



CORE GROUP MEETING
April 19 2017 – 9:00 - 10:30 am, NY time

Minutes

Facilitator of the month: John Patrick Ngoyi (JDPC) (Joined the call later on). Andrew Griffith chaired the meeting.

Participants: Andrew Griffiths, Nalini Vaz (Sightsavers); Arelys Bellorini and Marggie Simo (World Vision); Gomer Padong (PhilSEN); Ola Abu Alghaib (Leonard Cheshire Disability); Javier Surasky (Cepei); John Patrick Ngoyi (JDPC), Naiara Costa (Together 2030 Secretariat).

Excuses: John Patrick Ngoyi (JDPC), Pauline Lambou (LWA).

- Andrew introduced Nalini Vaz, his alternate at the Together 2030 Core Group.

1) Strategic Discussion: Implementation and the national accountability cycle - How are Core Group members engaging? What are the opportunities for Together 2030?

In this session, Core Group members had an exchange of experiences on their current engagement on VNRs. Javier informed that Cepei is working on a product on VNRs in Latin America and the Caribbean countries, including setting up a group of specialists to follow up after the VNRs.

Gomer informed that Asia and Pacific will be developing regional indicators and that he will be keeping the Core Group informed. Ola informed that Leonard Cheshire is currently undertaking research in four countries, focusing on gathering information about the integration of disabilities in SDG implementation on the ground.

Nalini shared the experience of Sightsavers in India and Bangladesh. In India, Ms. Anuradha Pareek, a grassroots DPO leader and member of local government from the state of Rajasthan was supported to attend the Asia Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development and contributed to the South Asia VNR group from the local level perspective. Ms. Pareek will now lead DPO consultations on the VNR process as a follow up and work with the longer-term localization of the SDGs with a focus on disability inclusion. In addition, Sightsavers India will contribute to the Wada Na Todo Abhiyan parallel report (national CSO platform on SDGs) and also produce a Disability Inclusion position paper based on a series of DPO consultations which will be shared with government, IDA and Together 2030.

Sightsavers Bangladesh is leading on the convening of the Disability Group within the Leave No One Behind Alliance. A series of DPO consultations will be held and the report shared with the LNOB group, SDG Coordinator from the PM Office along with a press conference to disseminate the results. They have completed one consultation with DPO members in Dhaka, planned to have two more consultations at the divisional level with district and local level DPO members. They will also contribute to the Citizen's platform for SDG. The platform is going to produce and share a report with the government named "Citizen's Report on the progress of SDG implementation".

Andrew reflected that the experiences shared show more organization in VNR countries and within CSOs, including on the setting up of national coalitions. Naiara remembered the coordinated work being promoted by CSOs in Kenya, Togo, Brazil and Sierra Leone, to name only a few.

Andrew proposed that all Core Group meetings had an agenda item on sharing of experiences and strategy discussion. Core Group members were invited to suggest themes for discussion. The possibility of inviting guests for this part of the agenda was also mentioned.

Action points:

- Core Group Agenda to include one item on sharing of experiences and strategy discussion.
- Core Group members to propose themes for discussion and alert the Co-Chairs and Secretariat.

2) HLPF preparation

- *Draft Plan for HLPF 2017* – The Core Group revised the draft plan for the HLPF. Core Group members were asked to volunteer to lead on specific themes.

- *HLPF side event and strategy* – The Core Group agreed on the strategy of considering co-hosting and partnering in side-events during the HLPF after receiving a response on our own side-event proposal, which was being lead by Sightsavers. Andrew informed that Sightsavers proposed partnering with Together 2030 for a side-event also in a way to support the engagement of the Initiative during the HLPF. Naiara reminded that the theme proposed for the side-event (the accountability cycle and how VNRs are being followed up after the HLPF) was in line with the main discussions within the Core Group.

Arelys reminded that the HLPF was a main priority for Together 2030 and flagged the importance of seeking additional opportunities to raise the profile of the Initiative and to promote the key advocacy products (including the position paper and the outcomes of the survey) prior and during the HLPF. She urged members of the Core Group to lead on activities related to the HLPF. Ola informed that she was very keen on being more involved in the work of Together 2030.

- *Finalization of the Together 2030 written inputs*– Arelys highlighted the very good contributions from Members reflected in the position paper. Naiara asked Core Group members to review the document and inform if they would like to have their organizations listed as contributors.
- *Update on the Perceptions Survey* – Naiara updated the group on the development of the report of the perceptions survey. Data was being revised and draft report being set up. A paper summarizing outcomes for LAC was under development and would count on the support of colleagues from Cepei and Arelys.
- *Core Group Face-to-Face meeting (July 15-16)* – World Vision agreed to continue leading on the organization of the Face-to-Face meeting and to facilitate the meeting logistics. Core Group

members will be responsible for their own travel and accommodation arrangements. Core Group members to inform the Secretariat about their participation at the HLPF in New York in order to facilitate planning.

- *Major Groups and Other Stakeholders Coordination Mechanism (MGoS CM)* - Naiara informed that workstreams were being established to coordinate the work of the MGoS CM and that several activities were under planning. Information to be shared as it becomes available.

Action points:

- Core Group members to review HLPF draft Plan and flag activities they are able to lead.
- Sightsavers and Secretariat to lead on the draft of the side-event concept note and maintain the Core Group informed on next steps.
- World Vision to lead on the organization of the F2F meeting in July.
- Core Group members to inform the Secretariat if they will attend the HLPF.

3) Communication and Outreach

- *Draft Plan – Implementation Webinars 2017-* Naiara shared the draft plan for the Implementation Series of webinars for 2017 and asked Core Group members to provide ideas and guidance on the themes to be covered. Core Group members requested for an online consultation on this matter.
- *Blogs* – Core Group members were reminded that they are expected to write at least one blog post per year. Secretariat to follow up with a reminder.

Action points:

- Core Group members to comment on the draft plan for implementation series webinar.
- Core Group members to inform the Secretariat about plans to submit blogs.

4) AOB

- *Facilitator’s of the Month* – Naiara reminded that Core Group Members as expected to facilitate meetings. A calendar has been drafted and will be shared again by the Secretariat.
- *UNDP Civil Society Advisory Committee (UNDP CSAC)* – Naiara informed about the meeting of the UNDP CSAC held in the beginning of April and that the organization was currently drafting its next strategic plan. Gomer informed that PhilSEN is part of the UNDP CSAC in the Philippines.
- *Meeting with Nelson Muffuh, Deputy SG Office, (April 20)* – Arelys and Naiara would be meeting with Nelson Muffuh to introduce Together 2030.
- *John Patrick expressed concerns on the role that the African SDG Center in Kigali might have.* African Working Group working on an evaluation of a visit they had to the Center.