TURKEY’S NATIONAL REVIEW FOR HLPF2016

Civil society perspectives and lessons learned

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How it worked in Turkey?

- Finding the right department responsible
  - General Directorate of Social Sectors and Coordination
  - There is also a department on Gender issues under the Ministry

- Trying to show our interest in cooperation and get more information about the state of Turkey’s implementation efforts and HLPF report – sending official emails
  - Coordination meeting with state institutions, by invitation only

- Learning that the full report will not be submitted until the first week of July – the summary, admitting gender equality lags behind
In the absence of the full report …

- WWHR decided to focus on issues that are urgent and important to the independent women’s movement in Turkey, with brief reflections on the summary report. Shadow report is accessible at: http://www.kadinininsan haklari.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/hlpf-shadow-report-wwhr.pdf

- Main headings are:
  - Status of Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls’ Empowerment in Turkey
  - The need for Data
  - Governance, implementation, weak institutions
  - Participation (particularly independent CSO participation)
  - Connections with other UN mechanisms
  - Call for action
  - Annex 1: Baseline values on GE and WGE
What happened afterwards...

- Met with the officials in the Ministry of Development at the Capital, had a very fruitful conversation
  - Lack of work on implementation became an advantage

- Met with UN bodies of Turkey and planning activities together, including other civil society movements for integrating gender equality perspective to their work with SDGs

- Recently, met with women’s organizations to strategize how SDGs can be utilized in national and international advocacy by the movement in Turkey

- Continuing awareness raising and information sharing on SDGs towards civil society (and the society at large), so next time we can start preparations earlier and in a more inclusive manner
What we have learned from this experience...

- Try to find out and contact the focal points for SDGs within the state institutions early... But do not lose hope if not possible, face to face advocacy at HLPF can prove very useful to establish the connection.

- If awareness on SDGs is lacking among civil society, start that early as well. More CSOs involved, more solidarity, division of labor, information, media attention and advocacy possible.

- A shadow/alternative report is always an important advocacy tool:
  - For record keeping (in spite of lack of data)
  - For advocating for questions the MS asks each other, and the civil society questions

- Start connecting SDG reviews with other UN accountability mechanisms reviews (e.g. CEDAW, IPU... etc) early. They can be both sources of data, as well as support for civil society and reminders for the state.
What we have learned from this experience...

- Networks and collaborations are very important
  - WMG provided crucial spaces to use the alternative report
  - Collaboration between members of MGoS was important
  - More spaces necessary to make the shadow/alternative reports visible
- More systematic approach necessary for civil society input to the national voluntary review process, both at the national and global levels