

17 July 2020

Present:

Mr. Peter van Sluijs, CSPPS
Ms. Florence Syevuo, SDG Kenya Forum
Ms. Jean Scrimgeour, Accountability Lab
Mr. Hideki Wakabayashi, ADA
Mr. John Romano, TAP Secretariat
Ms. Claudia Villalona, TAP Secretariat
Ms. Judith Kaulem, Poverty Reduction Forum Trust

Absent:

Next meeting: 31 July 2020

Chairing Meeting: **Ms. Judith Kaulem, Poverty Reduction Forum Trust**

DECISIONS TAKEN FROM CONFERENCE CALL IN GREEN; FOLLOW-UP ITEMS IN BLUE

Agenda Items:

1. Review and Approval of last Steering Committee Call Notes (5 minutes)
2. Debrief and Reflections from 2020 HLPF (10 minutes)
3. Update on TAP's activities and planning for UN General Assembly (20 minutes)
 - i. Post-VNR Resource
 - ii. Decade of Accountability for the SDGs and Global SDG Accountability Report
 - iii. Global SDG16+ Community Meeting
 - iv. Goal 16 Advocacy Toolkit Update
 - v. Revision of TAP Spotlight Reporting Guidelines
4. Partnership Updates (20 minutes)
 - i. Update on UNDP Funding and Partnership
 - ii. Update on Swiss Funding proposal
5. Review of TAP Partner Applications (5 minutes)
6. AOB

1. Review and Approval of last Steering Committee Call Notes

Discussion:

Committee Members present had no comments on the last call's notes.

DECISIONS:

- Approval of Decisions and Notes from TAP Network Steering Committee Call on June 26, 2020.

2. Debrief and Reflections from 2020 HLPF

Discussion:

With the close of HLPF 2020 yesterday, the secretariat took the opportunity to debrief and provide reflections on the conference and TAP's engagement. TAP had a total of 9 side-events either co-organized or lead organized, which took substantial coordination, particularly given the virtual format. Considering the unprecedented context of transitioning to a virtual format, the events went smoothly and gained a sizable audience.

Accountability Lab noted the learning curve in hosting virtual events that will most likely more and more comment will become easier over time. ADA also highlighted how the virtual format facilitates a greater diversity in audience and engagement, that is not possible in an in-person format. However, there was an over-saturation in events that made it difficult for participant to navigate. CSPPS noted the high level of competition for morning NY time slots, as well as the obstacles of proper access to internet connectivity that may undermine meaningful engagement.

FOLLOW-UP

- *The secretariat will compile the recording and notes from all the events to provide a recap to the TAP membership on the website and newsletter format*

3. Update on TAP's activities and planning for UN General Assembly

- a. Post-VNR Resource**
- b. Decade of Accountability for the SDGs and Global SDG Accountability Report**
- c. Global SDG16+ Community Meeting**
- d. Goal 16 Advocacy Toolkit Update**
- e. Revision of TAP Spotlight Reporting Guidelines**

Discussion:

Looking forward, the secretariat transitioned to planning for TAP's activities around the UN General Assembly opening as the next high-level ministerial event coming up. Similar to HLPF, UNGA will take place in a virtual format but on a much larger scale.

Having UNGA in a virtual format presents a different opportunity that puts less urgency on holding events directly around it. Going forward, TAP's activities for UNGA and the rest of the year include:

1. Finalizing the post-VNR resource on mainstreaming the VNR process to be launched around UNGA if UNDP is able to finalize the design and edits in time.
2. Drafting, finalizing, and launching the Global SDG Accountability Report, ideally a few weeks after UNGA (to avoid competition and give more flexibility in terms of timing)
3. Hosting the next Global SDG16+ Community event in partnership with UNDP.
 - a. Coordination in August for UNGA
 - b. Putting together a draft long-term strategy for the SDG16+ community

4. Updating the Goal 16 toolkit to be finalized around next spring and to be ready in time for when national-level activities begin again. This includes the updates to updating the spotlight reporting guidelines
5. Prior to the end of the year the SC needs to have two dedicated discussions on:
 - a. Challenges and opportunities for fundraising in the short and long-term
 - b. Reviewing the membership engagement structure

At the first SC meeting after the holidays in September, there should be a dedicated discussion on reviewing the membership engagement survey and engagement structure. At CSPPS's request the secretariat gave an update on the membership engagement survey. It will stay open until the end of the month.

Additionally, the global SDG16+ community released a statement during HLPF called "Act for SDG16+ now." The secretariat will encourage TAP members and partners to endorse the statement.

FOLLOW-UP

- **In addition to the items listed above on the Post-VNR Resource, Decade of Accountability for the SDGs and Global SDG Accountability Report, Global SDG16+ Community Meeting, Goal 16 Advocacy Toolkit Update and Revision of TAP Spotlight Reporting Guidelines.**
- **The secretariat will continue to promote the Membership Engagement survey leading up to the deadline at the end of July. The Secretariat will then develop a synthesis report with notes and recommendations.**
- **The Steering Committee should plan for a discussion in September dedicated to reviewing the membership/partnership structure along with the secretariat provided survey synthesis report, background notes, and recommendations. (see below)**
- **The secretariat will also promote the Global SDG16+ Community statement via email and social media**

4. **Partnership Updates**
 - a. **Update on UNDP Funding and Partnership**
 - b. **Update on Swiss Funding proposal**

Discussion:

Since the last call, there have been updates to the UNDP partnership. UNDP's funding for the Global Alliance comes from DIFD which is currently undergoing budget cuts and restructuring. DIFD has thus paused funding related activities and has asked the Global Alliance to halt projects. Puts into question the longer term extension of the funding and partnership, but is committed to finalizing the report regardless. However, it has been resolved, UNDP will be able to carry through its original intention of carrying through commitments of a contract for the consultancy extension and 2nd payment as planned, which will not affect TAP's funding resources further, but still puts into question the extension of the partnership in the long-term.

In regards to the Swiss Funding, they have requested four concrete areas of focus and the secretariat has sent a proposal for brief short with this information. Currently, waiting to hear back regarding if there is funding available and for how much for the next year. Still nothing has changed regarding the need to develop a long-term proposal (2 to 4 years) to be developed and finalized during the last quarter of the year.

CSPPS asked for updates on potential funding from KOICA. The Secretariat reached out prior to HLPF, but has not received a response yet. The secretariat and ADA will follow-up with Anselmo directly on possible funding from Koica.

In the next few months and prior to the end of the year, the Steering Committee should plan a dedicated discussion on funding and expanding the scope of funding sources in the long-term. Ideally, this planned meeting would take place in person, possibly at the 16+ Forum showcase or early next year. But given the uncertainty with travel, this remains to be decided.

FOLLOW-UP

- **The secretariat will keep the Steering Committee updated on developments regarding the UNDP Partnership and funding from the Swiss government.**
- **The secretariat and ADA will follow-up with Anselmo directly on possible funding from Koica.**
- **In the next few months and prior to the end of the year, the Steering Committee should plan a dedicated discussion on funding and expanding the scope of funding sources in the long-term.**

5. Review of TAP Partner Applications

Discussion:

A total of three organizations have applied to become TAP Partners since the last Steering Committee call.

We would recommend the following three organizations for approval by the Steering Committee as TAP Partners:

1. Helpers Social Development Foundation (HSDF)
2. AIFJL
3. Sri Joydip Ashram

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/16SMt5gAmO-8s88iUQQLw6VAxXKmOW9GA/view?usp=sharing>

Going forward, a question should be included on the motivation for joining TAP and greater specificity to commitments. As well as a review of the membership and partnership structure, and the criteria. One of the steering committee calls when we get back from holidays in September should be dedicated to reviewing the membership structure and the survey synthesis report, background notes, and recommendations.

CSPPS and Accountability Lab expressed concern for Sri Joydip Ashram and AIFJL, the former of which is too unrelated and the latter needs to provide more specific information. The Accountability Lab asked for greater information in the application and more concrete criteria to ensure that partners are working on related TAP issues. This needs readjusting of the partnership application. The secretariat will add at least one question to address these gaps in the meantime to the dedicated discussion in September.

FOLLOW-UP

- **The secretariat will add at least one question to the partnership application to address these gaps in the meantime leading up to the Steering Committee meeting in September dedicated to reviewing the membership/partnership structure along with the secretariat provided survey synthesis report, background notes, and recommendations. (see above)**

DECISIONS:

- **The Steering Committee moved to approve Helpers Social Development Foundation (HSDF) as a TAP Network Partner.**
- **The Sri Joydip Ashram was denied a partnership.**
- **AIFJL needs to provide more information on their application.**