Launch and inception workshop of the SDGs Catalysts Network
under the project
CSOs For Good Governance:
Enhancing civil society’s contribution to governance and development processes in Trinidad and Tobago (CSOs4GoodGov)

September 20, 2017
Barataria Community Centre, San Juan, Trinidad and Tobago
1 Introduction

1.1 Background
The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) is a member of a consortium of seven leading civil society organisations (CSOs) on a three-year project ‘CSOs For Good Governance: Enhancing civil society’s contribution to governance and development processes in Trinidad and Tobago’ (CSOs4GoodGov), which is aimed at strengthening participation and effective involvement of civil society organisations in implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Trinidad and Tobago (T&T).

CANARI is responsible for coordinating implementation of component 1 of the project on developing a mechanism for effective civil society engagement in the SDGs and will support implementation of other components. The heart of this mechanism is the establishment and facilitation of an SDGs Catalysts Network – an informal network of leading CSOs working across sectors to address the full range of SDGs in T&T. The Catalysts further engage CSOs in their respective sectors and other CSO networks, catalyse joint action and develop and amplify civil society’s voice on the SDGs. The resulting ‘network of networks’ enables broad-based collaboration of CSOs in T&T for development, implementation, monitoring and reporting on the SDGs. See links here for the Component 1 summary and here for the draft Terms of Reference for the SDGs Catalysts Network.

Fig. 1: Participants at the introductory sessions of the first meeting of the SDGs Catalysts Network

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This report presents the main findings of the first meeting of the SDGs Catalysts Network, held under the CSOs4GoodGov project. This meeting was held at the Barataria Community Centre, San Juan, Trinidad, on September 20, 2017. The report provides an overview of the workshop participants, objectives and methods, and recounts the workshop’s main areas of discussion as follows:

- the launch of the SDGs Catalysts Network under the CSOs4GoodGov project;
- assessing the context for SDGs implementation in T&T;
- understanding civil society roles on the SDGs;
- sharing on current and planned CSO initiatives, key gaps, needs and potential synergies;
- exploring relationships and opportunities for collaboration; and
- the way forward under the CSOs4GoodGov project.

1.2 Participants
The SDGs Catalysts Network is comprised of 20-25 leading CSOs working across sectors in T&T to address the full range of development priorities encompassed by the 17 SDGs (e.g. environment, poverty, inequality, gender, youth, health, education, social and community development, culture and heritage etc.), with some CSOs working across several goals. An official launch was held at the start of the day’s events and was attended by invited members of the SDGs Catalysts Network, as well as other guests. Keynote speakers for the launch event were: H.E. Arend Biesebroek, Ambassador of the European Union to T&T; Mr. Peter Mitchell, Assistant Director in the Socio-Economic Policy Planning Division of the Ministry of Planning and Development; Dr. Jennifer Sancho, Chief Executive Officer, UWTT; and Nicole Leotaud, Executive Director, CANARI.

Following the launch, members of the SDGs Catalysts Network, the Capacity Building Working Group under the CSOs4GoodGov project and special interest groups acting as observers – the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (Caribbean) and the Trinidad & Tobago Association of Local Government Authorities, attended the inception workshop. See Appendix 1 for the full list of participants.

Fig. 2: Members of the head table listen to the address by the EU Ambassador to T&T given at the launch of the SDGs Catalysts Network
2 Workshop objectives

It is envisioned that over the three-year lifespan of the project, the SDGs Catalysts Network will strengthen CSO participation and engagement in development, implementation, monitoring and reporting on the national agenda for SDGs, as a model for CSO engagement in development and policy processes. As such, specific objectives for the first meeting of the SDGs Catalysts Network were to:

- Orient members of the Network to the CSOs4GoodGov project and take initial steps to develop common understanding and a shared vision.
- Start to explore civil society roles on the SDGs and initiate sharing on current and planned initiatives, key gaps and needs and potential synergies.
- Start to build relationships among members the SDGs Catalysts Network and explore opportunities for collaboration.

See Appendix 2 for the detailed workshop agenda and objectives.

3 Methodology

The first meeting of the SDGs Catalysts Network was designed to help Catalysts get to know each other and initiate sharing to begin to understand strengths, explore what the Network collectively wants to achieve and how members can begin to work together.

Project component leads shared PowerPoint presentations on each component to orient participants to the wider CSOs4GoodGov project. Catalysts were engaged in a range of activities including plenary discussions, brainstorming, mapping and other interactive exercises to: deepen their understanding of civil society roles on the SDGs; spread awareness on civil society initiatives aligned to various SDGs; and pinpoint needs, gaps, synergies and opportunities for strengthening relationships.

A variety of resources and visual aids including SDGs posters, handouts\(^2\) and flip charts were utilised. Individual SDG posters and a prepared flipchart with a ‘collaboration circle’ was created to facilitate mapping exercises. The handouts presented summary information by CANARI and others on various project components and information on the SDGs and targets.

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\(^2\) Handouts: [https://www.dropbox.com/sh/4sk4kmo9p5j07bo/AAAlJhJ8OF8MCLXeC62t8l2Ya?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/4sk4kmo9p5j07bo/AAAlJhJ8OF8MCLXeC62t8l2Ya?dl=0)
4 Discussion and findings

4.1 The launch of the SDGs Catalysts Network

The main objective of the CSOs4GoodGov project is enhancing civil society’s contribution to governance and development processes in T&T and specifically, to support the effective involvement of CSOs in national implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). At the heart of the effort to do this, CANARI convened and officially launched the SDGs Catalysts Network on Wednesday September 20, 2017. The launch was a pivotal event in the life cycle of the CSOs4GoodGov project and marks the beginning of a collaborative three-year journey to catalyse action and amplify civil society voice in national development and governance processes. Feature addresses and remarks delivered during the launch included the following:

- “Welcome & introduction to the CSOs4GoodGov project”, delivered by Dr. Jennifer Sancho, CEO, United Way Trinidad & Tobago (UWTT) (project lead) and which gave an idea of the genesis of the project;
- “Introduction to the SDGs Catalysts Network”, shared by Ms. Nicole Leotaud, Executive Director, CANARI which covered how the SDGs Catalysts Network came about and the importance of the Catalysts in helping to implement the SDGs in T&T;
- Remarks by the EU Delegation by His Excellency Mr. Arend Biesebroek, Head of the EU Delegation to T&T;
- Remarks on the national SDGs process & Vision 2030 by Mr. Peter Mitchell, Assistant Director in the Socio-Economic Policy Planning Division, Ministry of Planning & Development
- “A civil society perspective on implementation of the SDGs” shared by Ms. Hazel Brown, Network of NGOs of T&T for the Advancement of Women
Participants expressed that the launch gave a much-needed introduction to the national and wider relevance of the SDGs Catalysts Network and CSOs4GoodGov project, and set the tone for the remainder of the engagement. Other key points noted were that the project takes a truly integrated cross-sectoral approach and it was hoped that the collective working approach will be an important capacity building action and provide a model for future collaboration by civil society and others. The importance of networks, collaboration and a focus on good governance were stressed as requirements for project success.

Ambassador of the European Union to T&T, H.E. Arend Biesebroek noted the importance of an enabling environment for civil society to play an effective role. He saw the project and the process as “an opportunity to create new mechanisms” as we work together in our bid to contribute towards national development. Mr. Peter Mitchell, Assistant Director in the Socio-Economic Policy Planning Division of the Ministry of Planning and Development helped to set the national context related to the national development strategy - Vision 2030 - and noted there would be a Ministry level performance framework inclusive of sector strategies and performance indicators and that the process for implementation will continue to involve civil society and that the Catalysts were a mechanism to facilitate this.

Other suggestions made include that local government should be engaged in the process given work being done at the grassroots level with regards to the SDGs. It was agreed that local government authorities had a key role; they were engaged in Vision 2030 discussions by the Ministry of Planning and Development and the updated document would reference local government reform.

4.2 Understanding our strengths
Catalysts were strategically selected to ensure collective working across all of the SDGs and incorporation of the diverse perspectives that are needed for an integrated and holistic approach to development, as is envisioned under the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. To lay a foundation for the work of the SDGs Catalysts Network, assessing the level of understanding of the SDGs and how collectively civil society is contributing to the SDGs in T&T was needed. As such, this session focused on identifying and sharing how Catalysts’ work are delivering the SDGs. This was done via mapping of Catalysts’ activities to the SDGs and sharing on current and planned initiatives.
to help visualise what each Catalyst brings to the table. This activity started to identify strengths as well as areas for potential work (i.e. gaps) and collaboration with other CSOs (i.e. synergies).

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The following key points were noted in the discussion:

- **Catalysts** generally noted the importance of aligning their work to the SDGs as a necessary strategy to position civil society as a key player in delivering national development and to better collaborate and communicate in the language of international development.
- This would help to facilitate linking work by CSOs to the national development strategy, Vision 2030, which is the Government’s plan for implementation of the SDGs as part of a strategy to localise the SDGs.
- Overall it was agreed that the process of alignment would have to be flexible and would evolve. When understanding is deepened on the SDGs and targets, **Catalysts** may re-assess how their work is aligned to the SDGs as well as start to re-think how to transform to more integrated approaches of working.
- **Catalysts** realised that they are already delivering in a significant way on various SDGs, including integrated results across multiple SDGs.
- Participants’ feedback revealed that the activity helped **Catalysts** to enhance their understanding of the individual SDGs and interlinkages. They found the specific targets useful in helping determine where they were delivering on the various Goals.
- From the mapping exercise, cross linkages across SDGs became clearer and potential opportunities for CSOs to partner to enhance existing work or fill gaps in areas where more work is needed also emerged. For example, many **Catalysts** were working in education (Goal 4), climate action (Goal 13) and other environment-focused SDGs such as Life below water (Goal 14) and Life on Land (Goal 15). Less popular areas include sustainable energy (Goal 7) where, despite government policy focused on climate change mitigation and adaptation, there are no CSOs in the **SDGs Catalyst Network** currently working on renewable energy directly (apart from the Trinidad and Tobago Energy Chamber which had been invited to be a member). However, several Catalysts have done work related to renewable energy, for example UWI-IGDS, IAMovement and CANARI.
- It was noted that integrated and cross sectoral approaches to working is not being reflected in government as many ministries still work in silos and the **SDGs Catalyst Network** could set the example.
- Participants suggested a need to examine the definition of civil society including those which incorporate private sector associations and social enterprises.

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*Fig. 5: Catalysts identify how their work is linked to the SDGs.*
Overall Catalysts agreed on the immense value of collaborating “to enable more reach and bigger voice,” as well as the importance of not focusing on “being the face of the cause” but instead promoting one common message and “profiling messages over individual organisations.” The coming together of leading CSOs in the SDGs Catalysts Network in T&T put the spotlight on collaboration and the strengths that lie in having a diversity of perspectives and approaches to tackling common development issues.

Catalysts engaged in an interactive hula hoop exercise which was used to illustrate the complexity of effective collaboration. Catalysts learnt some key lessons including that collaboration is not automatic, communication and having a shared or common vision or goal is critical for collaboration to be effective and leadership is a prerequisite.

Learning continued over the lunch break where themed tables were set up to facilitate informal peer exchange and give Catalysts a chance to learn about an area of development they were not be so familiar with. Each table had a host whose general responsibility was to initiate and direct the flow of conversation around topics on some of the key development issues in the country. The themes were as follows: 1. Crime & Justice, 2. Inclusive...
4.3 Exploring what we want to achieve

This session covered in more detail the specific components of the CSOs4GoodGov project, noting the relevance of the Catalysts in each step. Project component leads delivered spotlight presentations/lecturettes\(^3\) followed by plenary discussions as follows:

- Component 1: SDGs Catalysts Network and SDGs Knowledge & Advocacy Platform (CANARI)
- Component 2: Collective advocacy actions (UWTT)
- Component 3: Organisational Advocacy and Capacity building of CSOs (Veni Apwann)
- Component 4: Strengthening the legal, fiscal and funding framework for CSOs in T&T (UWTT)

**Fig. 8: Representatives from Families in Action share thoughts on presentations made.**

Presentations were followed by plenary discussions with the following key points were noted:

**Component 1:** SDGs Catalysts Network and SDGs Knowledge & Advocacy Platform (CANARI)

- Out of discussions on budgets assigned to various project components, CANARI suggested that the project log frame and component budgets could be concisely packaged and shared for transparency with the Catalysts.
- Suggestion was made to open the SDGs Catalysts Network to new members. It was noted that criteria and a process for nominating and recruiting new members will have to be developed.
- Participants also suggested tracking opportunities for policy advocacy, with CANARI to be the focal point to collate and facilitate dissemination of information on this to the wider network. It was further noted that

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\(^3\) Presentations: [https://www.dropbox.com/sh/mizxueq9hpm2j2g/AAD8-ZGsHliqs5L3MT7YdC-a?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/mizxueq9hpm2j2g/AAD8-ZGsHliqs5L3MT7YdC-a?dl=0)
communication by and among Catalysts does not have to be coordinated by CANARI in every case and participants could engage each other directly.

- It was reported that other bodies were doing work on localising the SDGs and there is potential for cross-coordination and shared learning. For example, the Trinidad and Tobago Association of Local Government Authorities also has a project funded by the EU Delegation to localise SDGs, which is being piloted in three communities and other countries in the region.
- The knowledge and advocacy platform was noted as a key tool in supporting project communications and advocacy by the SDGs Catalysts Network. A recommendation was made to target youth as one of the key audiences.

Component 2: Collective advocacy actions (UWTT)
- The small grants facility (SGF) will support collective advocacy action projects on the SDGs. It will target project co-applicants only in the first round as co-applicants have already begun work on pre-existing projects. It will then be open to the whole SDGs Catalyst Network in the second round (March 2018). The SGF will support existing projects, research and policy advocacy and collaborative projects are preferred.
- All applications will need to undergo an official review process. An independent technical committee will receive proposals for the SGF, review, and give recommendations to UWTT on grants to be awarded.
- The Network of NGOs for the Advancement of Women noted that there is an urgent advocacy action they would like to apply for in the SGF – a national gender policy needs to be approved before March 2018/National Women’s Day.
- The need for first having consensus building on priority advocacy actions for the SDGs Catalyst Network was highlighted. It was recommended this be addressed before the second round of funding/call for proposals. This would be informed by the collective development of an advocacy strategy during a national meeting under the project in early 2018.

Component 3: Organisational Advocacy and Capacity building of CSOs (Veni Apwann)
- Shadow reporting was noted by one participant as a possible area of focus for capacity building, leveraging existing experience within the Catalysts.

Component 4: Strengthening the legal, fiscal and funding framework for CSOs in T&T (UWTT)
- Regarding the process for implementation of the component, it was noted that consultants with experience and expertise in non-profit law will be sought to assist in this aspect of the project and could be expected to add an element of credibility to the process i.e. Legal draftsman may be hired for the component and the Catalysts will be presented with results for feedback.
- With regards to existing capacities, it was acknowledged that some previous work had already been done in this area and could be leveraged by partners; a briefing note was developed and could be shared. Participants also noted having experience in shadow reporting as a means to help hold government accountable for actions.
- Discussions centred around whether the component would address the rise of social entrepreneurship which promotes a culture of giving back and a social mission, noting the limited legal framework in the country to support this.
- Participants also reflected on the composition of the working group and intention to invite any other Ministries or corporate sector including banking associations, given that utilities and banking fees are same for private sector as private companies. It was suggested that relevant government ministries which are registration points for NGOs should be included in the process.
- Duplication of efforts should be addressed by communicating better.

4.4 Discovering how we can work together
The focus of this session was to explore reactions to the Government’s proposed national process using Vision 2030, the role of civil society and strategic engagement with Government. CANARI presented key questions to help
participants explore ideas and reflect on the national process for the SDGs in T&T including WHAT Catalysts need to do together.

Key questions for thought included:
- How will civil society have a say in identifying national priorities under the SDGs and designing initiatives for implementation?
- How will civil society be a partner in implementation, in the context of and considering individual and collective action by CSOs?
- What advocacy role can CSOs play to encourage action by government and other partners and highlight the need for coordination mechanisms?
- How will civil society input/engage in monitoring and reporting on the national development agenda?

Recalling the presentation on the Government’s proposed approach to implementation and reporting on the SDGs presented in the launch, participants discussed needs and opportunities for civil society engagement. Suggestions were made for meetings with the Ministry of Planning and Development, including capitalising on timing of other key events such as the Budget Forum. Participants were updated that project consortium members had reached out to the Minister via letter regarding consultation of civil society on the national development agenda Vision 2030; only a response acknowledging receipt was received. The effectiveness of this approach was questioned and the Open Government Partnership forum was suggested as an alternative approach to engaging.

Other reflections from participants included the need to rethink how the Catalysts reach consensus on priorities, including using the approach of focusing on what is the process of determining national development priorities and CSOs’ role in addressing these. Alternately it was suggested that Catalysts needs to identify and advocate collective priorities which are independent of government processes, which may be inefficient or less inclusive. Additionally, participants noted the importance of the Catalysts in now creating awareness and advocating in a coherent way on the good work CSOs are doing and the value of what CSOs can do. Participants were also supportive of continuing the process of mapping civil society’s contribution to implementing the SDGs and taking the further step of linking this to relevant Ministries as a means of advocacy and to support reporting.

One of the key take-aways from the session included the need to mobilise extensive CSO networks and galvanise the Catalysts’ professional resources in the way of media and advocacy. Specifically, focus should be placed on developing a communications/media and advocacy strategy which will include consensus on messaging and target audiences.
- It was suggested and agreed that the national consultation workshop planned as a next key activity of the Catalysts under the project be used as a platform to develop a civil society advocacy strategy, including setting of priorities and drafting key messages.
- It was also agreed that professional media personnel should be engaged to help with the advocacy strategy. CANARI will explore resources within the SDGs Catalysts Network to determine who has access to media/communications professionals on their staff, as volunteers or partners.
- In the shorter term, it was suggested to promote visibility of the Catalysts in the media and set the tone on CSOs working together, especially in light of the inception meeting and current momentum. CANARI and Veni Apwann committed to work with UWTT on press release and social media to this effect.

Other suggestions as part of knowledge sharing and building collective capacity included exploring use of existing tools used by Catalysts such as the scorecard developed by UWI IDGS to assess gender in various thematic areas such as education, health, labour, etc.
It was noted that future discussions would begin to focus more on HOW Catalysts can work together to achieve the above.

4.4 Relationship building
A key part of the vision for the SDGs Catalysts Network is working more effectively together for collective advocacy and action. Strong relationships among the Catalysts will be key for this. In this session, Catalysts were asked to map the existing relationships among themselves as a baseline for the Network, using the ‘Collaboration Circle’. Catalysts indicated whether their existing relationships with other CSOs that are Catalysts were strong or weak, or whether they wanted to strengthen these or develop new relationships.

The resulting map of relationships was extremely complex (see Fig. 9) and it was noted that software could be used to map this network electronically.

It was emphasised that this is just a start and Catalysts will have much more time to work on relationship building throughout the project. As part of this, Catalysts were also asked to make a ‘date’ with another Catalyst to develop or strengthen their relationship. Subsequent meetings will review and see if and how relationships among Catalysts evolve.

*Fig. 8: Catalysts think about relationships to cultivate as they fill in the collaboration circle*
5 The way forward under the CSOs4GoodGov project

Overall, the first meeting of the SDGs Catalysts Network was successful in bringing together leading CSOs in their respective sectors to begin discussions on civil society and the SDGs. Before the close of the meeting, participants discussed the way forward under the CSOs4GoodGov project and for the Network itself. Key proposed next steps include the following:

- Development of a CSO advocacy/ communications strategy to guide work by the Catalysts and civil society on the SDGs
- Catalysts to continue the process of mapping how their work contributes to SDGs implementation and taking the further step of linking this to relevant Ministries (which will support advocacy and reporting)
- CANARI to continue work on development of the online SDGs Advocacy and Knowledge Platform
- CSOs4GoodGov component leads to package and share project component log frames and budgets
- CANARI to coordinate review and outline possible process to engage further CSOs in the SDGs Catalysts Network
- CANARI to coordinate follow up on any media/communications professionals available in the SDGs Catalysts Network or their individual CSO networks
- CANARI to prepare and share workshop report

With respect to next key events, the following were noted:

- Quarterly meetings of the SDGs Catalysts Network will be held with the next being in December 2017
- The national consultation workshop to develop the advocacy/ communications strategy is proposed for March 2018

Overall, participants were encouraged by the multi-sectoral and integrated approach of the project and the inception workshop. Participants particularly enjoyed the interactive mapping exercises which helped visually emphasise where collective efforts are currently and where opportunities exist for further work and collaboration.
Participants also showed interest in engaging other CSOs in relationship building, noting in some cases limited awareness of other CSOs in the Network in terms of their thematic areas of focus, but acknowledging individual strengths or capacities that could then become collectively useful.

In evaluating the meeting, participants lauded the nature of the discussion and commented positively on the relevance of information shared and the timeliness of the project itself, noting that the workshop provided a great opportunity to get CSOs together to learn from each other and to strengthen ability to advocate on national development issues. Participants also showed appreciation for the approach to the workshop that allowed room to deepen understanding of the SDGs but also focus on process for aligning their work to the SDGs. It was noted that discussions were quite rich for a first meeting and this paved the way for further work. See Appendix 3 for further details of feedback compiled from the workshop evaluation forms.

Overall, there was great enthusiasm showed by participants in becoming part of the SDGs Catalysts Network and being important change agents in ensuring civil society’s voice is heard and an effective role played in national development processes. It was noted that that this inception workshop was simply “the start of the journey.”
## Appendix 1: List of participants

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Appendix 2: Launch and Workshop agenda

Launch of the SDGs Catalysts Network
under the project
CSOs For Good Governance: Enhancing civil society’s contribution to governance and
development processes in Trinidad and Tobago (CSOs4GoodGov)

Barataria Community Centre
September 20th, 2017
9:00am – 10:00am

AGENDA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Welcome &amp; introduction to CSOs4GoodGov project – Dr. Jennifer Sancho, CEO, United Way Trinidad &amp; Tobago (UWTT)</td>
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<td>Introduction to the SDGs Catalysts Network – Ms. Nicole Leotaud, Executive Director, Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)</td>
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<td>Remarks by the EU Delegation – His Excellency Mr. Arend Biesbroek, Head of the EU Delegation to Trinidad &amp; Tobago</td>
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<td>Remarks on the national SDGs process &amp; Vision 2030 – Mr. Peter Mitchell, Assistant Director in the Socio-Economic Policy Planning Division, Ministry of Planning &amp; Development</td>
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<td></td>
<td>A civil society perspective on implementation of the SDGs – Ms. Hazel Brown, Network of NGOs of T&amp;T for the Advancement of Women</td>
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<td>Comments from the floor</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Looking ahead, thanks and close - Environment Tobago</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>BREAK (Networking &amp; Officials exit)</td>
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SDGs Catalysts Network Inception Workshop
under the project
CSOs For Good Governance: Enhancing civil society’s contribution to governance and development processes in Trinidad and Tobago (CSOs4GoodGov)

Barataria Community Centre
September 20th, 2017
10:30am – 4:40pm

Workshop Objectives:
1. To orient members of the SDGs Catalyst Network to the CSOs4GoodGov project and take initial steps to develop common understanding and a shared vision.
2. To start to explore civil society roles on the SDGs and initiate sharing on current and planned initiatives, key gaps and needs and potential synergies.
3. To start to build relationships among members of the SDGs Catalysts Network and explore opportunities for collaboration.

AGENDA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>10:30am</th>
<th>Getting to know each other: Introductions and icebreaker</th>
<th>Veni Apwann</th>
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<tr>
<td>11:00am</td>
<td><strong>Understanding our strengths:</strong> Mapping Catalysts activities to the SDGs and sharing on current and planned initiatives</td>
<td>CANARI</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00pm</td>
<td>LUNCH (Networking)</td>
<td>Barbara King, Capacity Building Working Group</td>
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<td>1:00pm</td>
<td><strong>Energiser</strong></td>
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| 1:20pm | **Exploring what we want to achieve**
- Spotlight presentations on CSOs4GoodGov project components:
  1. SDGs Catalysts Network and SDGs Knowledge Platform
  2. Collective advocacy actions
  3. Capacity building of CSOs
  4. Strengthening the legal, fiscal and funding framework for CSOs in T&T
- Questions & Comments | CANARI UWTT Veni Apwann |
| 2:50pm | **Discovering how we can work together**
- Analysis of civil society’s role in the national process and opportunities for action and strategic engagement with government & others
- Visioning on the purpose and role of the SDGs Catalysts Network | CANARI |
| 3:50pm | **Relationship building**
- Mapping relationships
- Getting to know one another | CANARI |
| 4:30pm | Recap of next steps under the project and the SDGs Catalysts Network
- Evaluation
- Thanks and close | CANARI Veni Apwann |
Appendix 3: Evaluation Forms Compiled Feedback

SDGs Catalysts Network Inception Workshop
under the project
CSOs For Good Governance: Enhancing civil society’s contribution to governance and development processes in Trinidad and Tobago (CSOs4GoodGov)

September 20th, 2017

Evaluation Forms Compiled Feedback

1. What is the most important thing that you learned / understood / felt from this workshop?
   • Capacity and potential of the SDGs catalyst network.
   • Collaboration is recognized as critical among the CSOs in order to achieve change and action on SDGs.
   • There is a huge task ahead, but progress can be made if we work together.
   • The need for more detailed explanations for the activities of the components.
   • A lot of work is needed to bring the CSO/NGO community together.
   • The opportunity for collaboration.
   • Collaboration among T&T CSOs is possible.
   • Importance of linking work to SDGs, a lot about working together with government, CSOs in Trinidad should identify the good work they’re doing.
   • The immense value of collaboration and networking.
   • The importance of process as well as content.
   • Details of the SDGs and how each CSO can have an impact on the SDG.
   • How does a net work? Many strings come together to create a net in order to execute a particular job.
   • The benefits of networking

2. What did you like about this workshop?
   • Use of multiple tools to engage participants.
   • Willingness of all to contribute constructively.
   • Opportunities it created to work with other likeminded CSO’s.
   • Getting to meet energised organisations accomplishing things.
   • There was genuine open participation and listening.
   • Informal settings.
   • Many youths are involved.
   • Informality
   • Networking – Innovative ideas (networking/topic lunch) and SDGs dance
   • Energiser session.
   • Sessions were precise – open hearted, I liked that CANARI consulting CSOs throughout
   • A lot of experienced professionals.
Interactive nature of workshop.
Information and networking.
The sessions were very well timed and created a space for persons to feel comfortable and interested.
I have never attended such a well planned and executed workshop.
Very interactive.

3. What did you dislike about this workshop?
   - Venue had no Wi-Fi.
   - Hard to digest the density of material presented.
   - The stairs.
   - Length.
   - Too long.
   - Leak in roof
   - Not yet sure how my organisation is going to fit in.
   - Too long day.
   - Nothing.
   - No comment.

4. Did you find the overall workshop objectives were achieved?
   - Yes.
   - Yes – understand what the SDGs Catalyst network is. Why, how and who is involved and the way forward.
   - As a first step to getting started.
   - 80%.
   - Yes.
   - Yes, they were.
   - Yes.
   - Members were oriented, initial steps developed but not sure if shared vision were developed.
   - CSO role explored, not sure if current and planned initiatives shared but needs shared.
   - Objective 3 definitely achieved.
   - Yes – to some extent.
   - Yes.
   - Definitely.
   - Yes, I am leaving now, but I am better informed.

5. How relevant do you think the content and ideas shared in the workshop were to your organisation’s needs and current direction?
   - Very relevant
   - Extremely
   - Gave food for thought
   - 60%
   - Very relevant as we are currently working on strategic plan and thinking of new approaches.
   - Very timely.
   - Quite relevant!
   - Relevant.
• The detail oriented nature of the SDG focus aided in understanding who we are even more. We had never dissected the goals and identify our specific topics.
• Yes, we need to improve on our networking.

6. Which sessions did you find particularly useful?
• Mapping Catalysts to SDGs
• Analysis of CSOs / Potential role networks
• All – last session for feedback on strategy to approach Government
• Component 2 - how the project can assist advocacy
• SDGs Catalysts Network introduction
• Understanding our strengths
• The information shared by organisations i.e. the lead organisations
• Analysing the nest step (post letter to Minister)
• Relationship building.
• Understanding our strengths.
• Exploring what we want to achieve.
• All
• Exploring what we want to achieve.
• The approach to Government.

7. How could the workshop have been improved?
• Time – much work to be done but this is a series of workshops, so understandable.
• More time for each section.
• Overview of profile and how components link.
• A better understanding of implementing SDGs
• Didn’t feel like shared vision was achieved – spoken about but a solid agreed upon vision would have been useful.
• Well organised but afternoon session could have been shorter – many organisations left before the end – I think due to other work responsibilities.
• For those without private transport, the location was a bit out of the way but still comfortable.
• Stick to specifics.

8. What is the one thing that you will like to apply from the workshop in your organisation’s work
• Hula hoop exercise!
• Strategic objectives in relation to national priorities.
• Stronger SDG’s linkages
• Team building
• Thinking SDG in the work we do.
• Give more focus to the SDGs in all research and projects.
• Communication skills.
• Look for ways to expand partnerships within network.
• Tie our activities to SDGs.
• Expanding partnerships.
• I would like to emphasise and promote my organisation importance in national process and progress.
• Widen the network.
9. What would prevent you from applying the ideas discussed in this workshop.
   - Current weak capacity.
   - Numbers of active staff / members.
   - Lack of consensus with other core members.
   - Limited human resource.
   - Organisational disconnect.
   - Nothing (except commitment).
   - Resources and time.
   - Work load.
   - Perhaps internal group dynamics among the board of directors at my organisation.

10. What recommendations would you like to make for this project / the SDGs Catalysts network?
   - Examine successful examples of collective advocacy to see if we can learn lessons, best practices, what not to do. e.g. IAGDO Grenada and elections.
   - Open access to all NGOs/CBOs to learn from outcomes – publications, film etc.
   - Set up a WhatsApp group.
   - Continuous communication between meetings.
   - Graph your relationship using numbers (variables) and then create a live graph in excel.
   - Monitoring and evaluation of all activities – ensuring we’re meeting our objectives.
   - Maintain open communication.
   - Maintain anti-discriminatory spaces as much as possible.
   - Share experiences with other SDGs.

   Thank you!