Highlights of the GPSA Global Partners Forum 2016

“Social accountability is a bridge for building relations between citizens and the state. It is the connecting force between the supply side of governance and the demand side of citizens” stated Professor John Gaventa (Institute for Development Studies) at the closing of the GPSA Global Partners Forum 2016. The “bridge” metaphor summed up a number of discussions throughout the two intensive days, which included a video address by World Bank President Kim highlighting recent achievements made by GPSA grantees; 13 plenaries and panels; 24 simultaneous workshops; a Government Gathering and a Networking Fair. From a keynote speech that underlined how “Accountability has become the driving idea in 21st century development” (Tom Carothers) to panels exploring accountability of the Sustainable Development Goals and workshops looking at the latest innovations in constructive engagement, adaptive learning and sector-specific developments, one can conclude that the field is learning to build better bridges by making a shift to a new “strategic” generation of social accountability interventions. The 3rd GPSA Forum on May 19th and 20th at World Bank Headquarters convened over 300 Global Partner representatives working on social accountability, including CSOs, academia, business, public and private donors, as well as 35 developing country government officials and World Bank staff. Read More>>>

Towards constructive engagement: A dedicated space for leaders on the government side of the equation at the GPSA Forum 2016

How can multi-stakeholder coalitions that span civil society and governments drive the social accountability agenda forward? For the first time, the GPSA Global Partners Forum provided leaders on the political side of the equation with a dedicated space to share their own perspective on the challenges and opportunities that they face on a daily basis. 35 government officials convened on May19th and 20th to share insights from their own experiences. Participants have substantial experience working with civil society engagement and open governance ranging from GPSA grantee counterparts, to Open Government Partnership (OGP) focal points, and other change makers in this field. The knowledge emerging from the peer-to-peer dialogue session will be harvested through a research project undertaken by the Institute for Development Studies (IDS) and Making All Voices Count (MAVC). By reflecting on the outcome of this gathering, the GPSA will move towards an increased focus on promoting constructive engagement between governments and civil society organizations.
Forum Workshops Shape Future of GPSA

A number of sessions held at the GPSA Global Partners Forum were designed not only to share Partner experiences and encourage learning among participants, but also to help shape new frontiers for the GPSA’s knowledge and funding initiatives. This was the case of the Social Accountability in States of Fragility workshop, designed in partnership with the World Bank’s Fragility, Conflict and Violence unit. Within the GPSA portfolio of 49 opted-in countries, almost 20% of them are listed as fragile states and more are situated at some point in the fragility continuum. Moreover, GPSA Global Partners’ work extends to many other states of fragility. Fragility, however defined, is a highly relevant topic at the moment, as the many dimensions of fragility – including armed conflict, ongoing low-level violence, or the collapse of political institutions and citizen trust – result in crises reflecting beyond the borders of fragile states, including the current refugee emergency. Read More>>>

Networking Fair Highlight: A conflict transformation approach to social accountability, Search for Common Ground, Guinea

During the GPSA Global Partners forum, a group of 51 CSOs from around the globe gathered at the World Bank Headquarters to showcase their work on social accountability at the Networking Fair and Reception event. One participating organization, Search for Common Ground, filled their display with a poster outlining their work on social accountability through the slogan: Build back better: Increasing civic engagement and social accountability in Guinea’s post-Ebola recovery. Read More>>>

TWISA’s Experience: Nurturing Constructive Engagement Step by Step

Over the last two years, Oxfam Tajikistan along with partner Consumer Union of Tajikistan (CU-TJK), have taken a number of steps towards developing capacities for and building an enabling environment for constructive engagement. TWISA invested significant time to directly engage national and local government stakeholders to achieve a shared understanding of what the initiative entails. This work, in turn, eased access to sub-national governments in target communities. Furthermore, it secured more and sustained engagement of all stakeholders in the process of improving and testing service indicators. Read More>>>

Meet Michael Jarvis, T/Al’s New Executive Director

Transparency and Accountability Initiative’s (T/Al) has a new Executive Director. As of mid May, 2016, Michael Jarvis has taken on this role after more than a decade at the World Bank. During his twelve years at the World Bank, Michael has worked in a variety of roles, most recently heading the extractives governance team and helping to develop and launch the Open Contracting Partnership. He joined the World Bank working on corporate responsibility issues, and has worked on issues relating to anti-corruption, private sector roles in development, and multi-stakeholder governance. Read More>>>
UPCOMING EVENTS

Webinar: Getting the “buy in”: Fostering Political will for Social Accountability Initiatives | June 15, 2016 | Carmen Malena, a political economist with special interests in social accountability, civil society and participatory governance, will draw on case studies and first-hand experiences, to share practical ideas about how to understand the different elements and key influencing factors of political will, and formulate practical strategies and tactics to nurture political will. Read More >>>

Global Youth Forum 2016 | June 13-15, 2016 | The Global Youth Forum will gather more than 150 partners and representatives from the public and private sectors, civil society, and young people themselves, to learn new ideas, and to support the actions of the global community. The forum is designed around open discussions, based on evidence and experience, of the most effective ways to address the major challenges facing young people and to engage young people in development. Read More >>>

States, Markets and Society- IDS 50th Conference | July 5-6, 2016 | This high profile, two day conference, will bring cutting-edge thinking, experience and reflection on ‘States, markets and society in a reconfigured world: Defining a new era for development’. Read More >>>

PARTNERS

Over the last month, the GPSA partnership has grown. We would like to welcome our newest partner ASER Pakistan to the GPSA. View the complete list of 280+ partners here>>>