



Newsletter

NEWS

The 2030 Agenda: Listening to Citizens

By Mahmoud Mohieldin, Senior Vice President for the 2030 Development Agenda, UN Relations, and Partnerships



“When words lose their meaning, people lose their freedom,” Confucius said. Likewise, when development data loses its meaning, people could lose not just their freedom, they could also lose their lives because of inadequate essential services or a lack of good resource management. We can’t just talk about citizens holding their governments accountable. We need more and better data to make it a reality—especially information from citizens who will be affected most... This is why Goal 16 of the SDGs to promote *just, peaceful, and inclusive societies* is so important. [Read more>>>](#)

Photo: World Bank Senior Vice President Mahmoud Mohieldin & Vice President Jan Walliser at the GPSA Round Table, Sustainable Development Goals: Keeping Citizens at the Center.

Partners Engage in GPSA Global Partners Forum to Build Momentum

Consultations with GPSA Global Partners have begun for input on the agenda of the [2016 Global Partners Forum](#), including the latest one which was held on February 23. Forum preparations are moving swiftly on various fronts. The Forum’s central theme, Social Accountability for Development Impact, builds on World Bank President Kim’s challenge at the [2015 Forum](#) to “spread and scale” social accountability. The Forum workshop sessions will revolve around jointly identified trends of Learning for Adaptive Management, Constructive Engagement to Co-Production and Inclusive Institutions. [Read more>>>](#)

To learn more about the Global Partners Forum: Read the [2015 Forum Report](#), watch this 2-minute [Impression Video](#), and check out the [photos](#) from last year.

Costa Rica Optes-in to the GPSA



The Government of Costa Rica recently opted-in to the GPSA, making civil society organizations (CSOs) in the country eligible to participate in future Calls for Proposals and potentially receive funding for social accountability projects. Ana Gabriel Zuniga, Vice-Minister of the Presidency of Costa Rica, was appointed as the GPSA’s focal point, given her engagement with various government agencies and CSOs on topics related to participation and openness. This move further signals the progress that the GPSA has been making in Latin America and the Caribbean. The GPSA has significant

representation in the region, with 13 opted-in countries, two donors and over 40 Global Partners based there. In total, 48 countries have opted-in. [Where We Operate>>>](#)

Implementing Agenda 2030: Can Citizens Lead in Ensuring Effective Accountability?



On February 24, the World Bank, World Vision and Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevoelkerung organized a high-level panel discussion hosted by the European Economic and Social Committee. This event brought together participants from the EU institutions, EU Member States, international organizations and CSOs to present evidence of the potential of social accountability mechanisms to ensure effective citizen engagement with the Agenda 2030, both within the EU and in its

external action, and to promote impact where implementation is concerned. [Learn more>>>](#)

From the Knowledge Platform | Youth Infomediaries: Agents of Accountability for the SDGs | Victoria Forsgate notes how current proposals on “follow-up and review” for the SDGs both undermine young people’s potential and their agency as accountability advocates, and writes about the Restless Development recommendations to this challenge. [Read more>>>](#)

From the Knowledge Platform | Towards Greater Accountability in the Water Sector in Mexico | Maylí Sepulveda Toledo shares ControlaTuGobierno, A.C.’s experience monitoring the Wastewater Treatment Program in Mexico using the Supreme Audit Institution’s audit reports. [Read more in English & Spanish>>>](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Social Accountability in the Water Sector: Two Illustrative Examples | March 15, 2016 | This Brown Bag Lunch will outline two projects that illustrate the benefits and challenges of using social accountability strategies to strengthen citizen engagement and citizen-driven accountability in order to address critical water governance challenges in developing countries. [Learn more>>>](#)

Social Accountability for Maternal Health: A Case Study from India | March 16, 2016 | This Webinar will showcase outcomes and lessons learned of a project implemented by SAHAJ to improve maternal health in Gujarat, India. [Learn more>>>](#)

PAST EVENTS

Use of Citizen Engagement and Social Accountability Approaches in Mitigating Fraud, Errors and Corruption in Conditional Cash Transfer Programs | February 9, 2016 | This Brown Bag Lunch focused on a recent paper by the Partnership for Transparency Fund: “[Citizen Engagement and Social Accountability Approaches in Enhancing Integrity of Conditional Cash Transfer Programs](#)” and identified best practices and lessons for greater engagement of citizens and social accountability initiatives. [Read more and watch the recording>>>](#)

Sustainable Development Goals: Keeping Citizens at the Center | January 28, 2016 | This Round Table discussed how citizens can help drive the accountable implementation of the SDGs. Panelists included members of the GPSA [Steering Committee](#) that represent the World Bank, civil society groups, donors and governments; Mahmoud Mohieldin, Senior Vice President for the 2030 Development Agenda, UN Relations & Partnerships; and Jan Walliser, Vice President for Equitable Growth, Finance & Institutions. [Read more and watch the recording>>>](#)
[View the images>>>](#)

IN OTHER NEWS...

Only 3 weeks left to close call for applications for the 2016 SEED Awards!

The SEED Awards for Entrepreneurship in Sustainable Development is an annual award designed to find the most promising, innovative and locally-led start-up social and environmental enterprises in countries with developing and emerging economies. Candidates can apply until March 21. [Learn more>>>](#)

Call for Papers for a special section of The Extractive Industries and Society

This special section of *The Extractive Industries and Society* will bring together papers which reflect critically on the progress, impact and effectiveness of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), as well as the core themes which it embraces. The deadline to submit a paper is September 1, 2016. [Learn more>>>](#)

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