

TAP NETWORK 2026-2030 Strategic Plan



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Executive Summary

During this final stretch of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) leading into their 2030 deadline, the TAP Network will look to advance and strengthen civil society’s role in implementation and accountability for SDG16+ - advancing peaceful, just and inclusive societies and strong institutions. TAP’s work is founded by the premise that an empowered, resilient and connected civil society ecosystem is essential to drive transformative and systemic change at all levels. By equipping changemakers with narratives, knowledge, and platforms for collaboration and joint action, TAP supports efforts to challenge entrenched power and advance accountability, peace, justice, and human rights.

This strategy comes at a time of mounting pressure and existential threats for civil society. Civic space is shrinking globally, with growing restrictions on fundamental freedoms, while many organizations face harassment, legal barriers, and reduced access to global decision-making spaces. Simultaneously, funding cuts in sustainable development, governance, peacebuilding and justice sectors threaten the safety, efficacy and sustainability of civil society’s work around these issues. These deepening threats only strengthen the TAP Network’s resolve – recognizing the underpinning nature of peace, justice, human rights and strong institutions in addressing some of the world’s most pressing challenges.

TAP’s approach will center on three strategic priorities. First: *sharing, learning, and storytelling* will build compelling and inspirational narratives, strengthen civil society storytelling capacity, and promote cross-disciplinary learning. Second: *advocacy, mobilization, and campaigns* will help convene a vibrant ecosystem of actors to coordinate collective advocacy

around key global moments, and bridge local realities with global policy processes. Third: *thought leadership, dialogue, and accountability* will generate spaces for cross-sector dialogue, develop tools and resources, and surface innovative solutions grounded in member expertise.

With the 2030 deadline for the SDGs fast approaching, the TAP Network stands ready to re-double our efforts to ensure that civil society remains a key part of the implementation of the current agenda – and plays an integral role in defining a vision for a Post-2030 future.



Who We Are & What We Do

The Transparency, Accountability & Participation (TAP) Network works from the belief that responding to and tackling systemic injustices and existential crises, ranging from democratic backsliding to shrinking civic space and funding challenges, requires a strong, resilient, and connected civil society ecosystem to drive transformation.

By fostering storytelling, cross-disciplinary learning, capacity strengthening, and thought leadership, TAP equips champions, practitioners, and changemakers with the narratives, tools, and knowledge to challenge entrenched power and systemic barriers.

Through convening, advocacy, and mobilization, TAP creates platforms for dialogue across sectors, bridges local and global action, and amplifies collective civil society voices in global policy arenas.

This leads to greater recognition of civil society as key actors, stronger accountability frameworks, and the uptake of innovative and inclusive solutions that respond to systemic challenges.

Ultimately, these pathways contribute to transforming people, institutions, and societies to advance systemic change for a more peaceful, just, inclusive, accountable, and sustainable world.



Mission, Vision, and Strategic Objectives

Mission

Foster and support a vibrant and resilient ecosystem of civil society, champions, practitioners and changemakers to collectively address systemic injustices and existential crises around peace, justice, human rights and accountability.

Vision

Transform people, institutions and societies to instigate systemic change for a more peaceful, just, inclusive, accountable and sustainable world at all levels.



Core Principles & Values



- Civil society has the legitimacy, innovation, and reach to drive systemic change.
- Shared narratives and collective voice strengthen civil society's influence.
- Convening and bridging global-local action enhances accountability and sustainability of change.
- Systemic injustices can only be addressed through multi-stakeholder collaboration and collective action.



Strategic Objectives



- Sharing, learning and storytelling
- Advocacy, mobilization and campaigns
- Thought leadership, fostering dialogue and accountability.



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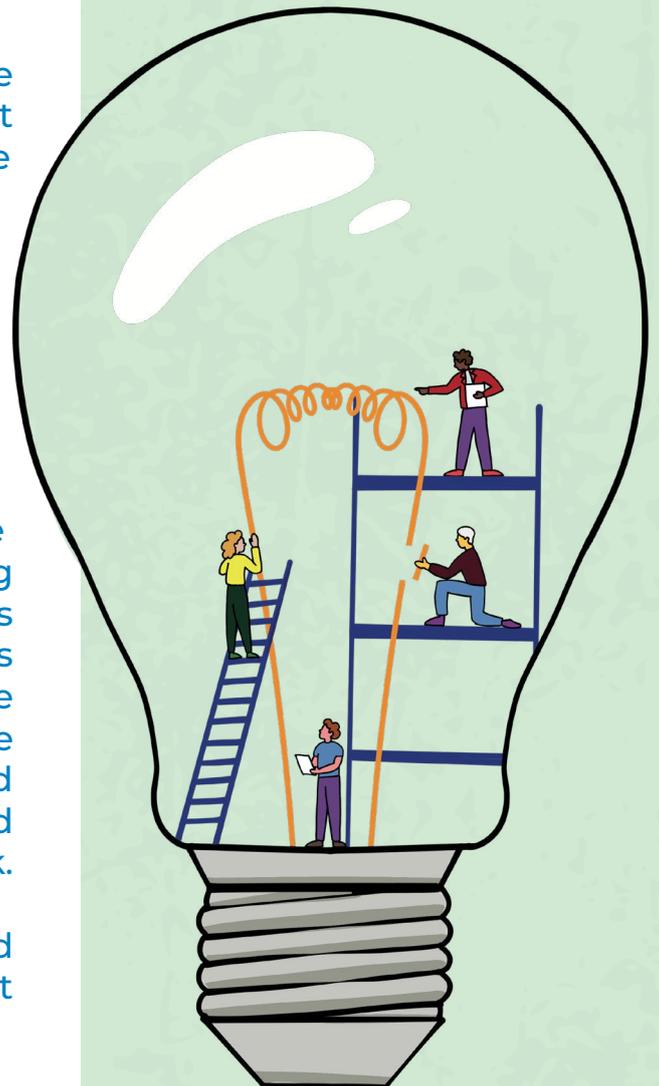
Context and Background

The TAP Network's mission to advance peace, justice, and inclusive institutions (SDG16+) is taking place in one of the most challenging environments for civil society in decades. The current geopolitical, economic, and social context heightens the need for our work and underscores the importance of sustained civil society engagement at all levels.



Around the world, civil society and justice systems are facing increasingly difficult systemic challenges and threats. Civic space is shrinking as governments roll back human rights protections and limit freedoms of association, assembly, and expression. Organizations and activists pushing for justice and accountability are often the first targets of these restrictions, encountering harassment, intimidation, or legal barriers that undermine their ability to operate. At the global level, multilateral forums that once welcomed civil society voices are narrowing access, reducing the influence of grassroots actors at the very moment their perspectives are most needed. Given these challenges, the TAP Network has scaled up and will continue to pursue efforts to convene dialogues and establish concrete recommendations and initiatives for greater action in this area of work.

These political pressures are compounded by a severe funding crisis for non-profit and grassroots organizations.





Many donor governments are cutting back dramatically on official development assistance, particularly in governance, peacebuilding, and justice sectors. At the same time, global military spending is rising.

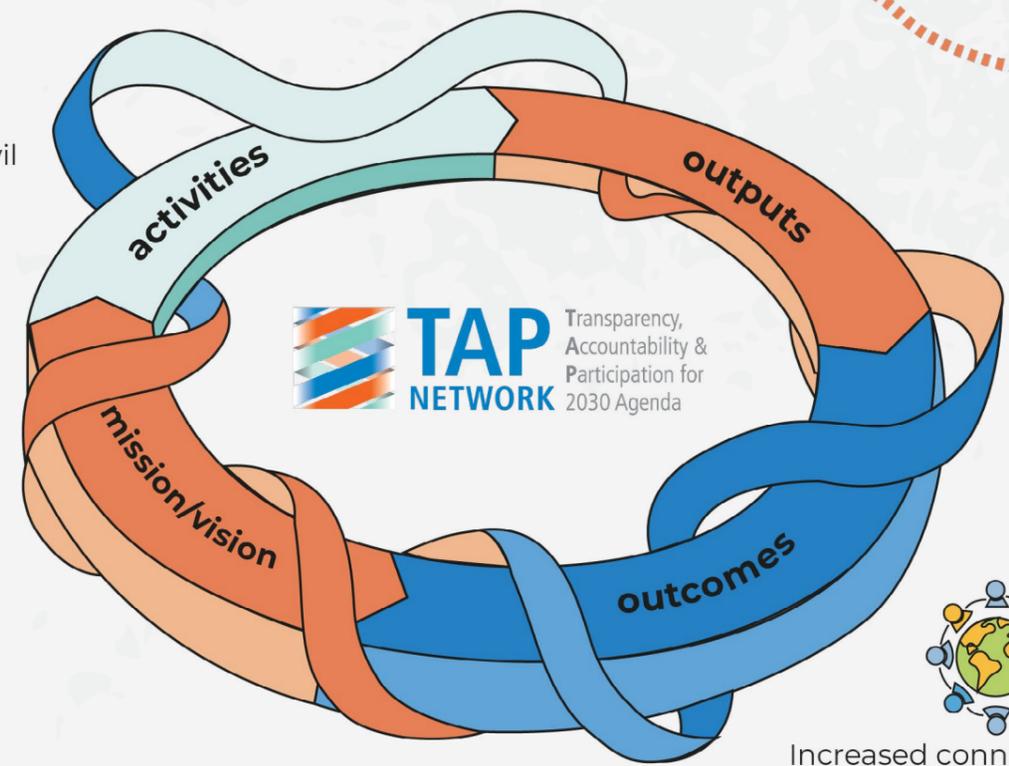
This leaves civil society organizations—especially at the grassroots level—struggling to sustain their operations, even as demand for their work grows. Without flexible, predictable, and sustained financing, the progress made on access to justice, human rights, and accountability risks being reversed.

This has impacted the TAP Network membership considerably, while also necessitating the scaling up of efforts to highlight the leadership of the most impacted-grassroots voices from the global South. TAP has made a commitment to making this a feature of our work. In this context, civil society remains a critical front-line: defending human rights, holding governments accountable, and providing a trusted link between global processes and the lived realities of communities.

Over the past decade (as we are ten years into the 2030 Agenda), the TAP Network has deepened its role as a leading civil society platform advancing peace, justice, rule of law, and inclusive governance under SDG16+. With the support of our partners, we have mobilized grassroots actors, drove advocacy at the highest levels, and amplified powerful stories that connect global commitments to local realities.

At this juncture, it is imperative that civil society actors think creatively and preemptively about what a post-2030 Agenda might be—and to protect the inclusion of work on peace, justice, civic space, human rights, and inclusion at the heart of the sustainable development agenda. With this in mind, TAP will continue to play a role in shaping the global policy agenda, convening high-level dialogues and side events, bringing together governments, UN leaders, and grassroots actors to highlight how SDG16+ is essential for sustainable development.

Theory of Action



Storytelling, learning and knowledge sharing

1

What we do (activities)

Harvest expertise and insights from across TAP's network

Convening and dialogue across stakeholders

Innovative tools and resources on TAP priority issues

2

What we deliver (outputs)

Platforms for showcasing civil society leadership in action

Inclusive spaces for cross-disciplinary discourse

Advocacy, mobilization, and campaigns

Capacity strengthening of civil society actors

Coordinated advocacy around key global moments

Strengthened civil society skills, strategies, and resilience



Mission: Foster and support a vibrant and resilient ecosystem of civil society, champions, practitioners and changemakers to collectively address systemic injustices and existential crises around peace, justice, human rights and accountability

4

Impact (the mission/vision)



Vision: Transform people, institutions and societies to instigate systemic change for a more peaceful, just, inclusive, accountable and sustainable world at all levels



Increased connectivity, cross-fertilization, and engagement of partners within TAP's civil society ecosystem

3

The change we want to see (outcomes)

Stronger collective solidarity, solutions and shared narratives around systemic challenges



Amplified and unified civil society voice at global, regional, and national levels



TAP and its members are recognized and included as thought leaders on TAP priority issues



Stronger and more expansive enabling environment for civil society at all levels

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Civic space is shrinking as governments roll back human rights protections and limit freedoms of association, assembly, and expression.

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Strategic Objectives



Sharing, learning and storytelling

- a. **Storytelling** - Amplify the role of storytelling in narrative building and demonstrating leadership role of civil society in key TAP issue areas.
- b. **Cross-disciplinary sharing and learning** - Support platforms for sharing and learning and storytelling to promote cross-pollination among stakeholders.
- c. **Capacity strengthening** - Support for stronger storytelling efforts by civil society, developing skills and resilience.

Advocacy, mobilization and campaigns

- a. **Convening a vibrant ecosystem of civil society actors to address systemic challenges** - We do this by comprehensive engagement of TAP Members and Partners.
- b. **Collective advocacy around key global moments** - TAP serves as a Bridge between global and local, influencing key processes ahead.
- c. **Campaigning and mobilizing** - Strengthening communications and campaigns to appeal to a wider audience.



Thought leadership, fostering dialogue and accountability

- a. **Fostering dialogue around TAP priority issues** - Providing platforms for cross-disciplinary discourse
- b. **Exploring innovative solutions to address systemic challenges and accountability** - Utilizing dialogues and expertise from membership to identify areas for action and solidarity
- c. **Developing tool and resources** - Harvesting insights and expertise from members to create tools, resources, reports to strengthen TAP's role as a thought leader in its spaces.







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