



**Post-2015 Shared Framework  
Global Advocacy**

**EVENT SUMMARY**

**Building the Sustainable Development Agenda into National Planning and Review Mechanisms**

25 June 2015 • United Nations, New York

On June 25<sup>th</sup> the Open Society Foundations hosted a panel event on *Building the Sustainable Development Agenda into National Planning and Review Mechanisms*, featuring the Philippines and Mexico. The event was aimed at demonstrating ways these countries are working to implement the Post- 2015 Sustainable Development Agenda at the national level with a focus on Goal 16, including through development planning, nationally-driven indicator development and models for participatory follow-up and review mechanisms. The event was held alongside the June 22-26<sup>th</sup> intergovernmental negotiations (on the topic of the outcome document) for the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda. Four panelists representing the government and civil society gave brief presentations on their countries efforts. Panelists included: Mr. Dámaso Luna Corona, Assistant Director General for Sustainable Development in Mexico, Mr. Alejandro González Arreola, Director of Gestión Social y Cooperación (GESOC) and Co-Chair of the Open Government Partnership Steering Committee, Mr. Candido Astrologo, Director of the Philippine Statistics Authority and Mr. Marlon Manuel, National Coordinator of Alternative Law Groups (ALG) in the Philippines.

Broadly, the speakers touched on the importance of access to justice and the need to have conversations regarding mechanisms for implementation of the SDGs and specifically, Goal 16. The approaches Mexico and the Philippines are taking with respect to the agenda are having a mobilizing effect, building genuine national ownership by the government and stakeholders.

Mr. Luna spoke about steps the Mexican government is taking to implement the SDGs as well as some of the challenges that they face. In terms of implementation, the government has begun identifying indicators in different sectors. There is also a technical committee on the MDGs already in place, which has contributed to measuring the achievements on those goals. The government intends to continue the work of this committee, tailoring it to the new agenda. Some of the challenges the government sees in respect to this agenda include disaggregation of data and the modalities for SDG implementation. Information is a key element for evaluation and it is crucial that statistics and information are collected and disseminated properly.

Mr. González discussed the steps GESOC is taking to facilitate implementation of the agenda on the national level in Mexico. These include focused advocacy work, cooperation with government and promoting linkages. Specifically, GESOC has directed its advocacy to the adoption of Goal 16, focusing on showcasing how access to justice makes a difference. On this front, they worked to get CSOs and country participation on a regional level – working with 17 countries and CSOs on this goal. In terms of cooperation, they worked with the Congress in

Mexico to co-create systems for implementation, including national anti-corruption and transparency systems. These systems included mandates for cooperation, commitments to create targets, indicators and evaluation systems as well as that information be disaggregated. Finally, his organization has also been working to link the Open Government Partnership (OGP – an international platform for governments and civil society to work together to develop and implement open government reforms) to the SDG process. Specifically, they hope to use the OGP as a platform to implement Goal 16 targets and introduce those targets into national plans.

Mr. Manuel talked about national development plan processes in the Philippines and NGO engagement in these processes. He cited ALG's work with the National Anti-Poverty Commission as a model for partnership. There the commission included sectoral partners, including NGOs and other stakeholders (e.g. farmers, women, etc.) to inform their development planning and implementation strategies. Similarly, stakeholders can be involved in the National Development Plan processes, engaging with governments in mid-term review processes to help increase the effectiveness of the development plans. He also noted that collaboration at the regional level, for instance with ASEAN, is relevant to the SDG process and efforts toward implementation should link to these as well.

Mr. Astrologo provided the perspective of the national statistical office in the Philippines. The Philippines has been actively engaged in the process of developing the indicators for the post-2015 agenda, including heading the Inter-agency Expert Group on SDGs (IAEG-SDGs – tasked with providing the indicators framework to the UN Statistical Commission). In the Philippines, the commission had an inter-agency commission on MDGs, which produced over 60 percent of the MDGs and they intend to do the same for the SDGs.

In sum, the presentations and ensuing discussion affirmed that:

- Government and civil society agree that national implementation of justice is essential to the success of the agenda.
- Governments and civil society have been working on mechanisms to implement international goals to the national contexts, using a variety of tools.
- Building and expanding partnerships and as well as platforms for participatory engagement can help to strengthen national ownership and effective implementation of the agenda.

*For further information about this event please contact: Betsy Apple, Advocacy Director, Open Society Justice Initiative ([betsy.apple@opensocietyfoundations.org](mailto:betsy.apple@opensocietyfoundations.org)) or Aidan Harris, Program Officer, Open Society Justice Initiative ([aidan.harris@opensocietyfoundations.org](mailto:aidan.harris@opensocietyfoundations.org)).*