

TAP Network Steering Committee - 2020-2021 Steering Committee

Meeting Decisions

24 March 2021

Present:

Mr. John Romano, TAP Secretariat
Ms. Claudia Villalona, TAP Secretariat
Ms. Ellery Wong, TAP Secretariat
Ms. Jean Scrimgeour, Accountability Lab
Ms. Judith Kaulem, Poverty Reduction Forum Trust
Mr. Peter van Sluijs, CSPPS
Ms. Linh Nyugen, ADA
Ms. Florence Syevuo, SDG Kenya Forum

Absent:

Next meeting:

7 April 2021

Chairing Meeting:

Ms. Jean Scrimgeour, Accountability Lab

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

Agenda Items:

1. Review and Approval of last Steering Committee Call Notes and decisions between calls
2. Discussion on TAP Partner Platform
3. Update on HLPF Planning
4. Partnership Updates
 - a. TAP Coordination Call - Thursday, 25 March 2021
 - b. Update on TAP Working Groups
 - c. Update on SDG16+ Toolkit and Global SDG Accountability Report
5. Review of TAP Partner Applications
6. AOB

1. Review and Approval of last Steering Committee Call Notes

Discussion:

You can find the last Steering Committee Call notes from March 10, 2021 in the google doc here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jtts1QxnoOHR_JrvgvZigOKyLN6ndgQw/edit

DECISIONS

The Steering Committee moved to approve the last Steering Committee call notes from the 10 of March 2021.

2. Discussion on TAP Partner Platform

Discussion:

The communications and outreach officer took the floor to discuss their most pressing workstream priority of redesigning the partnership platform. They presented the Steering Committee with a presentation of the current plans for the platform, which you can access [here](#). The platform which will begin as an “adaptable skeleton” database that would ideally feature searchable, sortable and filtering capabilities for all the data points, the ability to set updates, and flexible/low maintenance visualization tools. The officer also plans on integrating features that incentivize partners to engage actively, such as a carousel of featured/most recently updated partner pages.

The officer solicited feedback and suggestions from the SC, particularly on the following questions:

- What kind of functionality should the Partnership Platform have?
- What kind of features should the Partnership Platform be built to host?
- What are the other potential features that could be added to the TAP Website that the Partnership Platform should be built to anticipate?
- What value can the TAP Partnership Platform Provide?

Accountability Lab emphasized the importance of accessibility in terms of internet bandwidth and language. The former would require a design process that is able to function under low bandwidth and poor internet connectivities, while the latter requires the translation functionality with widgets like google translate.

In terms of added value for network partners, it was also brought to the attention of the committee that many partners lack a website, and the partner page could function as their own website. The Accountability Lab cautioned to be cautious of using a reward system as many partners may not have the resources or capacity to engage actively-- particularly those in the global south. Therefore the database should be deliberate in ensuring a regional balance in the organizations that are featured.

SC members also asked how the secretariat plans to collect or update information from TAP Partners. Ideally, the database update would incentivize Partners to update their commitments as a part of the Partnership refresh process ahead of HLPF.

SC members also asked if Partners would be able to update their pages themselves. This would require enhanced security and an advanced system to mitigate risks. Finally, it was suggested a promotion/outreach plan to accompany the launch to promote the platform and show partners how to use/take advantage of its added value.

The officer finalized their presentation by presenting the next steps and timeline of the workstream:

- Plan it out and wire frame it
 - Find the correct platform or plugin to host the features Secretariat and SC desire
- Migrate Data

Tentative Timeline

- Features and program to use selected by end of March
- Data migration - Beginning of April
- Testing and Security - End of April
- Launch Beginning of May

Next steps:

- **The Communications and Outreach Officer will take into account the recommendations made by the Steering Committee in developing this platform to be launched tentatively at the beginning of May.**
- **Accountability Lab will schedule a call with their web consultant and the Comms/Outreach officer to discuss website accessibility**

3. Update on HLPF Planning

Discussion:

The TAP Secretariat gave the Steering Committee an update on planning for HLPF. The Secretariat drafted and presented a document overview of plans to the Advocacy Working Group that focuses primarily on virtual engagement, that can be accessed here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TwGMrrTkolEgeu34iTKWm60KvbVidSlb/view?usp=sharing>.

The WG provided feedback on overall approach and the outline of plans to engage. The plans can be difficult to consolidate and cut down, but because the conference will take place through virtual means, many of the potential events can be realized in an unofficial capacity.

Nonetheless, it will be important to prioritize work streams given many ongoing projects. The advocacy wg will thus contribute and help in this capacity.

Steering Committee members urged caution on overextending and participating in too many events as it could stretch the Secretariat's capacity thin. A separate event specifically for civil society alongside the toolkit launch, for example, may not be feasible. The Coordinator agreed, but also noted that many events included in the document will be led by TAP Partner colleagues with TAP contributing in a more minor capacity.

Next steps:

- **Steering Committee members may provide suggestions and feedback on the Advocacy Planning document around how to consolidate activities around HLPF.**
- **The Secretariat will continue to provide updates to the planning process and plans of the advocacy working group.**

4. Partnership Updates

a. TAP Coordination Call - Thursday, 25 March 2021

b. Update on TAP Working Groups

c. Update on SDG16+ Toolkit and Global SDG Accountability Report

Discussion:

The Secretariat will host a TAP Coordination Call, tomorrow, March 25, as a part of the ongoing calls that will be held on a regular, monthly basis. Since the SC co-chairs will rotate the responsibility of chairing these calls, PFRT will host and moderate the call tomorrow. The call will provide updates to the membership and allow for an open floor interactive discussion to prioritize feedback from colleagues.

Because the TAP Working Groups have restarted, the updates will become an ongoing agenda item. The Secretariat reached out to the membership to promote the sign ups for the regional working groups that are in the process of being restarted.

The Secretariat will also reach out to the Spotlight reporting group next week to begin the process to develop TAP's Spotlight Reporting guidelines for the SDG 16 toolkit.

Next Steps:

- The TAP Coordinator will reach out to PRFT with a detailed agenda to moderate the Coordination Call
- The Secretariat will reach out to the Spotlight reporting group next week to begin the process to develop TAP's Spotlight Reporting guidelines for the SDG 16 toolkit.

5. Review of TAP Partner Applications

Discussion:

As agreed upon on the last SC call, the TAP Secretariat began the process of having existing TAP Partners from a given country to vet TAP Partner applications. If there are no TAP Partners from that applicant's country, the Secretariat will reach out to the members, followed by Regional Partners/Members.

There has been one partner application since the last Steering Committee Call and two partner applications from pending partner review from the last call.

From the last call two partner applications have been reviewed by regional TAP Partners. Both their applications can be found here:

1. **VEILLE CITOYENNE TOGO** (Togo)

- a. The following of the TAP Partners consulted from the West African region have expressed their approval of this organization as a TAP Partner:

1. Has worked with organization in the past

2. [REDACTED] (Northern Macedonia)

- a. The following of the TAP Partners consulted from the continental European region have recommended following up with more information regarding this organization's previous work:

- *Note: [REDACTED] submitted an application though they are already TAP Partners since 2019. They submitted a new application following an internal shift in leadership within the organization and have been made aware of their ongoing TAP Partnership status.*
- *As agreed upon during the previous meeting, [REDACTED] will require additional information regarding their organization's relevance to TAP's collective work.*

Since the last call, the following applications have come through:

1. [REDACTED] (Cameroon)
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uG6yTdsKFj004hwyJNfyTohpos1qVO3N/view?usp=sharing>

The national/regional TAP Partners consulted have yet to review their application and provide their feedback.

The SC Committee suggested that the word vetting should not be used as the ability to approve Partners ultimately lies with the Steering Committee.

Decisions:

- **The Steering Committee moved to approve VEILLE CITOYENNE TOGO as a TAP Partner**

Next Steps:

- **The TAP Secretariat will continue to reach out to the Association for Emancipation, Solidarity and Equality of Women (ESE) and ASSOCIATION POUR LES VICTIMES DU MONDE to finalize the “TAP Partner Peer Evaluation process.” The former will need more credentials to be approved, while will wait on a response from the TAP Peer Partner**