



Transparency, Accountability
& Participation in Post-2015

TAP Network Conference Call

Meeting Minutes

April 1, 2015

Present:

- Ms. Fiona Bradley, The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)
- Ms. Ulrika Soneson Cilliers, Save the Children
- Mr. Michael Cooper, Ploughshare Group, LLC
- Ms. Barbara Del Castillo, Transparencia Mexicana
- Ms. Kate Donald, Center for Economic and Social Rights (CESR)
- Mr. Craig Fagan, Transparency International
- Ms. Neva Frecheville, CAFOD
- Ms. Dorothée Guénéheux, CIVICUS
- Ms. Sarah Haynes, Restless Development
- Mr. Liam Kincaid, TAP Network Deputy-Coordinator
- Ms. Minh-Thu Pham, UN Foundation
- Mr. John Romano, TAP Network Coordinator
- Ms. Claire Schouten, International Budget Partnership (IBP)
- Mr. Mark de Iglesia, Open Society Foundations

Next meeting: TBC

OUTCOMES FROM CALL:

Follow-Up Actions:

- TAP Coordinators to send out TAP Network [Steering Committee Nomination Google Doc](#).
- TAP Coordinators to send out the link to the [Google Doc with the membership](#) of the TAP Network.
- TAP Coordinators to provide links in the notes/minutes of TAP call to the documents provided by the Co-Facilitators of the post-2015 negotiations during the negotiation session in March 2015.
- TAP Coordinators to send out minutes of conference call.

MEETING MINUTES

Key Issues Addressed:

1.1 Updates, intel and key entry points around Post-2015 negotiations:

- John Romano, TAP Network Coordinator:
 - Highlighted the [IISD Reporting Services](#) has a comprehensive report on the Third Session of Intergovernmental Negotiations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda 23-27 March which you can retrieve at <http://bit.ly/1mNOJ7>.
 - The Co-Facilitators for the post-2015 negotiations presented the [“Technical report by the Bureau of the United Nations Statistical Commission \(UNSC\) on the process of the development of an indicator framework for the goals and targets of the post-2015](#)

- [development agenda](#)” which provided technical ratings of the indicators proposed by the UN Statistics Division. The report was generally not very well received by Member States, largely due to the short timeframe given for consultations with their respective national statistical offices (NSOs).
- However, consensus was emerging during the negotiations that the development of the indicators should be a technical process with NSOs and other statistical experts.
 - This is an important step forward because the emerging consensus is that indicators should not be politically negotiated by delegates within the Post-2015 process, or otherwise. However, some Member States believe they should have political oversight of the indicators but the *forum* for this oversight has not been decided.
 - The UN Statistical Commission will report back to the post-2015 negotiations in May 2015 with an update on the draft set of indicators. Ambassador Donoghue, Permanent Representative with the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations suggested Member States start discussions on where the political oversight of the post-2015 indicators should be hosted. He suggested the HLPF or ECOSOC as a potential forum for the indicators.
 - The Co-Facilitators for the post-2015 negotiations also circulated a report on [“Targets in the proposed SDGs framework”](#) which evaluated 19 targets in total. Goal 16 was spared this technical evaluation.
 - The Co-Facilitators reiterated the report was developed to fill in the “x’s” and “y’s” of the OWG report, and to ensure these targets are aligned with existing intergovernmental agreements. They stressed this report was not meant to reopen negotiations on the Goals. However, Member States generally reacted strongly against this document, especially the G77, which stated the OWG document should remain intact as the SDGs, as is.
 - The Co-Facilitators suggested that a target should be changed only if there is consensus among Member States, but this created more distrust and skepticism from some Member States.
 - The Co-Facilitators stated they will send an updated report on *“Targets in the proposed SDGs framework”* to Member States, but a timeline was not given for the release of this document.
 - The main issue that is a concern for the TAP Network is that there has not been a clear structure or established criteria for reviewing these 19 targets in the report.
 - If this process continues without a clear structure or criteria for reviewing these targets, Member States could reopen discussions on other targets beside the 19 mentioned in the report. Due to the building consensus of not opening the OWG report beyond these targets mentioned in the report, the threat is not imminent, but TAP should keep an eye on developments on this front.
 - The Co-Facilitators put forward a proposal to host a [joint session between the FfD and Post-2015 processes](#) during the Fourth Session of the Post-2015 Negotiations on the Means of Implementation and Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, 20-24 April. It was agreed this session should explore synergies between the FfD and the post-2015 processes.
 - Highlighted, [the structure of the Adidas Ababa Accord Outcome Document](#) is very similar to the structure of Goal 17, possibly because the co-facilitators might try to position the Outcome Document as the Means of Implementation or make it the basis for the Means of Implementation for the post-2015 agenda.
 - Highlighted, the TAP Network has released our [TAP Network FfD position paper](#), which is now available for sign-on and endorsement from TAP organizations.
 - In addition, the TAP Network co-hosted with the Permanent Mission of Romania a successful side-event on Goal 16 and Indicators during the Third Session of the Post-2015 Negotiations on the 25 March with over 100 participants. The event drew significant interest from Member States, including interest from delegations and CSOs for further follow-up work and events.

- During the side-event the TAP Network shared the [Open Response Letter to the UN Technical Report on SDG Indicator Framework](#) which was endorsed by 28 organizations. This open letter was well received from CSOs and Member States.
- In addition, there seem to be a strong call for civil society participation in the Inter-Agency Expert Group (IAEG) on SDGs Indicators but the modalities for this engagement has not been developed.
- The Open Response Letter primarily targeted NSOs, UN agencies and CSOs but also Member States calling for the participation of civil society and other stakeholders in these processes.
- The Coordinators stated their appreciation for the hard work of members in the drafting of the FfD position paper and the Open Response Letter.
- Highlighted upcoming meetings include the Second drafting session of the outcome document of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development on the 13-17 April and Fourth Session of the Post-2015 Negotiations on the Means of Implementation and Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, 20-24 April.
- Barbara Del Castillo, Transparencia Mexicana asked whether the proposed joint session between the FfD and Post-2015 processes during the Fourth Session of the Post-2015 Negotiations on the Means of Implementation and Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, 20-24 April was actually agreed upon by Member States.
- John Romano, TAP Network Coordinator:
 - Acknowledged the proposed joint session between the FfD and Post-2015 processes was not well received because the co-facilitators wanted to shorten the negotiations from 5 days to 4 days to prevent an overlap with the ECOSOC meeting with the Brenton Wood Institutions to be held 20-21 April.
 - There was push back from Member States around the proposed agenda for the joint session because a lot of Member States disagreed with the proposed topics.
 - However, the joint session was agreed upon for the next intergovernmental negotiation session but there might be more consultations on the proposed agenda.

1.2 Updates on TAP activities and outputs:

1.2.1 TAP Network FfD Position Paper Endorsements and TAP Network FfD Zero Draft Response

- John Romano, TAP Network Coordinator:
 - Highlighted we have been successful in circulating the Open Response Letter and have circulated the FfD position paper for endorsements.
 - The Coordinators will keep endorsements for the FfD position paper open until Wednesday, 8 April because we would like to circulate it to Member States the week prior to the Second FfD3 Drafting Session from 13-17 April.
 - A few organizations from within the TAP Network is also attempting to put together a draft TAP Network FfD3 Zero Draft Response. If TAP Network members would like to be a part of the drafting group please email the TAP Coordinators as soon as possible.
- Ulrika Soneson Cilliers, Save the Children inquired whether we would be circulating both the FfD position paper and the FfD3 Zero Draft Response at the same time.
- John Romano, TAP Network Coordinator stated we would like to circulate both at the same time but it will depend on the how the TAP zero draft response is coming along by 8 April.
- Ulrika Soneson Cilliers, Save the Children highlighted it might better to merge both the FfD position paper and the FfD3 Zero Draft to circulate to UN Missions to avoid overwhelming them with papers from CSOs.
- John Romano, TAP Network Coordinator:

- Highlighted the FfD3 Zero Draft Response would be a much more pointed response with actual suggestions for the outcome document and the FfD position paper would be a much broader overview of our common positions.
- Will discuss this issue within the FfD3 Zero Drafting Group.
- Another option is to upload the FfD position paper to the TAP Network website that will be up next week and referring Member States to this webpage.

1.2.2 Drafting Group on SDG (Goal 16) Indicators and Data

- John Romano, TAP Network Coordinator:
 - Highlighted work has already begun on the TAP Network Position Paper on SDG (Goal 16) Indicators and will be open for comments until Monday, 13 April. You can access the google doc to comment on this position paper here: <http://bit.ly/1BJz2fB>
 - Highlighted there has been interest from members of the Network to draft an open letter for enhancing civil society participation within the modalities of the Inter-Agency Expert Group (IAEG) on SDGs Indicators. This work has already been undertaken by other groups in which stakeholders can provide their comments at <http://bit.ly/1FhYMnR> by Friday, 3 April. They will be calling for endorsements next week.

1.2.3 Drafting Group on Accountability/Review & Monitoring

- John Romano, TAP Network Coordinator:
 - Highlighted we have made good progress on the areas we want to discuss but need clarity on who will be taking the leads on these sections.
 - Stressed this position paper is very important to the Network because its present key advocacy points around the “A” within the TAP principles.
 - Underlined we have to be as specific as possible on key recommendations within this position paper regarding different processes, how accountability ties into the FfD process and Means of Implementation but also how we define accountability within the review mechanism and the role of civil society within the post-2015 review mechanism.
- Kate Donald, CESR, noted that we needed to come to an agreement first on the subsections and outline for the accountability paper, before we are to determine who drafts each of the sections of the paper, and suggested we have another call with the drafting group to agree on this before moving forward.
- Ulrika Soneson Cilliers, Save the Children agreed we would need a conference call to finalize the structure of the accountability position paper.
- John Romano, TAP Network Coordinator agreed that we should have a call with the accountability drafting group, and noted that the TAP Coordinators will send out the details of this call in the coming days ahead.

1.2.4 Drafting Group on Global Partnership/Mol

- John Romano, TAP Network Coordinator:
 - Underlined that we haven’t received a lot of volunteers to lead in the drafting of this position paper.
 - Stressed the Coordinators want the content of these position papers to reflect the viewpoints of the Network.
 - Raised the question what degree of flexibility does the Coordinators have in suggesting language and putting together drafts for the TAP Network, utilizing the same consultation methods.
- Ulrika Soneson Cilliers, Save the Children:
 - Stated she is okay with the Coordinators drafting language or positions that are put forward to the Network.

- Underlined we should reflect on the “why” no member has taken the lead in drafting this position paper. If there is not a strong desire from the group then maybe we should drop this position paper.
- Michael Cooper, Ploughshare Group, LLC agreed with Ulrika Soneson Cilliers, Save the Children this position paper might not be a strong priority for the Network.
- Craig Fagan, Transparency International agreed we need to think about our strategic priorities as a Network and not replicate work of other organizations.
- John Romano, TAP Network Coordinator:
 - Agreed with all of the comments, and noted that the Network will discard the Global Partnership/MoI position paper.
 - Stressed the Coordinators are here to assist the members and you can contact the Coordinators if you have any other issues you wish to discuss.

1.3 Selection Process of TAP Network Steering Committee:

- John Romano, TAP Network Coordinator:
 - Stated there have been meetings of the Interim Steering Committee (ISC) consisting of 4 TAP Network members that include Mr. Michael Cooper, Ploughshare Group, LLC, Ms. Amanda Lundy, Plan International, Mr. Craig Fagan, Transparency International and Ms. Neva Frecheville, CAFOD.
 - The ISC has put forward a call for elections of a new Steering Committee that will provide overall guidance around advocacy priorities and strategic issues. Also it will be a decision making body on various items, as required.
 - Nominations for the Steering Committee will be open to any organization on the TAP Network Google Group. The TAP Network Google Group membership is publicly available, but the Coordinators will send it around to the Network along with the nomination form.
 - The Coordinators will send out a nomination form to the Network to submit their organization candidacy for the Steering Committee. The nomination form will be open from 1-14 April with voting taking place 15-29 April.
- Ms. Fiona Bradley, The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) inquired about the expectations of the Steering Committee members.
- John Romano, TAP Network Coordinator:
 - Stated the nomination form does include some of the expectations required of members of the Steering Committee.
 - Underlined there would not be a huge commitment required for members of the Steering Committee. The engagement of the Steering Committee will largely be through teleconference and the Steering Committee would decide on its working methods.
- Neva Frecheville, CAFOD emphasized the Steering Committee would provide strategic guidance and defining key advocacy priorities for the Network. In addition, there might be opportunities for members of the Steering Committee to travel to New York to speak on behalf of the Network which would also be open to other members within the TAP Network.
- John Romano, TAP Network Coordinator agreed with Neva Frecheville, CAFOD, and reiterated that ownership of the TAP Network’s work will be critical for the group going forward, with this steering committee leading the way.
- Michael Cooper, Ploughshare Group, LLC added that the Steering Committee could have responsibilities in corporate decision making such as membership criteria for the TAP Network, or decisions and oversight of other TAP activities going forward.

- John Romano, TAP Network Coordinator underlined that the Steering Committee will assist Coordinators in taking the Network forward, including on internal governance and strategic guidance for its advocacy.

1.4 AOB:

- Ulrika Soneson Cilliers, Save the Children:
 - Informed the group in Geneva there was a gathering of child rights organizations that work with the Human Rights Council to conduct a day of discussions and adopt a resolution on investments in children.
 - This discussion was convened in March 2015 and a resolution was adopted on Friday, 27 March.
 - Underlined all the products produced during these discussions including the resolution has a strong focus on transparency and accountability.
 - Save the Children is looking into how they can use the outputs from these meetings into the FfD process.
 - Highlighted the Network might be able to use these outputs.
- John Romano, TAP Network Coordinator asked how frequently the Coordinators should organize the TAP Network conference calls and how can we provide resources to the TAP Network members.
- Neva Frecheville, CAFOD recommended we have meetings once a month. She stressed our meetings should not clash with other meetings, including those of Beyond 2015.