

SUMMARY RESPONSE TO SDSN INDICATOR REPORT GLOBAL CONSULTATION

Task Team on CSO Development Effectiveness and Enabling Environment

31 January 2015

The Task Team (TT) urges inclusion of an indicator on protecting fundamental freedoms in accordance with national legislation and international agreements (SDG 16.10).

These fundamental freedoms should be understood to encompass civil society freedoms in light of Ban Ki-moon's Synthesis Report observation that along with press freedom and access to information, "freedom of expression, assembly and association are enablers of sustainable development" and that an enabling environment "must be secured for the free, active and meaningful engagement of civil society."(para.78)

An indicator on fundamental freedoms is crucial in light of civil society's envisaged role in implementing the Post-2015 Agenda, while in many countries the space in which they can operate is shrinking. Such an indicator is also crucial for monitoring. A multi-stakeholder approach as envisaged by Ban Ki-moon and SDSN is most welcome but can only be realized if civil society freedoms are protected thereby enabling civil society to perform its critical independent role.

The TT's basic ideas for indicators on protecting fundamental freedoms include: the existence and implementation of national civil society laws similar to indicator 93 on information; perception of civic space similar to indicator 94; and compliance with recommendations from the Universal Periodic Review and UN treaties. See <http://bit.ly/1tD3FWp> for more details.

The TT would like to refer to existing indicators and initiatives underway to define indicators on civil society freedoms (see link).

The TT urges the inclusion of an indicator on civil society participation in implementing the Post-2015 Agenda, in light of SDG 17's explicit reference to multi-stakeholder partnerships including civil society and Ban Ki-moon's recognition that inclusive partnerships must be a key feature of implementation.

Collaboration can be sought with the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation in monitoring civil society participation.