Membership Coordination Call

Wednesday, 12 November 2020, 8:00 – 9:15 NY time / 13:00 – 14:15 GMT

Executive Summary

The Steering Committee Co-Chairs, Peter van Sluijs from CSPPS and Judith Kaurem from PRFT, began by introducing themselves and providing a brief welcome and overview of the objectives of the call. The membership call aimed to provide information on the Membership Refresh process, answer any questions or concerns regarding TAP’s plans for membership engagement, and solicit feedback on ways to strengthen ownership and engagement as a network.

The co-chairs provided a brief overview of the purpose of the Membership Refresh process, in which members are asked to re-confirm their membership as a part of the TAP Network by filling out a form. The Steering Committee has been exploring ways to strengthen and deepen membership engagement and ownership. In reviewing membership structure and engagement, the Steering Committee noted that the same organizations showed active engagement, while other organizations remained either passively engaged or inactive due to a variety of reasons including lack of capacity or once active individuals leaving these organizations. For this reason, the TAP Steering Committee and Secretariat noted the need to determine which member organizations wish to remain active within the network, of which hasn’t been done since TAP’s founding in 2014. Thus, the membership refresh process will help identify which organizations wish to remain dedicated and engaged with TAP’s collective work—whether it be actively engaged or passively informed as a Member.

Once the membership refresh concludes, the Steering Committee will shift its focus towards improving engagement and ownership for TAP Members going forward. One of the objectives of the call is to solicit more feedback and suggestions on ways that the TAP Secretariat can strengthen engagement for its members. The Steering Committee Co-chairs concluded by reminding TAP Members who wish to stay actively engaged and/or informed on TAP’s collective work to fill out the form ahead of the deadline on Monday, November 16.

An Overview of TAP’s Member/Partner Structure
The Co-Chairs gave the floor to the Secretariat: TAP Coordinator, John Romano, to provide an overview of key takeaways and analysis collected from the TAP Consultation in the Membership Engagement Survey closed last month. After thanking all those who participated in providing feedback, Mr. Romano noted that respondents overwhelmingly that they were interested in being more involved with the TAP Network’s collective work.

Survey respondents also communicated a desire for greater opportunities for members to be directly included in TAP’s work, particularly in a “bottom-up” fashion, so as to facilitate ownership and strengthen engagement. More specifically, members called for opportunities and platforms to facilitate lateral/peer engagement—or connections within TAP’s membership—as a means to share information and best-practices, as well as to encourage regional and global partnerships. Facilitating peer connections within the network, through regional working groups for example, would lead to greater and more effective collaboration at the national and regional levels.

Feedback collected in the survey from TAP Partners (see above graphic for an overview of TAP’s Member/Partner Structure) showed modest satisfaction to the benefits offered exclusively to TAP Partners but also revealed a desire for more opportunities for engagement. Both Members and Partners demonstrated an interest in engaging more actively in global advocacy channels, as well as opportunities in taking on leadership roles in working groups and TAP’s governance structure itself.

The Secretariat then opened the floor for open discussion to answer any questions regarding the Membership Refresh process and future plans for strengthening membership engagement. Participants were also asked to provide any outstanding feedback. For the most part, the discussion echoed the suggestions collected from the consultation in providing greater opportunities and platforms for connecting with other member organizations and allowing channels for leadership and ownership in the network’s collective work. Below are the questions that guided discussion.