TAP Network Steering Committee - 2020-2021 Steering Committee

29 May 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: 12 June 2020

Chairing Meeting: Mr. Peter van Sluijs, CSPPS

**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. Update on launch of Decade of Accountability for the SDGs (10 minutes)
3. Review of TAP 2020 HLPF Side-Events (10 minutes)
4. Update and Next Steps on Membership Engagement (10 minutes)
5. Partnership Updates (10 minutes)
6. Review of TAP Partner Applications (5 minutes)
7. 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 May 15, 2020.

2. **Update on launch of Decade of Accountability for the SDGs**
   
   **Discussion:**
The TAP Secretariat updated the Committee on the new Decade of Accountability for the SDGs campaign that was launched Wednesday May 27. With the launch came the release of the “Global SDG Accountability Survey which will remain open through the end of July (and likely extended) and will be promoted regularly.

The survey, and other ways of engagement found on the website www.sdgaccountability.org/decade, will be heavily promoted through HLPF and leading up to the launch of the “Global Accountability Report” around the time of UN GA opening in September.

Responding to CSPPS’s question on how many people have since engaged, the secretariat noted that about two dozen respondents have completed the survey as well as committed to the campaign by becoming an “SDG Accountability Champion.” The survey is longer than tradition TAP surveys which partly explains the lower rate of response. It was noted that the specific methods of engagement need to promoted more heavily and with more effective language going forward.

**FOLLOW-UP**

- The secretariat will continue to promote these methods of engagement until the launch of the “Global Accountability Report” launch in September
- Steering Committee members should share the campaign and the survey with their network and on their platforms to get as much engagement as possible.
- The Secretariat will update the Steering Committee on the virtual event and blog post series that are under consideration in the lead up to HLPF

3. **Review of TAP 2020 HLPF Side-Events**

**Discussion:**
The chair moved to the next agenda item: the tentative list of side events for the virtual HLPF 2020. The secretariat listed the tentative plans for side events - most of which are being led by TAP’s partners (ie passive engagement) except for the Decade of Accountability Event.

**Side-Events:**
- **Campaign for a Decade of Accountability for the SDGs**
- Voices of SDG16+ Campaign
- SDG16 Data Initiative
- Global SDG16+ Community Side-Event
- **SDG16+ Reporting - GIZ, DIHR, TAP**
- **The role of SDG 16 + in accelerating 2030 Agenda Monitoring and Implementation**
The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, the Danish Institute of Human Rights, the Asia Development Alliance, the Nepal NGO Federation, UNESCAP, the TAP Network, the Permanent Secretariat of the Community of Democracies.

- Accelerating ‘whole of society’ action on SDG implementation through innovative civil society partnerships.
  - Govt of Malaysia. Malaysian CSO SDG Alliance, JANIC - Japan, WNTA- India
  - UNDP, Forum for Indian Development Cooperation (FIDC), Forus, TAP Network, SDG Watch Europe, Jawaharlal Nehru University (India),

Given the unprecedented nature of the virtual event, not much information has been provided on how the side-events be coordinated. There will be a lot of competition and limited time slots. Members agreed with Accountability Lab’s suggestion that TAP focus in on key messages going into conference to stay on strategy—shaped in coordination with TAP’s membership.

**FOLLOW-UP**
- Once information regarding the coordination of the event comes is provided by UNDESA, the secretariat will update the SC so that events can be organized accordingly.

4. **Update and Next Steps on Membership Engagement**
   a. Newsletter next week
   b. Launch of Membership Engagement Portal: https://tapnetwork2030.org/membershipportal/
   c. Webinars
      i. Decade of Accountability
      ii. Corruption and COVID-19 - Transparency International
   d. Blogs
      iii. Process for reviewing and approving blogs
   e. Working Groups/Task Force
      iv. Launched next week for sign-up

**DISCUSSION:**
The chair noted that the Membership engagement survey was sent to the network membership this past week.

The survey, along with other membership opportunities, will be promoted next week on social media as well as through the new newsletter and the membership engagement portal webpage -- an online platform regularly updated with information on opportunities. These
opportunities include: blog submissions, spotlight reporting, working group sign ups (COVID-19 taskforce and Spotlight reporting taskforce).

It was suggested to share the results of the early responses of the survey. However, it might result in biased responses. However, insight and prompts shared on the newsletter may spur more respondents.

The secretariat also updated the committee on the discussions had on future webinar topics—the next of which will be hosted with Transparency International on the topic of Corruption and COVID-19. Going forward, there will also be planning of on the Decade of Accountability webinar possibly in July. The secretariat noted that brainstorming/mapping out on future webinars with potential TAP co-hosts is needed going forward leading up to HLPF.

The Steering Committee members agreed that the secretariat should take the responsibility of reviewing blogs to post. The blog posts will also include a disclaimer for all the blog posts and the blog portal in general. A more formal schedule will developed as submissions are received, but tentatively, blogs will be posted on a monthly basis.

**DECISIONS:**
- The Steering Committee members agreed that the secretariat should take the responsibility of reviewing blogs to post.
- The blog posts will also include a disclaimer for all the blog posts and the blog portal in general.

**FOLLOW-UP**
- The Secretariat will promote the membership engagement survey more heavily beginning next week through social media platforms
  - The secretariat will also have the survey translated into Spanish and French by mid to late next week.
- Concrete information on upcoming membership engagement opportunities (including the survey, the call for blogs, the two working group sign ups, and the upcoming webinar on Corruption and COVID-19) will also be shared with the network through the launch of the newsletter and publishing the membership portal online early next week.
- The secretariat will keep the committee updated on the development of the next webinars set between now and through HLPF with potential TAP partner co-hosts.
  - Including the webinar with Transparency International on Corruption and COVID-19

5. **Partnership Updates**
Discussion:
In regards to the partnership UNDP for the Post-VNR resource, the secretariat updated the committee that the first draft is currently in the process of being finalized. The current contract with UNDP goes through the end July and will include the end of this draft as well as subsequent consultations and revisions prior to the launch in September. Going forward, the next steps are preparing for the upcoming launch. UNDP has expressed interest in extending the contract past July and beyond the delivery of the resource draft—for potentially a year-long partnership. This allows for an exploration of different ways of collaboration in the future. If the current rate of funding holds, it would be 100,000 dollars for the next year. The secretariat will send the first draft of the Post-VNR resource to the Steering Committee as soon as it becomes available.

FOLLOW-UP
- The secretariat will send the first draft of the Post-VNR resource to the Steering Committee as soon as it becomes available.
- Next week, the Secretariat will draft an initial proposal for a long-term contract with UNDP that includes budgets and workplans that will be sent to Steering Committee members and Proteus Fund for review and before sending to UNDP.
- Over the next weeks, the secretariat will begin preparations for the launch of the Post-VNR resource in September.

6. Review of TAP Partner Application

Discussion:
Given the trend of rejections in the past few weeks of new partner applications, the secretariat will step up outreach for new partner applications including more concise information and guidelines on the website.