DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE[1]
INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE (IAC)
CSO PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS (CPDE)

Prepared by:
Anabel Cruz, Independent Consultant

May 2015

Introduction
The structure and governance of the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE) includes a Global Council (GC) of members, a Coordination Committee (CC), political working groups (WGs), and committees that include an Independent Accountability Committee (IAC). The CPDE Co-Chairs play an important role in terms of governance.

Transparency and accountability are essential for the CPDE, its agenda and the realization of its mission, which are considered part of the most important legacy of CPDE. The CPDE is an umbrella body with high accountability demands and multiple stakeholders demand different levels of accountability. The Istanbul Principles, and especially Principle 5 (Practice transparency and accountability), are the pillars of the CPDE, and its implementation is one of the raison d'etre for CPDE.

Purpose of the IAC
As a governance and accountability mechanism, the work of the IAC should in general ensure that all units and within the CPDE observe all aspects of accountability and transparency in the fulfillment of the platform's mandate and over-all vision-mission.

The results of the assessments of the IAC and the eventual recommendations that came out from the assessment should help in identifying and addressing issues and challenges, contributing to the strategies of the CPDE, and allowing CPDE to collectively strengthen its governance practices and division of powers and functions, fortifying the political role of the Coordinating Committee and the efficient functioning of the Global Secretariat.

The IAC is aligned to the work and mission of the CPDE and serves as an important Board of Reference. The IAC provides help and assistance in shaping policies, has specific tasks and mandates, but it is not an operational body. The IAC plays an important role in contributing to reaching and maintain high standards of accountability at the CPDE.

Composition and profile of members
The composition of the IAC is characterized by independence and diversity and the IAC membership is crucial because it gives legitimacy to the work of the CPDE. As an independent review mechanism, its composition reflects leadership, knowledge and commitment.

The committee is composed by 3 to 4 members and the individual members:
- Are Senior Advisors and renowned experts in CSO transparency and accountability;
- Have worked at different organizational levels, both national, regional and international;
- Represent a broad diversity, including members from different continents, with varied experiences and skills;
- Are completely independent from the CPDE Coordinating Committee, Global Council, Global Secretariat or any other body or structure within CPDE.

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1 The new IAC members shall review the current version of the ToR following one year of its operation. The Global Council will approve the final recommendations of the IAC.

Election of members and duration of mandates

The IAC will be convened in 2015,[2] according to the following process:

1. The CC shares with the former / original members of the IAC the results of CPDE's recent reflections on the CPDE accountability mechanisms, especially on the role of the IAC. The former / original members of the IAC present their feedback;
2. The CC extends an invitation to former / original IAC members to join a new independent accountability review mechanism, and agree on the current terms of reference;
3. The members of the IAC and the CC (or delegated persons) define a strategy to put the committee to work, appointing a chairperson of the Committee (independent) and agreeing on a specific strategy, with timelines and goals;
4. The CC and former IAC members identify one or two new members of the Committee, with a selection that tries to close eventual gaps;
5. The new committee will be in function for 3 years after the moment of its election / appointment;

Functions, roles and scope of work

The IAC is considered a crucial piece of the CPDE structure and the CPDE will strive for its strengthening and allowing resources to be allocated for its functioning. The CPDE Global Secretariat will provide assistance to the Committee such as in organizing meetings, distributing materials or any other task that can contribute to its strong and effective performance.

The IAC's specific functions include the production of an annual report or independent evaluation, which:
- Can be a mirror in which the CPDE should reflect on itself;
- Is a public report, sent to donors and stakeholders and published at the CPDE website;
- Presents recommendations to be followed up, with deadlines for improving eventual flaws and imperfections;
- Will assess and covers different levels and policies of accountability to be effectively in place in CPDE, i.e.:
  - Fiscal accountability mechanisms (vis-à-vis CPDE's funders and supporters);
  - An adequate flow of information is in place allowing internal and horizontal accountability and accountability to peers promoting good governance;
  - Transparency mechanisms are in place making all necessary documents, policy positions, and other materials available to the broader public (disclosure of information policy);
  - That policies of conflict of interest are drawn and are in place;
  - Accountability mechanisms measuring CSO development effectiveness vis-à-vis CPDE and aimed also to cover CPDE member CSOs.

The IAC will also monitor that all bodies should have their own working program and goals and indicators for each annual period and regularly conduct an exercise of self-evaluation. The beginning of 2015 can be used as the departing moment for evaluating the previous year and set up plans for the next period.

The IAC will be nurtured with relevant information for the development of its work, such as external evaluations, specific policies and working plans. In its three-year mandate, the IAC will have analyzed prospective evolutions of its roles and functions.

Working methodologies

Resources will be allocated for the work of the IAC, in order to cover: communication costs, travel costs to attend CC or GC meetings, and support staff. A stipendium for days worked will be eventually also paid to members, since it is understood that exclusively voluntary work will not attract the kind of members the IAC need.

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2 If any case the new IAC is not organized within the year, CPDE will use the current budget allocation of 20,000 USD for IAC meeting to instead contract an independent organization for internal accountability (CPDE CC, June 2015).