



**GLOBAL
PARTNERSHIP FOR
SOCIAL
ACCOUNTABILITY**

Newsletter

HIGHLIGHTS



Engaging Civil Society in Situations of Fragility, Conflict and Violence

On February 23, the GPSA hosted a high-level roundtable, [Engaging Civil Society in Situations of Fragility, Conflict and Violence](#), featuring [Kristalina Georgieva](#), the World Bank's newly appointed CEO, World Bank senior management, and members of the GPSA [Steering Committee](#). The roundtable explored the role of civil society engagement and of social accountability mechanisms to promote inclusive governance, citizen oversight, and the strengthening of trust between citizens and governments in situations of fragility. Check out the [photos](#) of the event, and [watch the recording](#)>>>

GPSA to Focus on Fragility

During the [roundtable](#), [Saroj Kumar Jha](#), Senior Director of the World Bank's Fragility, Conflict and Violence group, announced a new partnership with the GPSA, with the commitment of \$1 million, to support fragility resilience and mitigation in Guinea, Nepal, Niger and Tajikistan. This announcement is the latest development in the GPSA's commitment to fragility. [Read more](#)>>>

GPSA Steering Committee came together for 6th annual meeting

On February 22-23, the GPSA [Steering Committee](#), chaired by World Bank Vice President [Jan Walliser](#), met at the World Bank headquarters in Washington, DC, to deliberate on issues around the GPSA's future goals and sustainability. The Steering Committee is the GPSA's decision-making body with balanced representation among civil society organizations, donors and governments. Some topics of discussion included emphasis on IDA 18, the operationalization of the World Development Report 2017, and opportunities to engage with the media, among other issues. The Steering Committee Meeting concluded with a roundtable discussion on fragility, conflict and violence.



Kosovo Opts-In to the GPSA

The Government of Kosovo 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 in the country. Mr. Avdullah Hoti, Minister of Finance of Kosovo, said, "I am very delighted that we have opted-in to the World Bank Group's GPSA program. Kosovo remains committed in enhancing the governance, transparency and accountability of its institutions. In this context, being part of the GPSA is a testimony to this commitment and ensures that our CSOs receive strategic and sustained support to their social accountability initiatives while enhancing citizen participation. I am looking forward to our close cooperation with the GPSA and hoping that the program will promptly support social accountability initiatives from Kosovo's CSOs aimed at further strengthening transparency and accountability in our country." [Read More](#)>>>



Summary: Gender & Social Inclusion in Strategic Social Accountability Approaches

Together with the World Bank's [Water Global Practice](#), Social Inclusion Global Solutions Group and the [Governance Global Practice](#), the [Global Partnership for Social Accountability \(GPSA\)](#) held a discussion about gender and social inclusion in strategic social accountability approaches. Using the [GPSA Water Project in Tajikistan](#) as a case study, participants discussed lessons learned from the process to date, and explored additional insights from other projects that have tried to address the same challenges using recommendations given by the Water Global Practice Gender Toolkit. [Learn More>>>](#)

GPSA Global Partners Dialogue

On February 16, Jeff Thindwa, GPSA Program Manager, held a meeting with GPSA Global Partners to share a preview of the GPSA 2020 Strategic Directions. The preview provided the GPSA team with feedback about the ongoing planning process. A key part of the discussion focused on scale and sustainability – partners reminded of the need to focus on scale and impact of the field as a whole and highlighted a variety of aspects, from the need to embed the program more closely in World Bank operations, to building stronger evidence and stories of the success of social accountability interventions. Partners also reiterated their willingness to participate, through working groups or other means, in continuing to shape the GPSA. The GPSA 2020 presentation will be revised to incorporate feedback from partners and from the Steering Committee and will be published on the GPSA website in the coming weeks.

GLOBAL PARTNERS

Three organizations have recently joined the GPSA partnership. [View the complete list of 290+ partners here>>>](#)



EVENTS

[Webinar on Water & Social Accountability](#) | March 28, 2017 | Stay tuned for more information on this webinar with Helvetas Benin: <http://gpsaknowledge.org/>

[Rise of the Audit Society: Some Critical Reflections from the Trenches](#) | February 24, 2017 | In this BBL, the presenter laid out a few critical pointers for social accountability project designers and implementers to review and interrogate. In particular, the presentation focused on six themes: (a) Primacy of technique over politics; (b) Tyranny of tools; (c) Contested credibility of champions; (d) Lingering appeal of confrontation; (e) Presenting snapshots as evidences of impact; and (f) Social mobilization in times of rising illiberalism and social polarization. The presentation pulled together a few enabling approaches that could potentially lead to sustained impacts on the ground. [Watch the Recording>>>](#)

[Webinar | Part 2: The Art of Storytelling](#) | February 15, 2017 | In Part 1 of this Storytelling series, we briefly talked about how and why our brains love a good story. In Part 2, Blake Stilwell, a veteran US Air Force Combat Cameraman and writer, discussed the power of imagery in developing a compelling narrative. Additionally, from Fundar, focused on storytelling methodology and will discuss step-by-step how to design content that will take your audience on a journey. [Watch the recording>>>](#)

IN OTHER NEWS...

MOOC | Citizen Engagement: A Game Changer for Development | March 15, 2017 | Learn about citizen engagement and critically analyze how it can be leveraged most effectively to achieve development results with this free Massive Open Online Course (MOOC). The course is taught by a number of leading experts in this field, including Beth Noveck, Director of the GovLab at New York University; John Gaventa, Director of Research at the Institute of Development Studies at University of Sussex; Rakesh Rajani, Director of Civic Engagement and Government at the Ford Foundation; Danny Srisankandarah, Secretary General of CIVICUS; and Jonathan Fox, Director of the Accountability Research Center at American University. Enroll: <http://bit.ly/cemoocedx>

The Vigilantes project in Dominican Republic is looking for a person or team to evaluate the project (Spanish)

Oxfam en la República Dominicana comparte los términos de referencia de la “*Consultoría Internacional para Evaluación Final del Proyecto Prácticas de Buen Gobierno en la República Dominicana*”, mejor conocido como *Proyecto Vigilantes*, ejecutado en coordinación con Ciudad Alternativa, Articulación Nacional Campesina, bajo el auspicio del Banco Internacional de Reconstrucción y Fomento a través de la Alianza Global para la Auditoría Social. Para mayor información del proyecto pueden acceder al link: <http://bit.ly/2ILb72y>

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