

## SIDE EVENT

The side event focused on existing mechanisms within the UN system and other best practices for mainstreaming civil society engagement, with a view to drawing attention to how we might replicate this within the HLPF and the post-2015 framework. The event itself was co-organized by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UN NGO Liaison Services, the Government of Canada, the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness and CIVICUS.

The side event was kicked off with short interventions from Gerda Verburg, the Chair of the Committee on World Food Security, and Faris Ahmed with USC-Canada and the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM). Gerda talked about the history of the CSM, and gave an overview of how it worked. Faris added more details on the governance structure, its broad and inclusive membership, and the extent to which it is truly driven by members of the CSM.

After a period of questions, Nickhil Chandavarkar, Chief, Communications and Outreach Branch, Division for Sustainable Development at DESA, talked about the existing processes within the UN that have attempted to expand the level of engagement of civil society around post-2015, but how of course this needs to go further.

Juan Chebly, Coordinator of World We Want, talked about how his campaign has worked to engage citizens and their opinions on the MDGs and the post-2015 process through a major survey of millions of citizens. He underscored how the work of the UN needs to more meaningfully engage citizens.

Jeffrey Huffines with CIVICUS talked about a survey that his organization completed recently on opinions regarding how CSOs could be more meaningfully engaged in the HLPF process of monitoring and review.

Fraser Reilly-King concluded by relating what had been discussed to date to the experience of multi-stakeholder engagement within the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation. He talked about some of the principles within the documents that established both the Global Partnership and CPDE - institutionalized dialogue, inclusive partnerships, openness, democratic ownership, CSOs as independent development actors - and how this was translating into real representation and meaningful engagement on the GPEDC.

Susan Alzner from NGLS who was chairing the meeting, said she would be interested to out together a document to share these best practices.