

Istanbul CSO Planning Group 2nd Conference Call

20 August 2009

MEETING NOTES

PARTICIPANTS:

1. *Arzu Uraz* (WB – Ankara Office / Turkey)
2. *Baquer Namazi* (Hamyaran Iran NGO Resource Center / Iran)
3. *Danica Popovic* (Center for Liberal-Democratic Studies / Serbia)
4. *Derya Sevinc* (Economic Policy Research Foundation – TEPAV / Turkey)
5. *Edith Grace Ssempala* (WB – Civil Society Team / United States)
6. *Feyziye Günaydın* (Turkish Education Volunteers Foundation – TEGV / Turkey)
7. *Krytin Schrader* (WB - Eastern Europe Regional Office / United States)
8. *brahim Makram* (Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services – CEOSS / Egypt)
9. *Ivan Blokov* (Greenpeace / Russia)
10. *Jeremy Mark* (IMF – External Relations Department / United States)
11. *John Garrison* (WB – Civil Society Team / United States)
12. *John Ruthrauff* (InterAction / United States)
13. *Nneka Okereke* (WB – Civil Society Team)
14. *Oyukum Sutlu* (GSM Youth Services Center / Turkey)
15. *Tunya Celasin* (WB – Ankara Office / Turkey)
16. *Vladimir Ivanov* (Business Technologies Development Center / Ukraine)
17. *Warren Nyamugasira* (African Monitor)
18. *Yelena Kudryavtseva* (UNIFEM/Regional Office for CIS / Kazakhstan)
19. *Zeynep Meydanoglu* (Third Sector Foundation of Turkey (TUSEV) / Turkey)

The second conference call with the Istanbul CSO Planning Group was held to discuss the following agenda items:

- Presenting names of Sponsored CSOs
- Pending issues from Istanbul Planning Meeting (visas, interpretation, WDR report, youth events support, press conferences, etc.)
- Pending logistical issues (accreditation, plane reservations, etc.)
- Discussing Civil Society Forum tentative schedule and sessions to be proposed by Planning Group members
- Discussing possible Youth Events

Participants introduced themselves, and John Garrison, who chaired the meeting, called for comments or proposed changes to the agenda. In the absence of none, the list of 18 sponsored CSOs (in addition to the 15 names from the Planning Group who require sponsorship since they reside outside Istanbul) was presented and discussed. They were drawn from nominations submitted by the Planning Group, the Fund and various units of the Bank. While it was difficult to select these 18 names out of a master list of 220 CSO representatives, the Civil Society Teams of the Bank and Fund (who made the final selection) felt that they were able to closely follow the selection criteria, which included: a geographic

focus on the Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Middle East, and Africa regions; thematic and institutional diversity; gender balance; and a mixture of CSO representatives with longstanding experience engaging the Bank and Fund with those coming to the AMs for the first time. Nearly half of the proposed names came from the Planning Group. The list received favorable comments and commendations from the group, with several participants offering to send back-up names in case those invited were not able to accept the invitation. Bank and Fund informed that a few more names may still be added to the list.

The second item discussed were pending issues left over from the Istanbul Planning Meeting held on July 15th in Istanbul. The first batch is those that the Fund and Bank are responsible for (see Istanbul Meeting Summary Notes):

Bank / Fund Responsibility:

1. Revise the CSO Planning Group Terms of Reference and include an “objectives” section to include enhancing CSO interaction with the media and improve Bank / Fund transparency. **(DONE)**
2. Prepare an emergency procedure in case there are problems at the airport, with contact numbers for people within the WB/IMF/Turkish government. **(PLANNED)**
3. Send the Planning Group information on the previous Annual Meetings. **(DONE)**
4. Inform the Planning Group if any applications for accreditation are refused by Executive Directors or the Turkish Government. **(WILL DO. Accreditation began on August 3 and no names have been objected to yet)**
5. Find out whether Russian can be one of the four language used to interpret three of the CS Forum sessions, if necessary substituting for Spanish (since there are expected to be many Russian-speaking CSO representatives from the ECA region). **(DONE, Russian will be included, and Turkish is expected to be offered as well)**
6. Find out whether key Annual Meetings documents will be translated into different languages. **(DONE – Yes, key documents, such as the World Development Report on climate change are to be translated into 5 languages, although some will take several months)**
7. Find out whether advance copies of the World Development Report on Climate Change can be made available to CSOs. **(DONE A summary note was sent to Planning Group Members and other CSO representatives who requested)**
8. See if CSOs can be accredited as journalists and whether they can be allowed in the official press conferences. **(DONE. Not possible as the Bank and Fund, as well as journalists, feel that it is important to keep a clear distinction between professional journalists and CSO policy activists. It was also explained that accredited CSOs have much more unrestricted access to the Congress Center, have open access to the Press Center, and can watch the official press conferences live on TV monitors. In addition, CSOs will have rooms to hold press conferences, and these can be widely disseminated to journalists)**
9. Inquire whether there would be Bank funding support for youth events during the Annual Meetings. **(DONE. Yes, the Bank’s Youth Unit will consider funding special events organized for youth. In addition 4 youth leaders have been included in the list of sponsored CSOs.)**

10. Once the Bank / Fund receive the names of potential CSO representatives to sponsor, they will share the initial list with the CSO Planning Group. **(DONE)**
11. Check the terminology used in the process of consulting Executive Directors on CSO accreditation requested, and suggest a change from “screening” to “informing”. **(DONE. While it is not possible to simply inform EDs of accredited applicants since they have final responsibility over who can attend the AMs, this is not expected to be a problem as there have been very few instances of CSOs being denied accreditation by EDs over the past 10 years)**
12. Send the Planning Group a template that will make the requests for sessions for the CS Forum more uniform. **(DONE)**
13. Distribute contact details on Executive Directors to CSOs so they can more easily contact them in Istanbul. Inform Executive Directors of the CS Forum and that CSOs will be contacting them. **(WILL DO once we are closer to the AMs)**
14. Ask the Turkish Government to post information related to visas and protests on their websites so that regulations and the “rules of the game” are clear. **(Visa information can be found in the Turkish government’s site dedicated to the Annual Meetings, and guidelines on demonstrations are now posted on the Istanbul Police Department, see here: ???)**
15. Send official letters of invitation for visa purposes to CSOs who request it. **(WILL DO)**
16. Check the internet speed available in the CSO Space to ensure that it is broadband. **(DONE. Expected to be high speed broadband)**
17. Recommend several hotels where CSOs can stay, catering for different budgets. **(DONE. Bank / Fund Joint Secretariat have reserved a block of rooms for CSOs interested in booking them through the Joint Secretariat’s contact in Istanbul)**

On the CSO Planning Group Responsibility:

1. Provide WB with contacts of other funders to possibly support the CSO Forum and CSO Sponsorship Program **(DONE. Several group participants have contacted possible funders for sponsoring CSOs)**
2. Send names of CSOs to be sponsored and names of CSO leaders to be on Program of Seminar panels. **(DONE)**
3. Request that CSO representatives have access in the formal Plenary Session and have a slot to present the findings from the CSO Forum sessions. **(Being Requested)**
4. Request that CSOs be accredited as journalists and for there to be several CSO press conferences in the press center. **(See response #8 in previous list. It will not be possible for CSOs to hold press conferences in the official press room as this is reserved for Bank / Fund events. But CSOs will have room available to hold their own press conferences, and Bank/Fund staff will assist in publicizing events to the press.)**
5. Be responsible for working throughout the meeting on summaries of meetings, and preparation for any plenary intervention offered. **(PLANNED)**

6. Work on the five thematic areas to draft paragraphs outlining the focus of their themes. **(PARTLY DONE. Some of the thematic groups have developed sessions, and others are still working on them)**
7. Request a meeting with the Bank and Fund Executive Directors. **(PLANNED)**
8. Draft a final report evaluating this planning process and making recommendations for future Annual Meetings. **(PLANNED)**

The Turkish Officials Responsibility:

1. Check whether CSOs will be exempt from visa fees. **(DONE, Yes visas will be free of charge and the Turkish Foreign Ministry has simplified the process by allowing those CSOs who reside in countries with no Turkish Consulate to pick up their visas upon arrival at the airport in Istanbul)**
2. Post regulations on demonstrations online with clear guidelines on how to request permits. **(DONE. Guidelines have now been posted on the Istanbul Police Department website)**

The next agenda item discussed were pending logistics issues. CSO Planning Group participants were advised to go ahead and send their travel reservations to our travel agency in Turkey, and also request accreditation and visas soon in order to avoid last minute delays. In terms of accreditation, over 130 requests for accreditation had been received to date, with some 40 of these from Turkish CSO representatives. These have been sent to the Executive Directors and Turkish officials, as agreed.

The final item discussed was the CS Forum schedule and possible youth events. Some 40 proposals for policy sessions have been received to date (according to the tentative schedule sent before the conference call), mostly by CSOs and on a variety of topics such as the global financial crisis, climate change, governance, and disaster reduction, and voices of the poor. CSO Planning Group members have proposed several key sessions, and others were reminded to send their proposal as soon as possible as the slots are filling up. Turkish youth groups are planning to organize several sessions on issues of youth employment, sustainable development, and capacity building. Since there is only room to hold up to 50 sessions over the five days of the policy forum (October 3 – 5), there may be a need to combine sessions based on similar topics.

The conference call concluded with next steps, which include sending meeting notes for review by the Group and then posting on line, sending a template for policy sessions, and an updated list of sponsored CSOs.