

Partnerships – Key to Implementing the SDGs

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by

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Partnerships in the 2030 Agenda

The 2030 SDG Agenda provides space for stakeholder partnerships & engagements. It makes a very strong statement on CSO's role & partnership in SDGs alongside the public and private sectors.

SDG 17.16 calls for multi-stakeholder partnership to mobilize knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources

SDG 17.17 encourages and promotes effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships , building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnership

The **UN mechanism at the HLPF** in New York and at the **AP level** through ESCAP provides opportunities for CSOs direct participation

Partnership ensures **accountability** with emphasis on an open, **inclusive, participatory and transparent system** for all people and will support reporting by all relevant stakeholders

The Malaysian CSO-SDG Alliance

On 27 October 2015, a month after the UNGA adopted the SDGs, PROHAM (Society for Promotion of Human Rights) hosted the first CSO-SDG discussion together with the GMMF.

It resulted in the formation of the CSO-SDG Alliance which is grouping of CSOs that have come together for networking, joint cooperation and liaison with the government in commitment to the effective implementation of the SDGs in Malaysia.

It now comprises four umbrella CSOs and >40 individual CSOs and institutions, translating to about 400 CSOs being involved in discussions and mapping exercises to identify areas of grass-root involvement that are relevant to the SDGs.

CSO Types

The composition of the CSO-SDG Alliance can be categorized into 4 main types of CSOs:

- 1. Development & Service-based CSOs** – work with the poor, women, and youth, indigenous peoples, the disabled, migrant workers etc. undertaking a range of services addressing economic, social and cultural concerns e.g. NCWO, MBM, MASW, JOAS,
- 2. Human Rights** – address civil & political rights including transparency, accountability and good governance e.g. COMANGO, C4, PROHAM, Bar Council
- 3. Environment-based CSOs** – committed to nature, environment from conservation and environmental management e.g. MENGO, WWF, ESPM, CETDEM
- 4. Think Tanks** – independent or associated with universities addressing SDG concerns e.g. KITA-UKM, ISIS, ASLI, IRF, TWN

List of CSO-SDG Alliance Members

Development-Based CSOs

1. National Council of Women Organization (more than 120 affiliates)
2. Malaysian Youth Council (more than 200 affiliates)
3. Junior Chamber International Malaysia
4. Scope Group
5. Commact-Malaysia
6. Women Aid Society (WAO)
7. Persatuan Asrama Belia Malaysia (MYHA)
8. Young Buddhist Association of Malaysia (YBAM)

List of CSO-SDG Alliance Members cont.

Development-Based CSOs cont.

9. Foundation for Community Studies & Development (YKPM)
10. Malaysian Association of Social Workers (MASW)
11. Komuniti Muslim Universal (KMU)
12. Good Shepherd Services (GSS)
13. Pusat Kebajikan Good Shepherd
14. Society for Rights of Indigenous Peoples of Sarawak (SCRIPS)
15. Indigenous Peoples' Network (JOAS)
16. PACOS Trust Sabah – for IP of Sabah

List of CSO-SDG Alliance Members cont.

Development-Based CSOs cont.

17. Malaysian Care

18. Tenaganita for migrant workers

19. Friends of Kota Damansara

20. National Association of Women Entrepreneurs of Malaysia

21. National Cancer Society Malaysia

22. MyWatch – Malaysian Women’s Action for Tobacco Control & Health

23. Foreign Spouse Support Group

24. SEED Malaysia

List of CSO-SDG Alliance Members cont.

Human-Rights-based CSOs

25. Coalition of Malaysia NGOs in the UPR Process (COMANGO) – coalition of 54 Human Rights CSOs
26. Pusat KOMAS
27. Fortify Rights
28. C-4 The Centre to Combat Corruption and Cronyism
29. PROHAM – Society for Promotion of Human Rights
30. Bar Council – Committees on HR, OA, CRC, env, refugees, migrants...
31. EMPOWER – Persatuan Kesedaran Komuniti Selangor

List of CSO-SDG Alliance Members cont.

Environmental-based CSOs

32. MENGO – Grouping of Malaysian Environmental CSOs
33. CETDEM – Centre for Environment, Technology & Development
34. EPSM – Environmental Protection Society of Malaysia
35. WWF Malaysia

List of CSO-SDG Alliance Members cont.

Think Tank Institutions

36. Institute of Ethnic Studies (KITA), National University of Malaysia
37. Institute of Strategic & International Studies
38. Third World Network
39. ASLI-CPPS
40. Selangor Institute
41. Perak Institute
42. Islamic Renaissance Front

CSO Partnership

- The Malaysian CSOs have great potential for reaching out to the grassroots & is effective in delivery. The Alliance provides for the active participation, collaboration and partnership among the CSOs in the implementation of the SDGs
- Through a mapping exercise, we were able to highlight the tremendous diversity of services and programs undertaken by CSOs which are already in line with the SDGs
- Identify some challenges and hurdles face by CSOs which require intervention & support to ensure better outcomes and impact
- Set up a mechanism of engagement & involvement – the Alliance calls on the government to be included in the formal mechanisms in national, state and district implementation committees. CSOs can play a complementary role to the Govt.

Recommendations of CSO-SDG Alliance

The CSO-SDG Alliance recognize that the SDG Agenda is a critical & timely opportunity to initiate a goals-based partnership that can drive a concerted effort towards achieving Malaysia's development goals as a shared responsibility among the various stakeholders. Among our recommendations are:

1. Formal mechanism of engagement & involvement be set up
2. SDG focal points be established at Ministry level
3. Funding CSOs through work for Ministries
4. Greater inter-agency integration at the grassroots
5. Stronger compliance to human rights, ecological sustainability, & good governance

Public Sector Actions

- **Feb 2016**: First National Symposium was organized by EPU for govt agencies and CSOs on SDGs
- **Nov 2016**: Second National Symposium was organized for multi-stakeholder participation & feedback
- **Dec 2016**: Set up National SDG Council chaired by PM; and National Steering Committee under EPU
- **Jan - Mar 2017**: EPU established 5 Cluster Working Groups and 17 Taskforces as per the SDGs
- **Mar 2017 – June 2017**: Workshops were held to map SDGs in 11MP; report on progress; VNR to HLPF; preparing SDG roadmap

Institutional Governance Structure & Mechanisms for SDG Implementation

- **National SDG Council** chaired by the PM – set agenda, milestones and reports to the UN via the HLPF (VNR every 4 years)
- **National Steering Committee** chaired by the DG of EPU (PM's Dept) – to plan and monitor SDG implementation. It includes Govt agencies, CSOs, private sector and academia
- Five **SDG Cluster Working Groups** each headed by an EPU Section Head and 17 Task Forces. The clusters are: Wellbeing; Inclusivity; Human Capital; Environment & Natural Resources; and Economic Growth



UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

Establish direction for SDG implementation, set national agenda and milestones and prepare reporting to UN High Level Political Forum

Formulate SDG Roadmap, monitor progress of targets, identify issues and report to National SDG Council

NATIONAL SDG COUNCIL
(as part of the National Action Committee)
Chaired by PM

STEERING COMMITTEE
Chaired by Director General of EPU

WC WELL-BEING

WC INCLUSIVITY

WC HUMAN CAPITAL

WC ENV. & NATURAL RESOURCES

WC ECONOMIC GROWTH

TASKFORCE 1

TASKFORCE 2

TASK FORCE n

Identify indicators for each goal of SDG, develop and implement programmes and report progress to Steering Committee

Cluster Working Groups & Task Forces

- 1. Wellbeing:** Goals 1,2,5,10
- 2. Inclusivity:** Goals 3,16
- 3. Human Capital:** Goal 4
- 4. Environment & Natural Resources:** Goals 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15
- 5. Economic Growth:** 8, 9, 11, 17

Each Working Group is lead by EPU and the 17 Task Forces are represented by Ministries and members from the CSO-SDG Alliance, academia and the private sector

SDG Roadmap and Direction

Malaysia will implement the SDGs in 3 phases coinciding with the 5-year Malaysia Plans, thus incorporating the SDGs into the national development framework:

- **Phase I (2016-2020)** – prioritising SDG according to 11MP
- **Phase II (2020-2025)** – focus on post 2020 goals and targets
- **Phase III (2025 – 2030)** – remaining goals and targets in line with Malaysia's capacity and global role

CSO-SDG Alliance Actions

- Oct 2015 - CSOs held first formal meeting on SDGs and organized themselves into a **CSO-SDG Alliance**
- In February 2016 - the Alliance participated at the National SDG Symposium after which the it presented a **statement for collaboration** with the Govt to the Minister;
- In Nov 2016 - the Alliance participated at the Nat. SDG Conference organized by the EPU and the UNCT Malaysia, after which the CSOs presented **findings of their mapping exercise**
- The Alliance indicated to the Govt that they were ready to contribute towards the implementation & monitoring of the SDG, and **requested for a meaningful partnership** with the Govt at all levels and in all sectors.

CSO-SDG Alliance Actions cont.

- In Dec 2016, 5 members of the CSO Alliance were invited to be members on the **National Steering Committee**, and other CSOs were invited onto the **Cluster Working Groups and Taskforces**
- The Alliance worked in the Cluster Working Groups to undertake a mapping exercise to align 11MP strategies, action plans, initiatives and outcomes with the SDG goals, targets and indicators; and **provided input on the progress, issues, challenges and recommendations** for the implementation of the SDG
- These were included in the **Voluntary National Report** (VNR) which was presented by the EPU Minister at the HLPF in New York in July 2017. The Alliance arranged for a **Q&A session** with the Minister on several issues.
- The Alliance also organized a **side event** to the HLPF and made its own presentation to other HLPF participants

CSO-SDG Alliance Activities

- In 2016, organized a series of lectures for law students and the public on the SDGs and how each of us can contribute towards achieving them
- In 2017, organizing a series of 6 forums with ASLI on various aspects of the SDGs such as crosscutting issues of governance, women and youth, STI for SDGs e.g. water & energy, nuclear science for agriculture, etc. The EPU and UNCT attends these events
- Meanwhile the Alliance was invited to speak at forums on SDGs in Sabah, Penang, Selangor, local communities, national and international events
- Organized meetings with residents at low cost flats to share about SDGs and obtain their feedback on how to improve their circumstances, in collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare
- 24 Nov 2017 – Dr Denison given UN award for mobilizing the CSO-SDG Alliance

Moving Forward

With the inclusive and participatory approach adopted by the government which focuses on a paradigm shift towards including citizens as partners in service design and delivery, greater engagement of CSOs is envisaged.

Moving forward, the CSO-SDG Alliance would like to assist Government in implementing the National SDG Roadmap:

- Advocacy and assisting in organizing road shows in all 13 states to raise awareness & increase knowledge and create a sense of ownership of the 2030 Agenda
- Localizing, promoting & mainstreaming the SDG at the target group & grassroots levels & intensify collaboration with local organizations for better outreach
- Provide input and recommendations into the 2nd and 3rd phases of SDG implementation under the 12MP (2020-2025) and 13 MP (2025-2030).