

Communique Session B

Governance and Post 2015 Session

CSO Day – 4th May 2014

We are in the position that governance should be a standalone goal in the Post-2015 agenda. Governance as a standalone goal will lead to the necessary indicators and targets to measure government bodies in their performance of being efficient, open, transparent, accountable and effective institutions. Placing governance as a cross-cutting theme diminishes its importance, whereas a standalone goal will heighten it as a critical component to sustainable development.

Targets:

- Ensure the effectiveness of public institutions
 - o Reduce illicit financial flows, including money laundering, trade mispricing, transnational corruption and bribery, and eradicate tax evasion.

- Promote transparency and accountability
 - o Adopt national access to information legislation, and establish the necessary infrastructure to ensure effective implementation of the law.
 - o Enable all people, in particular poor and marginalized communities, to obtain timely, quality, accessible, reliable disaggregated information at all levels.
 - o Promote freedom of expression and limit impunity for crimes against journalists and human rights defenders.

- Ensure public participation and inclusivity
 - o Establish an enabling legal and regulatory environment for CSOs which recognizes their independence and right to carry out their peaceful work without fear of harassment, reprisal, intimidation, and discrimination.
 - o Guarantee active and meaningful participation of all people without fear, especially people in poverty and marginalization, in the design, implementation, and monitoring of public policies and programs from local to national and global levels.
 - o Ensure gender equality by increasing the number of women in leadership positions

For these reasons, we recommend the following:

- Promote the capacity building and awareness raising of citizens to be engaged in the fulfilment of OGP agenda;
- OGP steering committee to release a written commitment about Governance as a stand-alone topic in the post-OGP agenda to international organizations such as United Nations, and other regional groups;

- OGP steering committee to strongly support the implementation and monitoring of the governance targets as identified in this document among the country members;
- OGP's government partners should allocate resources for citizen engagement;
- Expand the OGP coverage in Asia Pacific to more countries in the region;
- Collaborate internally with different sectors and inter-country in promoting the OGP agenda;
and
- Create concrete systems for citizen-government engagement which includes structure, monitoring, communication, etc.