Global Partnership for Social Accountability

Global Partners Forum 2017

Citizen Action for Open, Accountable and Inclusive Societies

October 30, 31, November 1, 2017, Preston Auditorium, World Bank Group, Washington, DC

The Global Partners Forum of the Global Partnership for Social Accountability (GPSA), takes place annually at the World Bank headquarters in Washington, DC, and has become the pre-eminent global summit on social accountability for development. It convenes the GPSA’s vibrant Global Partners Network consisting of practitioners and thought leaders across civil society, governments, academia and business, alongside World Bank professionals.


The Forum is consistently a co-creation between the GPSA Secretariat and key Global Partners, and features World Bank leadership, including President Jim Yong Kim, prominent thought leaders and practitioners in the field, as well as GPSA grantees and partners, in a variety of panels, workshops, small group discussions, networking sessions, and high-level plenary sessions. The Forum also features a ‘market-place’ for showcasing good practices and important innovations.

The 2017 Forum, the fourth edition, aligns with Sustainable Development Goal 16 and focuses attention on the role of citizen action in building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions. In addition, it seeks to better understand the nature of emerging governance challenges, as well as opportunities, and to develop responses and solutions collaboratively drawing on emerging lessons. In doing that, this GPSA Global Partners Forum attempts to address three key questions:

1. **How does the changing governance landscape directly affect the field** of social accountability for development and, more importantly, **what responses have emerged to address these challenges?**

2. In what manner and to what extent **have state institutions embraced and incorporated citizen feedback and social accountability mechanisms**, and what does this experience teach us?

3. **What’s new in the field of social accountability?** What roles are emerging innovative approaches, organizations, and funding mechanisms playing in the field, and to what extent are they delivering on their promise and aspirations? To what extent are innovative approaches taking root, vis-à-vis traditional models?

These questions are particularly relevant for organizations such as the GPSA itself and its Global Partners, including the Open Government Partnership and Making All Voices Count, co-
conveners of this Forum, as the environment in which social accountability approaches are being implemented today is palpably different from that which inspired the creation of these initiatives. The field of social accountability for development must lead and rise to the challenges of mitigating fragility, conflict and violence, building trust in institutions, and strengthening civic space, among others, purposefully embracing innovative approaches as it seeks to demonstrate its effectiveness. The questions echo the GPSA’s own trajectory as it formulates its **GPSA 2020 Vision and Strategy**, aligning with the **World Bank’s Global Governance Practice**, introducing a more purposeful focus to its knowledge and grant-making interventions, embracing the challenge of fragility, incorporating gender perspectives and building beyond its emphasis on service provision.

As a dynamic and diverse group of stakeholders convenes at the GPSA Global Partners Forum, the event’s main objectives are to explore a new shared **vision** for the field of social accountability, to **connect** and **equip** participants to develop and implement elements of this vision into fruition.

**Global Partnership for Social Accountability**

The World Bank established the Global Partnership for Social Accountability (GPSA) in 2012 with the purpose of attaining constructive engagement between governments and civil society in order to create an enabling environment in which citizen feedback is used to solve fundamental development problems and to strengthen the performance of public institutions. To achieve our goals, we provide strategic and sustained support to civil society organizations and governments for social accountability initiatives aimed at strengthening transparency and accountability. The GPSA is hosted by the World Bank’s Governance Global Practice, and shares the World Bank’s twin goals of eliminating extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity.

**GPSA Global Partners**

GPSA Global Partners are a diverse network of more than 300 organizations from civil society, the donor community, private sector and academia that share the GPSA’s goal of building the field of social accountability for development. Global Partners collaborate with the GPSA on knowledge exchange, research, and technical assistance. The Global Partners Forum is the primary opportunity for Partner engagement, though Partners are regularly involved in a variety of GPSA Knowledge activities and events.