetings Building stronger media relations Focusing advocacies on regional priority themes

Acronyms

AIIB	Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank
EU	European Union
FEMM	Forum Economic Ministers Meeting
GPEDC	Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation
OECD-DAC	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee



Sectoral constituencies also identified primarily international and high-level policy arenas such as UN institutions, fora and mechanisms, the OECD-DAC and the European Union. Still, most of them engage in sector-specific arenas (e.g. FG with UN Women, Migrants with the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration). (See Table 9) Many of the sectoral constituencies face the challenge of how to forward EDC principles within these frameworks of discourse.

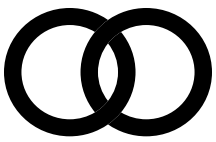
Broadening reach is a key strategy of sectoral constituencies. They will do this by reaching out to more CSOs using their respective DE guidelines, advancing multi-stakeholder partnerships or bigger platforms and expanding the policy arenas that they engage in. Moreover, they want to be more effective in advocacy engagement through roadmapping, use of social media and producing research-based materials.

Table 7.
Relevant policy/engagement arenas and strategies of sectoral constituencies

	Relevant policy/engagement arena	Relevant strategies
FBO Sector	European Union and European Commission, GCM, African Union, African Development Bank, East African bloc and the Horn of Africa bloc, IGAD	Applying extensively the FBO DE guidelines Building capacities for VNR processes Strengthening regional blocs in the African continent and OECD-DAC, UNDP HLPF and other UN bodies
Labour Sector	European Commission, UN, OECD-DAC and IFIs	Broadening reach in policy advocacy Supporting policies on Agenda 2030 with concrete binding agreements
Rural Sector	CSM, GPEDC, OECD-DAC	Producing evidence-based materials Using social media for advocacy
FG Sector	Beijing+25 (UN Women), UNECE, UNESCAP	Advancing multi-stakeholder partnership for achieving SDG 5 Using DE guidelines to develop capacity of new members
Youth Sector	UN MGCY and the Ecosoc Youth Forum, ILO, Forum on Financing for Development	Ensuring a road map for advocacy engagement Using the youth indicators to engage more youth organisations and policy actors Being more active in key advocacy issues
IP Sector	AIIB, ADB, World Bank	Collaborating with other constituencies Focusing campaign on IFIs Embarking on researches
Migrants Sector	GCM, GFMD, UNDESA, IOM	Developing popular materials, approaches and language Embarking on a campaign stocktaking exercise

Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank	IOM	International Organisation for Migration
AIIB	Asian Infrastructure Invest Bank	OECD-DAC	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee
CSM	Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism for relations with the United Nations Committee on World Food Security	UN	United Nations
GCM	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration	UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
GFMD	Global Forum on Migration and Development	UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
GPEDC	Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation	UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development	UN MGCY	United Nations Major Group on Children and Youth



Relevant capacities

There is a wide-range of capacities that constituencies have identified for them to be more effective. (See Tables 10, 11, and 12) Capacities that they want to develop revolve around:

1. Organisational (fund-raising, finance management, good governance and accountability, secretariat support)
2. Coordination and internal communication strategies
3. Research, impact monitoring and policy development
4. Advocacy and campaign strategies (effective messaging, communication strategies, media relations, writing)
5. Effective and results-oriented international engagement

Many regional constituencies identified several organisational capacities as necessary for them to be more effective. (See Table 10) Foremost is the concern about budgetary limitations as constituencies recognise that a lot of what they identified need resources in a context of decreasing attention to EDC. Thus, many want to have capacities in fund-raising especially for campaigns that they want to pursue.

Another organisational capacity needed by regional and sectoral constituencies are strategies to consolidate constituencies (including more active participation in constituency activities) and become better at coordination. (See Tables 10 and 11) This is also related to a certain degree to the availability of resources, which would allow more CSOs to engage and participate in policy advocacy.

Evidence has a high place in policy advocacy. Thus, research, impact monitoring and policy development are necessary skills that constituents identified as needed for their advocacy and campaigns. Effective advocacy strategies such as messaging and use of social media were also identified because there is a need to capture the attention of the people and bring messages across in this digital age.

International engagement, especially high-level ones, tend to be talking shops. Thus, while constituencies acknowledge that existing power relations determine a lot of outputs in these arenas, a focused campaign plan that is realistic and with clear objectives can still produce concrete results. Constituencies find it important that they are capacitated to engage effectively in these arenas.

Table 8.
Identified capacity needs of regional constituencies

Identified Capacity Needs	
Asia	Fund-raising, co-learning of good practices, research, advocacy
Africa	Fund-raising, multi-stakeholder engagements at the country level, secretariat support
Europe	Organisational (good governance and accountability), engagement with international actors
MENA	Research (policy and impact monitoring), advocacy engagement
Pacific	Research and policy development, analysis, advocacy messaging, writing and reporting, and media and communication

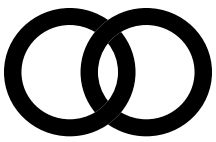
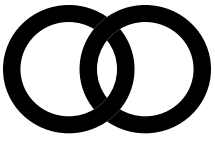


Table 9.
Identified capacity needs of sectoral constituencies

Identified Capacity Needs	
FBO Sector	Research capacities on investments and development projects, engagement with governments, outreach and broadening
Labour Sector	Communication strategies for outreach and co-learning
Rural Sector	Engagement in international policy arenas including messaging
FG Sector	Research capacities to monitor Indicator 8, effective strategies for EDC messaging, organisational (work systems)
Youth Sector	Organisational (fund-raising, virtual work platforms for efficiency), advocacy strategies
IP Sector	Advocacy strategies, research capacities (especially on militarism), organisational (train second-liners)
Migrants Sector	Advocacy strategies and messaging, secretariat support



Moving forward

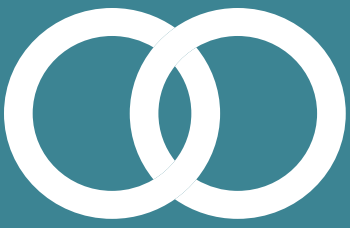
Capacitating constituencies to advance EDC is a complex and long-term endeavour. Thus, the approach must likewise be deliberate, comprehensive and sustainable at the constituency and platform level. Clearly, capacity development goes beyond formal trainings of individuals. By sharing best practices and analysing applicability, developing policy positions, participating in advocacy engagement, doing regular and timely assessments, conducting collective research etc., constituency capacity is increased. With the slow progress of achieving the EDC commitments, it is all the more necessary to strengthen the ranks of CSOs advancing the sustainable development agenda.

Concretising the EDC discourse to constituencies' realities is a work in progress as constituencies aim to broaden their reach and consolidate at the same time. Thus, the concern of democratising engagement arenas to allow more participation and articulating everyday struggles and issues of the people using the EDC lens are just as important as facilitating more CSOs to understand and commit to DE and advance EDC principles by translating documents and making popular materials.

These goals and challenges are in the context of scarcer resources for development cooperation. The aim for sustainability and transfer of capacities and knowledge to CSOs at the country-level can be in peril. As CSOs try to find ways to raise funds to support further advocacy work and capacitate themselves to be more effective development actors in their own right, they are challenged by donors more intent in leveraging public finance for private profit. Thus, it will not be inimical to the interests of constituencies to collectively discuss alternative funding sources.

The overall concern of shrinking democratic spaces is an important campaign issue in a global context, even as some constituencies have realised a level of good relations with national governments/agencies. Ultimately, capacity development cannot be sustainable if there are threats to the functioning of CSOs and their personnel.

It is important to note that in this context, constituencies have not buckled down and instead have chosen to elevate and expand their levels of engagement and partnerships. They have realised more potential and opportunities to advance EDC in the coming years. These will propel the platform forward.



Regional Constituencies

Africa:

Country-level Capacity Development as Focus

Asia Region:

The Importance of New Blood

The Europe Region
and EDC Ownership

The MENA Region:

Translating Knowledge to Advocacy and Action

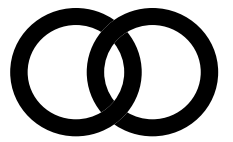
The Pacific Constituency:

Asserting CSOs' Role in Development Policies



Africa:

Country-level Capacity Development as Focus



Key to capacity development

In Africa, the key issues for development cooperation identified by the constituency are:

1. CSO enabling environment in the light of shrinking democratic spaces in the region.
2. Youth and women inclusion in development cooperation agenda.
3. Domestication and ownership of Istanbul principles; capacity building of CSOs in development effectiveness.
4. Linkage of SDGs to development effectiveness principles.¹

Given the context and priorities of the region, what is instrumental in terms of capacity development is the application of capacities acquired and built from previous years. The constituency recognises that there is a challenge in investing in programs that would allow countries to broaden their reach and engage using the multi-stakeholder approach. The country focal points have been the recipient of capacity-development efforts in the past, so the next step is to cascade these to stakeholders at the country level.

Efforts to build capacities

The constituency's capacity development efforts before the 2018-2019 program revolved around workshops on enabling environment, mapping of inclusive partnerships, workshops to implement the 2nd monitoring round, meetings to assess the post-Busan Agenda, and trainings on CSO Development Effectiveness (DE) principles.²

Equipping national focal points

Under the current program, the Africa region implemented two capacity development activities: 1) Planning meeting for Western and Southern Africa Sub-Regional Focal Points and 2) Capacity building workshop on CSO development effectiveness in Western and Southern Africa. The general objective of these activities was to equip the national focal points from a regional perspective to initiate programs at the country level in order to: 1) hold their governments accountable in their commitment areas and 2) build capacities among CSOs to implement their own development effectiveness programs.³

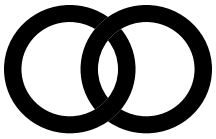
The planning meeting was not in itself designed as a capacity-building exercise. However, by drawing up the country action plans to monitor the Nairobi commitments on development effectiveness, the constituency was able to improve their needs analysis and identify their advocacy entry points.⁴ These, in turn, helped them raise resources for their priority programs.

¹ CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness. Constituencies. <https://www.csopartnership.org/africa>. No date.

² Ibid.

³ CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness. Enhancing Civil Society Role in Development Partnerships Post 2015 (Africa). May 2019.

⁴ Ibid.



In addition, the constituency conducted training in 2018 in Zambia with the strategic objective of domesticating the Nairobi Outcome Document in the region. The specific objective of the training was to increase CSOs' capacity to engage their governments and other development partners to implement these commitments and to create an enabling environment for policy work on development effectiveness. The participants developed country road maps to implement DE principles and a monitoring guide on Indicator 2 (Enabling Environment). These outputs were disseminated at the country level (with the monitoring guide used during country-level trainings on Indicator 2).⁵

The participants agreed to commit to principles of transparency and accountability as a way of asserting that they are of equal footing with government actors in development policy. They committed to work on enabling environment and private sector engagement using the DE lens and to create awareness on principles of aid effectiveness using platforms on SDGs.

Results

Organisations in the Africa constituency have developed their capacities over time. In the last couple of years, however, these capacities have not been translated or actualised in the countries where they come from because of lack of resources. For example, when CPDE wants to collect data or engage their countries, they use input from the regional trainings. Beyond that, the domestication of the agenda has been limited because CPDE has not been active at the country level.

The trainings were done at the regional level with the assumption that there will be support to the country level implementation. However, there were no follow-up activities after these trainings because there was no direct support for country-level activities. CPDE has yet to design its own program for country-level work. Beyond collecting data and writing reports, there should be deliberate country-level support in terms of initiating country processes beyond workshops and researches. Hence, the constituency cannot measure how the capacities are translated to meaningful actions.

Challenges to country-level capacity

The Africa constituency faces challenges, not only in capacitating the constituency, but also generally, on several fronts: lack of resources, perceived non-commensurate share in global resources relative to the number of countries in the region, fund delays, coordination between regional, sub-regional and country, communication (including language limitations and sharing of information), and the non-alignment of current development cooperation policy to the multi-stakeholder priority of the region.

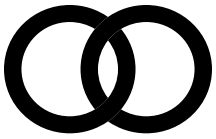
The regional secretariat is limited by CPDE being spread too thinly across the continent and working with small budgets. Money allocated to country-level activities is not enough to implement country-level capacity development activities. Thus, the region had to focus on specific countries that can show results in a specific period instead of trying to work with more countries. As a resolution, the constituency agreed to work more on increasing Africa's claim in the global partnership framework.

The constituency secretariat cannot conclude yet if there are sufficient capacities across the region because of the lack of country-level follow-up activities. The constituency sees it a priority that CPDE member organisations can implement programs at the country level.

During its planning meeting, the constituency came up with recommendations that reflect the need not only to align initiatives to core areas, but also to plan these activities according to the context of individual countries. These include: 1) setting up effective communication channels; 2) strengthening linkage with sub-regional focal points such as the youth, women, and minorities; 3) working on language challenges including translation of documents; 4) strengthening follow-up and monitoring at the country level; and sharing of information among sub-regional focal points.⁶

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.



Grounding EDC to constituency themes

The themes that the Africa constituency are working on are the priorities for the African continent as identified by CSOs. These priority issues are from the needs identified by the constituency and not as prioritised by donors, businesses or other stakeholders.

Day-to-day issues

CPDE Africa works on themes that are part of the major advocacies of CPDE. These themes are: CSO enabling environment, private sector issues, accountability, South-South cooperation, domestic resource mobilisation, conflict and fragility, immigration and migration issues and development assistance. Several members of the Africa constituency are also members of the advocacy working groups and are also in the policy-making organs of the CPDE (CC). Therefore, the constituency advocates for the key issues that the global platform has agreed upon.

These themes are easily linked to EDC. For example, the constituency's stand on migration reflects CPDE's key ask in terms of the use of official development assistance (ODA). ODA should not be used for security purposes i.e. to fund internal refugees to remain in the origin countries. It should be spent on creating enabling environment for the youth to remain in the continent. Also, that responses to migration should be more nuanced as the constituency believes that policies on migrants and refugees should not be cut from the same cloth.

Engagement using the EDC lens

The Africa constituency participates in and leads engagement activities on issues articulated using EDC principles at the international, regional and sub-regional levels. Engagement at the country level is also implemented but most of these efforts are outside of the CPDE program because of lack of funds.

At the global level, the region has participated in the Global Partnership on Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC), Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40) and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development-Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC) Reference Group. The level of participation has been varied.

The groundbreaking engagement for the constituency is the BAPA+40 as Africa is the only region that help with the preparatory meetings for BAPA+40. It also issued a regional statement on the draft of the BAPA+40, which was sent to GS. The representative of the constituency delivered the opening remarks from CSOs during the opening of the BAPA+40 in Argentina. This engagement is outside of the CPDE program, but it was able to capacitate the constituency in its South-South cooperation advocacy. The position of the Africa region on South-South Cooperation is that this should be a cooperation that institutionalises people-centred approaches to development cooperation through frameworks, official spaces, mechanisms and resources for people-to-people cooperation and civil society organisations' engagement.

While some of the constituency's activities are relevant to CPDE, they are not necessarily managed within the CPDE program but are implemented nonetheless because these are the identified priorities for Africa. Some of these are consistent with EDC principles, which also help enhance the constituency's capacity to engage as a whole. For example, outside of the CPDE program, the constituency is developing the youth indicator as part of the implementation of the Nairobi Outcome Document to present to the GPEDC. This is in partnership with the government of Kenya.

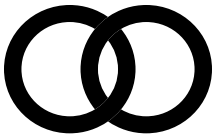
Through these various engagement activities, it has maintained the interest of African CSOs in EDC. Through partnerships with some African governments, CSOs have maintained leadership in defining African priorities on global engagement. They have also contributed human resource to the CPDE advocacy agenda.

Internal and external challenges

Internally, there are no challenges in linking regional themes to EDC. All of the EDC principles are consistent with the priorities of Africa, which have been agreed upon by CSOs in the region. However, like the challenge on capacity development, the main concern of the constituency in terms of deepening and widening their engagement is the shortage of funds.

Funding is tight and the constituency is not getting the resources that is required to implement its mandate. Also, there is unbalanced sharing of resources among the CPDE constituencies. For example, some regional constituencies have fewer countries, but they have the same resources as Sub-Saharan Africa, which has the biggest number of countries among the regional constituencies. The lack of resources also compounds communication limitations because materials, documents, and meetings have to be done in English and French (mainly). This line of work necessitates additional resources as well.

The political environment in Africa is also getting tighter by the day. Some African governments are harsh to CSOs so CSOs have to deal with shrinking spaces in order to fulfill their mandates. Nevertheless, for many countries, engaging relevant government ministries is not a problem.



Box 1.

A Story of Regional Consolidation

The Africa constituency considers as its best practice the close working relations with country-level CSOs within the platform Pan-African conference, wherein annual priorities for Africa are identified, discussed, planned and assessed.

To implement identified priorities, the constituency works with sub-regional structure (that are also CPDE members), which then select the countries of focus. Most programs are implemented with country focal points. At the country level, the country focal points engage various stakeholders to influence national reforms. For example, one strategy is to hold multi-stakeholder dialogues at the national and regional levels.

Best practices and ways forward

The Africa constituency is the region with the greatest number of countries. Due to the varied contexts and concerns, CSOs have to consolidate these issues to come up with one vision in terms of priority for the continent.

Best practice

The best practice of the Africa constituency is in how diversity becomes a unifying force of the whole continent, enabling CSOs to not lose track of their priorities. (See Box 1.)

The constituency has also collaborated with various sectors such as the youth and other CSOs. An example of this is the development of youth indicators for GPEDC Indicator 2 monitoring round. The constituency also finds it important to have clear work plans based on clear targets. This is to ensure responsibility for particular programs and projects, transparency, and accountability.

Relevant policy arenas and partnerships

Because most of the efforts in the past years are concentrated at the international and regional levels, relevant policy arenas in the next few years are at the country level. For example, the past engagement in Zambia has resulted in the identification of the need to review development cooperation policies. In Kenya, the constituency deems it important to continue and strengthen CSO partnership with governments. In Ghana, the target is to broaden the partnership with other CSOs beyond aid issues.

At the advocacy level, the platforms of BAPA+40 and GPEDC are still relevant for the constituency's advocacy.

The region has unfortunately not been able to clinch new partnerships in terms of funding as it feels that global and regional inter-governmental institutions are already funding CPDE. Prospective donors also want them to work within CPDE funding, but the constituency feels that this is not the road they want to take.

Strategies to move forward

As a regional constituency, it is ready to provide technical support when they are called upon by the sub-regional or country-level formations. The most important strategy for the region in the next few years is to create country structures such as formal multi-stakeholder dialogues, strengthen CSO capacities to take up responsibilities and create and assert spaces wherein CSOs can actually be development partners on equal footing with the government and other stakeholders.

Advocacy engagement

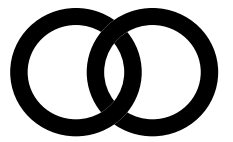
There are also two overarching issues that the region considers as priority overall: enabling environment and South-South cooperation.

There will be no new advocacy engagement for the constituency, but efforts will focus on: 1) Inclusive partnerships, 2) Conflict and fragility, and 3) Capacity building at the country level (setting up multi-stakeholder structures and training CSOs to engage at the policy level).

Relevant capacities

The constituency capacity development program should include building capacities of CSOs at the country level and promoting multi-stakeholder dialogues, which need resources. Therefore, the constituency has to capacitate itself to raise funds for these activities. The constituency highly recommends that the secretariat capacity be beefed up so that it is not just one person who handles everything, from administrative matters to finance to coordination.

Asia Region – The Importance of New Blood



Key to capacity development

The Asia constituency puts emphasis on funding and good programming with focus on country-level work as key component of effective capacity development. While regional and international workshops remain important, capacities gained at that level are not transferred to sub-regional or country level as most of those attending the workshops are either the same faces or those who go back to the grind of regular work after the workshops. This does not help country-level leaders or focal points develop. The constituency needs to be conscious about developing second-liners. Therefore, capacity development including corresponding funding should be programmed based on the identified priorities of the constituency.

Capacitating the constituency

Activities

The region implemented several capacity development activities that were planned as interventions to build capacities in monitoring effective development cooperation (EDC) and partnerships with international financial institutions (IFIs). The first one was the CSO Regional Skills Training on Monitoring Development Cooperation and Partnerships in Jakarta, Indonesia (5-6 April 2018) and the second one was the Workshop on Policy Engagement and IFI monitoring in Taiwan (7-9 October 2019).¹

In addition, there were two more activities that also served to capacitate the constituency because of the level of research that was required to come up with the outputs. The first was the Regional Policy Research on Militarism and Development Cooperation, which has a focus on conflict and fragility issues in Asia-Pacific and the CSO Review of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Development Effectiveness.²

Results

The two trainings were primarily meant to strengthen constituency capacities to monitor IFIs. The Jakarta training focused on capacitating the constituency on monitoring aid and development partnerships at the country level with the goal of scaling up at the regional level. Participants identified research issues and proposals on various IFIs and multilateral development banks (MDBs) that they plan to pursue. This consolidated information would be used to engage in policy advocacy both at the country and regional levels.³

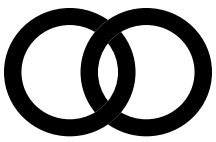
Participants galvanised key commitments on partnerships. They committed to further develop meaningful and effective partnerships with development stakeholders from the standpoint of human rights-based development.

Meanwhile, the strength of the training in Taiwan was the combination of participants with a lot of expertise and second liners of their organisations. This resulted in a more dynamic process of improving analytical and strategising capacities of the constituency in terms of designing advocacy campaigns and policy recommendations on the ADB, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF)-World Bank.

1 CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE). Asia Representative Report 2016-2019 (Terminal Narrative Report), Annex A. No date.

2 CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE). Enhancing Civil Society Role in Development Partnerships Post 2015 (Asia Secretariat). May 2019.

3 CPDE. Terminal Narrative. Op cit.



A component of the Taiwan meeting was a multi-stakeholder dialogue, which brought together members of the academe, CSOs, the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), and other development actors. Members of the academe and the KOICA representative pledged their support for this process and endeavour. Likewise, the constituency welcomed the participation of a representative of CSOs in Palestine as the Reality of Aid Asia-Pacific (ROA-AP) has also been reaching out to the MENA region.

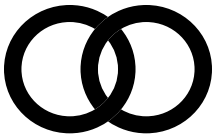
The capacity development objective of the Regional Policy Research on Militarism and Development and the CSO review on the ADB is to strengthen the research capacity of the constituency. The output of the Regional Policy Research on Militarism and Development Cooperation was a book on aid and militarism released in 2019. This research identified and analysed current key issues, trends and facets of militarism and militarist policies in the region and how these impact on development. The book will be sent to governments and IFIs to engage them.

Similar to the research on militarism, the capacity development objective of CSO review on the ADB is to capacitate the constituency in analysing ADB policies on access to information and safeguards. The advocacy objective of the CSO review on the ADB is to engage the ADB to be accountable for its policies and projects that are consistent with development effectiveness. The review was published and submitted to the ADB. The ADB expressed its willingness to engage ROA-AP on the issues raised in the book and also asked for feedback from the organisations concerned.

The constituency also participated in other advocacy engagements such as the Belgrade Civil Society Summit in Serbia on 8 April 2019 and the GPEDC Senior Level Meeting on 13-14 July 2019. Despite these being primarily advocacy engagements, by preparing and engaging in a systematic and organised manner (planning, representation in all processes, interventions on the floor, and articulation of messages that were agreed upon), the constituency was able to utilise their capacities and make the engagement more effective at the same time.

Challenges in building capacities

The constituency noted that the same set of participants have been attending capacity development activities. The concern is two-fold: On one hand, because they have been consistently capacitated, they have become knowledgeable on the issue, and over the years have developed a level of expertise in monitoring and research and campaign strategising. On the other hand, there was not a lot of focus on developing second liners, which hinders institutional capacity development.



Grounding EDC to constituency themes

Day-to-day issues

The Asia region is concerned with ODA, monitoring IFIs and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), militarisation, and private sector and PPPs. All of the issues are easily linked to EDC. Other issues of the constituency have not been explored or they have not been put on the constituency table because the basis of solidarity of the members are on aid and SDGs.

Engagement using the EDC lens

The constituency analyses these issues using the EDC lens and engages based on EDC principles as well. Articulation of these issues is primarily based on the principles of 1) ownership of development priorities by developing countries and 2) transparency and accountability.

The constituency was part of a breakthrough in cooperation among CSOs when it became part of the CSO Alliance on South-South Cooperation (to be discussed further by the South-South Cooperation Working Group). Members of the constituency, who are also members of the ROA-AP are represented in the platform People Over Profit, a campaign network that unites people's movements and NGOs across the globe to stop free trade agreements (FTAs) and corporate plunder. Through this platform, members of the constituency have articulated its calls on the impacts of the operations and policies of ADB operations and to a certain extent, the World Bank.

Challenges in engagement

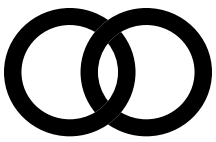
The constituency's day-to-day issues are easily linked to EDC principles because its members understand how the issues are interconnected. The challenge for the constituency is how to engage the government and IFIs.

The constituency finds that grassroots and people's organisations have difficulty engaging with IFIs because IFIs already consider the viewpoints of bigger platforms that have easier access to their engagement mechanisms. On one hand, this is positive because bigger NGOs and platforms such as Reality of Aid can advance the issues of grassroots organisations. However, it is better and more effective in the interest of democratising these spaces if the workers engaging on labour issues and peasant organisations engaging on agriculture and food issues themselves have the space to engage directly. To facilitate this, CPDE can organise multi-stakeholder dialogues so that the grassroots organisations can speak for themselves in front of government officials and IFI representatives.

There are also challenges in strategising for lobbying and messaging. There are messages that the platform would want to share with grassroots organisations, such as opportunities for international engagement on certain issues. The constituency believes that if grassroots organisations are capacitated to respond to these campaign needs, they can translate these issues into campaigns without the direct help from the platform or big NGOs.

Externally, relationship with other CSOs that are not part of the platform is a challenge when the differences in analysis come to a head during engagements.

Another external factor is shrinking civic space for CSOs. This is most apparent at the country level, where some governments do not consider CSOs and grassroots organisations as partners in development. The Philippines, Indonesia, India, Myanmar, Bangladesh, West Papua, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan are the countries most challenged in terms of shrinking spaces. The platform can capacitate grassroots to engage.



Sharing good practices and ways forward

The Asia region's good practices are built on consolidation and its planned strategies and engagement are focused on expanding its reach.

Best practices

The constituency believes that holding regular meetings (online and otherwise) and workshops is a good practice. This keeps the constituency abreast with the developments within the constituency, CPDE and international arenas. Moreover, with these meetings, the constituency was able to plan collectively, which resulted in the members owning these plans and improving their participation.

Another good practice is holding capacity-building workshops or trainings with a concrete output such as a research or campaign plan with timelines. In this way, the activity can be assessed and measured based on how the plans are carried out and the corresponding results.

There is a lot to be improved. Similar to capacity intervention activities, almost the same set of people goes to regional and international engagements. The constituency has observed that there is a need to train new blood because relying on long timers is not sustainable. The constituency or the platform itself has to discuss this phenomenon in order to identify the reasons and find solutions for it. Some initial questions raised were: 1) is it a matter of weakness in recruitment or 2) is development work not palatable to the younger generation?

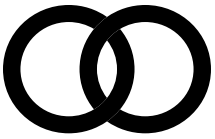
Relevant policy arenas

The constituency plans to engage with the Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and other regional multilateral development banks because these have increasingly furthered infrastructure and other strategic projects that have developmental impacts. The work on AIIB is still in a fledgling stage but because AIIB's projects and policies have been showing more relevance to the work that CPDE is doing, this has to be strategised collectively.

The constituency will continue to work on and engage with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development-Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC) as continuing policy arenas. Based on the drafted campaigns related to the IMF-World Bank, the AIIB and the ADB, the constituency will be engaging these three IFIs in the coming years.

Relevant partnerships

The constituency has made breakthroughs in establishing relations to members of the academe, some development agencies such as the KOICA and some government agencies. Sustainability and strengthening of ties have to be pursued. Moreover, the constituency will explore relations or engagement with micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs); an important component in multi-stakeholder approaches especially in private sector accountability.



Strategies to move forward

The constituency plans to scale up current endeavours, push for country level work to ground EDC, broaden their reach and bring in new blood.

The regional Aid Observatorio project will be scaled up to be implemented in each country in a regular and systematic manner. It can be recalled that the Aid Observatorio was adopted by CPDE-Asia CSOs during the Regional Skills Training on Aid Monitoring on April 2018 with the objectives to: 1) Promote awareness and transparency on the IFI development partnerships in the region, 2) Aid research and analysis on the trends and impacts of IFI development partnerships in the region and 3) Assist advocacy and engagement for the protection of human rights and upholding of development effectiveness principles in development partnerships. In the current Aid Observatorio, the participation was voluntary. The output of the Aid Observatorio is a database that countries can use to engage IFIs, private sector and government on the impact of the projects, whether EDC principles are being upheld etc. There are 15 cases to be uploaded on the website at the moment.

The constituency finds that it should implement country level work in order to work with a broader range of CSOs. This is to complement working with national level CSO platform, which has a lot of advantages for cascading decisions and campaigns, but is limited in terms of linking with grassroots organisations. Working at the country level will also help the constituency reach out to social enterprise organisations and other stakeholders.

Finally, the constituency plans to reactivate members in various levels of work. One is through regular contributions to the newsletter and the Aid Observatorio database. Another is to ensure the active participation of sub-regional representatives in the Asia Coordinating Committee and start check-ups and commitment building of sub-regional constituencies.

Advocacy engagement

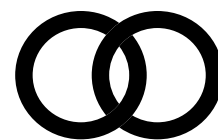
The constituency plans to engage further on peace, security and conflict issues and additionally, on climate change issues. Peace and security issues have been affecting a lot of countries in the region and is also a major factor in reshaping aid and development policies. It plans to assess peace, security and conflict programs for the Aid Observatorio. Moreover, countries in the region are among those that are greatly affected by climate change. Thus, the constituency would like to pursue more engagements, especially in policy advocacy on climate finance.

Capacities

The region recognises the need to capacitate the constituency not only to improve organisational capacities but also to be skilled in research and policy engagement.

First, for organisational development, the constituency has to increase its fund-raising capacities in order to implement more programs at the country level. Second, it has to program and systematise sharing of learnings from communities. Third, it wants to raise research capacities to scale-up the Aid Observatorio project. Fourth, it wants to improve advocacy engagement capacities such as campaign development (including issue analysis), messaging, strategies in lobbying with national government and policy makers and strategies for grassroots organisations in engaging with IFIs.

The Europe Region and EDC Ownership¹



The Europe constituency is diverse, and this diversity can be observed in several aspects. Most of the countries in the region are already part of the European Union (EU), while many countries from Eastern Europe are still in the transition stage to become members of the EU. This situation also affects priorities of CSOs in these countries. There are CSOs from donor countries and recipient countries.

Appreciation of EDC principles especially the principle on democratic ownership and corresponding responses differ based on donor/recipient status. The concept of EDC, by and large, is being promoted and implemented in varying ways and arenas. In EU member countries, CSOs working on EDC with CONCORD remain in active collaboration with the ICSO constituency. Some key members of the ICSO constituency are also members of CONCORD. They work together on the quality of aid by collaborating on the annual AidWatch report, monitoring the quantity and quality of ODA of members states of the EU. Members from non-EU countries, on the other hand, focus on key capacity development areas that are needed to qualitatively enhance space.

CSOs in the EU work on aid and development effectiveness agenda regularly engage with EU institutions and to some extent, with the governments of their own countries. This is done either directly or through the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development-Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC). In particular, they engage with OECD-DAC results community where the DAC donors discuss how they focus their work on EDC, especially in relation to in-country implementation.

The report below focuses on the capacity development of non-EU members in the region.

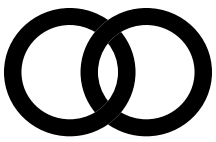
Key to capacity development

The Europe constituency's approach to and appreciation of capacity development is rooted in the realisation that organisations in the region generally have different levels of interest in effective development cooperation (EDC). Thus, the important objective of capacity development in the region is to raise the knowledge of CSOs on the EDC and Istanbul principles and to appreciate the value added in engagement with relevant policy arenas and actors to their development work.

CSOs have more interest in the local policies and political priorities of the duty-bearers. This materialises even more in the difference between CSOs in EU and non-EU countries. EU CSOs often organise opportunities and activities that include CSOs in non-EU countries to enhance awareness- raising and further knowledge of priorities, including key moments and recommendations for implementation.

For instance, CONCORD has consistently included in its annual event CPDE members within and outside Europe on activities related to civic space and enabling environment for CSOs as well as other connections with the EDC agenda that are dedicated to these issues. The consciousness of CONCORD in its facilitating role to CSO, especially to those outside of the EU, is manifested in the merging of its workstreams on CSO space and enabling environment and on aid and development effectiveness as of January 2020.

¹ The main references for this document are the online interview with the secretariat, Biljana Spasovska of the Balkan Civil Society Development Network, 7 November 2019, and the validation interview with Izabella Toth of Cordaid, 20 January 2020, unless stated otherwise.



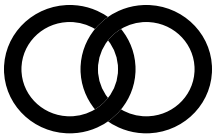
Capacitating the constituency

The Balkan and Black Sea sections of the constituency did not undertake programmed capacity development activities and thus cannot conclude how the region is capacitated to take on the needed work. Nevertheless, it has been able to coordinate members of the constituency, to facilitate the participation of European CSOs in CPDE activities and to reach out to various stakeholders in the region such as national governments, multilateral institutions and other CSOs. It also supported the organisation of a major CPDE activity during the Civil Society Summit in Belgrade, Serbia on 8 April 2019.

These activities were able to stir interest in European CSOs resulting in more awareness of CPDE. More CSOs also participated in the 3rd monitoring round and submission of proposals for country level projects. However, the general level of disinterest and non-priority among the wide spread of NGOs in Europe remains.

There is a connection between the low level of awareness to EDC and the lack of interest among the CSOs in Europe. On one hand, CSOs from donor countries have some awareness about EDC but they are not attached to the topic or they do not feel that there is space for their contribution. On the other hand, CSOs in the region may not be that involved in EDC as a platform of engagement because they have other priorities. For the secretariat of the constituency, this is one of the biggest challenges among CSOs working in Europe.

Another challenge is the political environment. Some CSOs operate in countries that have restrictive policies for CSOs. There are governments that do not exercise principles of development effectiveness, including not considering CSOs as equal partners in development processes. This is especially true in the non-EU section, but also in the central and eastern parts of the EU where CSOs do not have space.



Grounding EDC to constituency themes

Day-to-day issues

The members of the constituency work on inclusive development partnerships, transparency and accountability and civic space and enabling environment. Some work on migration issues and human rights. Those who are already active within the constituency find it easy to link their concerns to the principles of EDC.

A number of CSOs in the region are already working on EDC issues, but they do not identify with it or they do not have the knowledge to link these with EDC and its engagement platforms. For example, some organisations such as CSOs from Macedonia and Albania conducted national-level meeting during the preparation of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) 3rd monitoring round and they had difficulties with getting people to attend by simply citing the purpose of the event. Organisations did not seem to understand the purpose of the GPEDC or the opportunities that they can maximise. The leading organisation was able to explain effectively the objectives and relevance of the engagement and only then did they become more appreciative of the work that it involves.

Thus, the constituency wants to broaden CSO participation by convincing CSOs in Europe that EDC is an important arena for engagement. There are countries where there are development platforms in place, but there are still many countries from the Balkan and Black Sea Region where these platforms don't exist.

Some countries in the Balkan and Black Sea have national platforms for exchange and coordination on CSO methods on content issues. Even though these platforms are not specifically EDC-based, they enable CSOs to practice and engage on EDC principles.

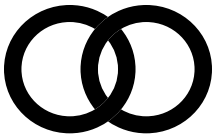
Engagement using the EDC lens

CSOs in the region, both from countries within and outside of the European Union, were properly represented in EDC engagements such as the GPEDC High-Level Meeting. In recent years, the Europe region has made leaps in terms of international engagements, especially in the participation of Balkan CSOs. To some extent and depending on the arena, the constituency engages their issues using the EDC lens. For example, many members of the constituency participated in the GPEDC 3rd monitoring round. Before this, the Europe region was not that engaged on high-level events on EDC nor were they aware of the opportunities. The participation was uneven, but it was used as an opportunity to reach out to governments and to increase awareness among CSOs, as well as to find venues for cooperation between government. This also resulted in more opportunities to engage in high-level events.

The constituency also participated in the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York and organised the Civil Society Summit in Belgrade. The European participants engaged on the issue of shrinking spaces. There was a written testimonial of the EU Representative to the HLPF. They witnessed how the global advocacy arena works. They have become much more appreciative of its added value when before that, they did not see the international arena as an advocacy platform for their work.

The Belgrade Civil Society Summit also brought awareness to European CSOs. The issue of shrinking spaces was not that prominent in the region, especially in the Black Sea and Balkan areas, but CSOs from these two sub-regions eventually become more aware of it. They see this as an opportunity to be used for country level advocacy. Prior to this, many CSOs from the Balkan sub-region were not involved in global level engagements because their priorities revolved more around EU integration. If CSOs can present this as an opportunity for the country level, show that there are some good practices, and that they are making progress, they can convince broader constituencies.

Some are engaged with the United Nations (UN) agencies in Geneva. This was made possible by the mobility fund of CPDE from two years ago that enabled CSOs to send representatives to global arenas.



There have been observed improved relations with governments. In the Balkan sub-region, some governments are now more open to cooperation because they see EDC as an opportunity to engage with CSOs. The government of Albania even invited CSOs to write the reports in behalf of governments. The government of Macedonia also started to cooperate more with CSOs in the country. The CSOs contacted their governments and requested for meetings for the 3rd monitoring round, and thus were able to raise the level of interest of their governments.

The Europe region including CSO representatives from both EU and non-EU countries (especially representatives from the Black Sea region) was properly represented in the High-Level Meeting (HLM) 2 in Nairobi in December 2016. The EU representative likewise led multi-stakeholder events on “Leave no one behind”. Part of the inclusivity agenda of the region was to widen membership of the Europe region. Thus, in recent years, the constituency’s membership expanded to include the Balkan CSOs and platforms.

Challenges

A big challenge for the region is how to use EDC principles as platforms for engagement. For example, how to use them in discussions related to development cooperation or how to utilise them for advancing advocacies.

Most of the organisations in Europe outside the EU that do not regard EDC as a priority are more concerned with meeting the requirements for integration to the European Union (EU). However, the constituency can think about how to maximise avenues for CSOs that prioritise EU accession over EDC issues. For example, one of the concerns of the EU is the corruption in the Balkan and Black Sea countries. This and related issues can be articulated through the Busan EDC Principles of transparency and shared responsibility.

Sharing good practices and ways forward

The Europe constituency, especially the Balkan sub-region, has in the last couple of years participated in international advocacy arenas. Its plans now include pushing for a higher level of engagement not only with European institutions but also with UN platforms.

Best practice

The best opportunity for the constituency to engage fellow European CSOs and international actors is organising a global event. (See Box 2.)

Relevant policy arenas

The constituency will continue its engagement with the GPEDC, the UN and EU institutions. The GPEDC is important for the work on EDC and it is necessary to continue engaging other CSOs to take this up as a core issue of their organisations. The UN remains a relevant actor because of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the focus on SDG Goal 17, which is also very important for EDC.

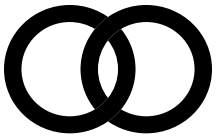
Furthermore, directly engaging EU institutions is vital not only because of EU integration priorities but also because the EU is a big donor to other EU countries and has also expressed its concern for shrinking spaces.

Relevant partnerships

The constituency is poised to broaden because there is now greater interest and cooperation between CSOs in the region. Those who attended the Belgrade Civil Society Summit saw the opportunity to engage with international and multilateral institutions especially EU institutions and the UN.

Strategies to move forward

The Europe constituency encourages other constituencies, depending on the context and readiness, to have bigger or higher-level engagements. It has also been proven by the constituency that knowledge-sharing and information dissemination are effective in deepening level of understanding and forging commitments among CSOs. The Balkan sub-region will step-up dissemination of user-friendly materials.



Box 2.

Opening doors in Belgrade

The constituency, led by its secretariat BCSDN, organised the Belgrade Civil Society Summit on 8-12 April 2018. It was a higher level of event organising for the Europe constituency.

The timing was also opportune because the theme of the conference resonated with the experience of a lot of CSOs in the region. The conference was able to raise awareness to other CSOs that are not exposed to the issue of shrinking space and the struggle for enabling environment for CSOs. By witnessing the support from various multilateral agencies especially the UN, the participants were encouraged to engage. The outcome of the summit, the Belgrade Call to Action, has been adopted as an advocacy by the European countries that participated in the event.

Monthly calls will be organised among the membership on various EDC-related topics. A dedicated meeting between EU institutions and EU members of the CPDE is being organised for the first quarter of 2020 to solidify the commitment of the EU donor countries for the EDC agenda and their prioritisation of work in the GPEDC workplan 2020-2022.

In the interest of sustainability, there is a need to conduct follow-up engagements. While high-level activities can bring about enthusiasm and interest, this can only give tangible results if there are follow-up activities or collective planning. This is also where national-level actions come in. Aside from the call for country actions from the global secretariat, the constituency can also plan country-level activities according to the objectives agreed upon by the members. The constituency is thinking about making available small amounts of funding to allow more CSOs to engage further. This will be complemented by trainings at the regional and sub-regional level.

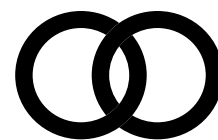
It is important that CSOs from Western Europe become more active in the constituency as they can contribute a lot of expertise and experience. Also, the constituency needs to plan how to engage the private sector, which at the moment is disinterested in the EDC.

The region will continue its work on enabling environment and CSO accountability in order to encourage development partnerships.

Relevant capacities

The region has identified engagement with international actors as a priority, so members need to be equipped with the necessary know-how and skills to do this. The constituency wants to implement training on navigating UN level advocacy. Also, as part of broadening and promoting DE and EDC principles, the constituency plans to have capacity development activities for CSOs to implement good governance and accountability.

The MENA Region: Translating Knowledge to Advocacy and Action



The MENA region faces long-standing armed conflict and wars of aggression including proxy wars. It is also one of the most, if not the most, unequal region in the world in terms of income inequality. According to the World Inequality Lab, in the period 1990-2016, the top 10% of the population in the Middle East accounted for, on average, 60-66% of the region's income, while the bottom 50% accounted for, on average, less than 10% of regional income.¹ In this context, the region focuses on development cooperation with a rights-based approach, private sector accountability, inter-regional development cooperation and monitoring development actors.²

Key to capacity development

The important aspect of capacity development for the constituency is to be able to build a network of men and women who can analyse international, regional, and national policies. This network of policy experts is critical for organisations in the region as they contribute to the body of knowledge about current policies and emerging trends in the development arena and to related advocacy work. Thus, a lot of efforts are focused on building this network and optimising its contributions to engage other organisations and policy actors. The constituency is looking into capacity development as a main pillar of work in the coming period.

Efforts to capacitate

The region puts emphasis on the comprehensiveness of capacity-building, which includes maximising opportunities to capacitate the constituency. Thus, several activities that have the objective of building knowledge and skills of staff, interns and officers were implemented outside of the CPDE program but were nonetheless useful to advance goals within the program.

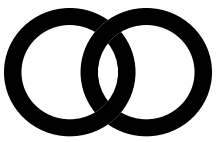
Complementary activities

The constituency, under a complementary program outside of CPDE-funded programs, conducted five trainings in five different countries on Agenda 2030, one of which is on effective development cooperation. The trainings, funded by the UN Democracy Fund, ended in early 2019. The objective of this was to mainstream the work of CSOs in the region.

It has also participated in the training program of the Third World Network South Center in Geneva, Switzerland, which capacitates young activists on trade and investment policies. The training presents trade as a development cooperation system. The region sends 10 participants annually to this training. The participants that they have sent have contributed research papers to ANND and/or have joined the network. The trainings have likewise resulted in more people engaging in the issue of trade, investment, and development cooperation.

¹ The Middle East leads the world in income inequality. The Arab Weekly, 14 January 2018. <https://thearabweekly.com/middle-east-leads-world-income-inequality>

² "The Middle East and North Africa." CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness. No date. <https://www.csopartnership.org/mena>



One of the constituency's major focus is to gather experts working on or are interested in development issues including development cooperation to contribute to the work of the constituency. For example, one of the main concerns of the region now is its work on private sector accountability. The constituency has been working with researchers who are experts on this subject.

Likewise, there are more discussions with members of the academe on Business and Human Rights (BHR). ANND, which focuses on the policy aspect of the BHR, has also partnered with the Business and Human Rights Center, which focuses on legal aspects. It also relates with the Bank Information Center (BIC) on the due diligence approach. The constituency engages CSOs on various aspects of BHR.

Challenges

There are a lot of challenges. For one, there are only a few CSOs in the region that work on the theme, resulting in a lack of engagement on the issue. As a result, there is a need to harmonise standards in the private sector. Still, the region has started engaging on the issue and seeking responses from the private sector. In turn, there are more dialogues and engagement with selected key persons from the private sector with key roles on developing standards.

Grounding EDC to constituency themes

While issues of conflict and war are staple issues of CSOs in the region, members of the constituency still struggle to make development issues at the forefront of the social, economic and political discourse.

Day-to-day issues

The day-to-day issues of the constituency are those related to social and economic policy work. These include taxation, trade, aid, social protection, informal sector and labor policies. These issues are linked to development effectiveness. Members of the constituency also work on shrinking space not only in the context of enabling environment, but more so from the point of view of human rights.

Engagement using the EDC lens

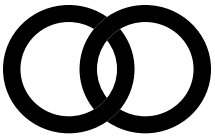
The constituency engages in two major policy processes: 1) Dialogue with the European Union so that its policies are aligned with EDC principles and 2) Monitoring and policy advocacy on policies and practices of international financial institutions (IFIs) so that they subscribe to EDC principles as well.

It has structured dialogues with the European Union (EU) on migration, security, socio-economic policies, including development cooperation and trade and governance. The constituency is part of the consortium implementing Majalat (structured dialogue), a platform to create and promote a space of encounter and constructive dialogue between the civil society of the South of the Mediterranean and the EU.³ The constituency criticises border and migration policies of the EU because it focuses more on security aspects rather than on human rights. It also gives recommendations based on its analysis on the role of the EU in addressing the issue of shrinking space.

The constituency also engages with the League of Arab States on several themes, among which are human rights issues and inter-Arab trade and cooperation from a development perspective. The League of Arab States organised a socio-economic summit and ANND was involved in the preparation of a parallel civil society conference that focused on development. The conference resulted in key recommendations on different aspects of development in relation to Agenda 2030, which also covered issues of partnerships. Among other regional processes, ANND engages as well in the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development, sponsored by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA).

The constituency likewise engages the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on aid conditionalities based on the principle that cooperation should be unconditional. The engagement with the IMF has been going on for three years, but now there is more interest from the office of IMF's regional director. The constituency was able to craft a policy position that the IMF listened to. The quality of engagement increased from general reactions to specific materials from IMF.

³ "About Us." Majalat. No date. <http://majalat.org/about-us>



The constituency has engaged with new civil society actors such as Civicus, the Reflection Group of the Third World Network, and Social Watch. It is also active in anti-corporate globalisation platform Our World Is Not For Sale (OWINFS) on issues related to international trade and Ecosoc Rights Network.

Challenges

The primary challenge is the highly technical terms in the EDC discourse, which initially prevent CSOs from appreciating EDC work. The budget of translation is limited, resulting to a lack of translated core documents in Arabic. This limits the reach of the constituency.

The external challenges of instability, war, and conflict in the region impact not only on EDC engagement but also on the operations of CSOs in general. This is also a major factor why priorities of CSOs change substantially. Conflict situations can change CSO priorities, e.g. from conducting policy dialogues to humanitarian concerns such as gathering and delivering food, water and other basic goods and services to affected communities. Nevertheless, the constituency finds it important that these issues are linked to EDC as well.

The engagement with the EU has increased the participation of CSOs in policy advocacy, most of which are linked to EDC. They have been remarkably participative in selecting themes and organising the dialogues, thus priorities for organisations are put on the table. The quality of recommendation has increased because of continued engagement. Due to the possibility of regular engagement, more organisations become part of ANND. By engaging, they likewise increase their capacities.

The engagement with the League of Arab States is more complicated because it is controlled by non-democratic states. The constituency presents recommendations as a major aspect of its engagement. The positive part of engaging the League of Arab States is that organisations can bring up the concerns of organisations that cannot engage their own governments.

Sharing best practices and moving forward

The constituencies best practice and planned strategies and advocacies revolve around forging partnerships and alliances with the broadest reach.

Best practice

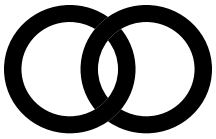
The constituency engages on many themes. It recognises that a collective discussion on regional priorities is the way to go in order to streamline efforts by various organisations and create more impact. (See Box 3.) From this endeavor, relevant arenas, strategies and themes have been identified.

Relevant arenas

Engaging the private sector is a key regional work in the next years. The constituency is developing its strategies to make a headway in this engagement. The constituency is engaging small and medium enterprises on the basis that they can play a constructive role in the development process by connecting with civil society and implementing human rights standards.

A continuing relevant engagement arena is the academe. This is important to the priority identified by the region of translating knowledge to advocacy. Constituency members have been establishing relations with academic institutions, that in turn nominate researchers for various themes on development cooperation. For example, the author of the monitoring guide for the region is from the academe. The academe has co-organised CPDE events in the past and they are receptive in terms of advancing work on Agenda 2030. The constituency wants to take this partnership to a higher level.

The constituency also plans to improve its relationship with the media because it will bring the development agenda closer to the public. Mainstream media in the region is generally disconnected from the discourse of civil society. If there is coverage on the theme of development, it is usually in relation to political parties. This is a big challenge because of the increasingly unstable situation in the region, which causes the media to shift priorities towards covering war news. CSOs in the region have generally good (not hostile) relations with media practitioners, but there were many instances that media practitioners did not respond positively to requests for coverage. Certain political agendas or issues are also no-go zones for most media outfits.



Box 3.

Arab Watch

The best practice of the constituency in this period is its conduct of participatory research and the engagement that stemmed from this research. The network Arab Watch was constituted as an outcome of the process wherein organisations in the region identified the themes based on the priorities of the region.

Researches were implemented at the national level based on the identified research priorities. The results were consolidated through regional and national dialogues. The research report was owned by more than 100 organisations that participated in the research. They used this in their advocacy work. Thus, this collective endeavour was able to increase the quality of engagement in international processes such as with the EU, IMF and League of Arab States.

Relevant strategies

An internal strategy that can benefit, not only work systems, but also the quality of engagement is more communication among the constituencies. Regional constituencies will benefit more if they talk to each other more often and discuss their similar contexts and experiences. For example, it is an opportune time for LAC and MENA (especially Lebanon) to discuss about the unrest in their respective regions or countries and the challenges that come with it. Most importantly, it is high time to discuss the constituency's role in these movements for change.

Advocacy engagement

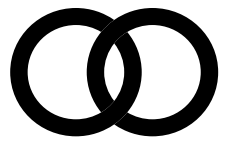
South-south exchange around topics, primarily on core business and advocacy themes are among the region's priorities. However, post-war and post-conflict intervention are increasingly topics of interest among donor countries. This is high priority for the region as the conflict situation in many countries is escalating, while in Syria, war is continuing.

The constituency wants to improve and expand its work on private sector accountability, especially in a post-war setting. It also wants to focus on debt issues in the context of indebted and highly-indebted countries such as Lebanon. Thus, it will focus on themes including, but not limited to, macroeconomic policy, taxation and trade, and investment.

Relevant capacities

The constituency wants to develop its capacities on research and advocacy engagement. It wants to build more skills in monitoring policies and its implications and impacts. It is also interested in pursuing more sophisticated communication capacities.

The Pacific Constituency: Asserting CSOs' Role in Development Policies



The Pacific Islands region is comprised of 23 countries and territories that are far from homogenous. These countries and territories are linked by their common denominator of being situated on the vast stretch of the biggest ocean in the world, but they have a lot of differences in size, geography, history, culture, and economies. They share a lot in common in terms of geographic isolation, ecological fragility (including being among the most vulnerable to the impact of climate change and natural hazards) and limited resources. Many of these countries depend heavily on official development assistance, overseas remittances and importation.^{1 2} Due to the region's characteristics, civil society organisations (CSOs) face high costs of transportation, limited access to more advanced communication systems and weak support by development actors.³

Key to capacity development

The formation of national CSO platforms is the constituency's benchmark that the empowerment of CSOs in the region has reached a certain level. Being able to build CSO partnerships at this level is an indicator that CSOs already have the necessary skills to develop similar programs in their respective countries. Thus, capacity priorities are focused on building regional platforms on key issues, consolidating positions on important regional and national policies and strategising on how to effectively influence relevant actors.

Efforts to capacitate

The region has capacitated itself in three areas: regional and global policy advocacy, technical and research support to CSOs, and facilitating an enabling environment to CSOs.

The constituency has conducted capacity development activities in order to pursue its policy advocacy work at the regional and global level. It has convened regional platforms where CSOs in the Pacific have participated in the comprehensive process of development policy formulation. These platforms have been instrumental in identifying thematic issues, drafting political policy papers and facilitating the Pacific Leaders Meeting CSO dialogue. This dialogue contributed to Pacific Sustainable Development priorities on climate change, violence against women, fisheries, health, and oceans management and security. At the global level, the constituency has enhanced the participation of Pacific CSOs in CPDE activities and engagement with United Nations institutions.

Another area of capacity development is the provision of technical support to build CSO capacities on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and Voluntary National Reporting (VNR) in the run up to the UNDP High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). The constituency also provided research support to national CSOs for them to complete their reports to the Global Partnership on Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC). It has likewise convened venues for dialogue between CSOs and IFIs in order for CSOs to understand the development framework and policy priorities of multilateral development actors such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The outputs of these activities are in the form of outcome statements, position papers and research products that informed actors on the programs and advocacy work of Pacific CSOs.

1 United Nations Development Program. "Subregional programme document for the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (2018-2022)". 5-11 September 2017.

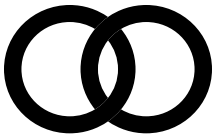
https://open.undp.org/download/CPD/pacific_island2018_2022.pdf

2 "The World Bank in Pacific Islands: An Overview". World Bank. No date.

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/pacificislands/overview>

3 "About PIANGO." Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organizations. No date.

<http://www.piango.org/home/about-us/about-piango/>



Grounding EDC to constituency themes

Day-to-day issues

Members of the Pacific constituency work on business and human rights, climate change and displacement, seabed mining and extractive industries. PIANGO provides platforms for collective advocacy on these issues. A major area of work is engaging governments and their institutions in relation to development policy and in enabling environment for civil society.

Most of these issues are easily linked to EDC principles, but members employ different approaches. The constituency is pushing for engagement mechanisms to gain space for dialogues on EDC. The constituency's engagement in relation to the SDG commitments is also directly related to EDC because there is ownership of national policies that arise from these processes.

Engagement using the EDC lens

EDC principles are the cornerstone of CSO engagement with governments, multilateral actors and international institutions. For example, the participation of CSOs in the VNR reporting of Pacific countries marks an important phase of years of work demanding governments to be included in the national reporting process. Through EDC principles, CSOs were able to shift the framework from "whole of government" to "whole of society".

At the regional level, the demand of Pacific CSOs for a structured engagement mechanism has made some improvements. In addition, the constituency has produced a localisation research from four countries that used the principles of country ownership and locally-led response and leadership as an approach to and basis of response in disaster-stricken areas. Likewise, the dialogue between CSOs and inter-governmental agencies is a mechanism for mutual accountability of partnerships.

Results

Due to continuous engagement, Pacific CSOs have gained some victories in terms of asserting their position as development partners at the country and regional levels. Two countries in the region have passed national policies recognising members of the Pacific constituency as the umbrella organisation that takes a leading role in coordinating positions of CSOs in government policies. Two other members have been recognised by legislations as lead agencies in Disaster Resilience at the national level.

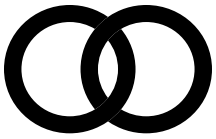
There is also continuous engagement with other CSOs at the regional level and with multilateral and intergovernmental actors at the international level. At the regional level, the constituency have a structured CSO Engagement Strategy with the Pacific Islands Forum secretariat. They also represent CSOs in various intergovernmental fora, such as the Regional Sustainable Development Steering Committee, Ocean Partnership Alliance, Pacific Resilience Partnership and Regional Disability Working Group, among others. At the global level, the constituency is active in the Reality of Aid Network, Agricultural Value Chains for Sustainable Development (A4SD) and Forus International. PIANGO also has an ECOSOC status with the UN.

Challenges

CSOs in the Pacific still need to assert their role as developmental partners. Many governments in the region undermine the role of CSOs in development. Through continuous engagement on important issues, CSOs aim to have more substantial participation in development policies and programs. There have been some successes in clinching dialogues with leaders but these have yet to be institutionalised (e.g. in policies).

As part of their efforts to forge key partnerships, they have been investing in the development of their Code of Accountability, a process that aims to define the terms of partnership with other actors to advance their sustainable development agenda in the region.

The constituency is currently engaging other CSOs in the region on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), EDC, foreign direct investments (FDI), humanitarian localisation and climate change-related displacement and migration. The members have embarked on several regional policy frameworks such as Framework for Pacific Regionalism, Ocean Commission and Framework for Pacific Resilience Partnership to advance their positions on certain issues.



Sharing best practices and ways forward

The constituency's capacity-development work including its good practices and future plans revolve around engaging government bodies to recognise CSOs in the region as development partners.

Best practice

CSO engagement mechanisms such as dialogue with government leaders have been progressing at the regional level, but there is still a lot of work to be done at the country level. Nonetheless, efforts have resulted in improved democratic spaces for CSOs.

Relevant policy arenas and partnerships

The constituency will continue working with international bodies that they currently engage in, such as United Nations agencies at the international and regional level, with established CSO and multi-stakeholder platforms. Also, it will work closely with the Finance and Economic Ministers Meeting (FEMM), having mandated an annual CSO dialogue with Pacific NGOs. The next step is to strategise on influencing the agenda of the meetings.

The constituency is also trying to find a common ground and potential partnership with the private sector.

Relevant strategies

The constituency aims to bring in more CSOs to participate in the dialogue with FEMM. To do this, CSOs have to consolidate their agenda and discuss messages and strategies.

Communication is key. Pacific NGOs find it important to have better media coverage of their engagements and campaigns. Thus, they aim to build stronger media relations. They likewise need to have a more systematised way of sharing information in order to timely raise issues to their respective governments. Sharing of information will also keep CSOs on their toes regarding actions done at the regional level, which have direct implications to policies at the national level.

Advocacy priorities will be focused on topics that constituency members have already agreed on as regional priorities such as EDC, shrinking civic space, engagement with other CSOs, mobilising communities on advocacy, media communications support and research on FDIs and climate change.

Needed capacities

The constituency recognises the need to develop certain capacities to be more effective in policy dialogues. These include research and policy development, analysis, advocacy messaging, writing and reporting and media and communication. Pacific CSOs likewise need to rethink the development paradigm in the region and to be well-versed in global and regional agenda.



Sectoral Constituencies

The Agriculture and Rural Constituency:
Challenges to Expanding Engagement

Faith-based Constituency:
Forging Partnerships

Feminist Group —
Capacitating is Being on the Job

Indigenous Peoples Constituency —
Laymanising EDC

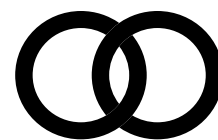
Labour Constituency:
A Focus on SDG 8 Campaigns

Migrants and Diaspora Constituency:
The Complementarity of Trainings and Engagement

The Youth Constituency:
A Focus on Development Effectiveness



The Agriculture and Rural Constituency: Challenges to Expanding Engagement



The agriculture and rural constituency is coordinated by the People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty (PCFS), a network of organisations of small food producers, particularly of peasant-farmer organisations and their support NGOs.

Key to capacity development

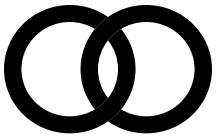
The constituency places great importance on being able to locate the Istanbul Principles in its work, including the advocacies of its members. By unpacking the Istanbul Principles, constituency members have been able to understand that these are principles that they already uphold and practice. Through this, members of the constituency have collectively appreciated the need to promote these principles to other CSOs.

Capacitating means that the constituency uses this understanding of Istanbul Principles to engage other CSOs to commit to these principles and to promote them to others. These learning and echoing process contributes to raising the awareness of CSOs on how to be effective partners in development cooperation. Through this process, the constituency is now capable of engaging policy actors in different arenas. Constituency members articulate better the Istanbul Principles through writing, engaging in dialogues and participating in conferences with high-level policy actors, among others.

Efforts to capacitate

The constituency kicked off its capacity development by conducting a training on the Istanbul Principles in Beirut, Lebanon on 15-16 March 2018. The participants discussed how the Istanbul Principles are reflected in their work. They also recognised that these principles are not new and that member organisations have been practicing these for some time already.

Another activity is the development of the rural constituency guidelines on development effectiveness. The constituency promoted the Istanbul Principles and the sectoral guidelines to other CSOs and grassroots organisations by organising two workshops – one in Phnom Penh, Cambodia with CSOs and one in Negombo, Sri Lanka with farmer organisations.



Grounding EDC to constituency themes

While the constituency's primary arenas of engagement do not refer to EDC principles as basic framework of discussion, constituency members find it important that inclusive partnerships and transparency and accountability are upheld in the positions that they take.

Day-to-day issues through EDC lenses

The constituency works on land issues, food sovereignty, infrastructures and environmental impacts. These issues are often connected to large infrastructure projects of private companies and financed by bilateral official development assistance (ODA) or international financial institutions (IFIs).

All these issues are easily linked to EDC. The constituency relates these issues to private sector accountability and democratic ownership. This link is reflected in the researches that the constituency embarked on. For example, in analysing Chinese investments in Cambodia, Sri Lanka and the Philippines, the constituency applied EDC principles. Militarisation is also connected to principles of democratic ownership. Its work on transnational corporations (TNCs) and corporate control of agriculture is related to private sector accountability.

Engagement using the EDC lens

The constituency engages on a regular basis with and is a key stakeholder in the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism (CSM) for relations with the UN Committee on World Food Security. The CSM works with CSOs in matters of agroecology, connecting smallholders to markets, food systems and nutrition, global food governance, sustainable agricultural development, unsustainable forestry, urbanisation and rural transformation and an additional focus on women and youth.¹ The constituency engages this body on peasant rights, land issues and the importance of recognising food sovereignty instead of merely food security. It has also engaged CSM on the issue of shrinking space in particular, attacks to farmers, environmental defenders, etc.

The constituency is represented in the platform's engagement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development-Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC). The constituency engages with these institutions in relation to transparency and accountability. It has contributed to the CSO review of Asian Development Bank's (ADB's) Development Effectiveness (Misshaping Development Cooperation and Effectiveness in Asia Pacific). There is also a rural sector representative in the OECD-DAC CSO Reference Group.

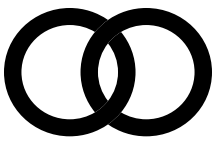
The constituency's ground-breaking research on the projects of Hengfu Group Sugar Industry Co., Ltd. in Cambodia paved the way for several vital engagements. (See Box on Best Practice) The constituency was able to link with the Business and Human Rights Resource Center in the United Kingdom. The People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty (PCFS) likewise submitted the results of the research to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food. There were also some constituency representatives during the COP 25 in December 2019 in Madrid, Spain.

It has also been active in engaging CSOs in other platforms. It conducted a workshop on accountability and transparency in trade agreements and corporate projects in agriculture during the Asia-Europe People's Forum in Belgium in 2018. It also participated in the Asia People's Forum by discussing corporate control on agriculture in relation to private sector accountability, enabling environment and shrinking space.

At the country level, the constituency participated in a workshop on private sector and blended finance led by the Working Group on Private Sector Accountability in Lusaka, Zambia. The constituency also engaged local government officials in Cambodia in relation to the operations of Hengfu Group Sugar Industry Co., Ltd. and its session on the Universal Periodic Review. It likewise participated in the National Land Use Policy Forum at Myanmar, which was attended by more than 300 participants from national and local government bodies, ethnic national representatives, representatives from international organisations and other CSOs.²

1 Civil Society Mechanism. "Policy Working Groups." <http://www.csm4cfs.org/>

2 CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE). Enhancing Civil Society Role in Development Partnerships Post 2015 (Rural Constituency). May 2019



Challenges

Most of these engagements are based on the constituency's stand on private sector accountability in relation to aid, ODA and corporate control on agriculture and food systems, famine and war (conflict and fragility). There are remaining challenges, however, as the work in Latin America and Africa has yet to be developed. There have been improvements in the work in MENA especially in relation to conflict and fragility because the co-chair is based in Jordan.

The shrinking space for CSOs and social movements has limited the constituency's engagement with government bodies and other CSOs. This is quite evident in the experiences of the Philippines, Indonesia, MENA countries, Cambodia, Thailand and recently, Myanmar and India.

Sharing good practices and ways forward

The rural constituency has proven the effectiveness of doing researches as basis for advocacy. Among its plans is to capacitate itself to be more effective in doing international-level engagement.

Best practice

The constituency's best practice is the conduct of research and analysis using the EDC lens, which led to further engagement on the issue of transparency and accountability in the private sector. While the constituency cannot entirely claim it as its victory, the work done on this issue, together with the campaign of other organisations, probably led to the stoppage of operations of the company. (See Box 4.)

Box 4.

Supporting the Campaign on Stopping Hengfu

The constituency has supported the campaign of the residents of Preah Vihear province in Cambodia against a Chinese private agribusiness conglomerate, Hengfu Group Sugar Industry Co. This is through research, advocacy activities, networking and capacity-building.

The constituency, together with various people's organisations, conducted a study on the operations of Hengfu Group Sugar Industry Co., in Cambodia in 2018. There have been some impact studies conducted before by various groups, but as the complaints from affected residents mounted, local people's organisations led by Ponlok Khmer (PKH), PCFS and other international NGOs decided to conduct an in-depth study on the shady but destructive projects of the company. As it started operations in 2016, the US\$360 million investment consisting of 35,762 hectares of sugarcane plantations, a power plant, fertiliser factory, and social infrastructures was touted as Asia's largest sugar-producing facility.

The study's result is an indictment of the lack of transparency and accountability of a private corporation that was primarily propped by Cambodia's dependence on Chinese loans and aid and enabled by corruption at the national and local levels. The company, in collusion with the government, land-grabbed and dispossessed residents, including indigenous communities, of their land and deprived them of access to the commons. This resulted in the destruction of their livelihoods, decline of incomes, increase in household debt, loss of indigenous identity and forced migration especially of the youth. Moreover, the thousands of jobs and compensation for the land that the company promised to the residents did not materialise.

Based on the results of the research, the constituency reached out to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food. From there, the constituency has been able to engage with the Business and Human Rights Resource Center as well.

The constituency also conducted capacity-building activities in the form of three trainings with community leaders from seven villages, and movement-building with members of Ponlok Khmer.

On February 2020, a Cambodian media outfit revealed that the company has stopped operations: the sugarcane processing plant was not operational and the buildings were currently unoccupied. This initial victory was primarily due to the ceaseless collective struggle by the Kuy indigenous people and the leadership of Ponlok Khmer. The best lesson is how the constituency can support struggles such as this through its expertise and solidarity.

Additional sources: People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty, GRAIN, VOA Cambodia ^{3 4 5}

Relevant policy arenas

The constituency considers the CSM to be a relevant policy arena. It will be active in engaging within this arena in preparation of and during the UN Food Systems Summit in 2021. It will also engage with the UN Human Rights Council on the issue of enabling environment and shrinking civic space. It continues to maintain connections with the Asia Peoples Forum and Asia-Europe People's Forum. It wants to be more engaged with the Global Partnership on Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) and OECD-DAC.

Relevant strategies, advocacies and capacities

The constituency's best practice has paved the way for realising the importance of publishing the result of researches. A material that is evidence-based can reach a wider audience and can be used for lobbying and campaigns. This can be complemented by the use of social media for outreach and awareness-raising. Finally, the importance of being able to propagate the Istanbul Principles to as many organisations working on farmers' agricultural and rural issues as possible is an important foundation.

In the next couple of years, the constituency will work on private sector accountability, climate finance and conflict and fragility. It will also continue its work to raise awareness on the sectoral guideline on development effectiveness.

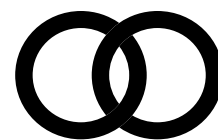
In order to be effective in these endeavors, the constituency needs to be capacitated on navigating advocacy engagement in international policy arenas. In addition, it identified the need to be more effective in messaging based on objectives and audience.

3 "Fighting Back: Full Report on the International Fact-Finding Mission to Defend Land and Life Against Hengfu's Operations in Cambodia." People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty (PCFS). Speak Out. March 2019.

4 "Goodbye, Hengfu". GRAIN, Ponlok Khmer, PCFS. 13 February 2020. <https://www.grain.org/en/article/6397-hengfu-goodbye-hengfu>

5 "Massive Chinese Sugarcane Firm Disappears From Preah Vihear." Voice of America Cambodia. 4 February 2020. https://www.voacambodia.com/a/massive-chinese-sugarcane-firm-disappears-from-preah-vihear/5273014.html?fbclid=IwAR19yYwqnMA-11A9OeGAKgnNDvbTd0MSROPc8ib-XZXEwdCWk62wFnh_x4

Faith-based Constituency: Forging Partnerships



The faith-based organisations (FBO) constituency is made up of global formations with established local members and therefore one of the constituencies with the widest reach. It is composed of the humanitarian and social arms of the various faith-based formations: ACT Alliance, Islamic Relief World Wide, Caritas Internationalis and the Lutheran World Federation, with active regional departments in Middle East and North Africa (MENA), Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and Africa.

Key to capacity development

It is important for the constituency to further capacitate the FBOs to understand development effectiveness and partnerships for development. Joint work among church-led organisations is lacking in Africa because they have for so long been working on their own programs. Thus, a key priority is to build capacities on how to work together for a common goal.

It is likewise vital for the constituency to acquire research skills. Members need to know what kind of data is needed, and how and where they can get information on projects and agreements that the government and private sector are entering into. They need skills to monitor the development programs of the private sector, international financial institutions (IFIs) and government and public-private partnerships (PPPs), and to analyse their impacts on various stakeholders. For a long time, FBOs have no awareness of global partnerships and accountability and have operated primarily based on the objective of the donors. Also, the ability of the constituency to engage the private sector in issues of development is extremely low. For the constituency to be effective, this has to change.

Capacitating the constituency

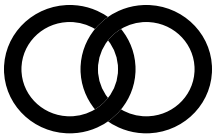
The FBO constituency's capacity development efforts have revolved around developing the FBO guidelines on development effectiveness (DE) and creating awareness on the Agenda 2030.

Activities

The constituency has developed the FBO Sectoral Guideline on DE. This guideline is the output of several workshops on DE. This was piloted on 28 November 2019 during the East Africa Regional Synergy Meeting.

It implemented two capacity-building activities with the objective of having a deeper understanding of DE principles in order for the constituency to develop its Sectoral Guideline. The first one was conducted on 21-24 March 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya. The objective was for organisations to appreciate and learn self-regulation in the wake of a public outcry on wasteful spending. The constituency likewise held workshops on DE and on monitoring the implementation of SDG Goals 3, 4, 5, 10 and 16 on 26-28 March 2019 in Tanzania.¹

¹ CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness. Enhancing Civil Society Role in Development Partnerships Post 2015 (Faith-Based Constituency), May 2019.



The constituency also conducted a regional meeting on the gaps of the Post-2015 Agenda in the African continent on 12 April 2019. The meeting was a stock-taking exercise on the progress of the Interfaith Initiative since its formation in 2012. The participants also strategised on its advocacy and partnership work.²

It has also worked on capacitating the youth sector by implementing a workshop on understanding Agenda 2030 in South Sudan on 29 March 2019. The workshop aimed to enhance capacity of the youth in fragile state to practice the Istanbul Principles.³

Results

The constituency has deepened its understanding of DE and partnership-building. By participating in the activities of Reality of Aid Africa (ROA-Africa), members have also developed their capacity to engage various development actors.

Constituency members have learned how to monitor, analyse and assess the implementation of Agenda 2030. They have produced Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and shadow reports even for South Sudan, which is an extremely important achievement.

These activities have generated a lot of interest in the development agenda and the role of FBOs among country-level organisations. The regional efforts have started to reap gains in the form of national support and initiatives. For example, the Anglican Church in Kenya hosted a 3-day meeting in Uganda to develop partnerships among FBOs. Some have committed to provide bigger funding for these endeavours. By relaunching the Waking the Giant Initiative, the constituency is bringing communities together even without funding from CPDE. (See Best Practice) Thus, one of the objectives is to generate resources for advocacies on Agenda 2030 from within.

Grounding EDC to constituency themes

Day-to-day issues

The constituency works on issues of youth, migration and displacement, especially in South Sudan, which has a direct link to issues of conflict and fragility and peace. It is also involved in the issue of humanitarian crisis, which is linked to peace and good governance. It also tackles the trend of shrinking democratic spaces of CSOs worldwide.

The constituency also works on gender justice, which has been included as part of the FBO guidelines on DE. Members of the constituency, for example, recently participated in the ICPD 25 (25th Anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development) in Nairobi, Kenya on 12-14 November 2019.

Constituency members are also engaged on climate issues, with focus on the commitments of the United States and China in cutting carbon emissions. This has yet to be thoroughly discussed and much more needs to be done in terms of information and education among the members of the constituency in linking climate to EDC principles.

They work as well on alleviating extreme poverty levels through livelihood programs.

Engagement using the EDC lens

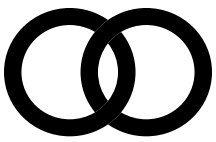
Since 2017, Kenya is among the piloted countries of the CSO reference group platform spearheaded by ROA-Africa. The FBO constituency in Africa is part of this platform. The constituency has engaged at the country level towards understanding DE and has called for strengthening and accountability among CSOS.

The constituency is also part of the conflict and fragility working group and works on this theme in various countries. It has reached out to the Youth and ICSO constituency as well. Aside from the ground-breaking experience in South Sudan, the constituency was also able to make substantial gains in Tanzania with the participation of CSOs in the VNR for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) High-Level Political Forum on the SDGs (HLPPF).

Most of the engagements of the constituency with global policy actors are implemented by the regional and international offices of ACT Alliance, CARITAS and Islamic Relief. The constituency engages the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development- Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC). The EU office of ACT Alliance in Brussels conducts EU-level regional policy engagement work. It likewise engages the

² Also known as Nairobi Summit on ICPD 25, which covers the following highlights: gender equality, youth leadership, political and community leadership, innovation and data, and partnerships to accelerate progress.

³ According to the World Council of Churches, the Moral Imperative was a result of a dialogue between faith-based leaders and the UN in 2015. FBOs developed a statement entitled "Ending Extreme Poverty: A Moral and Spiritual Imperative," that is built on shared convictions, beliefs and commitments of 30 global FBOs. It was launched in April 2015.



World Bank as part of the spiritual and moral imperative on ending extreme poverty. The constituency has started engaging with the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) since a new department opened for FBOs. It has worked with Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) in relation to Global Partnership on Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) processes.

Challenges

The main internal challenge is the low level of understanding of EDC principles and its application, foremost of which is the issue of accountability of primary stakeholders. Many organisations are beholden to their donors and it is a struggle for FBOs to unlearn these traditional donor-recipient relations. Another internal challenge is the heavy load of administrative work such as project reporting that captures a lot of time of the secretariat, which could have been devoted to advocacy engagement and strengthening the constituency.

The main external challenge not specific to linking themes to EDC but to operations in general is the shrinking democratic space that affects many of their members to a certain degree. For example, the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP) is highly targeted. In general, churches are not that affected compared to other organisations because the structures of operation and leadership remain intact. Still, churches are forced to register with governments if they are going to fund development projects.

Sharing best practices and ways forward

The good practices of the constituency stem from realizing the colossal potential of the sector in advocating sustainable development. Its planned strategies rest on broadening and deepening its reach.

Best practices

The constituency's best practices come from what it identified as its internal strengths and how it is harnessing these in order to become a much bigger actor in development partnerships. (See Boxes 5 and 6.)

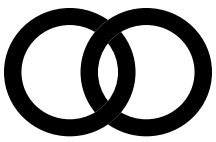
Relevant policy arenas

The relevant international policy actors are the European Union and European Commission, the United Nations in New York and Geneva and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). At the regional and sub-regional level, the constituency finds it important to engage the African Union, the African Development Bank, East African bloc and the Horn of Africa bloc. For its peace and security and conflict and fragility advocacy, it has an opportunity to engage the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in relation to peace negotiations to end South Sudan's civil war.

Box 5.

Waking the Giant Initiative

The Waking the Giant Initiative has been relaunched to catalyse FBOs or the "sleeping giants" to be active actors in development. In this Initiative, FBOs agreed to work together to contribute to fulfilling Agenda 2030. Under this initiative, Muslim and Christian organisations in Tanzania have agreed to jointly engage the government to fulfil SDG commitments on EDC and youth development. CPDE only funds international engagements for the VNR and HLPF, so funds for this initiative have been sourced internally. For example, ACT Alliance members fund a full-time coordinator for this initiative.



Relevant partnerships

The constituency has recognised the role of larger CSO formation as new partners. It has been working with ROA-Africa to expand its reach. The FBO constituency is participating in ROA-Africa's effort to form a new group on young women on development by partnering with the African Centre for SDGs in Rwanda. ROA-Africa likewise attended the regional meetings of the FBO constituency in Africa. The constituency has also been working with SIDA through ROA-Africa on GPEDC monitoring for the GPEDC at the country level.

Relevant strategies

One strategy that other constituencies can learn from is the constituency's work with the youth within FBO. The constituency's We Have Faith – Act Now for Climate Justice network organised a climate caravan in time for the Conference of Parties (COP) 17 in 2011 in South Africa. This endeavour gathered youth leaders from all over the continent to be voices in pushing for climate commitments.

The Waking the Giant initiative can also be replicated among FBOs in other regions.

For the next program, the constituency wants to focus on four main strategies. First, is to systematically work not only on piloting but applying extensively the FBO DE guidelines.

Second, is to go local. The constituency plans to map out the next round of VNR countries and focus on building capacities of FBOs in these countries to help prepare the shadow reports. It will maximise youth organisations as well as religious leaders for these efforts. Third, is to strengthen regional blocs such as the Middle East, North Africa and Latin America regions. Fourth, is to go global by engaging with the OECD-DAC, UNDP HLPF and other UN bodies.

Future capacities

The constituency wants to build research capacities on investments and development projects of countries and companies that are increasingly active in Africa, primarily China, because of its growing clout in the continent. It aims to build capacities in engaging with governments including understanding government processes of project development and approval in order to intervene early on.

The constituency wants to broaden and deepen its reach. It wants to learn how to package information and create appropriate messages on EDC in order to convince technical people within the structures of church organisations to support the work on EDC. It also wants to learn strategies on how to present DE to youth organisations so that they can be convinced to adopt and apply these principles. Lastly, it wants to build capacities in forging partnerships with various stakeholders.

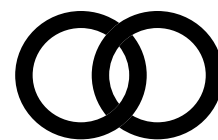
Box 6.

Revival of the African Initiative on the Post-2015 Agenda

Because of the Moral Imperative declaration, a lot of FBOs were mobilised for the Post-2015 Agenda. However, over the years, it has lost momentum. The constituency is putting heavier efforts to revive this. It has currently one coordinator who is building capacities of FBOs to engage. Organisations are learning capacities on partnership-building and monitoring. It is a loose but coordinated African network by the Organisation of African Instituted Churches (OAIC).⁴ The constituency is looking into developing a strategy paper on how to move forward.

4 According to its website (oaic.org), the OAIC was founded in 1978 and is the representative body that brings together African Independent and Instituted Churches.

Feminist Group — Capacitating is Being on the Job



Key to capacity development

The Feminist Group (FG) constituency's focus on capacity development is the ownership of Istanbul Principles by women's organisations beyond the members of the constituency. Moreover, the constituency aims to capacitate themselves on CPDE's various advocacy issues.

Capacity development goes beyond formal workshops. When members participate in CPDE working groups, they capacitate themselves on the advocacy themes from the feminist perspective. This way, they can contribute to the development of the advocacy topics, including policy positions.

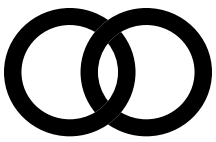
Capacitating the constituency

In the last two years, capacity development has not been planned as an isolated activity, but borne out of the necessity to engage. The workshops were developed based on the need to build skills in preparation for major activities (such as participation in the GPEDC 3rd monitoring round or engagement in the Beijing+20) and as part of the FG mandate.

The FG's mandate includes knowing the impact of shrinking budgets on women's rights. This is related to Indicator 8 of the monitoring framework of the global partnership, which focuses on countries having transparent systems to track public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment. This is akin to hitting two birds with one stone, as the FG constituency is also concerned with the status of SDG 5c1 (or proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment).

Monitoring and research

The FG needed to capacitate in order to monitor GPEDC Indicator 8 and SDG 5c.1 because there was only one person from the constituency who was familiar with the data needs discussed during the Nairobi Outcome Document process. Organisations wanted to collect data themselves because they did not want to rely on the data collected by the UN Commission on the Status of Women (UN Women). They also wanted to understand the process of working with the Ministries of Finance of various countries in terms of data availability and transparency.



To effectively perform, the FG constituency implemented the following:

- i. Webinars on Indicator 8;
- ii. Short introductory training (face to face) on Indicator 8 in New York on the sidelines of the High-Level Political Forum;
- iii. Drafting, discussion, and finalisation and translations to Spanish, French and Russian of a briefer on Indicator 8;
- iv. Support to develop manual for trainers for Indicator 2 on Enabling Environment); and,
- v. Sharing of data gathering methods and analysis on monitoring Indicator 8.¹

Communication and information materials that the secretariat distributed to the members capacitated the FG constituency on how the CPDE and the FG constituency work. Having new members, the constituency developed a set of materials that are easy to understand such as flyers about the constituency. These were used to mobilise women's group and widen the members of the FG. Majority of regional focal points submitted a list of organisations that are interested in joining the constituency. While this activity is not capacity development per se, it helped new members get to know the constituency better.

Results

The constituency experienced some difficulties with conducting the webinars because of the differences in time zones. The data needs of the indicator are challenging to gather as well. The constituency adapted by organising two sessions to account for the big difference in time zones.

The objectives of the webinar were achieved because some 12 countries managed to collect and analyse data and come up with recommendations. They were also able to gather data from other women's organisations in their own countries that are outside of the constituency. This helped greatly with the participation of the constituency in the 3rd Monitoring Round.

The data was likewise used at the GPEDC Senior Level Meeting (SLM) and Beijing+25 (2020) advocacy engagements. The FG constituency submitted key recommendations to the CPDE Global Secretariat and to participants of the HLPF.

The FG faced several additional challenges, including lack of resources and lack of time. Despite these, they were able to accomplish enough by focusing on their goal. As an assessment point, the constituency recognised that there could have been more participating countries (i.e. a target of 50 countries for the next monitoring round). These efforts were also weakened by the situation where some people who have been capacitated in the last few years left their organisations or the constituency and were replaced by someone else. Thus, it can be concluded that the capacity development of the FG constituency follows a wave-like pattern of development.

Grounding EDC to constituency themes

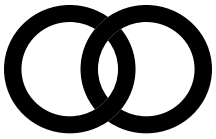
Members of the FG constituency work on their own programs and not for CPDE itself, but the common theme among constituency members is their work on women's rights and gender equality. Their day-to-day experiences and practice are reflected in their joint work with other CPDE constituencies. They bring a feminist perspective based on their country work to CPDE discussions and platforms. The constituency is currently developing messages for different workstreams such as joint messages on conflict and fragility and the engagement of women's groups on private sector accountability.

Day-to-day: Bound by women's rights and gender equality

FG member organisations work on violence against women (VAW), women in political participation, economic empowerment, women refugees and migration and women. However, the FG constituency has not analysed each of these issues within the framework of EDC, nor have the organisations referred to EDC when they engage on these issues. For example, women's organisations advocate for more accountability on a day-to-day basis but these organisations do not link this with upholding EDC principles. Still, this does not hinder them from engaging women's issues in arenas where EDC is the primary framework of discussion.

The constituency also finds that more needs to be done in terms of translating EDC principles to their daily relations with other stakeholders, which would be a value

1 CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE). Enhancing Civil Society Role in Development Partnerships Post 2015 (Feminist Group Constituency), May 2019.



added to the overall work. For example, some organisations can speak about VAW or the lack of crisis centres or shelters for women but not ask for accountability when these can be seen as violation of ownership principles. The organisations working on these issues can apply EDC principles in asserting the provision of crisis centres that address the needs of women (e.g. legal, economic and income-generating, psycho-social services).

The constituency believes that it is important to root EDC principles more in the day-to-day issues of women. For example, how is the non-inclusion of women in crafting legislation a violation of the principle of inclusivity and what does accountability mean in their areas of work? An EDC training will be instrumental in understanding EDC within the context of women's issues and grounding the EDC principles.

Engagement using the EDC lens

There have been no policy positions specific to EDC that have been developed for streams of work that are outside the core business and advocacy themes of CPDE (for example, VAW, crisis centers of shelter etc). For the FG constituency, this approach is considered unnecessary. However, for policy advocacy and other engagements with actors not belonging to women's groups, they can apply EDC principles. For example, an organisation operating a crisis centre need not articulate EDC principles in the day-to-day operations, but EDC principles are applied in external audit processes. Therefore, a policy position on EDC is essential on a constituency level but not on the level of individual organisations.

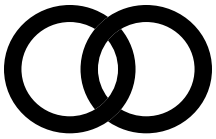
The constituency engages at the country, sub-regional, regional and international levels. At the country level, FG uses the EDC principles of transparency and shared responsibility and partnerships for development to engage Ministries of Finance. Member organisations ask these agencies to provide budget and expenditures data and work with them in order to track investments for women's rights and participation. They also work more and more with local authorities.

At the regional level, most of the engagement has been with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) region owing to the active participation of the secretariat. At the UNECE meeting on public-private partnerships (PPPs) last year, the intervention of the FG was instrumental in shifting the discussion to women's rights and accountability issues. UNECE officials solicited for the recommendation of the FG constituency as an input in the outcome document.

At the international level, the constituency engages with Beijing+25, United Nations at the Geneva Headquarters, UNDP HLPF and GPEDC SLM. FG engages on the basis of the implementation of women's commitments at Beijing+25, on the conduct of voluntary national reviews (VNRs) and the constituency position on SDG Indicator with the UNDP HLPF. During the last HLPF, FG representatives highlighted women's issues. At the last GPEDC SLM, FG participants brought attention to the low level of requirements met on Indicator 8 (only 19% of governments).

The constituency also engages the OECD-DAC (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development-Development Assistance Committee) not only over general CPDE business but also in the discussion of sexual exploitation.

There are diverse results according to specific engagements but in general, these engagements fulfilled the constituency's mandate of registering the feminist position on aid, investments on women and gender, and transparent systems to track public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment. The FG constituency came out with the recommendation on Indicator 8, which is being used in preparation for Beijing+25. These engagements have increased their visibility and mobilised the attention of women's groups and governments on these indicators.



Grounding and other challenges

The FG constituency needs a serious reflection on how to analyse the day-to-day issues of member organisations and of the sector using EDC lenses. Through this, they can show other aspects and nuances of violation of women's rights. There is a need to have a separate budget for workshops on applying EDC principles to their particular work.

The constituency needs to have more focus. In other platforms that the constituency engages in (aside from the GPEDC), they demand accountability and transparency without calling these EDC. To focus, the constituency must come up with a framework paper to identify its objectives, its advocacy areas and key messages, and its demands.

Even within the platform, some CSOs did not communicate well with feminist groups during the 3rd Monitoring Round, which reflects a level of being gender non-sensitive or blind.

Other challenges are related more to the operations of women's groups in general. These are varied and depend on their contexts.

For one, the participation of women's groups in SDG process is still not institutionalised in many countries. For example, Ministers of Finance were not providing data on Indicator 8/5c.1 (because sometimes they do not know themselves how to deal with the indicators). The FG was always running after governments for data or to seek dialogues on certain issues.

Some women's grassroots organisations are not registered with their governments, greatly limiting their opportunities for partnerships. There are also organisations that have challenging relations with their governments depending on the issues that they raise, such as LGBTQ+ and migrant issues. For example, when Rosa Belen Agirregomezkorta² advocates on the issue of the rights of women refugees, the government is not that accommodating. Despite this, her group is government-registered, giving her opportunities and external support, which enable her to still do her work.

Women's groups also have challenges in resource generation, but the priority of donors and the high requirements for reporting pose limitations. In order for women's groups to be transparent, information should be published, which necessitates resources. Donors do not respond positively to co-funding proposals for such activities, which is also a reflection of donors not fulfilling their Nairobi Commitments.

Sharing best practices and ways forward

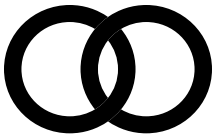
The constituency's active participation in international engagements is due to an active core group. Therefore, the challenge is how to convince other organisations to contribute more often to the development of policy positions and strategic plans. This is vital because the constituency has major goals in terms of international engagement and advocacy plans.

Best practice

The constituency considers the following its good practices:

1. Despite limited time and resources, they targeted and succeeded in collecting their own data on Indicator 8. This was a bold move because many organisations rely on the data of UN Women and getting needed data at the country level is challenging for CSOs. It is also groundbreaking because the indicator itself is new issue for the women's movement. Only a few women's organisations work on fiscal issues.
2. They have started multi-stakeholder engagement for Indicator 5c.1
3. There is intensive communication among members of FG to create a common FG position in conflict and fragility. It is good practice to have a joint position on one issue.

² Rosa Belen Agirregomezkorta is the Director of the Centro de Estudios e Investigación sobre Mujeres (CEIM) based in the Basque Country



Relevant policy arenas

The UN bodies including the HLPF continue to be relevant policy arenas for the constituency. The UN Women and Beijing+25 is an important platform for the FG constituency and it is urging other organisations to engage in this platform as well. It is the only group that is actively engaged on the indicator on women's budget in this platform. The FG constituency plans to organise their own parallel events in Beijing +25 in 2020.

At the regional level, the FG constituency will continue working with UNECE and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). In March 2020, there will be a parallel event with UNECE on financing for women's rights and participation. It will continue engaging UNECE on the issue of private sector accountability. The constituency is planning a UNECE region review of Indicator 5, which includes a position paper by organisations in Kyrgyzstan.

Strategies to move forward

The constituency is now testing multi-stakeholder partnership for achieving SDG 5, which is the way to engage actors on monitoring Indicator 8. The constituency members will distribute and discuss the material on multi-stakeholder partnerships to sub-regional platforms.

It will continue mobilising new members and encouraging deeper commitment to implement the FG agenda.

The Feminist Guide on development effectiveness (DE) that the constituency developed will be used for capacity development of new members. The Guide has a chapter on DE principles applied in the work of women's groups and women's movements (with pointers on monitoring), a chapter on CSO DE from Feminist Perspective and a section on measuring DE from a feminist perspective.

Advocacy engagement

The FG is planning to engage fully in the Beijing+25 platform on the financing issue in the coming two years. There will also be an engagement strategy on the private sector, which will focus on integrating a feminist approach in CPDE's PPPs and private sector engagement.

The constituency will bring attention to EDC principles and to the Nairobi commitments through Agenda 2030. It will come up with a strategy on accountability, inclusion of women's groups and country ownership (involved in country strategies not only on women's issues but also in economic and ecological policy discussion).

The members will also utilise EDC principles within the constituency to ground EDC to their day-to-day issues. They want to engage not only with women's movements, but also within CPDE structures (all workstreams) to include the feminist perspective. On top of conflict and fragility and private sector accountability, the constituency plans to be involved in the Task Team on enabling environment as well.

The immediate aim is to broaden the constituency then capacitate them to monitor and call for implementing commitments to Indicator 8 and engage with the private sector.

Relevant capacities

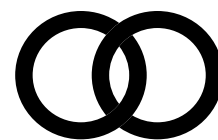
The capacities that the constituency wants to develop are based on their engagement focus in the next few years. The immediate need is to give new members information about CPDE and EDC principles and a venue to discuss best practices and strategise how the constituency will move forward. The FG wants to mobilise more people to engage and to include women's movements in this endeavor.

To be able to accomplish its targets, the constituency identified two major desired capacities:

1. Research capacities to track budget allocations and other indicators on the implementation of Indicator 8.
2. Effective strategies to advance development effectiveness including assessment of implementation.

Also, as a continuing process, the constituency is looking into conducting a separate capacity building for new FG members so they may further understand the Istanbul Principles and how the constituency and CPDE work, including the dynamics and work systems between various structures. To add, CPDE can benefit from the sharing of experiences of various women's groups on how they implement EDC.

Indigenous Peoples Constituency — Laymanising EDC



Key to capacity development

Most of the Indigenous Peoples (IP) constituency's members or potential members are grassroots organisations. Its biggest concern in capacity development is laymanising EDC – the concepts, principles, and engagement processes and arenas. The big challenge is to popularise the EDC discourse including the transformation of materials from mainstream and international CSO language to easily understandable messages through videos, comics and other formats. Also, EDC principles should be approached from the perspective of their day-to-day issues.

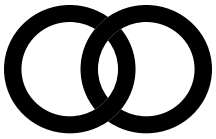
Capacitating the constituency — outreach as focus

The IP constituency did not conduct workshops and trainings that are specifically targeted as capacity development efforts based on the priorities underlined in the 2018-2019 program. This is so because up until 2017, the constituency already implemented a number of capacity development activities including, but not limited to, workshops and trainings on free prior and informed consent (FPIC), which is the point of entry to introduce development effectiveness (DE) and effective development cooperation (EDC) principles to Indigenous Peoples organisations.

Thus, most of the efforts in the current program have been on outreach and application of acquired capacities. Most of the constituency's efforts have been directed towards developing its development effectiveness (DE) guidelines for Indigenous Peoples.

The focus of the IP constituency was to capacitate new partners given because that a general concern of IP organisations is the complexity of the EDC language. The constituency organised a study conference on shrinking spaces in August 2019. This was implemented in coordination with a new partner with the objective of understanding the context of indigenous issues in relation to development in South Asia. Since it was a new partner, the concept and principles of DE and EDC were not yet that clear to the organisation. Thus, during the workshop, the trainers first discussed human rights issues in relation to development. Then, the participants were encouraged to share their local concerns. Afterwards, there was a discussion on how local, national, regional and international engagements complement each other to bring out the issues.

The constituency and other organisations appreciated the inductive approach to the advocacy theme of shrinking spaces and enabling environment. EDC principles are better grasped through this method.



Grounding EDC to constituency themes

Day-to-day issues

EDC is closely linked to the issues of Indigenous Peoples. The members of the constituency work on environmental sustainability, defense of ancestral land, resource plunder, displacement, big infrastructure projects and human rights, including right to self-determination and development on a day-to-day basis.

These day-to-day issues are articulated through the EDC principles of ownership of development priorities, mostly in relation to investments in IP lands and domains. This is based on the recognition of the right to self-determination and sustainable development of Indigenous Peoples. They easily link these to EDC principles, once they get past the EDC jargon. The constituency had to undertake efforts for new members of the constituency to understand EDC principles.

IP organisations usually grapple with EDC terminologies and jargons. But once unpacked, the organisations can connect the principles to their everyday practices. For example, in the traditional political structure, there is accountability between the elders and community organisations and the rest of the community in the conduct of FPIC for proposed projects in their community. IP communities also apply environmental and ecological sustainability in their appraisal of projects or partnerships in their ancestral land. It is in fact a cornerstone of their practices, customs and traditions. They also relate their struggle to their right to land, territories and, ways of life to upholding human rights principles.

Engagement using the EDC lens

The constituency has contributed to case studies in CPDE's international report. It has participated in engaging the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) and the United Nations Development Program High Level Political Forum on SDGs (HLPF). The constituency has likewise engaged the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development-Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC) in recent periods.

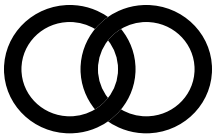
It has worked on the issue of accountability of governments, transnational corporations, IFIs and the private sector. It has also called out the culpability of these institutions for the militarisation in IP areas. It has likewise opposed the extractive activities of transnational corporations (TNCs) in indigenous areas and demanded these actors to respect FPIC and the right of Indigenous Peoples to self-determination and self-determined sustainable development.

The constituency has been engaging international financial institutions (IFIs). The constituency secretariat, Indigenous Peoples Movement for Self-Determination and Liberation (IPSMDL), is part of the international coalition Human Rights Defenders in Development. The constituency has challenged the World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and other IFIs to be accountable for the human rights violations in countries where they have development agendas.

For example, the constituency has demanded accountability from the World Bank for funding and promoting the Nam Theun 2 dam¹ in Laos, which displaced some 6,300 mainly Indigenous Peoples. The World Bank has promoted the dam as a successful model for sustainable hydropower, but after two decades, scientists and experts have concluded that the dam is a social and environmental failure because the displaced people do not have livelihoods, the watershed has not been managed and there has been substantial impact on water and agriculture-based livelihoods downstream.² The constituency was also actively involved in the people's actions during the IMF-World Annual Bank meeting in Bali, Indonesia in 2018 by releasing statements with other organisations.

¹ The Nam Theun 2 dam was financed by the World Bank and Asian Development Bank. The US\$1.45 billion project owned by Nam Theun Power Company (a consortium of French and Thai companies with the Lao government) was completed in 2010. The generated electricity is mainly exported to Thailand.

² "Nam Theun 2: The World Bank's narrative of success falls apart." Bruce Shoemaker, Ian G. Baird and Kanokwan Manorom. World Rivers Review. 3 December 2014. <https://www.internationalrivers.org/node/8456>



Challenges

The main victories of the Indigenous Peoples' movement come mainly from the united assertion of their rights, such as direct action. But even though engagement is not the sector's primary campaign arena, IP organisations continue to engage to complement direct action and assertion campaigns. For example, organisations that have advanced levels of political assertion have chosen to focus more on their primary areas, while the IPSMDL focuses on international engagements on EDC. Hence, a large part of articulating EDC at the international level lies with the secretariat, the representative of the constituency in the Global Council or some leaders who can easily relate international aid, and economic and political structure to local issues, as well as navigate international arenas.

Through the years, there have been a lot of developments in terms of articulating Indigenous Peoples' issues using EDC principles, but there are still challenges in popularising these principles so that grassroots organisations can advocate for their concerns in EDC arenas. An appropriate approach is needed to get them on board in order not to bring more confusion to principles that are already familiar to them but couched in a different language.

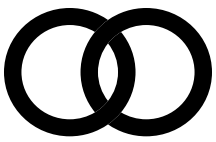
Indigenous organisations usually have a limited understanding of the finance side of development, and the platforms involving financial agreements and aid, except for a few that primarily work on the financial aspect of programs or issues (e.g. climate finance and aid). This is because such information is not made available to them, either by the government or by private proponents or they do not have access to this information (isolated settings, lack of internet and other communication technologies, lack of understanding highly-technical information etc). Only organisations that have been working at the international level for a certain period can easily link the local context and struggles to the discussion in international arenas (for example at the OECD-DAC) and subsequently engage. Thus, the focus of EDC engagement such as on ODA and IFIs need to be explained more thoroughly and in more popular ways.

There are also different levels of appreciation on multi-stakeholder partnerships, especially in relation to accountability. Local IP organisations more often direct their campaigns against the corporate or private proponent of projects within their ancestral domains or those that affect them. Corporations or the government have the tendency to not provide correct substantial information to IP organisations. Thus, actors that are complicit to these anomalous, questionable or downright destructive projects (such as IFIs, other donors and government agencies) are, more often than not fail to not do not receive the same level of attention in terms of seeking accountability.

The design of EDC engagement is not favorable to community-based grassroots organisations. For example, grassroots organisations cannot readily access these platforms or arenas due to prohibitive accreditation mechanisms and other participatory restrictions. Moreover, there are direct attacks against indigenous human rights defenders such as extra-judicial killing, arrests and intimidation, which further limits the participation of Indigenous Peoples in various engagements at all levels.

There have also been coordination challenges faced by the constituency. The secretariat was transferred to another organisation and the new secretariat had to learn the ropes within a short period. Because of some resistance from within the constituency and within the secretariat on how to approach the issue, popular materials have not been developed immediately. The biggest areas for improvement though are in Latin America and Africa, mainly because of language limitations.

The constituency also faces shrinking space issues that impact its work. The red-tagging of Beverly Longid, for example, became a pressing security issue for the constituency and the secretariat, at the immediate.. Many of the organisations from Latin America and Asia have been under attack, which the constituency immediately related not only to EDC principles on enabling environment but also on shrinking spaces for democratic participation and engagement.



Sharing best practices and ways forward

The constituency's best practice highlights forging partnerships with other constituencies within the platform. It plans for the next few years to maximise bigger platforms for campaigns and policy advocacy.

Best practice

The constituency's best practice is implementing capacity development efforts and conferences not by using EDC language but by addressing first the day-to-day or immediate issues of organisations. For example, the South Asia training to introduce development cooperation, aid and international finance was conceptualised as an FPIC training with an inductive approach.

Second, with this approach, the constituency provides a venue for solidarity among IP organisations to work with various organisations of peasants, youth and women, among others. This cooperation work brings in a lot of advantages as issues can be unpacked comprehensively, such as in the Fact-Finding Mission in Cambodia that was jointly implemented by the rural and IP constituencies. The constituency has forged new partnerships with organisations from Guatemala, Ecuador and Brazil but has to improve its work in Africa.

Relevant strategies

The constituency will work more with other constituencies to maximise mutual benefits. It will focus on CPDE's TNC stream and work closely with People Over Profit. It also plans to introduce IPSMDL platform to the Indigenous People Human Rights Defenders Network. The constituency will likewise focus on its campaign on IFIs, such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), ADB and the World Bank. It plans to get substantial information through more thorough investigation and research.

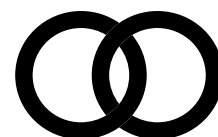
Advocacy themes

The constituency will definitely work more on shrinking spaces as an advocacy theme in relation to corporate and state accountability because of the urgency of the issue. Indigenous leaders are directly attacked and those who engage are also targeted. Constituency members will also work to demand accountability from donor countries for questionable and onerous projects on ancestral domains as well.

Building capacities

There is a need to train on advocacy strategies that will be applied immediately to the campaign needs of organisations. The DE guidelines and its application have to be workshopped. It also needs to capacitate itself to conduct the research on militarism. In addition, to address the long-standing challenge of basic understanding of EDC, the constituency wants to build capacities on messaging and making popular materials such as videos and infographics. Finally, organisations have to consciously introduce second liners as trainees to ensure transfer of knowledge and sustainability within the constituency.

Labour Constituency: A Focus on SDG 8 Campaigns



The Labour constituency is distinct from other CPDE constituencies because of its generally large mass base of highly-organised formations. It has a specific way of working. It is coordinated by the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), which is governed by four-yearly world congresses, a General Council and an Executive Bureau.¹ Constituency programs are the result of consultations and conferences at the country level together with priorities identified at the international level (general meeting).

Key to capacity development

Capacity development work is a holistic undertaking. The most important consideration is capacitating the constituency based on the program and targets of CPDE, while being supported by other efforts external to CPDE to maximise resources. The constituency implements complementary programs with the European Union on engagement with the Global Partnerships for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) and on the 2030 Agenda.

Capacitating the constituency

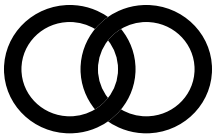
Most of the capacity-building activities of the constituency were implemented to support workers' voice at various levels (global, regional and national) and placing decent work at the core of development policies.

At the national level, the Trade Union Development Cooperation Network (TUDCN) provides technical support to International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)'s national affiliates, to increase their engagement with national decision-makers on development policies.

At the regional level, TUDCN supports ITUC regional structures' engagement with United Nations (UN) economic commissions, regional employers' organisations and relevant CSO platforms. For example, the ITUC's regional confederations in Africa, Asia–Pacific and the Americas actively participate in the regional UN fora on SDGs through the CSO's coordination mechanisms.

At the global level, the constituency influences the follow-up and review process anchored to the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF).

¹ "The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) is the global voice of the world's working people." ITUC. No date. <https://www.ituc-csi.org/about-us>



Research-based endeavors

There were three capacity- building activities (within and outside CPDE program) that have contributed to capacitate the labour constituency in the past few years:

- a. Preparation of country reports as a basis for affiliates to engage with their governments and participate at the UN Regional Fora and High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)
- b. SDG engagement implemented at the country, regional and international arenas
- c. Business accountability activities to promote the alignment of private sector investments in development with the development effectiveness agenda and the SDGs in several fora (UN, International Labour Organization (ILO), European Union (EU), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC) and GPEDC).

Results

Trade union organisations are engaged in the work of monitoring and reporting of the SDGs. This work results in the production of yearly national SDGs trade union reports to provide an alternative qualitative and quantitative reading of the progress made by governments in SDG implementation. The highlights of the shadow reports are summarised in the two-page Trade Union SDGs Country Profiles, which prove to be a useful tool to reinforce the accountability of governments, call for the effective involvement of trade unions in national development strategies, as well as to build alliances with other stakeholders.

There were 14 country reports completed in 2019, which add to the ones in previous years. The report has three parts: First, it assesses whether or not trade unions are at the table or are included in the SDG monitoring processes by governments, in terms of transparency, consultation and social dialogue. This is in the context of the tendency of governments to exclude trade unions in the discussion on SDGs or to fail to take into account the important role of decent work to achieve 2030 Agenda. Second, the reports complement the 'official' monitoring done by governments, using indicators relevant to trade unions. Most of available data comes from international organisations. Moreover, trade unions analyse the evaluable data to process the final product. Third, recommendations are given.²

The country reports are presented at regional fora, such as the Forums on Sustainable Development of the UN regional Economic Commissions, and are then presented at the international level. These contribute to the body of knowledge on the state of SDG implementation.

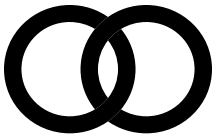
The constituency's SDG advocacy engagement has resulted in the building of skills to promote labour sector priorities and elevate these to issues that trade unions must focus on. This engagement produced various materials for use at the local and national levels. Most importantly, by engaging other CSOs, government agencies and multilateral and international bodies, the sector has been able to increase its advocacy and campaign capacities.

Because of these activities, labour organisations working at the country level were able to build or increase their capacities to research and monitor government policies and programs, including skills in collecting and analysing data and producing research-based reports. Many of the trade unions in the beginning did not know where to find data and how to collect data, but they had to start somewhere. This is a substantial achievement especially for countries that do not have research centres devoted to workers' issues. This is done every year, resulting in their research capacities improving over time.

In addition, the TUDCN's annual general meetings ensure that there is coherence in the global, regional and national programs of the constituency. Central to the discussion of the 2019 meeting was the role of SDG 8 in advancing Agenda 2030 and the labour agenda.³ Additionally, the event is a key moment to discuss the whole strategy of the constituency, including its involvement within the GEPDC, with the OECD and the EU.

² "Sustainable Development Goals." No date. ITUC-CSI. https://www.ituc-csi.org/2030Agenda#pagination_messages_523

³ "TUDCN General Meeting." ITUC-CSI. 27-29 May 2019. https://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/2019_gm_agenda_en_-_draft-2.pdf



Grounding EDC to constituency themes

As a result of the program and agenda agreed upon at the international meeting of ITUC and TUDCN, the themes that the constituency work on do not only revolve around decent work but also its intersectionality with other themes of the SDGs.

Decent work issues

Poverty, decent work, inequalities, climate and peace, justice and strong institutions are the six SDG indicators identified by the constituency as important to monitor and assess, as these are also their day-to-day issues. The core issues that the constituency advocate at the international level are issues that trade unions deal with at the factory, local or national level.

All the issues and how they are campaigned for are very much linked to EDC principles. Hence, the constituency uses the EDC lens to engage on the indicators that the constituency has identified as important to monitor and assess. The challenge is in communicating this down to the country levels and being more coherent in activities. EDC is mainly articulated at the international-level engagements.

In addition, consistent with ITUC's commitments to the Istanbul Principles, the adoption and implementation of Trade Union DE principles is also campaigned within the constituency.

Engagement using the EDC lens

After the general meeting of the TUDCN in 2019, the Time for 8 (SDG 8) was launched to serve as the international umbrella campaign to "raise global awareness on the central role that Sustainable Development Goal number 8 (SDG 8) plays in the 2030 Agenda"⁴.

The constituency also engages with the OECD-DAC around the areas of private sector in development and making social dialogue a component of their policies. A concrete example is the work that the constituency has done in the past years to introduce social dialogue in the creditor reporting system. On 6 February 2019, the OECD-DAC's publication, "Changes to the DAC Statistical Collections to be implemented in 2019 on 2018 Data", already included social dialogue as one of the purpose codes on decent work agenda.⁵

The constituency engages with the GPEDC and UN HLPF. In the engagements, some regions were able to intervene at the regional level. Meanwhile, at the 2019 HLPF, ITUC organised a "Time for 8" side event, which was well-attended by delegations from the regions. The participants shared their country experiences and messages on how Goal 8 can achieve other goals. The labour constituency likewise submitted a report to the HLPF on the status of implementation of SDGs 8, 4, 10, 13 and 16.⁶

There have been new engagements at the country level, in particular in Chile and Zimbabwe. In Chile, the trade unions started a dialogue with CSOs to build a platform on SDGs. They were able to produce a shadow report, which was presented at the regional level, and were looking into the possibility of submitting a political paper as well. The ITUC-affiliated trade union in Zimbabwe started working with government agencies for the first time.

The constituency engages with the International Labour Organization (ILO), which is the primary UN body for workers issues but not for EDC. It came up with a policy paper on the importance of putting social dialogue between government and workers' and employers' organisations in development cooperation.

Challenges

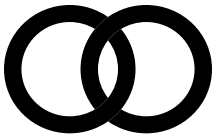
There remain communication challenges in how to articulate trade union positions using the EDC lens at the country level.

There is a challenge in relation to the political environment generally but not in relating issues to EDC. Many members have been challenged because governments do not recognise trade unions as development actors in their own right. They refuse to implement the right to unionise or commit human rights violations against trade unionists.

4 "#timefor8 – The clock is ticking for a New Social Contract." ITUC-CSI. No date.
<https://www.ituc-csi.org/timefor8-the-clock-is-ticking-for>

5 OECD-DAC. Changes to the DAC Statistical Collections to be Implemented in 2019 on 2018 Data. 6 February 2019. P.9.
[http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=DCD/DAC/STAT\(2019\)1&docLanguage=En](http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=DCD/DAC/STAT(2019)1&docLanguage=En)

6 "Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality." ITUC-CSI. No date.
https://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/wtumg_english_full_text.pdf



Sharing best practices and ways forward

The constituency's best practice is a showcase of building relations over time. Its plan is to maximise its organisational strength to push for further concrete gains in its Agenda 2030 campaign.

Best practice

The best practice of the labour constituency is an unprecedented country-level multi-stakeholder engagement in Argentina. (See Box 7.)

Relevant policy arenas

The constituency will continue engaging with present partners and policy arenas including the European Commission, the UN, the OECD-DAC and international financial institutions (IFIs). With the European Union (EU), the entry point is a call for social justice as a pillar in EU policies. There will be continuing engagement with development partner government agencies such as the Finnish national platform for development and Finland Ministry of Economy.⁷

Relevant strategies

The constituency will continue the strategies they are already implementing, but it targets to expand its reach in terms of policy actors. The ITUC Congress likewise affirmed current plans on focusing on Agenda 2030, especially SDG Goal 8. These can be through supporting policies with concrete binding agreements or laws.

Relevant capacities

The constituency wants to improve its communication strategies to keep every organisation informed and on the same page. At the same time, it aims to strengthen tools to expand global and regional reach through the use of a mailing list. It plans to keep the constituency abreast with timely development by sending out daily news, newsletters, and other easily digestible pieces of information that put emphasis on best practices.

Box 7.

PAMPA – CSOs Working Together for Agenda 2030

The constituency considers the involvement of the trade union sector in the Argentinian CSO Platform for Monitoring the 2030 Agenda (PAMPA 2030) a best practice on partnerships. PAMPA brings together trade unions and civil society organisations advocating the design of regulatory frameworks in line with the SDGs, as a dialogue partner.⁸ Trade unions in Argentina have been trying to engage with CSOs for many years and in 2018, they have been officialised as actors in dialogue with government. The tools developed by the labour constituency for Agenda 2030 monitoring have also been adopted by CSOs in Argentina. Because of this partnership, the Argentinian government has been pushed to engage with trade unions not only on SDG 8 but also on other SDGs.

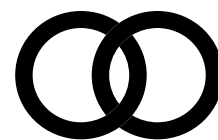
⁷ "The EU and Agenda 2030: Trade union's dialogue." ITUC-CSI. 8 November 2019.

<https://www.ituc-csi.org/the-eu-and-agenda-2030-trade-union>

⁸ "Argentina: A Trade Union Focus on SDGs." ITUC-CSI. 2019.

https://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/argentina_en_-_web.pdf

Migrants and Diaspora Constituency: The Complementarity of Trainings and Engagement



The migrants and diaspora constituency is the newest constituency of CPD. Its capacity development objectives are based on this context. The constituency, while coordinated by an NGO, works with grassroots organisations and people who are facing certain discrimination as lower-class citizens in their host countries.

Key to capacity development

The key to capacity development is engaging in national, regional and international platforms. Given the many limitations of migrant organisations in terms of time and financial and human resources, on-the-job training is the best way to acquire capacity-development skills. Nevertheless, it is helpful to be trained based on the objectives of a particular engagement and the intricacies of a particular platform.

Capacitating the constituency

The constituency recognises the complementarity of programmed trainings and actual engagement.

Focus on development effectiveness (DE)

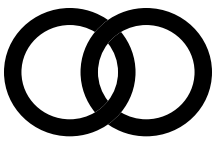
The constituency held a training on the Istanbul principles on 28-30 June 2018 in Berlin, Germany. The objectives of the activity were to:

1. Deepen the understanding of migrants and diaspora on CSO DE principles in order to realise these within the constituency
2. Formulate a short- and medium-term plan of action for the Migrants and Diaspora Constituency
3. Establish the governance structure and processes of the Migrants and Diaspora Constituency
4. Develop guidelines for monitoring, evaluating and assessing quality assurance processes for the Migrants and Diaspora Constituency¹

More than 20 organisations from the global regions of Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America and Pacific participated in the training. Among them were members of the International Migrants Alliance, the leading international movement of grassroots migrants, refugees, displaced peoples and their advocates and friends. This movement advocates for the protection of their rights and welfare and for finding a solution to worsening forced migration, war and conflicts, racism, discrimination, social exclusion, etc.²

¹ CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE). Enhancing Civil Society Role in Development Partnerships Post 2015 (Migrants and Diaspora Constituency), 27 May 2019.

² Ibid.



The training's output was a roadmap to develop the DE guidelines of the constituency. The roadmap includes plans to broaden and reach out to other migrant organisations beginning with a mapping of migrant and diaspora CSOs that work on DE. It also includes organising conversations of migrants and diaspora relating to DE at the regional and national levels.

Other activities that helped capacitate the constituency are international engagements with Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) and Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) and the Global Compact on Refugees. It also organised a side event at the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) to introduce CPDE to other migrant organisations as an advantageous platform.

The constituency also developed two documents: a paper on Private Sector and Migration and the Sectoral Guidelines for Development Effectiveness.

Results

These activities contributed to the capacity development of the constituency because these were new or unfamiliar terrains of engagement (except for the GFMD). Members of the constituency have been able to link the Istanbul principles to the concrete concerns and campaigns of member organisations. The constituency was able to clinch commitments from the grassroots and CSOs to uphold DE principles. Looking outward, it has contributed to the articulation of DE principles to the entire platform, complementing other sectoral guidelines. To add, members of the constituency doubled, which is a quantitative measure of capacity.

Grounding EDC to constituency themes

As a sectoral constituency, migrant organisations engage their primary policy actors on the issues of migrant rights and addressing the root causes of forced migration.

Day-to-day issues

There are various migrants and diaspora issues that members of the constituency work on. Their day-to-day issues can be grouped into three categories:

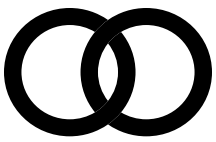
1. Genuine development in the country of origin to prevent forced migration, which leads to their vulnerability in host countries
2. Current framework of migration and development is problematic because it is still within the framework of how to manage migration. While it is true that migration has the potential for development theoretically, the way that migration is happening now will only worsen the exploitation of migrants.
3. Issues based on the particularity of a country, region or organisation. For example, there are organisations that only focus on violence against women refugees.

The agenda of migrants is easy to articulate using effective development cooperation (EDC) principles. The question for most of the organisations is how to use EDC principles in primary arenas that they engage in, which do not necessarily use the EDC principles as framework for discussion. This is true for the two biggest platforms that the migrant constituency engages in, the GFMD and GCM, where the discussion is directly on migrants' rights or addressing root causes of forced migration, for example.

Engagement using the EDC lens

The migrant constituency participates in major global arenas where EDC is the main engagement issue. It has sent representatives to the Senior Level Meeting (SLM) of the GPEDC and UNDP's High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). The migrant constituency has been participating in the GCM since it started in 2018. Participants of the constituency engage in this arena using the EDC principles, but it has its limits as the level of discussion is already on direct migration issues and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in relation to migrants.

On the other hand, there are objectives in the Global Compact and GFMD that are contradictory to EDC principles, which the constituency also articulates. For example, in the GCM, security concerns such as border control is effectively primary over human rights. This is in dissonance with both ownership of development priorities



by developing countries and focus on results. In these arenas, the migrant constituency likewise advocates that the current framework of migration and development does not address the root causes of migration.

Despite these challenges and limitations, the constituency recognises the importance of continuously engaging this arena. The current challenge is how to set EDC as framework for discussion in these arenas. More importantly, how will the migrant constituency determine the terms of engagement?

There have not been a lot of opportunities for regional engagements. The constituency engages the regional SDG platform Asia-Pacific Forum on SDGs, but there is a pending plan to strategise at this level. This is due to the efforts of the regional offices of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) to bring the discussions to the regional level.

The constituency also engages at the country level such as monitoring SDG implementation in preparation for the HLPF on SDGs. Members of the constituency also engage at the country level based on their own advocacies, which depends on how migrants are organised enough to engage the host country. In general, the issues of refugees and temporary migrants are usually unheard and they are marginalised in policy-making. With the exception of Indonesia and the Philippines, migrant organisations are not that engaged at the country level as much as they would like.

Challenge: democratising spaces

There is lack of democratisation in arenas where the framework of discussion is EDC, thereby creating a limited engagement space for migrants. For example, the migrant contingent was only composed of 3-4 people out of the whole CPDE contingent.

The accreditation process is prohibitive to grassroots organisation such as migrant groups. It is difficult to comply with a lot of requirements such as accreditation requirements just to engage because a) lack of recognition in their host countries, b) migrants are constrained by their working hours, which hampers the processing of requirements and c) technical difficulties such as lack of administrative skills and lack of funds. For example, in the GFMD 2019, the process is skewed towards organisations that have engaged in previous sessions. Refugees are likewise not sufficiently represented.

The constituency recognises that engagement in these arenas is a long-drawn-out process, making it important to identify the objective and realistic target gains for each engagement. For example, at the GPEDC Senior Level Meeting (SLM), there were questions about the role of migrant organisations (e.g. were they there to observe, to intervene or make a point?) For both GFMD and GCM, the constituency almost expected the unsatisfactory result given the processes within questioned frameworks. Still, it recognises that these engagements are necessary because CSOs keep governments on their toes and it is an opportunity for CSOs to network.

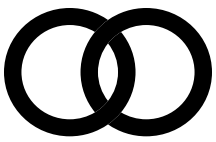
Externally, relations with government actors are a challenge because migration is a sensitive issue immediately involving the interests of two countries. Unities that were reached at the multilateral level were watered down and eventually resulted in the multilateral platform invoking the two countries involved in decision-making.

There is generally a favourable environment among CSOs in host countries in terms of dealing with migrant issues. Except in the Philippines, there is difficulty in forging solidarity in origin/sending countries. Organisations in origin countries usually do not have affinity with migrant issues or do not know how to address it in their work. There is still limited understanding on forced migration and often the concern is relegated to the management of migrants/refugees by the host country (observed more notably among organisations in the African region). The constituency agreed to explore the points or issues, which organisations can jointly work on (such as women migrants and labour rights).

Finding solutions

It is necessary to maximise the expertise of CPDE members, even those outside of the constituency, to brainstorm on how to engage non-EDC platforms on EDC issues. It would be helpful for migrant organisations to attend a workshop on global compact on migration using the EDC lens in order to be able to use EDC as a tool for engagement.

For every engagement, participating CPDE members and constituencies must develop an engagement plan with clear objectives and strategies. In addition, there is likewise a need to capacitate the constituency on navigating the engagement arena including the process of intervention, options on influencing key actors outside the plenary hall, etc. This takes time, especially for grassroots organisations that need to gain skills and familiarisation.



Sharing good practices and ways forward

The constituency's best practice demonstrates how EDC engagement can be grounded to the realities of people's organisations. Its plans will greatly benefit from a thorough assessment of how CPDE has done its advocacy engagement so far.

Best practice

Constituencies have various ways of working. For constituencies with a lot of members that are grassroots organisations, the world of EDC is highly technical. Thus, the approach that works best is to start from what the organisations are already working on. (See Box 8.)

Relevant policy arenas

The GCM is a new arena and despite its shortcomings, remains a relevant arena to engage in. Both the GCM and GFMD are non-binding and some governments refuse to sign these, but it is important to put on the table the agenda of grassroots migrants' organisations in terms of recognising the root causes of forced migration and finding solutions for these.

The constituency considers the GPEDC a continuing relevant engagement, but there has to be an engagement strategy plan wherein the objectives and the roles of participants are clearly outlined.

Strategies to move forward

The migrant constituency has proven that the effective way of grounding EDC principles is to tone down the EDC jargon. An overload of technical terms is not helpful in capacitating grassroots constituencies. This is also true for materials and other information that are circulated among the members. Technical terms and jargon intimidate peoples and organisations that are not engaging on EDC and DE on a day-to-day basis or as a primary task.

The constituency and CPDE members that engage in advocacy activities can benefit from a stock-taking exercise or a sober assessment of how the constituency conducted the engagement. In doing so, they can identify the strengths and weaknesses for that particular engagement. Then they can identify resolutions for next campaigns.

Constituencies engage in various platforms without a more systematic ways of consolidating these spaces (except for those managed by the Global Secretariat). Policy engagements can be planned as a whole unit. For example, there is a need for a consolidated and cohesive policy position in the engagement with Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development-Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC) and private sector engagement.

Advocacy engagement

The migrant constituency wants to focus on participating in CPDE's advocacy groups and expand its engagement, especially within the conflict and fragility working group. The members are also going to capacitate themselves to make a position on issues that are not sector-specific.

Relevant capacities

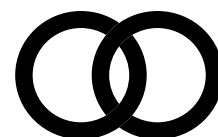
The needed capacities of the constituency revolve around messaging (including more popular EDC language understandable by grassroots organisations), advocacy engagement strategising and administration (such as additional personnel for secretariat work).

Box 8.

Inductive approach

During a training on SDGs (non-CPDE activity of APMM but involving the migrant constituency), the workshop did not start with introducing the SDGs and instead started with a sharing of various development concerns that organisations are working on. After that, the SDG Goals were introduced and discussed. The participants were able to directly link their areas of work to the SDGs. They realised that most of them are already working to achieve these goals. The participants appreciated this inductive method. In addition, APMM was able to map the various levels and areas of work of these organisations which helped the constituency develop an expansion strategy plan.

The Youth Constituency: A Focus on Development Effectiveness¹



The youth has the distinction of being the sector with mental and physical vitality. They are most open to new ideas and to changes in the status quo. Young people aged 15 to 24 years old comprise 16% of the global population (or 1.2 billion people), according to the United Nations.² The youth are not passive beneficiaries of development but are key actors in development in their own right. Thus, the role of the youth constituency is important in development policy and practice. The capacity to engage in this and assert not only their inclusion in processes but also the achievement of their aspirations is key.

Key to capacity development

A key factor in capacitating the constituency is participating in and leading advocacy activities. By engaging various development actors, the constituency learns the best strategies. For example, the Global Secretariat opened an opportunity for a youth representative at the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) High Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2018. The participant learned how the youth constituency can get involved, which actors to approach on certain messages and how to visualise better the positions of the youth on certain themes.

Furthermore, actively participating within the CPDE structures also develops capacity. As organisations are more involved and receive more concrete tasks, they also become more accountable not only to their constituency but to CPDE as a whole. Participation in working group workshops, coordinating council meetings and strategic planning meetings also develop capacity.

Particular to the youth constituency, it is important to have broad representation, such as ensuring that all regions are represented and there is gender balance. It is likewise necessary that the constituency ensures the inclusion of young people who work in or belong to different sectors (trade unions, indigenous peoples, migrants, etc.)

Efforts to capacitate

The capacity-development work of the youth constituency has mainly revolved around development effectiveness (DE) and its application.

Focus on DE

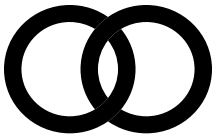
The constituency conducted a training on DE and regional consultations for capacity development. A Youth and Development Effectiveness Training in Manila was implemented in 2018. The objectives of the training were: 1) to engage membership; 2) to validate the constituency structure and the Terms of Reference; and, 3) to introduce the Istanbul principles and at the same time look into how it is already being implemented by the constituency members in their daily work.

In 2019, the constituency also implemented regional consultations to incorporate the DE guidelines in its day-to-day work. Through this, members of the constituency have been able to have a better grasp of DE. It has also domesticated the language for the youth constituency.

¹ The main reference of this document is the personal interview of the secretariat, Josefina Villegas of FLAC-J, Plovdiv, Bulgaria, 27 November 2019, unless stated otherwise

² "World Youth Report." United Nations. 2018.

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/youth/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/2018/12/WorldYouthReport-2030Agenda.pdf>



Results

For individual organisations that participated, there was no mechanism to get their feedback. Still, for the constituency as a whole, these activities have helped in enriching the development of its work. Before, only a few organisations, mainly centred on the regional coordinators (Africa, Asia and Pacific), were virtually active. Now, the regions are better represented and the number of active organisations increased. For example, there are already organisations from MENA and EU and there is an effective representative of the Pacific region.

Grounding EDC to constituency themes

The day-to-day issues that the constituency face can be clustered around the Istanbul Principles. Thus, these are the bases by which engagement on EDC and partnerships are pursued.

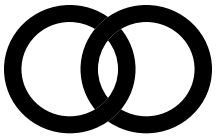
Concerns of the youth

The day-to-day issues of the constituency that the youth of the world face are: 1) employment, income and wages and economic independence, 2) lack of access to education, 3) lack of access to other services such as housing, health (mental and reproductive, including right to safe abortion), 4) environment (including climate change), 5) social concerns (cultural, addiction, gender violence, religion and equality) and 6) political repression.

One of the biggest concerns is youth unemployment. Youth unemployment is also related to other socioeconomic concerns that are tied to enormous poverty and insecurity. Aside from the high proportion of unemployed youth, those who are employed have to live on measly wages that cannot afford them access to economic and social services nor financial independence.

There is overwhelming concern over the lack of education for the youth, which results in them not being able to have more chances in finding employment. Oftentimes, migration is a result of these lack of jobs and opportunities in home countries. In many receiving countries in Europe, youth migrants feel ostracised or unaccepted in host countries because they are considered not integrated enough, both socially and linguistically, or are simply illegal and therefore cannot find jobs.

There are also concerns over reproductive health and access to such services. In many countries, abortion is still illegal, hence the lack of safe abortion services for women. Gender violence and mental health issues are major concerns as well. Also, drug addiction, religious fundamentalism, lack of trust in government and criminalisation of dissent are also issues that the youth identify with.



Engagement with EDC lenses

CPDE's engagement strategy shows consciousness of how existing power balances are instrumental in the outcomes of engagement. While increased ODA commitments are certainly concrete outcomes, it is also important to know the sources of these commitments or to what specific expenditures they are allotted for.

At the global level, the constituency has contributed to broader advocacies by engaging in the High- Level Forum (HLPF) in 2018 and 2019, the Ecosoc Youth Forum (wherein it engaged on the basis of SDG Goal 17 on partnerships) and Financing for Development Forum. However, there was a lack of clear positioning on other issues such as conflict and fragility and south-south cooperation (which was aggravated by accreditation problems for BAPA+40).

The youth constituency has worked together with the UN Major Group on Children and Youth (MGCY) on engaging global actors on various issues around means of implementation (SDG 17). It has raised the issue of implementing ODA commitments, addressing shrinking spaces, repudiating illegitimate debt and making international financial institutions (IFIs) accountable for the impact of these debts on people. It has advocated for implementing progressive taxation and opposing the definition of development as measure of growth when the discourse should primarily be about wealth distribution.

The constituency has also engaged the Financing for Development Forum (FFD) on issues of debt, taxation and ODA. The youth constituency has engaged at both regional (continuing) and country platforms (new). Members from Bulgaria, Macedonia and Cameroon have been engaging their governments and other national CSOs. The work around SDGs made the engagement smoother because the accountability is at the country level.

There is a need to take a position on other issues that are important for the youth sector in order to convince or motivate them to participate. At present, there is lack of clear strategies on how to do this.

Challenges

The constituency needs to strategise on a comprehensive manner to implement the demands of the youth. One of the initial steps is to finalise the guidelines on the youth indicator on DE. There is however, a need to collectively discuss strategies on 1) how to implement and monitor these and 2) how to maximise these in engaging actors to adhere to principles of EDC.

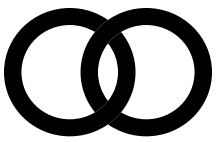
There are several challenges to this. First, the constituency needs to get away from a highly-technical EDC language in order reach out to more organisations, especially those from the grassroots. Second, the constituency needs a clearer memory on what has been done concretely and what has been achieved so far. This common memory will assist the constituency and the platform in sifting out what worked best based on a particular context in the past. This will also contribute to a common understanding of the processes. Third, there is a general trend that the more progressive CSOs are, the worse relationship they have with the government. It is necessary to consider how to push for the changes that CSOs want in this state of play.

There is also a challenge to have resources to implement initiatives at the country level. Accountability to development commitments, especially in relation to SDGs, have to be demanded from duty-bearers at the country level. The comprehensive approach is one at the country level as well. For example, PAMPA³ in Argentina does not talk about EDC in particular but about SDGs. Thus, EDC engagement takes a more holistic form.

In its engagement with the Ecosoc Youth Forum, the youth constituency was able to position CPDE and its stand on various issues on EDC. It was through the engagement with the UN MGCY that the constituency was able to do this. The CPDE Youth Coordinator was initially appointed as focal person for SDG 17 (means of implementation) but turned it down due to the amount of work entailed.

The HLPF was not very fruitful in some aspects. On one hand, it was positive that CPDE was able to get the youth represented. It was useful for the coordinator to be exposed to what is happening in that space. On the other hand, there was no roadmap for the engagement, such as laying down the concrete objectives (role of participants, engagement plan, concrete goals) that could have improved the benefits for the constituencies.

³ PAMPA 2030 or the Argentinian Platform for Monitoring the 2030 Agenda brings together trade unions and civil society organisations advocating the design of regulatory frameworks in line with the SDGs, as a dialogue partner



Also, it is not clear on which commitments can governments be held accountable at this level. There were interventions, which were important process-wise, but the impact of this is vague. The youth is also not part of the advocacy core group. This is why the engagement roadmap is crucial for the youth participants to know their role.

CPDE can strengthen its HLPF engagement. The advocacy team can draw up more concrete strategies and map out government positions and stand on various issues. For the youth constituency, it is important to know the concrete goal of the engagement because in the next years, it may decide to contribute to the proposal or withdraw from the engagement altogether. Also, during the HLPF, CPDE could have made a statement of solidarity to the position of other platforms such as on debt, etc.

The youth sector turned to UN MGYC to engage the Financing for Development Forum. It was able to forward key policy positions on aid.

Sharing good practices and ways forward

The youth constituency has made efforts so that the regional coordinators are on the same page about the activities and objectives of the constituency, including monthly Skype calls and sharing of information. It also helped the constituency that the coordinators have been honest about personal availability and commitments.

Best practices

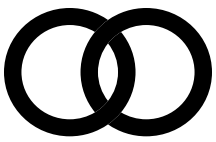
One of the practices of the constituency in terms of advocacy engagement is choosing the most relevant representative based on their specific areas of work and expertise and making the representation as widely-distributed as possible. For example, for COP, the constituency was represented by organisations from the Pacific region and for International Labour Organization (ILO) engagements in Geneva, it sent May Makki of Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND) to reflect both the positions of the UN MGCY and CPDE.

The constituency recognises that engagement it is not merely about seizing opportunities but more about focused engagement. In the engagements of the youth constituency, representatives have been forwarding the positions of bigger platforms and not of themselves or their own organisations. And in the same vein that the constituency tries to move as one in terms of priorities, their best practice is about having a common project. (See Box 9.)

Box 9.

A common project on DE

The youth constituency has implemented activities in relation to the Istanbul Principles and DE guidelines, which made sure that they work together with one objective. The constituency likewise came up with a concrete proposal in 2019 on youth indicators on DE. Because this was something that they can work on together with a definite time frame, they were able to draw up a monitoring matrix that was discussed during the 2019 global youth training in Bulgaria.



Relevant policy arenas and partnerships

The UN MGCY and the Ecosoc Youth Forum are platforms that the constituency engages in and remain relevant to their objectives. The Ecosoc Youth Forum is an important arena for the youth constituency because it is the venue for engaging directly on the SDGs. The International Labour Organization (ILO) on SDGs and the youth and the UN MGCY continue to be relevant policy arenas as well. The Financing for Development engagement likewise remains valuable because it is the core business of CPDE to engage in aid issues.

On the other hand, the HLPF is not something that the constituency plans to focus on, except as support to countries doing the voluntary national reviews (VNRs).

Some organisations clinched partnerships with Eurodad on Debt and Youth position paper drafting.

Relevant strategies

The youth constituency always speaks for something bigger and beyond the interest of member organisations. It tries to identify opportunities and how these opportunities can enrich the constituency. It plans to continue this work by ensuring that there is a road map for advocacy engagement in order to have concrete objectives, roles and measurable results. Likewise, it plans to use the youth indicators to engage more youth organisations and policy actors. It also aims to improve youth participation within CPDE such as becoming more involved in the working groups.

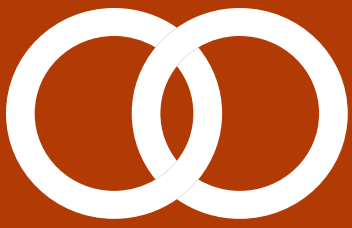
The constituency plans to be more active in key advocacy issues on conflict and fragility, private sector engagement, climate, enabling environment, DE, South-South cooperation and debt. They will coordinate more with ROA Africa because of the youth indicators and advocacy themes.

Future capacities

The constituency in the next few years wants to implement more projects, but this also means that members have to capacitate themselves to raise more funds and increase efficiency in its work systems. It plans to develop fund-raising capacities including project matrices development to implement projects within the constituency. This can be complemented by the knowledge on how to establish and maintain relationship with donors.

Also, to increase efficiency, the constituency suggests that CPDE considers getting a virtual work platform that can work not only for the constituency but also for other constituencies. CPDE can look into applications, including possibilities of buying (such as Sprint Intelligent Virtual Office), to make work more efficient.

Advocacy capacities are also needed. For example, members can benefit if they know how to develop a roadmap for strategic advocacy engagement and sharing of advocacy best practices. CPDE is well-positioned in major policy arenas and there are experts within the platform. The key is how to transfer this knowledge so that engagement work is more sustainable.



Working Groups

Working Group on Conflict and Fragility:
Surmounting Internal Challenges

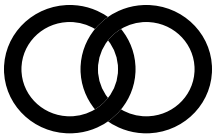
Working Group on Development Effectiveness:
Scaling Up the Country Compacts

Working Group on Enabling Environment:
Translating Capacity to Country Work

Working Group on Private Sector:
Capacitating Towards a Policy Position
on Blended Finance and Development

Working Group on South-South Cooperation:
Concretising People to People Cooperation





Working Groups

CPDE working groups identified the following as their capacity development priorities:

Making group structures work to build capacities on advocating on conflict and fragility issues;

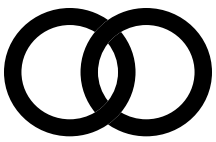
Identifying key messages so that the platform is on the same page when engaging policy and development actors;

Practising the Istanbul principles and engaging appropriate arenas and relevant actors using these principles;

Sustained practice and engagement to increase the quality of discourse and present more evidence on the correctness and effectivity of the principles and interventions to complement trainings and workshops;

Supporting countries and organisations in monitoring the implementation of Indicator 2 of the GPEDC Monitoring Rounds; and,

Programming capacity development (continuing, integrated, and deliberate)



The working groups conducted capacity development in terms of framing, research and monitoring and advocacy engagement. (See Table 4) Two working groups reported workshops/trainings on: 1) on the role of private sector on development cooperation and 2) data gathering and monitoring for Indicator 2 for the GPEDC 3rd monitoring round.

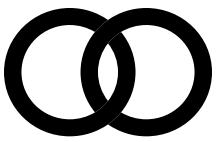
Many of the advocacy activities reported by the working groups are with high-level activities such as the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40), GPEDC 3rd monitoring round and Belgrade Civil Society Summit. Policy researches and other research endeavours were also implemented.

The results of capacity development efforts can be summarised in five points:

1. Unity with other CSOs on national status of enabling environment
2. More CSOs applying Istanbul principles
3. Published materials that serve as key resource for advocacy topics (blended finance, DE, South-South Cooperation)
4. Higher level of working among CSOs because of unity achieved on advocacy areas
5. CSO participation is institutionalised in some development partnerships

Table 10.
Capacity development activities reported by working groups

	Organisational development	Research and monitoring	Advocacy engagement
Conflict and Fragility Working Group	Development of the framework paper	Policy research to identify the ways by which development cooperation with security or military objectives are implemented in selected countries or regions	Study conference on the “triple nexus” Formulation of advocacy action plan
CSO Enabling Environment (EE) Working Group		Designed and refined instruments for data collection to monitor Indicator 2 Trainings on monitoring Indicator 2	
CSO Development Effectiveness (DE) Working Group		Country compacts	CSOs roadmap for multi-stakeholder country compact
Private Sector Working Group	Workshop on blended finance and mapping out actors for engagement		
South-South Cooperation Working Group			BAPA+40 engagements including preparatory activities



Challenges

The constituencies presented several external and some internal challenges in advancing their capacity development work. A big hindrance is the overall shrinking or closing of democratic spaces. Without the involvement of other CSOs in this issue, barriers to CSO engagement in policy arenas will increase.

Some regional constituencies are concerned with the delayed release of funds; better flow of communication (including language limitations) within working groups, constituencies and country members; lack of funds and human resource; a need to review the development cooperation policy to promote multi-stakeholder partnerships; lack of engagement of other CSOs on private sector accountability; and lack of ownership of EDC principles. Some regional constituencies also noted that in the past years, money allocated to country-level activities was not enough to properly build capacities at the country level. There are also concerns that the same set of people are being capacitated. Thus, there should be a rethink on how to develop capacities sustainably.

The sectoral secretariats, owing to the diversity of organisations under the various formations, consider general coordination work as a huge part of constituency activities, so better communication and beefing up secretariat capacity are major concerns. Other concerns include earlier approval of plans and release of budget and sustaining capacities over time.

Some of the challenges that working groups face are also on issues of coordination and participation. Improvements in coordination through regular consultations and assessments, finding more effective work systems and surpassing language limitations are some examples. Also, production of popular materials and undertaking well-researched studies are among the recommended ways to move forward.

Table 11.
Engagement platforms and strategies of working groups

	Engagement platform	Engagement strategies
Conflict and Fragility Working Group	Individual members – CSPPS, GPEDC, UNDP HLPF and country compacts	Promoting “triple nexus” approach (linkages between humanitarian, development, and peace actors)
CSO Enabling Environment (EE) Working Group	GPEDC, Task Team	Using member expertise to capacitate CSOs to monitor Indicator 2
CSO Development Effectiveness (DE) Working Group	CSOs through Country Compacts, GPEDC, Task Team, Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development	Building on existing initiatives and mechanisms whenever possible; roadmap for multi-stakeholder country compact
Private Sector Working Group	CSOs	Co-learning on blended finance and IFIs
South-South Cooperation Working Group	BAPA+40 (UNOSSC), Global South-South Development Expo, OECD-DAC, GPEDC	Conducting comprehensive preparatory meetings for a major event, continuous communication with key policy actors

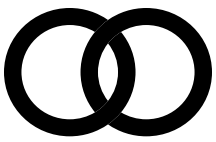


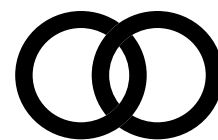
Table 12.
Best practice strategies of CPDE working groups

Research and monitoring	Enabling Environment
Coordination and internal communication	South-South Cooperation
Formation of multi-stakeholder and broader platforms for partnerships	Development Effectiveness
Popularisation, appropriate messaging	
Stock-taking and assessments	Conflict and Fragility
Higher level of advocacy	

Table 13.
Identified capacity needs of working groups

Identified Capacity Needs	
Conflict and fragility	Advocacy strategies, organisational (facilitation, coordination)
Development effectiveness	Research, communication and messaging
South-South cooperation	Monitoring and documentation, implementation (of actual people-to-people cooperation) and engagement in policy and participation in the various stages of SSC
Enabling environment	Budget for secretariat support

Working Group on Conflict and Fragility: Surmounting Internal Challenges¹



The conflict and fragility working group is a relatively young group convened only in March 2018 and assigned a coordinator only in November of the same year. The second face-to-face meeting of the working group was in Amman, Jordan in November 2019.

Key to capacity development

The group finds it most important to first make group structures work to build capacities on advocating on conflict and fragility issues. Next, the group needs to identify key messages so that the platform is on the same page when engaging policy and development actors.

Capacitating the constituency

Activities

The group's first capacity-development activity is the development of the framework paper, which was finalised in February 2019. The group agreed to work together to advocate that aid should not be used for advancing security and military purposes in the guise of development.

To improve research capabilities, the group has embarked on a case-building research endeavour. There is an ongoing policy research to identify the ways by which development cooperation with security or military objectives are implemented in selected countries or regions (Pacific Islands, India, Yemen, Kenya, and Burundi).

The working group also organised a study conference on the "triple nexus"² in November 2019. The conference's objective was to discuss EDC in the context of conflict and fragility and develop key messages on the "triple nexus".

Results

The framework paper is the constituency's contribution to the development of the CPDE manifesto. By working together on this paper, the group members were able to formulate key messages that are vital to advocacy engagement.

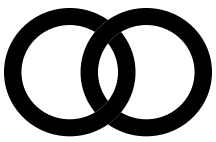
The ongoing research will show the nuances of aid and militarism at the country level and will help in understanding the various strategies of aid donors and government and private recipients. This, in turn, will be a reference to strategising for the constituency's advocacy campaigns.

The study conference released a communique, emphasising the need to promote the triple nexus approach to address the needs of people living in conflicted, fragile and occupied settings, while distancing from the security and geopolitical interests of the state. It also called for the inclusion and meaningful participation of CSOs in the "triple nexus" process as a precondition to transparency and accountability of duty-bearers. Finally, the communique stressed the importance of recognising and resolving the roots causes of these conflicts and fragile situations.³

¹ The main reference of this document is the online interview of the secretariat, Deewa Dela Cruz of IPSMDL, 18 November 2019, unless stated otherwise

² The "triple nexus" refers to the interlinkages between humanitarian, development and peace actors.

³ "CPDE holds study conference on development cooperation in contexts of conflict and fragility." CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness. 21 November 2019. <https://www.csopartnership.org/single-post/2019/11/11/CPDE-holds-study-conference-on-development-cooperation-in-contexts-of-conflict-and-fragility>



Challenges

The group is challenged internally by the weaknesses of its structure. It must find ways on how to effectively work together. Members of the group, as well as the secretariat, have realised that there is a need, among others, to come up with terms of reference with members of the group to clarify tasks and accountabilities.

The group recognises the need to undertake well-researched studies and reports and thus must build the capacity for this. It is currently challenged to produce campaigns and reports that are evidence-based and based on critical analysis of the political environment. However, it is the undemocratic political environment itself that limits the conduct of necessary researches.

There are limitations in the production of materials including translation to other languages, such as Arabic, French and Spanish. There is likewise a need to publish popular materials and documents that explain effective development cooperation (EDC) jargon in simpler terms. The constituency structures need to be activated and maximised to contribute to these concerns.

Advocacy Engagement

The working group has not planned on how to systematically engage international policy actors and other CSOs. Thus, engagement with international actors have been done at the organisational level. For example, Cordaid hosts and coordinates the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS), which engages with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and Global Partnership on Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC).⁴ Also, individual members of the working group participated at the GPEDC Senior Level Meeting (SLM) and the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York on July 2019.

Some members are also involved in country-level humanitarian and organising work among CSOs. These organisations conducted workshops on landgrabbing and militarisation and human rights documentation. Meanwhile, the organisation of the Jordan-based Co-Chair has specific work in Yemen, Palestine and other countries in West Asia and North Africa.

The group has regular regional and international engagements as CPDE members. The members work on the militarisation of aid and development policies that allow these. It is further studying how the humanitarian, development and peace actors interlock in specific contexts. It strategises on promoting the “triple nexus”.

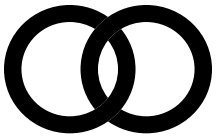
Sharing best practices and ways forward

The working group is poised to move forward after a necessary stock-taking exercise. It is now planning to work on other issues that are closely linked to situations of conflict and fragility with other members of the platform.

Best practice

The group finds it important that the members were able to point out their weaknesses and learn from them. For example, the members were able to identify the lack of action plan and systematic work arrangement as a problem. They were also able to correct these weaknesses by having an action plan guided by the framework paper during the meeting in Jordan. Still, they need to overcome internal hurdles including forming a core group and establishing communication procedures with other constituencies on their engagement with UN bodies, at the country level and across themes.

⁴ “No stability or sustained peace without true inclusivity.” Cordaid. 10 July 2018. <https://www.cordaid.org/en/news/no-stability-without-true-inclusivity/>



Relevant policy arenas

At the global level, UN processes including SDG-related platforms, the GPEDC and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development-Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC) (in particular, the peace reference group on conflict and fragility) remain relevant policy arenas.

The working group also finds it important to engage with other sectors such as refugees, women and rural organisations and on other related themes, such as climate issues and private sector accountability.

At the regional level, the working group wants to strengthen organisations in Asia and MENA to lead initiatives in the region. At the country level, it is relevant to continue the work in the Philippines and West Papua.

Future strategies

The core strategy of the group is maximising existing platforms to communicate the group's key messages to CSOs, including those outside of CPDE and policy actors. The website can also be adjusted to reflect outputs specific to the working group with the agreement of the Global Secretariat. The members also have to agree on the membership process so that they can broaden their reach to non-CPDE CSOs working on conflict and fragility.

Advocacy engagement

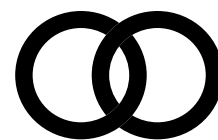
There are plans to work on the issue of enabling environment, shrinking spaces and defending human rights defenders as well as on the role of the private sector and international financial institutions (IFIs) in conflict and fragile situations. It would be helpful to look into how these institutions or actors complicate or help in peace-building. It also plans to look into other dimensions of fragility in other regions such as the impact and further threats of climate disasters in the Pacific region. It will work with other constituencies on migration and refugees as an aspect of conflict and fragility.

Needed capacities

The working group wants to build capacities on making the group more efficient and effective in its advocacy work. It is likewise important for the secretariat to acquire deeper understanding of various dimensions of the issue and to learn better strategies in facilitation and coordination. The working group also needs to be updated with effective communication tools.

For CPDE in general, there is a need to better coordinate activities with other constituencies. The group believes that CPDE structures should be on the same page about their expectations of working groups, including the flow of communication from to the Coordinating Committee and the Global Secretariat.

Working Group on Development Effectiveness: Scaling Up the Country Compacts¹



The working group on development effectiveness (WG DE) is the custodian of the Istanbul Principles. Its work revolves around promoting the commitments to and practice of development effectiveness (DE) among CSOs within CPDE and beyond. It works closely with the WG on CSO Enabling Environment (EE) in the Task Team, whose members are recognised as champions of CSO DE in the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC).

Key to capacity development

The key ingredient to developing capacities is to practice the Istanbul principles and engage appropriate arenas and relevant actors using these principles. Continuous practice and engagement increase the quality of discourse and present more evidence on the correctness and effectivity of the principles.

Interventions through trainings and workshops are likewise important. Trainings can be a venue for organisations to share their best practices, which other organisations/-constituencies can consider based on their own contexts. Bringing people together can provide solidarity among organisations and peoples at difference levels, which can also increase their capacities to engage.

The work on CSO DE takes on a bit of a different grind compared to other constituencies because it is largely an internal commitment. It is important that organisations own the principles by practicing them, such as working with grassroots organisations and holding governments to account. CSO legitimacy and accountability rest on the support of the constituency that they serve. Hence, if organisations put more resources and energy in ticking the boxes of the Istanbul principles, it may distract them in actually demanding accountability from duty-bearers.

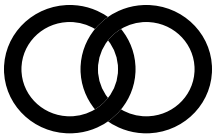
Efforts to capacitate and advocacy work

In the past couple of years, the WG DE has been implementing research activities and outreach efforts through the process of country compacts.

Country compacts

The WG DE in 2018-2019 conducted a collaborative research, called Country Compacts, on the evidence of CSO capacity in upholding Nairobi Outcome Document. The objective was to gather six cases from different countries, which shows that CSOs are doing their fair share of commitments in the Nairobi Outcome Document.

¹ The main reference for this document is the online interview with the secretariat Jazminda Lumang of Asia Pacific Research Network, 12 December 2019, unless stated otherwise



The country compact is an agreement among development actors that pledged to implement all commitments made on the issue of DE. Specifically, the Compact is a time-bound agreement that aims to:

1. Advocate for the universal application of EDC, anchored on the principles of DE and human rights standards, on the national level;
2. Create a mutually agreed framework of understanding for increased and more effective development efforts at the national level while recognising the differences and complementarities and relative power and capacities of different stakeholders;
3. Address and follow up on challenges that continue to hamper the full realisation of effective development cooperation;

At the minimum, the Compact should be agreed and upheld by country CSOs, including sectoral organisations, social movements, people's organisations, and non-government organisations, through an inclusive and transparent process of consultations. The Compact may build on existing initiatives and mechanisms whenever possible, such as Memoranda of Understanding or Codes of Conduct, etc. Monitoring the implementation of the compact will be led by a Country Compact Team designated by participating organisations.

The WG DE has been leading the conduct of these country compact activities. What it has achieved so far is a process whereby CSOs come together to agree on a roadmap for multi-stakeholder country compact. CSOs identified the DE issues that they would like to engage in and the group piloted their ideas in Cambodia, West Papua and Senegal. One of the results is an agreement among CSOs to continuously convince donors and governments to uphold commitments.

With these initiatives, CSOs at the country level have been building alliances with each other and broadening their reach. Some efforts are still tied to burning issues for a particular country, but the issue of human rights is emerging to be a unifying theme that countries can cooperate on. This country compact is set to be implemented on a bigger scale next year. After this, their target is to come up with a scoping study of all the country compacts to produce a guide on how to do country compacts.

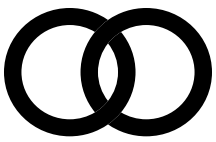
CSOs are very diverse and the WG DE makes sure that it understands the context wherein they operate and how they engage their respective governments. The constituencies had a face-to-face meeting where they revisited the mandate and shared the different experiences on their CSO DE work and sectoral guidelines.

Results and challenges

Many of the members have expressed their commitment to advance DE. However, several members have also raised questions about analysing results from these endeavors instead of merely focusing on the process. Also, instead of making a separate accountability principle for the platform, other established internal accountability principles for CSOs can be considered. The nuancing in relation to DE work can be applied to suit the goals of CPDE. In this way, resources are maximised.

Implementing and monitoring how CSOs apply democratic ownership also requires a lot of nuancing. This is not only about CSOs following government processes, many of which are from governments without good mandates (e.g. authoritarian), but also looking into how governments relate with CSOs. It is crucial whether governments relate with them nominally (e.g. CSOs get invited to development processes) and/or substantially (how positions of CSOs are carried into the development plan). Also, while the discourse is primarily on the implementation of the SDGs, the elephants in the room such as militarism and the climate crisis, which have tremendous impact on the implementation of the SDGs are not discussed.

There is a need for the platform to think of how to make the GPEDC more relevant. It is supposed to bridge all talks together, but it has nothing to show for until now.



Engagements

The WG DE engaged CSOs in Cambodia, Senegal, West Papua for the country compacts. There was a general consensus from CSOs to broaden themselves with various foci. In Cambodia, the discussion was cooperation on SDGs. In West Papua, CSOs agreed to cooperate on the basis of their struggle for self-determination (See section on Best Practice). In Senegal, the trade union sector spearheaded the initiatives.

The group advocates for enabling environment at the global and regional levels. At the global level, the WG DE engages the GPEDC on enabling environment. Regionally, the group is active in the Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development. In this arena, the constituency criticised the lack of enabling environment for CSOs. At the same time, it presented accomplishments on how CPDE organisations are struggling for this.

At the 2019 Civil Society Week in Belgrade, Serbia, the WG DE was able to relate with several big CSOs and multilateral officials on enabling environment. The question is how to translate the Belgrade Call to Action to include commitments by government bodies. During the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) and the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in New York, participating CSOs were also able to make interventions in relation to enabling environment for CSOs. Many CSOs were satisfied because they were able to amplify their messages.

Challenges

CSOs demand an enabling environment alongside their commitment to DE because the issue of shrinking democratic spaces and political repression are hindrances to their implementation of principles of DE. Many of the CSOs in the platform have reported intensifying repression in their countries. There are some countries that have been able to gain small victories in human rights in the international arena. For example, Filipino CSOs and people's organisations have been able to gain a small victory in the form of the UN Human Rights Council Resolution initiated by Iceland.²

Bigger CSOs outside of the platform figuring in various scandals³ such as sexual harassment have also posed challenges in terms of promoting DE. Thus, the WG DE recommends a CSO awareness check by way of self-reflection every time the platform meets. Members remind themselves time and again that CSOs must not lose sight of the end goal of committing to the Istanbul principles – so that CSOs can work more effectively to engage governments and change their policies.

Sharing good practices and ways forward

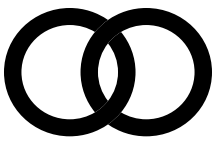
Because of its work on the country compact, the WG DE has been discussing how DE work can fully reflect the aspirations of various actors for change of CSOs and grass-roots organisations. Specifically, the group wants to revisit key questions on DE in relation to empowering CSOs, engaging government and building partnership. It can do this by looking back at good practices in the past 10 years of Istanbul Principles and looking forward to relevant policy arenas, strategies, and capacities.

Best practice

The WG DE has had diverse experiences in working with national CSOs for them to adopt the Istanbul principles. Still, of all the country compacts that were done last year, the experience with CSOs and people's organisations in West Papua is a best practice, as it is a breakthrough. (See Box 10.)

² The resolution urging the United Nations to take action on drug war killings and other human rights violations in the Philippines was initiated by Iceland and was adopted by the United Nations Human Rights Council on 11 July 2019.

³ Among the official inquiries on this issue was conducted by the United Kingdom House of Commons. The report can be found here: <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmintdev/840/84004.htm>



Box 10.

West Papuan CSOs' Manifesto

The objective of this engagement was to start the process of developing country compact in the context of West Papuan peoples' struggle for self-determination. Two CPDE working groups (DE and conflict and fragility), together with CSOs in West Papua conducted consultations. These consultations resulted in the building of allies among Indonesia CSOs that support the West Papuans' struggle.

They began the process by discussing the colonial history of West Papua and the role of DE work in this particular context. The local CSOs formed an alliance/platform to continue the work on the country compact, through the agreement of CSOs, governments and development partners to uphold effective development cooperation based on their common objectives. The local organisations saw the importance of coming together. They wrote a manifesto of appreciation of Istanbul principles, which became the basis of the country compact process.

Below is the Manifesto:

MANIFEST OF BASIC RIGHTS OF PAPUA'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

1. Land, Sea, Air and all of its natural resources belong to the Papuan Indigenous People.
2. Land, Sea, Air is not traded to any party.
3. All development actors, namely: Government, Business sectors and Non-Government Organisations must recognise, respect and guarantee the Rights of Indigenous Peoples of Papua, especially the right to life, ownership rights and welfare rights.
4. All Development activities in the Papua Customary Territory must obtain a legally binding agreement from the Papuan Customary Community.
5. All tribes within the Community must recognise and respect the existence of customary rights among Papuan Indigenous communities, both collectively and individually.
6. Papuan Indigenous Peoples must use Papua's Natural Resources for the interests of the Political Aspirations of the Papuan People.
7. The Papuan community respects and is open to working with outside parties to utilise natural resources on an ongoing basis to build economy of Indigenous Peoples in the Land of Papua.
8. The Papuan Customary Community respects and is open to working with outside parties in order to create Papua as a region free from violence, oppression and greed.
9. Papuan Indigenous Peoples respect the citizens of other communities living in the Land of Papua with behaviours that do not distinguish ethnicity, religion and race.

Relevant strategies

One of the groups' major strategies is to build partnerships with champions of DE. These can be members of the Task Team, UN officials, CSO leaders and even government officials. By targeting this, it is also opportune to review the engagement of the WG DE with the Task Team. It is supportive at the level of the GPEDC but as champions, their contributions can be further maximised.

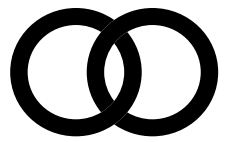
The second strategy is propagating the sectoral guidelines on DE to the whole network, to more organisations that fall under the CPDE sectors and to wider sectors as well.

The third strategy is to engage more at the country level. This can be done through a broader implementation of the country compact and creating a framework of action based on the various experiences of different countries. The strategy involves reaching out to country focal persons so that they are aware of the country compact process and the sectoral guidelines.

Relevant capacities

For the WG DE, there is a need to increase the capacity to do policy advocacy work at the country level in order to be more effective in holding governments accountable in the spirit of the Siem Riep Declaration. This includes fortifying capacities in research, communication and messaging.

Working Group on Enabling Environment: Translating Capacity to Country Work¹



The working group (WG) on enabling environment (EE) promotes the reform of legal and regulatory frameworks based on human rights standards in order to facilitate the CSO space in policy and practice in compliance with the Istanbul Principles. It aims to install permanent multi-stakeholder structures that can monitor and create legal and regulatory reforms in a number of countries. In order to implement this objective, it works and engages with national governments, the Global Partnership on Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC), relevant United Nations (UN) agencies, regional-level institutions and the Task Team on CSO development effectiveness (DE) and EE.¹

Capacity development work

The mandate of the WG EE is anchored on the necessity of the international development community, including in particular donors and governments to take concrete actions to reverse trends of shrinking and closing civic spaces in development and attacks on human rights defenders.²

Basis of capacity development work

The capacity development work of the WG EE is anchored on the messages that it advocates:

1. Respect and uphold the stakeholders' commitments to provide an enabling environment for CSOs, including recognising their independence, supporting their operations through enabling financing, and strengthening their capacities;
2. Reverse trends of shrinking and closing civic spaces, and assert the people's fundamental freedoms of association, of expression, of the press, and political participation, and their rights to peaceful assembly, and information;
3. Uphold the rights of human rights defenders, social activists, and civil society actors, against the culture of impunity, and harassments perpetrated by both public and private actors; and,
4. Retract restrictive laws hindering the full operation of CSOs, review disabling conditions for CSO formation, registration and operations, including arbitrary policies, duplicating processes and requirements, especially for those working on human rights in critically sensitive environments.³

The members of the WG EE are already champions of this advocacy. Thus, as defined by the members, the role of WG EE is to support countries and organisations in monitoring the implementation of Indicator 2 of the GPEDC Monitoring Rounds: Civil society operates within an environment that maximises its engagement in and contribution to development.

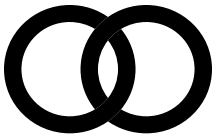
To monitor this indicator, the members of the WG EE took on the role to design instruments for data collection, to generate and analyse data and to convene platforms and dialogue opportunities for these issues to be discussed. For 2018, the focus was data collection while for 2019, the priority was developing the call to action.

The WG EE has capacitated itself as it developed and refined the instruments for monitoring Indicator 2. At the same time, it capacitated CSOs by supporting country-level activities to use these instruments for monitoring, gathering and analysing data.

¹ "CSO Enabling Environment." CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness. No date. <https://www.csopartnership.org/cso-enabling-e>

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.



Activities

The WG EE implemented activities in preparation of the 3rd monitoring round of the GPEDC, following its launching in September 2018.⁴ The objective is to refine Indicator 2 variables and build capacities for CSOs to adjust to data collection. The WG EE first refined the sub-indicators for Indicator 2. Afterwards, it implemented global trainings for CSOs. These trainings were conducted in Kenya (5 November 2018) and Zambia (3 May 2019). A total of 30 countries participated in these trainings.⁵

The WG EE also supported global processes by conducting the feedback process on the report of Indicator 2. This process involved some 40 countries around the world. The data were used not only to produce CPDE reports on indicator 2 but also to produce an alternative report on monitoring other indicators.

Advocacy work

The WG EE's advocacy work is mainly through the participation of its members in the GPEDC and Task Team and its engagement with UN agencies especially in relation to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF).

Achievements

The WG EE, together with CIVICUS, Action for Sustainable Development, Civic Initiatives and the Balkan Civil Society Development Network, organised a Global Civil Society Summit on 8 April 2019 in Belgrade, Serbia. The main objective of the event was to amplify the issues of closing civic space and attacks on human rights defenders and put these issues on the international development cooperation table. The activity was attended by over 200 participants including Fabrizio Hochschild, UN Assistant Secretary General for Strategic Coordination.⁶ This resulted in the Belgrade Call to Action, which has been taken up to and is being considered seriously by the UN Secretary General.

Within GPEDC, shrinking democratic spaces has become a major area of work. It is now being considered for incorporation in the next workplan. Specific actions to address this issue will be determined.

Challenges

The WG EE is well-financed but it recommends that, beyond the mandate of the WG, more investments should be made to implement some of the findings of the monitoring processes. Since the enabling environment is a campaign issue and not a policy issue, CSOs themselves have to pool resources for this.

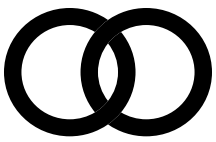
The shrinking space issue has been recognised at the global level because of the efforts of organisations at the country level to raise this in international arenas. These organisations need both political and financial support because they are at the frontlines. However, the country level lacks resources for implementation because, owing to its structure, CPDE works more at the global level.

Given this limitation, support can be either through CPDE-convened multi-stakeholder dialogues or CPDE-led campaigns around these issues. CPDE has the convening power to bring all these efforts together and for the platform to speak with one voice. These dialogues should also be done at the country level because many of the policy campaigns at the global level do not translate to country level.

4 "Enhancing Civil Society Role in Development Partnerships Post 2015." Working Group on Enabling Environment, CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness. 27 May 2019.

5 Ibid.

6 Ibid.



Sharing good practices and ways forward

The constituency plans to implement at the country-level its good practice of forging multi-stakeholder partnerships through its identified strategies and needed capacities.

Best practices

The multi-stakeholder process is the best practice of the WG EE. This sets the bar on which values to measure or monitor enabling environment for CSOs. The WG EE convenes the processes that define the parameters. It trains the people to understand these parameters then test the parameters and discuss these with stakeholders through multi-stakeholder activities.

Relevant policy arenas

In the next couple of years, the WG EE plans to continue with engaging the UN through the Belgrade Call to Action. It will also lead GPEDC's work stream on shrinking space.

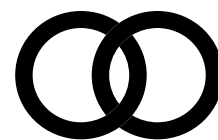
Relevant strategies and capacities

The current strategy of the WG EE is to work with a small core team that is committed and can implement the heavy requirements of the group's mandate. This strategy is working well.

However, it is challenged by the lack of budget for the secretariat or for personnel, making the administrative work burdensome. This has to be addressed for the WG EE to be more efficient in fulfilling its mandate.

Working Group on Private Sector:

Capacitating Towards a Policy Position on Blended Finance and Development



The WG PS on private sector (WG PS) accountability advocates to ensure that Private Sector entities adhere to all Development Effectiveness principles, implement Human Rights standards, promote and practice decent work and adopt transparency and accountability standards.

Collective Learning

The WG PS conducted a workshop on the role of private sector in development cooperation in Lusaka, Zambia on 26-27 March 2019. Apart from members of the WG PS, participants from CSOs, think tanks and research centres in Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America participated as well.

The workshop's objective was to deepen knowledge and strengthen capacities of CPDE members on blended finance and strategise on holding accountable private sector entities engaged in development. Specifically, the WG PS aimed to thresh out and discuss in depth concepts and trends on blended finance and the increasing role of the private sector in development. There was also a recognition that there are already several researches on the impact and implications of Chinese investments in developing countries, but the platform has yet to develop a consolidated position regarding the matter.

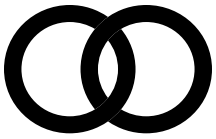
With these objectives, the sessions were narrowed down to reflect the immediate concerns of the WG PS. The activity included sessions on: a) Foreign direct investment (FDI) trends and implication on labour rights, b) Chinese investments in infrastructure in Africa, c) basic concepts and principles on blended finance and d) global debates around the private sector in development.¹

Strategising

It was useful for the constituency to organise the event in Africa, which is increasingly being promoted for African development by international financial institutions (IFIs) and regional multilateral banks. A primer on blended finance was also discussed and distributed to the participants. The workshop enabled them to have the necessary tools to engage their governments on issues related to blended finance.

Case studies from trade unions and CSOs were presented. Participants were able to learn various strategies on private sector engagement, including how to analyse its effects. It was an appropriate and fruitful approach for the WG PS because the participants learned from the experts and from each other's experiences on blended finance, which is quite a technical issue.

¹ ITUC-CSI. Meeting Report on PRIVATE SECTOR SEMINAR. 26-27 March 2019.
https://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/minutes_from_the_cpde_wg_on_private_sector_cb_activity.docx.pdf



Because of the workshop, organisations working on private sector accountability and development finance have been able to forge key points of coordination and cooperation.² The workshop resulted in a mapping of actors in blended finance to be engaged. The participants agreed that the best strategy is to engage with these actors directly. Internally, the participants likewise decided to strengthen collaboration and coordination across regions, create platforms where evidence and cases can be shared, coordinate and organise with CSOs across regions to mount campaigns, organise similar workshops in other regions and mobilise resources to implement said plans.

Following the agreements in the workshop, the WG PS is currently developing key messages on private sector engagement in development. These messages are intended for policy debates and high-level panels on private sector accountability in development. The messages contain the following analyses:

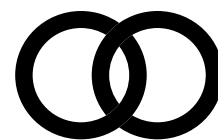
1. In promoting and engaging in blended finance, development finance institutions (DFIs) or IFIs have no accountability towards project stakeholder, as evidenced by their previous and current practices.
2. DFIs tend to channel more official development assistance (ODA) and development finance to support private sector projects and programs. They do not apply DE principles in their projects in developing countries such as compliance with ownership principles.
3. Results from projects funded by blended finance are also not maximised because of unreliable monitoring and reliance on self-reporting.³

The next steps have yet to be discussed by members of the WG PS as one of the more urgent actions is to finalise the new secretariat.

² Ibid.

³ Lopez, Diego. "Strategising around CSO engagement on private sector in development". 26-27 March 2019.
https://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/session_5_-_presentation_1_-_diego_lopez.pdf

Working Group on South-South Cooperation: Concretising People to People Cooperation



The working group on South-South cooperation (WG SSC) aims to influence the development of a global accountability framework for South-South cooperation that is premised on horizontal development cooperation with rights-based approaches and principles.¹

Key to capacity development

For the WG SSC, the three most important characteristics of capacity development are: 1) continuing, 2) integrated and 3) deliberate.

Capacity development should be undertaken by all constituencies continuously as objectives, foci, and priorities change or shift. Capacitating organisations and personnel in a sustainable manner ensures that there are second liners in these areas of work and current capacities are upgraded to more appropriate ones.

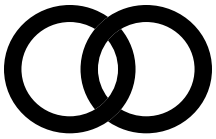
Capacity development should also be integrated in the goals of activities. For example, skills building should be part of advocacy engagement in order to improve future engagements.

Finally, the goal to capacitate should be a conscious one – this goal is identified when drawing up a plan for certain activities that are not solely interventions. For example, sharing of experiences is a form of capacity development, wherein organisations learn from the experiences of other organisations e.g. which strategies are suited to their particular contexts. In engagement or policy advocacy, participants need to be effective in identifying target outputs and outcomes and applying these to their everyday grind.

Efforts to capacitate and engage

Most of the WG SSC's efforts are centred around the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (BAPA)+40 (or the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation) platform, and to a lesser extent the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC).

¹ "South-South Cooperation." CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness. No date.
<https://www.csopartnership.org/south-south-cooperation>



Activities

The BAPA+40 preparatory meeting in October 2018 in Bali, Indonesia is considered by the constituency as a capacity development effort wherein participants were oriented on the nature of BAPA+40. They also learned about the specific process of this particular engagement arena. The participants mapped out what needs to be done and planned to form a platform that would engage collectively. The outcome was the formation of a broader alliance, the Southern CSO Alliance on South-South Cooperation.

The CSO meeting at BAPA+40, which was called by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and led by the Reality of Aid Network, also helped in capacitating organisations engaged in the theme of South-South cooperation. The meeting capacitated CSOs, including those outside of CPDE, on the important issues for CSOs and corresponding positions. It was also an opportunity for CSOs to unite on the CSO message that was delivered by Non-Executive Co-Chair of the GPEDC Vitalice Meja.

Likewise, the CPDE side event at BAPA+40 also capacitated participating organisations. Many CSOs across Latin America, representatives of multilateral and inter-governmental institutions and government officials attended the event, where they were introduced to the human rights-based approach (HRBA) to SSC. The HRB approach is not yet widely-known or applied in analysing SSC.

Results

The Bali preparatory meeting enabled participant organisations to become knowledgeable in the particularities of engaging the BAPA+40, including using the draft document to push for CSO analysis and recommendations and navigating BAPA as an engagement platform. The BAPA+40 events have contributed to raising awareness on and appreciation of human rights-based approach to South-South cooperation and CSOs outside of CPDE adopting the positions and recommendations of CPDE. These CSOs have echoed CPDE's key messages in their own engagements.

Overall, the BAPA+40-related activities broadened the reach of CSOs and they have been able to build alliances. However, internal challenges such as human and financial resource limitations hinder other organisations to do follow-up work outside of the UNOSSC engagement. Organisations working on SSC want to do more research work, to map good practices and to engage in people-to-people cooperation. Thus, after BAPA+40, there needs to be follow-up work including forging new partnerships.

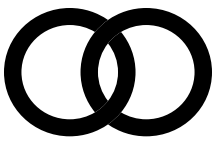
Other EDC activities

Aside from the BAPA+40 related events, there have been several multilateral activities that the WG SSC participated in, which have contributed to some extent to the capacities of the delegates.

The WG SSC sent a 5-person delegation to the Global South-South Development Expo (New York, USA) in November 2018. The delegates, during a side event, raised the human rights-based approach as lens in analysing South-South cooperation to other CSOs based in the North. They were able to network with governments and distribute publications on operationalising HRBA approaches on South-South cooperation.

The WG SSC also engaged the OECD on triangular cooperation. The OECD invited key representatives to attend OECD's 5th international Meeting on triangular cooperation. CPDE representatives shared that traditional donors from the North are trying to wiggle their way in South-South cooperation, given that the current discourse already has a lot of problems. The constituency pushed for the principles of horizontality and CSO involvement at all levels of development policies. They also reiterated that the original anti-colonisation spirit of the Bandung Declaration and the key asks of the Southern CSO Alliance must be upheld.

In November 2019, the WG SSC gave an input at the ROA Global Assembly on triangular cooperation as an emerging issue. At present, there is low awareness on triangular cooperation and even South-South cooperation among CSOs. Thus, the platform needs further research and discussion on these topics.



Sharing good practices and ways forward

The WG SSC's advocacy work has benefited greatly from continuous engagement with relevant platforms. It aims to elevate its advocacy beyond the BAPA+40 mechanism.

Best practice

The WG SSC has two major points on good practices: 1) maximised face to face and virtual platforms and 2) sustained internal and external engagement. The WG SSC had one face-to-face preparatory meeting where virtually everybody was new to the engagement process of BAPA+40. Despite the delayed release of the drafts of the outcome document from the UNOSSC, the WG SSC was able to familiarise with the terrain and strategise. Most importantly, the participants were able to form an alliance of organisations that work on these issues.^{2,3}

Since the WG SSC has a global scope with a limited travel budget, a big CSO forum for further strategising and preparatory work had to be done with a conference call. The major agreements were already done in Bali, so there was already a level of understanding on the issues. The main documents from UNOSSC were already available; they only had to deal with the finishing touches of the engagement plan.

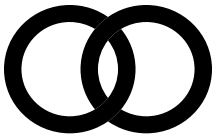
The second good practice is sustained communication among members and sustained engagement among external stakeholders. Aside from communicating regularly and often among themselves in the lead up to BAPA+40, the WG SSC members also contacted various officials and institutions that they have met along the way in order to have a voice in multilateral discussions. The WG SSC has been successful in its strategy of continuous engagement with key officials such as UNOSSC Secretary General Jorge Chediek, UNOSCC Asia Pacific Denis Nkala and UNDP Seoul Policy Director Artemy Izmetsiev. They also released statements and analysis on drafts of key documents.

Relevant policy arenas

The UNOSCC, UNDP and OECD (on triangular cooperation) are continuing relevant actors that the WG SSC will engage in the next few years. The constituency also wants to establish contacts with other institutions such as Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and Asian Development Bank (ADB), as well as emerging donors/actors such as Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS). It will follow up its government contacts in Indonesia, Thailand and other Asian countries and Peru and other Latin American countries to discuss how to cooperate on CSO involvement in crafting South-South cooperation and national policy framework.

2 The Southern CSO Alliance on South-South Cooperation launched on 14 October 2018 in Bali, Indonesia is an independent group that brings together CSOs working on SSC and related issues. Its aim is to facilitate and strengthen CSO involvement and participation in various SSC arenas and push for the upholding of the principle of horizontal development cooperation – including solidarity, mutuality, human rights, respect for sovereignty, and non-conditionality.

3 UNITY STATEMENT ON THE FORMATION OF SOUTHERN CSO ALLIANCE ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION." Reality of Aid Network. 5 November 2018. <https://realityofaid.org/unity-statement-on-the-formation-of-southern-cso-alliance-on-south-south-cooperation/>



Relevant strategies and advocacies

Internally, the WG SSC will implement a more detailed planning including tasking and intensive capacity development as major strategies. It also plans to systematise its follow-up work with its current contacts.

The constituency plans to work on emerging topics such as the unraveling of the northern agenda on triangular cooperation and its impact on SSC. It will pursue the operationalisation of HRBA and South-South cooperation by gathering evidence and developing a more concrete advocacy plan and strategy on conducting and promoting people-to-people cooperation.

Relevant capacities

In order to implement its planned strategies and advocacy, it is important for members of the WG SSC to have better skills in monitoring and documentation, implementation (of actual people to people cooperation) and engagement in policy and participation in the various stages of South-South cooperation. In monitoring, for example, the Aid Observatorio on South-South cooperation of the Latin American and Caribbean region can be implemented in a wider scale.

The WG SSC plans to systematise its engagement at all levels (country, regional, global). Thus, it needs to be effective in engaging policy actors to include CSOs in South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation projects. It is important to capacitate CSOs to be effective in these kinds of engagement.

It is likewise important for the WG SSC and for other organisations interested in South-South cooperation to enable themselves in advancing people-to-people cooperation. There is knowledge in some countries on how to promote, propagate and implement this kind of cooperation, such as with some Latin American countries. Organisations that have witnessed or practiced this can be extremely helpful in concretising solidarity among peoples, including methods and approaches, from a South-South cooperation standpoint.



Photo: Charl Folscher | Unsplash

CSOPartnership for Development Effectiveness

We are the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness, a platform that unites civil society organisations (CSOs) from around the world on the issue of effective development cooperation.

We work in 117 countries, and our members come from seven regions and eight major sectors: faith-based, feminist, indigenous peoples, international CSOs, labour, migrants, rural, and youth. Together, we strive for a more effective development, the kind that truly responds to poverty and inequality.

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