



CORE GROUP MEETING
May 17 2017 – 9:00 - 10:30 am, NY time

Minutes

Facilitator of the month: Philipp Schönrock (Cepei)

Participants: Philipp Schönrock (Cepei), Javier Surasky (Cepei), Andrew Griffith (Sightsavers), Arelys Bellorini, Marggie Simo (World Vision), Gomer Padong (PhilSEN), Ola Abu Alghaib (Leonard Cheshire Disability), John Patrick Ngoyi (JDPC), Busani Sibindi (Save Matabelaland), Naiara Costa, Milagros de Hoz (Together 2030 Secretariat),

Excuses: Pauline Lambou (LWA)

1. Strategic Discussion: Shadow, Parallel and implementation reports: what are the best way of bringing civil society perspectives on the SDG implementation?

In this section, the Core Group discussed different ways by which civil society can engage in follow up and review and report on their contributions and perspectives. Arelys recognized that although there are different views on how civil society should report, the main goal is to track progress while keeping governments accountable and registering civil society contribution.

The groups discussed the way civil society refers to their reports. For Human Rights mechanisms, there is a practice of calling civil society reports ‘shadow’ or ‘alternative’, however, this is not the practice at sustainable development spaces and neither was the agreement at the 2030 Agenda. Andrew reminded that the 2030 Agenda 2030 calls for civil society to report on contributions as “part of” the Agenda. Para 74, principles for follow up and review – states very clearly that country report is not only the “government” report but the whole country and engaging on ‘shadow’ reporting is against the inclusive approach of the Agenda.

JP informed that they are working with local NGOs to engage with their governments, instead of writing separate shadow reports, seeking to have one single report at the country level. Javier reminded that different countries may face different contexts and, in some countries, it may be feasible to work with the government to create a joint report, but in others, this may be impossible given a closed process or reporting. In the latter case, NGOs must put forward their own reports. Ola agreed with Javier’s point and added that it is not relevant whether we call it shadow or parallel but to make sure that the mechanism is in place for civil society to report.

Philipp asked for ideas on how Together 2030 could push and create evidence on which countries were being transparent and which were not. Javier proposed for Together 2030 to propose concrete action, such as developing toolkits for civil society and grassroots groups to use and engage with their government. (See an example of a toolkit for shadow reporting here <https://www.ushrnetwork.org/resources-media/10-steps-writing-shadow-report>).



Busani suggested that the group should consider following reports from Member States and critiquing them soon after HLPF.

Action points:

- Andrew and Arelys to write a blog for the HLPF special series on the subject.
- Naiara to use blog to draft a concept note to propose concrete action (including surveys, consultation and toolkit development). (After HLPF)

2. HLPF Preparation

Naiara reviewed the draft plans and calendar. Philipp suggested organizing meetings with key stakeholders during the HLPF.

Andrew informed that he submitted the proposal for the joint side event and that they are waiting for a response from UNDESA. He expressed concern about the high number of requests received by UNDESA and the limited space available. If the side-event is approved, Together 2030 will undertake a selection process to identify speakers on its behalf.

Naiara explained the negotiation process of the Ministerial Declaration. Arelys informed the group about the briefing with Member States planned for May 25.

Naiara explained that UN-DESA will fund speakers from developing countries that are presenting their VNR this year. Ola has already put her name forward as a potential speaker. Javier has requested funds as well.

Naiara shared with the group the results of the Perceptions Survey.

Action points:

- Javier will translate the report to Spanish.

3. Preparing the Core Group Face-to-Face meeting (July 15-16)

Philipp reminded the group that this would be the first meeting of the Core Group after the Bogota F2F. Gomer suggested to review the discussion from Colombia and strategize looking forward at the next 2 years. He also mentioned he may not be present in NY during the HLPF due to lack of funding.

Some central topics that could be discussed in the Face-to-Face Meeting:

- Fundraising (Brought up by Philipp, Gomer Busani)
- Partnerships
- 2-year strategy (Gomer)
- Roles of members of the Core Group



The group also discussed who should be in the meeting. Javier mentioned that inviting external guests would make sense if the group needs something from them to move forward with some internal discussions.

Naiara informed the group that she will be out of the office from May 29 to June 5.

Action points:

- The Secretariat will start drafting a meeting agenda and will share it with the group on the week starting on June 5.