

Minutes from the **EU CSO meeting on the Structured Dialogue** (held on Monday 4 October). These minutes also include more extended feedback on the **“Structured Dialogue Process meeting” with the EC** (held on Thursday 30 September).

1. Update on Asunción Regional Seminar

- Overall very good meeting. The EC and the participants were happy with the discussions and outcomes. Good implication of EU Delegations, CSO and LA.
- Improvement compared to the other seminars, much more lively.
- The CSO preparatory meeting was really good and important as it helps to have everybody at the same page and start more quickly the discussions of the official seminar. Although it is a pity some CSO participants could not attend this preparatory meeting.
- The World Café methodology was very fruitful and lively, even if not all the facilitators understood well all the issues.
- The Latin American CSOs seek for EU support on process and to be more integrated in the policy and decision making, rather than just EU project implementation.
- These seminars are a good opportunity for local CSOs to meet people from their EU Delegation, and also it is good for the EU Delegations to have more information directly from HQs (information flow is not always the best).
- The WG3 discussions were not deep enough: only 2h for this session; and the WG3 issues that were discussed were too technical and narrow (not wide enough).
- The Human Rights perspective could have been more integrated in the discussions.
- The presentation of practice cases / examples was not really helpful as they were not linked to the debates (no real added value and more a waste of time).
- It is important to use the Regional Seminar to discuss with the present MEPs and explain them our perspective (get the EP more implicated in the process).

Action point: The Asunción report will be posted on CISOCH in the coming days. Please make your comments through CISOCH.

2. Follow-up of the meeting with the DEVE Committee

After the ad-hoc meeting with the DEVE Committee on the Structured Dialogue (held on 2 Sept), the CSO platforms agreed on sending a common letter to Eva Joly. In this letter, we propose to have a permanent structured dialogue with the EU institution, after this process is finalised. We could start by having 2 meetings per year. The EC is also thinking about a permanent structure for dialogue (see comments of Mr Luyckx hereunder).

The Political Coordinators of the DEVE Committee will meet on 5 October and discuss about this CSOs letter. After this meeting, Mr Joly will officially reply to our letter.

Action point: After having received Mrs Joly letter, we should ask for another meeting with the EP to continue to discuss about the Structured Dialogue. This meeting should be organized beginning of 2011 (after the Dev Days and before the last Brussels workshop).

3. Feedback on 30 Sept Process meeting

The EC organized a Process meeting on the SD on Thursday 30 Sept, with the CSO and LA platforms. The main points discussed at this meeting were:

The seminar on the **DEAR Study** will be held in Brussels on 11-12 October, in Plaza Hotel. This seminar is open to the SD participants and they are welcome to participate.

Questions of clarification regarding the discussions on **WG 3**:

- This WG will be chaired by Hans Stausboll and the discussions will be set around the “Needs Table”

- There will be 3 sessions dedicated to WG3: (i) October session to identify the list of needs; (ii) January session to come up with a consolidated table (strengths and weaknesses); (iii) March session to contextualize the modalities (appropriateness for stakeholders & feasibility).
- If needed, there may be specific technical groups in between the official WG3 workshops

There will be a **mini session on the Structured Dialogue during the Development Days** (in Brussels): 7 December from 14h to 16h. At this session, the EC will wrap-up WG1 and 2 and announce it's expected outcomes, at the mid-term of this process.

Mr Luyckx (from DG Dev) mentioned the links that could exist between the SD and other processes (these scenarios could be cumulative):

- Possibility to set-up of a permanent structure for dialogue (after the SD Final Conference in Budapest): a high level multi-stakeholders group or a SAG "beefed up".
- The EC Green Paper on Economic Growth could revisit the EU development policy and that will implicitly have an impact on the role of CSO in development
- Revisit the EC Communication on the role of CSOs in EU Development Policy (last Communication is from 2002)
- The outcomes of the SD should be injected into the work towards the next Financial Perspectives, leading to reviewed instruments and subsequent delivery mechanisms

4. Feedback on the Global Assembly of the Open Forum

The Global Assembly of the Open Forum on CSO Development Effectiveness was held in Istanbul from 27 to 30 Sept. The main feedbacks are:

- The Open Forum has agreed on **8 CSO Development Effectiveness Principles** (see doc attached). These principles should be used as such in the Structured Dialogue. It is important to acknowledge that these principles are the foundation for CSOs actions but do not exclude additional principles, depending on the contexts and needs.
- The political strategy is to request donors and governments to apply these 8 principles when dealing with CSOs (international and local levels).
- There were many discussions on the **enabling environment** (enabling conditions for CSOs at national level), but no government was interested in discussing this issue more in dept so it is not clear what will be the follow-up regarding this issue. In the process of the SD, the CSOs should ask the EU to take the lead on an international convention / process on CSO right of association (in order to have a legal structure and a rights based approach to the enabling environment). See doc attached for key messages from the Open Forum about the enabling environment.

The Open Forum will end at the High Level Forum in Busan – South Korea from 29 November to 2 December 2011.

5. Preparation for the 13-14 October Brussels Workshop

- Agenda for WG1: Territorial approach to development (am) and enabling environment (pm)
- Agenda for WG2: Mutual accountability (am) and right of initiative (pm)
- Agenda for WG3: setting the scene with 2 documents – Roadmap and Needs Table. The aim of this meeting is to develop a toolbox of possibilities and the participants will have to agree on a list of identified needs. CSOs are quite positive about the Roadmap and the Needs Table methodology.
- The EC has asked 2 representatives of the Open Forum Global Assembly to report back to WG1 and WG2 (the links between the Open Forum and the SD are on the Enabling Environment and the Right of Initiative). Representatives from Bamako and Asunción Seminars will also participate to the Brussels workshop.
- The Development Education and Human Rights issues will need to be included in the discussions and in the Needs Table of WG 3.

- The SD, specifically WG3, needs to have a good link with the people working on the PRAG and the Financial Regulation Review (e.g. include people from DG Budget and G7).
- CSOs need to challenge the LAs position on the territorial approach as an entrance point for development and humanitarian actions (e.g. Funds for CSOs cannot go through national structures). We should also ask for separate discussions between LAs and CSOs, including for WG3.

Action points:

- Elise to send an e-mail to the African and Latin American representatives asking them if they would be interested in meeting the EU CSOs on 12 October in the afternoon (the day before the SD workshop).
- Elise and Ester to send a note to the EC on how CSOs see the process for the 13-14 Oct workshop: good to have world café methodology, cannot agree on the territorial approach and permanent confusion between CSOs and LAs.
- All platforms to send to the group their positions on the Structured Dialogue. See CONCORD Principles Paper attached (including WG3 positions)

6. Preparation for New Delhi Regional Seminar

President Obama will visit India the same week than the SD Regional Seminar (10-12 Nov) and this causes logistical problems regarding the organization of the event. There are two options:

- Keep the same dates but change the location (go to another city in India)
- Keep New Delhi but change the dates of the seminar (22-26 November)

In addition, the mission budget of the EU Delegations in Asia is almost finished so there are on-going discussions to find a solution to allow Delegations to participate to this seminar.

The EC will let us know before the end of week what has been decided about the New Delhi regional seminar

Action point: Elise to send an e-mail to the EC saying that there are already many partners who have booked their week for the New Delhi seminar but may not be available if the dates change. So if it is confirmed that the dates change, the EC should be flexible regarding the name of the participants and accept substitutes.

7. AOB

- The EC thinks that CISOCH is “under-utilized” and not as much dynamic as it could be.
- The European Foundation Centre (EFC) is very concerned about the anti-terrorism EU guidelines on preventing abuse of Non-profit organizations. You will find more information on the following link:
<http://www.efc.be/News/Pages/EUguidelinesonpreventingabuseofNPOsgiveyourinput!.aspx>

Best regards and see you next week,
Elise

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CONCORD is the European confederation of Relief and Development NGOs. Its 25 national associations and 18 international networks represent over 1,600 NGOs which are supported by millions of citizens across Europe. CONCORD leads reflection and political actions and regularly engages in dialogue with the European

institutions and other civil society organisations. It is part of the Global Call to Action against Poverty, Open Forum for CSO Development effectiveness, and the Spring Alliance.

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