



## Report on the SDGs Catalysts Network 4th Quarterly Meeting

*under the project*

***CSOs For Good Governance:  
Enhancing civil society's contribution to governance and development processes in  
Trinidad and Tobago (CSOs4GoodGov)***

*September 28, 2018*

*Caribbean Natural Resources Institute, Barataria, Trinidad & Tobago*

## 1 Introduction

This report presents the findings of the *SDGs Catalysts Network's* fourth Quarterly meeting held on September 28, 2018 at Caribbean Natural Resources Institute's Office, Barataria, Trinidad. The report provides an overview of the participants, objectives and methods, and recounts the main activities. The following were addressed in the meeting:

- Final comments from participants on the CSO Advocacy Paper: Legal and Fiscal Frameworks for Social Good in T&T;
- Recap and way forward for small grants activities under the CSOs4GoodGov project;
- Synopsis of upcoming capacity building activities under CSOs4GoodGov;
- Sharing on co-financed actions by CANARI – [#GE4U: Transformation towards an inclusive green economy in the Caribbean project](#)
- Updates on other key actions and activities requiring participation and inputs of Catalysts

### Participants:

Nine (9) persons, representing 5 of 23 members of the *SDGs Catalysts Network*, attended the fourth Quarterly meeting. Apologies were sent from a few others, including due to bad weather on the meeting date. See *Appendix 1: List of participants*.

## 2 Meeting Objectives

The specific meeting objectives were to:

1. review last draft of the CSO Advocacy Paper: Legal and Fiscal Frameworks for Social Good in T&T
2. launch Round 3 – Small Grants Facility and facilitate sharing on previous Rounds
3. discuss upcoming capacity building activities under CSOs4GoodGov
4. provide Catalysts with updates on other key actions and activities requiring participation and inputs

See *Appendix 2: Specific workshop agenda*.

## 3 Methodology

A presentation and plenary discussions were used to facilitate feedback and comments on the draft CSO Advocacy Paper. Verbal presentations were made on the small grants and upcoming capacity building activities, as well as on co-financed actions being undertaken – the #GE4U project. Q&A's were accommodated throughout the sessions. Verbal updates were shared on communications and visibility items requiring attention and inputs of Catalysts.

## 4 Review of Key Sessions / Discussion and findings

### 4.1 Review of final draft of CSO Advocacy Paper

UWTT provided feedback on comments and opinions on the Paper gathered thus far; attempted to rationalise 'parking lot' comments; discussed complementary activities and reviewed the roadmap for development of the paper and immediate actions needed.

#### Key points and decisions emerging from the discussion:

Generally, comments about the quality of the content were positive and the recommendations were sound. The paper is appropriate for the intended audience, the Attorney General's Office. The paper is the 'start' and not the

‘end’ of the process. It is a place where the ideas to be instilled. It was proposed that if the primary focus is engaging with the existing State processes, the comments on the suggested recommendations should:

- be directed towards the enhancement and informing of the State regulatory body(ies), either as they currently are or as they may be adapted with coming legislation;
- provide greater clarity to the Civil Society audience on why they should be advocating for these changes i.e. being vulnerable to abuse, being resilient to changes in the financial systems (FATCA/FATF), as well as leading from within;
- reduce focus on funding frameworks and support the development of new research/work into the existing funding environment for CSOs;
- offer solutions for re-framed ‘problems’ and ‘difficulties’ faced by the sector.

Comments that arose during meeting included:

- There is a need to improve definition of civil society, inclusive of reviewing social enterprises as part of definition
- Care should be taken with using the word ‘profit’ in definition or descriptions of the sector so as to reduce chances of creating the wrong impression. There is a different understanding of the term inside and outside the sector;
- The diagram classifying the civil society sector should be reviewed to ensure it does not misrepresent information
- A key purpose of the Paper is to support advocacy to the Attorney General’s office and committee overseeing the Trinidad and Tobago Revenue Authority (TTRA). This will need to be delayed until mid/end October 2018, due to the timing of the national budget.
- There are concerns whether enough input is being received from wider CSOs in T&T to give the Paper credibility. Additionally, it was noted there may be a capacity gap in CSOs understanding – potential was noted for this project to help address same e.g. via upcoming VA/CPDC session.

Plan for version one of the Advocacy paper included:

- Put on the SDGs Knowledge & Advocacy platform
- Government consultations
- Series of CSO and private sector consultations

Next steps:

- The Legal and Fiscal Working group (LFWG) will meet to discuss the comments provided on the paper
- UWTT will share the paper with the Energy Chamber for input based on previous work done within the same area.
- Catalysts Members will be invited to provide written comments. Persons will have 2 weeks to provide additional comments

#### **4.2 Small Grants – Launch of Round 3 and review of previous Rounds**

The following key updates were given by UWTT regarding past, current and upcoming small grants rounds:

Round 1	<p>Round 1 is closed – 2 grantees were funded (WINAD and IGDS).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due to contracting issues, IGDS’ contract was only issued in June 2018 and project implementation is delayed, but work is ongoing and targeting completion by original deadline.</li> <li>• WINAD’s grant has been suspended based on decision by Technical Committee given: (1) extensive delay in implementation (2) improbability that deliverables will be met. WINAD was asked to submit a formal request for extension, revision of deliverables and risk management plan</li> </ul>
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Round 2	<p>Round 2 – 6 applications were submitted and 5 were successful</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CKFTO - puppet shows in schools advocating for inclusion, including SDGs posters</li> <li>• TTTI - school integrity clubs</li> <li>• IAMovement - school garden at Cotton Tree; the SGF technical panel requested to add/clarify advocacy element<sup>1</sup></li> <li>• CAISO – training on human rights institute, carded for October 17-18<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• ACSOTT – documenting story of ASCOTT formation, followed by engagement with partners on potential role and how this could be actualised.</li> </ul> <p>More information to be shared to the Catalysts.</p>
Round 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intended that Round 3 will be launched in early October. An optional section was included in the guidelines for advocacy projects around the legal and fiscal advocacy paper/governance/sector best practices.</li> <li>• There may be enough funds for 2-3 more rounds. Launch of Round 4 is targeted for Jan. 2019.</li> </ul>

Key points and decisions emerging from the discussion:

- Project proposals (or a project brief) should be made available for sharing and Catalysts involved in small grants funded projects will be asked to share updates, lessons and experiences at meetings and in reports. The dedicated CSOs4GoodGov Facebook page that has been set up and the SDGs Knowledge Platform which is in development, should be leveraged for visibility about projects funded.
- There will be consideration for how the next Round (3) of small grants can also help deliver elements in the project log-frame e.g. shadow reports.
- Related to this, CANARI also recommended that the linkage be kept to the bigger picture i.e. what is happening in the wider sphere in relation to SDGs advocacy and implementation. For example, there was a recent Call by the UN for submissions on: Good Practices, Success Stories and Lessons Learned in SDG Implementation <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs/goodpractices>. This can potentially be used as the basis for Round 3, to have Catalysts work on spotlight reports for their sectors. CANARI will follow up to explore these options with UWTT; can help draft TOR for the next Round and offer coaching support.
- It was generally agreed additional peer coaching to help Catalysts develop proposals that are tailored to advocacy on SDGs would be useful.

**4.3 Capacity Building - CPDC/VA parallel action on the legal and fiscal framework**

The following updates were provided by VA (and attending CANARI member of the Capacity Building Working Group (CBWG)):

- The CBWG made the recommendation that the planned workshop (co-funded by CPDC) should remain focused on its original purpose which is engagement of CSOs – it was clarified the session is not a further consultation on the legal and fiscal framework paper, but will focus on raising awareness and capacity building on the recommendations made in the paper. It was noted capacity building should cover advocacy on policy, which will be generally applicable. The intent is that CSO participants will then develop an action plan to engage in collective advocacy, based on agreed messages.
- The workshops will be held across 2 days in October (4<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>), with the breakdown in activities as follows
  - Panels will be used to help with discussion to build understanding on the content of the paper (Day 1).
  - Agitate Media will lead on developing an advocacy plan (Day 2).

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<sup>1</sup> It was noted that the panel requested IAMovement to provide a tangible output that highlights how their project links to advocating for a specific SDG. The output should be produced as a result of the project that details an advocacy action or is a direct contribution to advocacy. It should be focused on the strengths of IAMovement e.g. Social media outreach/advocacy and cause mobilization.

- Invitations have started to go out. VA needs to check that all Catalysts were sent invites.

Other capacity building activities for Year 2:

SHIFT leadership programme is now proposed to be delayed to 2019, to ensure that Catalysts not overloaded.

**4.4 CANARI sharing and updates**

The following updates were provided:

- A dedicated **CSOs4GoodGov Facebook page** was created and backdating of all posts made in the past year (originally on CANARI’s Facebook), is currently being completed. Once completed, the page will be officially launched and available to promote the project, and particularly work being done by all Catalysts. An email announcement will be made, inclusive of brief user guidelines.
- The **SDGs Knowledge Platform** is still in development stage – notably a consultant was contracted, and design started. The Platform will feature: a library of resources that CSOs can access, calendar of events, provide virtual space for engagement including discussion forums, webinars and blogs, and a gallery featuring “stories” on what Catalysts and other CSOs are doing on the SDGs. CANARI is aiming for end October to have something to share. Next steps will include inviting submission of content by Catalysts and other CSOs.
- CANARI reminded that an **Annual report** was being prepared on what Catalysts have been doing to contribute to the SDGs. A Call for content submissions was made, with the intent to include stories on actions and advocacy Catalysts are engaging in as part of their mission and work (apart from project specific actions/activities). A few responses were received, and a reminder will be sent to follow up.
- Under the **#GE4U project** (CANARI co-financing), CANARI is launching a campaign to promote local green-blue enterprises. This will be launched on social media (as of September 28<sup>th</sup>) and request is made to Catalysts to join the campaign.

**5 Wrap up and next Steps for the SDGs Catalysts Network**

Wrap-up points included:

- The CSO Advocacy paper is another concrete opportunity for Catalysts and other CSOs to collaborate.
- There is a need to continue to encourage Catalysts to align, or recognise that their work is already aligned, with the SDGs. The design of the small grants mechanism is encouraging this.
- Catalysts should be encouraged to use the communications platforms being provided under the project - Facebook page, Knowledge Platform and otherwise, to support each other’s work (e.g. Habitat for Humanity’s current campaign).
- The outgoing project coordinator Omar Mohammed was thanked for his service to the project since its inception. Project coordination and management activities will now be handled by UWTT’s Jennifer Sancho and Kristen Francis.

Next steps:

The next quarterly meeting of the SDGs Catalysts Network would be scheduled for **December 2018**. A Project Steering Committee meeting is also due around this time. Based on meeting discussions, currently in train and next activities for participation, and inputs of Catalysts are summarised below:

	October 2018	November 2018	December 2018
<b>In train: (Catalysts already aware)</b>			
Content submissions for Annual report on activities of Catalysts	3 <sup>rd</sup> October		

Provide final comments on CSO advocacy paper	Mid-October		
CAISO Human rights mechanisms training (small grants funded)	17-18 <sup>th</sup> October		
VA/CPDC workshop	4 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup> October		
<b>Upcoming: (More info to be shared)</b>			
Round 3 Call for small grants projects			
Inputs to SDGs Knowledge and Advocacy Platform			
5 <sup>th</sup> Quarterly meeting of the SDGs Catalysts Network			

## Appendix 1: List of participants

	Name	Organisation	Contact No.	Email
1.	Jennifer Sancho	United Way Trinidad & Tobago (UWTT)	625-8286	<a href="mailto:jsancho@uwtt.com">jsancho@uwtt.com</a>
2.	Omar Mohammed	United Way Trinidad & Tobago (UWTT)	625-8286	<a href="mailto:omohammed@uwtt.com">omohammed@uwtt.com</a>
3.	Kristen Francis	United Way Trinidad & Tobago (UWTT)	625-8286	<a href="mailto:kfrancis@uwtt.com">kfrancis@uwtt.com</a>
4.	Candice Ramkissoon	Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)	626-6062 / 779-0407	<a href="mailto:candice@canari.org">candice@canari.org</a>
5.	Nicole Leotaud	Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)	626-6062	<a href="mailto:nicole@canari.org">nicole@canari.org</a>
6.	Colleen Davis	Veni Apwann (VA)	741-1139	<a href="mailto:daviscolleen99@gmail.com">daviscolleen99@gmail.com</a>
7.	Sandra Pyke-Anthony	Veni Apwann (VA)		<a href="mailto:sandrapykeanthony@ymail.com">sandrapykeanthony@ymail.com</a>
8.	David Shim	ACSOTT	633-4724/787-7815	<a href="mailto:assoc.csott@gmail.com">assoc.csott@gmail.com</a>
9.	Curmira Gulston	Caribbean Youth Environment Network Trinidad & Tobago (CYEN-TT)		<a href="mailto:curmira.g25@gmail.com">curmira.g25@gmail.com</a>

## Appendix 2: Meeting Agenda



### **SDGs Catalysts Network 4<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Meeting**

under the project

**CSOs For Good Governance:** Enhancing civil society's contribution to governance and development processes in Trinidad and Tobago (CSOs4GoodGov)

CANARI Conference Room

September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018

2:00pm – 4:30pm

#### Meeting Objectives:

5. To review last draft of the CSO Advocacy Paper: Legal and Fiscal Frameworks for Social Good in T&T
6. To launch Round 3 – Small Grants Facility and facilitate sharing on previous Rounds
7. To discuss upcoming capacity building activities under CSOs4GoodGov
8. To provide Catalysts with updates on other key actions and activities requiring participation and inputs

#### **AGENDA**

1:45pm	<b>Registration</b>	
2:00pm	Welcome and introductions	CANARI
2:10pm	Review final draft of CSO Advocacy Paper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feedback on included comments and opinions</li> <li>• Rationalising 'parking lot' comments</li> <li>• Complementary activities</li> <li>• Roadmap and immediate action</li> </ul>	UWTT
3:40pm	Launch of Round 3 – Small Grants Facility Sharing on SGF Rounds 1 & 2	UWTT
4:00pm	Component 3 capacity building activity - CPDC/VA parallel action on the legal and fiscal framework	Veni Apwann
4:15pm	CANARI sharing and updates Recap of meeting and next steps Wrap up and close	CANARI