

CSO Exchange on CSO DE: Civil society's next steps towards a wider implementation of Istanbul Principles and practice of CSO Accountability

It has been almost five years since the adoption of the Istanbul Principles. These principles resulted from an extensive, worldwide process of consulting CSOs with diverse mandates for development to identify their shared principles that guide civil society work and the standards for an environment where they can operate most effectively.

Since then, CSOs have put in their best efforts to implement their commitment to continue working on their own effectiveness and accountability as independent development actors despite noticeable disturbing challenges on CSO enabling environment which include violations on human rights, shrinking democratic spaces for people's participation, and non-implementation of mutual accountability among stakeholders.

In 2014, CSOs' efforts to implement the Istanbul Principles and the accompanying International Framework for CSO Development Effectiveness were documented and compiled in a publication titled "The Journey from Istanbul: Evidences of the Implementation of the CSO DE Principles" through the initiative of the CSO DE Working Group of the CPDE. This review of evidence reaffirmed CSOs' diverse and integral roles as development actors in their own right, working towards making their work more effective in improving the lives of the people they serve, despite serious challenges they face on enabling environment. These case stories presented how CSO DE principles were applied on the organisational and local contexts of 19 different countries, and reflected the trends and approaches and challenges for strengthening CSO DE.

The monitoring of stakeholders' commitments made in Busan still continues. Despite the fact that governments and other stakeholders are slow to fulfill their commitments, CSOs must step up and show that they are fulfilling their promise to improve their own development effectiveness and accountability. One year after the publication of the Journey from Istanbul, much still has to be learned, assessed and documented on CSOs' practice on implementing the principles.

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aims to increase the contribution to the still developing body of evidence on CSOs' efforts to implement the Istanbul Principles and improve their own accountability. This forum-workshop will enable CSOs from the global regions to meet face to face and exchange their knowledge, technologies, and best practices in developing their own effectiveness and accountability. This exchange will help CSOs look deeper into their experiences, learn from each other, and collectively formulate strategies to address challenges as they move forward with strength and resolve on their Journey from Istanbul.

Outputs:

Among the expected outputs of the activity are:

- Case stories of implementation of CSO Development Effectiveness and Accountability.
- Ways forward on improving the implementation of CSO DE principles at country level.

Process for participation

CSOs from the global regions, with work on implementing the Istanbul Principles or are interested in learning, can be invited to join the activity. However, funding for transportation and modest accommodations to Nairobi, Kenya will be prioritized for those from Global South countries with working experiences on implementing the Istanbul Principles and are committed

to continue this work, to give them an opportunity to share their work. CSOs from the Global North are kindly requested to fund their own participation. Requests for covering accommodations can be entertained, subject to the available budget.

Proposed Venue: Nairobi, Kenya is the proposed venue because of the presence of reliable partners who can host the event as well as the presence of CSOs working on implementing the Istanbul Principles. The presence of a large number of CSOs attending the various activities related to the World Trade Organization 10th Ministerial Conference who might also be interested in joining the activity can be maximized.

Proposed Dates: December 13-14, 2015

Day 1: CSOs Practicing CSO Development Effectiveness

8.30-9.00	Registration
9.00-9.15	Introduction/Welcome Note
9.15-9.35	The Journey to Istanbul and Beyond: <i>Looking back on the history of CSO Development Effectiveness, its connection to CSO Enabling Environment and where we are now</i>
9.35-10.00	Proving our Development Effectiveness: <i>Monitoring and Documenting CSO Development Effectiveness</i>
10.00-10.30	Plenary Activity
10.30.-10.45	Tea break
10.45-11.00	Workshop mechanics
11.00-13.00	<p>Workshops</p> <p>Participants will be divided into 4 workshop groups, each having a lead discussant/s. Each workshop group will discuss 2 Istanbul Principles. The lead discussant/s will provide initial input on their experiences in implementing the assigned Istanbul Principles. After each presentation, participants will have a discussion using these guide questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does each principle mean for you? • For those who implemented the principles, what were the internal and external enabling factors? What were the challenges? • What are the reasons why these principles were not yet implemented (For those who haven't yet worked on these principles,)? <p>Workshop 1: Istanbul Principles 1 and 2 Workshop 2: Istanbul Principles 3 and 7</p>
13.00-14.00	Lunch break
14.00-16.00	<p>Workshops</p> <p>Objective: By the end of the workshop, participants will have discussed the implementation of the CSO DE principles at country level and will have reflected on the enabling factors and challenges on implementation.</p> <p>Participants will be divided into 4 workshop groups, each having a lead discussant/s. Each workshop group will discuss 2 Istanbul Principles. The lead discussant/s will provide initial input on their experiences in implementing the assigned Istanbul Principles. After each presentation, participants will have a discussion a set of guide questions that will be given during the workshops.</p>

	Workshop 3. Istanbul Principles 4 and 8 Workshop 4. Istanbul Principles 5 and 6
16.00-16.30	Report back
16.30-17.00	Discussion
17.00-17.30	Discussion of next day's activity and assignment

Day 2.

8.30-9.00	Registration
9.00-9.30	Recap/Discussion of today's agenda
9.30-10.45	Panel Discussion: <i>Accountable to whom? Framing CSO Accountability for Development Effectiveness</i>
10.45-11.00	Tea Break
11.00-12.00	Plenary Activity
12.00-13.00	Lunch Break
13.00-13.15	Workshop Mechanics
13.15-15.15	<p>Workshop</p> <p>Objective: By the end of this activity, participants will have discussed the concrete challenges of multiple accountabilities in the development context and will have reflected on the different relationships of accountability that CSOs have.</p> <p>Workshop Participants will be divided into two groups. Discussion starters will first give inputs on CSO Accountability. A group discussion will follow along a set of guide questions that will be given during the workshop.</p>
15.15-15.30	Tea Break
15.30-14.30	Report back/Plenary Discussion
14.30-17.00	Discussion of ways forward
17.00-17.15	Closing Remarks