

TAP Network Steering Committee 2022 - 2023

31 March 2023

Present: **Mr. Peter van Sluijs, CSPPS**
 Ms. Arelys Bellorini, World Vision
 Ms. Cheri-Leigh Erasmus, Accountability Lab
 Ms. Olabisi Mekwuye, Civil Society Coalition on Sustainable
 Development
 Ms. Bridged Faida, Consolation East Africa
 Mr. John Romano, TAP Secretariat
 Ms. Ellery Wong, TAP Secretariat

Chairing **Ms. Cheri-Leigh Erasmus, Accountability Lab**
Meeting

Next meeting **Mr. Peter van Sluijs, CSPPS**

[DECISIONS TAKEN FROM CONFERENCE CALL IN GREEN; FOLLOW UP ITEMS IN BLUE](#)

Agenda:

1. Review of notes and decisions from last Steering Committee call (5 minutes)
2. Update and inputs from Steering Committee for TAP Fundraising consultant (10 minutes)
3. Update from Switzerland on next grant period (10 minutes)
4. Debrief from SDG16Now Campaign Workshop and next steps (10 minutes)
5. Partnership Updates (5 minutes)
 - a. Identifying participants/speakers for Rome SDG16 Conference
6. Review of TAP Partner Applications (10 minutes)
7. AOB (5 minutes)

Review of notes and decisions from last Steering Committee call

[Decision: The Steering Committee approved the 17 March 2023 meeting notes.](#)

Update and inputs from Steering Committee for TAP Fundraising consultant

The Secretariat updated the Steering Committee on the working progress of the fundraising consultant. The consultant, Ms. Megan Conar, is currently working on compiling the background research for all donors on the priority list that TAP delivered.

Ms. Colnar expressed interest in having a conversation with the TAP Steering Committee in the next few weeks. While the consultancy contract does not have allotted time for interviews with stakeholders (Steering Committee, TAP Members and Partners, collaborating partners), a group meeting with the Steering Committee would help to provide enough insight to inform Ms. Colnar's approach. SC Member and Co-Chair, Cheri-Leigh Erasmus, who is closely involved in this process, added that the meeting would be useful to provide reflections on the Steering Committee's own successes and insights with donors and fundraising because it will inform the best fit and approach for TAP.

[Decision: SC Members agreed to organize this meeting with the TAP Fundraising Consultant during the time of the next Steering Committee meeting, and extend the length of the routine meeting by 30 minutes.](#)

[Follow up: Ms. Colnar also requested from SC Members suggestions for organizations that are similar to TAP to do an investigation on their donors. If any SC Members have any ideas, please follow up directly with the TAP Director.](#)

Update from Switzerland on next grant period

The TAP Secretariat had a conversation with the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs to update them on TAP's work. During the conversation, TAP discussed the parameters and next steps for a new grant, since the current one will expire at the end of this year.

The Swiss have clearly expressed that they envision funding TAP through 2030. Within these next seven years, TAP will need to decide how to split this time into two funding periods. In addition, TAP will have to closely coordinate this decision with Pathfinders, since TAP and Pathfinders' grants from the Swiss are interdependent. This will entail exchanging funding proposal drafts, then identifying opportunities for joint cooperation.

Moving forward on this process in a timely manner will be crucial over the next few months, especially considering that TAP's main point of contact for the Swiss Ministry, Stefano Berti, will be replaced in three months. TAP will aim to deliver an initial proposal to Mr. Berti before he departs in June and solicit as much feedback as possible from him before the next colleague arrives. This will also help to ensure that there is no delay in the approval of the grant and dispersal of funds.

The TAP Secretariat underlined that they expect a straightforward process overall, but are planning to work closely with the Steering Committee on this issue.

Debrief from SDG16Now Campaign Workshop and next steps

The TAP Secretariat thanked SC Members for their support and participation in the workshop. The workshop highlighted the willingness of TAP stakeholders and organizations to get engaged and discuss the core objectives (mobilize, advocate & connect) of the developing TAP campaign.

SC Members urged the Secretariat to incorporate all inputs received through the workshop as much as possible into the campaign design, structure and messaging.

SC Members that attended the workshop noted a marked desire from participants to continue to connect with each other and additional colleagues working on similar substantive issues throughout the campaign. The workshop made it clear that campaign engagement must be thorough, robust and regular to get people from the national and regional level continually involved and up-to-date.

Partnership Updates: Identifying participants/speakers for Rome SDG16 Conference

The dates of the SDG16 Rome Conference have been changed (30 May to 1 June), but not confirmed by the Italian government.

UNDESA reached out to TAP about nominating ten civil society representatives that they may be able to fund to attend the conference. With only three days' notice before a hard deadline for nominations, the TAP Secretariat was forced to make the nominations without the inputs of the Steering Committee or facilitating an open nomination process with the Network.

Five out of the ten spots were given to CSPPS, as co-facilitators of the Rome Civil Society Declaration on SDG16+ and engagement around this process. In lieu of an open nomination process, TAP selected individuals that were part of leadership structures for the Network.

Feedback from Steering Committee:

- SC Member raised concern around the decision to give half of the nominations to CSPPS, and suggested reconsidering the distribution of nominations with the Steering Committee next year.
- SC Members recommended that TAP anticipate this issue in future years and to facilitate an open nomination process in advance of an official request from UNDESA. SC Members stressed that while there are unpredictable factors (dates, number of nominations), TAP can anticipate that it will engage in the

Commented [1]: This has been an outcome of an ongoing partnership between TAP Network and CSPPS.

Rome Conference around this time every year. More preparation can be possible and will improve the transparency around this process.

Decision: The TAP Secretariat will facilitate an annual open nomination process for the Rome Conference to prepare for any official requests from UNDESA.

Review of TAP Partner Applications (10 minutes)

The TAP Secretariat presented 22 new TAP Partner applications. In the midst of preparation for the launch of the 2023 campaign, the Secretariat has generated a higher interest for organizations to become part of the Network. While this interest is excellent news, processing a high volume of applications while maintaining a thorough vetting process for candidates is challenging.

Follow up: The TAP Steering Committee will stay closely involved in the review of applications and remain responsive to any vetting requests from the TAP Secretariat.