



# Engaging Civil Society Organisations for More Effective Development Co-operation

## At the current rate of delivery, we will not meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Progress has been made, but considerable efforts, including more and better resources for development, are still needed to meet these ambitious targets by 2030. Civil society organisations (CSOs) play an indispensable role in ensuring the most effective and accountable use of all development co-operation at global, regional, national – and most importantly – local level.

Achieving the SDGs will not merely require the participation of CSOs. It will require **their thorough and active engagement**, drawing upon **local knowledge and networks**, commitment to **people-centred development and social justice**, and advocacy for **transparent and accountable development**. None of this is possible without an enabling environment for civil society engagement.

The **Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC)**, a multi-stakeholder platform of actors dedicated to increasing the effectiveness of their development partnerships, recognises CSOs on a more equal footing with governments and organisations. The GPEDC aims to ensure an enabling environment for civil society engagement in development co-operation, which is essential to ensure truly collaborative **'whole-of-society' solutions** to pressing development challenges and meet the SDGs by 2030.

### Effective development co-operation is defined by four key principles.

In 2011 at the **Busan High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness**, a multi-stakeholder constellation of key actors, including nearly 160 countries and various international organisations, endorsed the Busan Partnership Principles and agreed to:



Align their co-operation with national priorities and plans, tailored to country-specific situations and needs (**country ownership**)



Ensure accountability among partners and provide openly available information on development co-operation (**mutual accountability and transparency**)



Foster innovative partnerships with openness, trust and mutual learning that boosts development impact (**inclusive partnerships**)



Ensure investments and efforts have a lasting impact on eradicating poverty and reducing inequality for sustainable development (**focus on results**)

## Effective Development Co-operation and the 2030 Agenda

Complementing the enabling architecture of the **Agenda 2030**:

**The what:** The Sustainable Development Goals – articulating what we want to achieve for planet, people, and prosperity.

**The means:** The Financing for Development process – including the different types of resources needed for the 2030 Agenda.

**The how:** The effectiveness principles – working in more empowered, inclusive, and equal partnerships to develop 'whole-of-society' solutions for more sustainable development outcomes.



**Global Partnership**  
for Effective Development  
Co-operation

**To galvanise progress on the SDGs, engagement of CSOs for effective development co-operation is essential at all levels – global, regional, national and local.**

The current situation for CSOs in many parts of the world is worsening, as civic space continues to shrink. At the same time, without the engagement of civil society in effective development co-operation it will be very difficult to achieve inclusive sustainable development and ensure that no-one is left behind.

As a member-led and country-focused partnership, the GPEDC has committed itself to reverse the trend of shrinking CSO space and to an enabling environment for CSOs. It aspires to ensure accountability and transparency throughout every dimension of its work, whilst it attempts to be a truly multi-stakeholder partnership with civil society being represented at its highest levels.

# Get Involved. Get Engaged. Make Your Organisation Heard.

## ✔ Consult with your GPEDC Representative

The **CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE)** represents the voice of the CSOs in the governance structure of the GPEDC. In 2018, CPDE became the fourth non-executive Co-Chair alongside three government ministers, representing the voice of CSOs, trade unions, local governments, parliaments, the private sector and foundations. This ensures democratic ownership of the GPEDC and that it is inclusive and transparent at its highest level.

Contact [info@csopartnership.org](mailto:info@csopartnership.org) to join CPDE or to speak to your GPEDC representative.

## ✔ Engage with the GPEDC Monitoring Process

**GPEDC monitoring** is a voluntary, country-led and multi-stakeholder process that tracks the implementation of the four effectiveness principles, using **10 indicators**. **Indicator 2 measures the enabling environment for CSOs at the country level and also looks at CSOs' own adherence to the effective development co-operation principles**. Results for individual countries can be examined over time using the **GPEDC's Monitoring Dashboard**. CSOs also play a valuable role in collecting and validating monitoring data during the biennial, multi-stakeholder process. The results of each monitoring round feed into the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda.

Contact [monitoring@effectivecooperation.org](mailto:monitoring@effectivecooperation.org) for more information.

## ✔ Use the GPEDC Knowledge-Sharing Platform

CSOs can use the upcoming Knowledge-Sharing Platform – **a one-stop digital platform for information, training, peer-learning and networking** around successes, bottlenecks and innovations in effective development co-operation and sustainable development. CSOs can: contribute resources or evidence on what works; create a profile and follow likeminded experts; plan and promote events; start a chat room with other CSOs or host online consultations around a key topic.

Available in June at [www.knowledge.effectivecooperation.org](http://www.knowledge.effectivecooperation.org).

## ✔ Helpful Resources for CSOs



**Istanbul Principles  
for CSO Development  
Effectiveness**



**CSO Key Asks for a  
Transformative Global  
Development Agenda**

## Effective Development Co-operation at Country Level

CSOs are instrumental in localising, defining, and implementing the SDGs at country level. To this end, CSOs can:



**Ensure transparency and accountability:** CSOs can monitor and hold accountable the actions of development actors, including government and the private sector.



**Promote human rights:** CSOs can advance the rights and needs of those with and without voice, ensuring participation of all citizens.



**Focus on democratic participation:** CSOs can shape discussions by participating in multi-stakeholder discussions at all levels.



**Pursue equitable partnerships:** CSOs can pressure governments to ensure that grassroots-level organisations can thrive in the country.



**Share knowledge:** CSOs can share and coordinate their activities and progress at various levels to strengthen engagement and accountability of various development actors and other CSOs.

## Contribute to the 2019 GPEDC Senior-Level Meeting

The GPEDC is holding its **Senior-Level Meeting** in July 2019, taking place in the margins of the United Nations **High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development** in New York. This Senior-Level Meeting will showcase tools – from and for the country level – for making development co-operation more effective. It will present new approaches to advance effectiveness in different contexts, and chart new ground, in view of global trends, for advancing effectiveness. CSOs will be invited to engage in such key discussions around effectiveness through different platforms and social media.

Contact [info@effectivecooperation.org](mailto:info@effectivecooperation.org) to find out ways to get involved.