

# TAP Network Steering Committee

## Meeting Decisions

15 March 2019

- Present:** Ms. Coco Lammers, Namati  
Mr. Zia Ur-Rehman, ADA  
Mr. Louis Busingye, HRFRA  
Ms. Jyotsna Singh, ADA  
Mr. John Romano, TAP Secretariat
- Absent:** Ms. Florence Syevuo, SDG Kenya Forum  
Mr. Rukshana Nanayakkara, Transparency International  
Ms. Elle Sweeney, TAP Secretariat
- Next meeting:** 29 March 2019
- Chairing Meeting:** Ms. Coco Lammers, Namati

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

### **Agenda Items:**

#### **1. Review and approval of last Steering Committee call notes**

**Decision:** Approval was taken by the Steering Committee of the Decisions and Notes from TAP Network Steering Committee Call on 15 February 2019.

#### **2. Discussion on voluntary commitments guidelines**

**Discussion:** It was agreed that a deadline would be set for the Steering Committee to review and approve the guidelines, as there was no quorum on the call-in order to make a decision today. It was noted that additional information about the mechanisms for a transfer would be added to this document

#### **3. Partnership Updates**

- a. Update from Ulaanbaatar Democracy Forum

**Discussion:** The Coordinator provided an update from the recent Ulaanbaatar Democracy Forum, which John, Zia, and Jyotsna attended. It was noted that the big added value for TAP was connecting with a number of national platforms in Asia, specifically colleagues the Network

will be partnering with on the upcoming national workshops. Particularly, TAP met with colleagues from Cambodia, Timor L'Este, and Pakistan. The other great take-away from the Forum was the opportunity to talk with colleagues from ADA and Forus (who is receiving funding and partnering with KOICA) about the opportunity to put together a joint Global Analysis of Civil Society Spotlight Reports. It was noted that continued conversations need to be had about ensuring that there is not a duplication of efforts on this front—meaning the creation of multiple reports by these different platforms. The mechanics of this work will still need to be clarified going forward but it is a promising opportunity.

Jyotsna added to the Coordinator's update, noting that KOICA is supporting ten countries on Goal 16 civil society reporting, not all of which are ADA countries. ADA is interested in financially supporting countries not included in KOICA's current funding plans. The organization has about \$3,000 available for these efforts.

Jyotsna also noted that ADA is participating in the Nepal Democracy Forum in November and would be interested in having TAP support for this event.

#### b. Fundraising update

**Discussion:** The TAP Coordinator noted that he met with the Swiss mission, at their request, last week and provided an overview of TAP's work around SDG16. The Swiss were particularly interested in the Storytelling event and have since agreed to partially fund it with a \$30,000 grant. The Coordinator noted that in the past, the Swiss have just funded Pathfinders, despite inquiries by TAP in previous years. It seems now that the Swiss are looking to shift their focus or expand it in the SDG16 space, which is encouraging for our work and longer-term funding in the future.

Next steps will be to work out the mechanics of who will manage the funding from the Swiss. The Coordinator noted that he will push to lead the management of these funds, given TAP's role in putting together the concept note for the Swiss initially and also because of this role could set the stage for TAP to build a relationship with the Swiss and therefore pursue other opportunities with their office in the future. The TAP Coordinator noted that he has a call scheduled today with Saferworld and IPI to discuss this grant and will offer TAP as the lead manager for this grant then. The Steering Committee members present agreed with this plan.

#### c. Update on launch of SDG Accountability Handbook

**Discussion:** It was noted that the Secretariat is just finishing the print version of the Handbook and our designer will be beginning the digital version this week, which will take roughly a couple weeks to complete. The Coordinator noted that he thinks it would be best to launch when both versions are completed.

In terms of launch events, the Coordinator provided an overview of the Secretariat's current plans. The first would be an online launch through a webinar. Namati offered to host the webinar on its platform to allow for a larger audience to participate. **Coco to check with her colleagues about the availability of their platform in early April.**

Secondly, the Coordinator noted that the Secretariat is planning a UN launch, hopefully featuring Amina Mohammad as a key note speaker. This event would be broadcast on the web to allow for a wider audience to participate. The Coordinator is currently speaking with colleagues at the Secretary General's office about this launch event, as well as the finalization of the special message in the Handbook from Amina Mohammad.

Thirdly, there will be a launch event at the HLPF, particularly a side event with the possibility of also hosting a workshop for the Handbook as well. There is also an opportunity to host a launch event at A4SD's weekend meeting for civil society at the HLPF. Oli at A4SD has already offered this opportunity.

Fourthly, there are opportunities to use the Handbook at the national workshops over the next few months.

Finally, there is an opportunity to host a launch event at the Partners for Review meeting, which will be held in May, location TBD. GIZ would love for TAP to make a big splash with this and it could be a great chance to solicit more funding from them in the future.

Jyotsna noted that ADA is having a regional meeting on March 28<sup>th</sup> and suggested that a launch event also be hosted in Asia around this time, perhaps on March 29<sup>th</sup>. The Coordinator noted that the print version of the Handbook would be available at this time and could be used for an Asia launch. Jyotsna also noted there is an opportunity to launch in Belgrade, Serbia at the Civil Society Week at the beginning of April. **Oli from A4SD has provided information to the TAP Coordinator on this opportunity and the Coordinator will follow-up on with him.**

Coco noted that there is also an opportunity to potentially host a launch event at a South Africa workshop with civil society the last week of March. Coco will be leading a session on behalf of TAP about engaging with the UN system and would be happy to talk and distribute this resource there. **The Coordinator will ensure that the print version of the Handbook would be available for this event.**

Finally, it was noted that the Handbook Advisory Committee should be involved in the launch plans, perhaps with speaking roles at the launch events where possible. The Coordinator has a call with the Advisory Group planned for next week and will propose these opportunities to them and

#### [Follow-Up:](#)

- **Coco to check with her colleagues about the availability of their platform in early April.**
- **Oli from A4SD has provided information to the TAP Coordinator on showcasing the Handbook at their HLPF Weekend event. The Coordinator to follow-up on with him.**
- **The Coordinator to ensure that the print version of the Handbook would be available for the South Africa event.**

d. Partnering with CSPPS on national SDG16 workshops

**Discussion:** The TAP Coordinator noted that the TAP Secretariat has come to an agreement with CSPPS to partner on SDG16 workshops, particularly in CAR, Chad, Cote D’Ivoire, Timor L’Este, Rwanda, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone. CSPPS has a significant amount of funding for their workshops, to the tune of \$10,000 per workshops—much more than TAP currently has allocated (\$2,000 per workshop). The partnership will cover all seven countries noted above. In the countries where TAP cannot provide funding, CSPPS is still happy to partner with TAP in name. **The TAP Coordinator is finalizing an MOU with CSPPS this week and will send the final document to the Steering Committee for review. The Coordinator will work with Louis to coordinate on the workshop in Rwanda and will also work with ADA on setting the dates and coordinating the workshop in Timor L’Este.**

**Follow-Up:**

- **The TAP Coordinator to finalize an MOU with CSPPS this week and to send the final document to the Steering Committee for review.**
- **The Coordinator to work with Louis to coordinate on the workshop in Rwanda and will also work with ADA on setting the dates and coordinating the workshop in Timor L’Este.**

e. TAP Coordinator Performance Evaluation

**Discussion:** The TAP Coordinator noted that he has provided his performance evaluation to the Steering Committee and will review this with the former Steering Committee Co-Chairs when they are ready for that discussion.

**4. Update on HLPF Planning**

a. Update from TAP Coordination Call

**Discussion:** The TAP Coordinator provided a brief overview of the more recent Coordination Call with the Network, which was well attended and chaired by Coco. It was noted that members really appreciated being updated on all the work that has been going on over the past few months and the plans that the Network has for the future. The next Coordination Call will

take place next month. **The Secretariat will provide notes from the call to the Network and the Steering Committee once available.**

**Follow-up: The Secretariat to provide notes from the call to the Network and the Steering Committee once available.**

b. Civil Society Reporting Analysis

**Discussion:** The TAP Coordinator provided a brief update on work around developing a Global Report on SDG16 Spotlight Reporting. TAP is looking to partner with ADA and Forus as noted earlier in the conversation, as well as Saferworld (who just released guidance on spotlight reporting), TI (who has done a lot of work around reporting on SDG16.3), and Global Forum for Media Development (who has done work around reporting on SDG16.10). **A concept note is being finalized by the Coordinator this week and will be reviewed with ADA and Forus once completed. Spotlight Reports will then start to be collected the week after on a platform via the TAP website.** This platform will be used to showcase the reports as well.

Coco noted that the Filipino Society is putting together a spotlight report with civil society to go alongside the official VNR report that the Filipino government is creating.

**The TAP Coordinator requested that the Steering Committee share this work widely with their broader Networks so that we can collect as many spotlight reports as possible, and to also encourage fundraising and advocacy.**

**Follow-up:**

- **A concept note is being finalized by the Coordinator this week and TAP Coordinator to review the document with ADA and Forus once completed.**
- **Steering Committee to share information about TAP's Spotlight Reporting widely with their broader Networks so that we can collect as many spotlight reports as possible, and to also encourage fundraising and advocacy.**

c. TAP advocacy papers on SDGs Summit Declaration and 2020 HLPF Reform

**Discussion:** The TAP Coordinator noted that there is currently a closed Member State meeting going on around the modalities of the SDG Summit Declaration. TAP is now looking to finalize these two advocacy papers with expectations that negotiations will start in the next couple weeks. HLPF Reform negotiations won't start until after September, but there is a need start our own advocacy because it is rumored that the Summit Declaration will reference HLPF Reform, but perhaps only around process related to the HLPF Reform Negotiations. **These papers will be sent to the Network and Steering Committee once finalized.**

**Follow-up: TAP Coordinator to send advocacy papers to the Network and Steering Committee once finalized.**

d. Rome SDG16 Conference

**Discussion:** The TAP Coordinator noted that UNDESA has confirmed the dates for the Rome SDG16 Conference, which will be on 27-29 May. How this conference will feed into the HLPF remains to be seen, however, the Coordinator has a meeting with UNDESA on Wednesday to see how TAP can contribute to the conference and help them identify participants so that the event is broad and inclusive. **The TAP Coordinator will send around the website for the conference to the Network, where interested parties can register to attend.** The deadline for registration for the conference is April 1, which is a very, very short timeline. The Coordinator has told this to UNDESA.

**Follow-up:** [The TAP Coordinator to send around the website for the conference to the Network, where interested parties can register to attend.](#)

e. HLPF Planning update

**Discussion:** The TAP Coordinator noted that he has sent around the official program for the HLPF event. He noted that the thematic review for SDG16 is on the afternoon of Friday July 12<sup>th</sup>. TAP can now start looking to plan our own events.

The Coordinator provided an update on the Storytelling event, noting that TAP and its partners will announce and launch the event next week. They will also start reaching out to other potential partners for the event. The event will be hosted at IPI on Thursday, July 11<sup>th</sup>. **The TAP Coordinator requested that the Steering Committee help promote the event.**

Coco noted that the Secretariat should look to bring stories from the many upcoming meetings of civil society, such as the Rome conference, into this storytelling event.

**Follow-up:** [The Steering Committee to help promote the storytelling event.](#)

## 5. Review of TAP Network Partnership Applications

**Discussion:** The TAP Coordinator reviewed the most recent partner applications.

**Decisions:** [It was decided and agreed that both applications would be approved](#)

## 6. AOB

**Discussion:** Coco noted that TAP should look to determine who should house new commitments—from civil society, governments, academia, etc.—that will be coming out of the HLPF. The Coordinator noted that UNDESA has a platform for “partnerships” on their website that could be used, though this may not be the most active approach. The Coordinator

suggested that we re-explore the idea of having a commitments conference and then have TAP showcase all commitments on some type of accountability platform. This, however, would require a significant amount of staff capacity and funding. Coco noted that we should also see if any other organizations are thinking about this work and determine whether or not TAP could help guide and shape that platform.

The Steering Committee noted that it is happy to see the TAP twitter account so active of late.

Jyotsna noted that ADA needs the funding for the Cambodia gala training workshop as soon as possible. ADA will need to submit an invoice and bank details to the Secretariat.

It was noted that the South Africa workshop did not come to fruition.

**Follow-up:** ADA to submit an invoice and bank details to the Secretariat for their Cambodia workshop.