



Partnership Coordination Call

Wednesday, 2 December 2020, 9:00 – 10:00 NY time / 14:00 – 15:00 GMT

Executive Summary

The TAP Partners Call, which followed shortly after the Membership Call in November, aimed to give partners updates on engagement plans for partners in 2021, as well as solicit feedback for reshaping the network partnership structure. The call began with TAP Steering Committee Co-Chair, Judith Kaulem from Poverty Reduction Forum Trust, providing a welcome and introduction.

Background on TAP Network Partners Structure Review

The chair gave the floor to TAP Secretariat Coordinator, John Romano, who began by providing a brief update on the Membership Refresh process that began earlier in the fall with the aim of updating the membership status. Confirmation from partners was not required and partners will still maintain their status through this process.

Over the course of the early months of 2021 and following the Membership refresh will be the Partnership refresh process to identify and maintain the status of active TAP Partners. In addition, the Partnership Refresh process will also serve as an opportunity for Partners to update their commitments and report on progress made on the original commitments they made when they joined the network. A report taking stock of commitments and showcasing partner's work will be the concrete outcome of the process. With an advocacy approach, the report will then be presented at HLPF 2021 to showcase civil society's work towards SDG16+ and encourage key stakeholders to support and follow through with their own commitments.

Overview of insights from TAP consultation and Plans for Engagement in 2021

Shifting gears, the coordinator went on to outline opportunities for partners in the months ahead. These plans were based off of the membership consultation and feedback collected from both members and partners over the past year. In summary, the membership consultation found that TAP Network Colleagues expressed a desire to showcase their work, engage more deeply and collaboratively with other members and partners, opportunities for leadership and ownership, and more advocacy-related projects and activities.

For TAP Partners, these engagement opportunities include the following:

- With the drafting of the Goal 16 Advocacy Toolkit update, the secretariat hopes to put together an advisory group of partners to direct and guide the process-- similarly to the SDG Accountability Handbook in 2019. Additionally, partners will have the opportunity to submit case studies to be featured in the updated resource.

- The Spotlight Reporting platform will also be updated in 2021. The process will be directed by a working group of TAP Partners.
- Partners also have the opportunity to showcase their work through publishing a blog on TAP's new blog portal, as well as through our new vlog interview series: TAP Network Conversations. This opportunity is available to all partners as a means to promote awareness of their collective work.
- As mentioned previously, during the Partnership refresh process, the secretariat will also look to update the Partner portal on the website to facilitate dialogue and collaboration within the TAP Network community. The platform will be more user-friendly and provide space for partners to find opportunities for partnership.

Open Discussion and Dialogue

The chair opened the discussion to solicit feedback on how the network can best provide added value for TAP partners.

Some specific questions raised by partners included: whether or not TAP was going forward with another advocacy-related project for HLPF 2021, such as the Rome Consultation in 2019. While TAP's HLPF 2021 activities remain an open topic of discussion, the summary report showcasing partner's updated commitments would ideally provide an opportunity to connect to the global level. TAP also plans to form an Advocacy working group in the coming months composed of interested partners to lead TAP's advocacy plans in the future.

Some Partners expressed the need for greater support and resources during COVID-19 and in contexts where civic space is under threat. Resources could include capacity-building opportunities or connections to funding partners. The secretariat communicated that TAP providing funding proves difficult given the network's own funding constraints. However, capacity-building workshops, including grant writing proposals, supported by TAP and led by partners in-country could be possible. Though these activities are complicated by the pandemic, it could also take place virtually-- which would also cut costs.

In terms of the network's communication mechanisms and platforms, it was suggested that restarting the regional working groups could strengthen the network's reach and facilitate cross-partner collaboration. Other suggestions included more regular coordination calls, possibly on a monthly basis. Partners expressed approval with updating virtual communication platforms, including the partner portal, to better facilitate lateral engagement between partners.