

WINGS COMMENTS IN THE CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT GPEDC WORK PROGRAMME 2023-26

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An Introduction to WINGS: Elevating philanthropy through Advocacy

WINGS is a network of philanthropy development and support organisations committed to ensuring philanthropy reaches its fullest potential as a catalyst for social progress. Our growing community of thought leaders and changemakers includes more than 200 member organisations across 60+ countries – roughly split between Europe and North America, and low and middle-income countries in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), and Asia-Pacific regions.

Our goal is to encourage collaboration and ignite potential – to rally philanthropic actors everywhere to build a more just, equitable, and healthy world and support the achievement of the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs. A major objective for WINGS in the next five-year strategic period is to reinforce the enabling environment for philanthropy worldwide and amplify our local and regional voices internationally. This will be accomplished through advocacy with governments and multi-stakeholder collaboration with other development actors, resulting in official public commitments (e.g. policies, procedures, and regulations) to create an enabling environment for wider civil society.

Comments on the draft GPEDC work programme for the period 2023-26

1) Do you have any suggestions to further tighten the work programme to deliver on the commitments of the [Geneva Summit Declaration](#)?

WINGS viewed the Geneva Summit Declaration as an important milestone in creating a “soft law” standard on the four effectiveness principles to which governments and other stakeholders could hold themselves to account. The Declaration provides a framework for discussion, setting the broader parameters for national dialogues. While it is not binding, it provides details on mutual expectations between development actors.

We would appreciate further details on the roles and responsibilities of the described “Development Partner Champions”, i.e. what is expected of these champions (in order to know if constituencies can deliver).

Agreeing with CPDE, WINGS suggests that the work programme should make explicit references in the action plan with important aspects of the Geneva Outcome Document to monitor the implementation of agreed conclusions. As CPDE noted, the Outcome Document includes a commitment to civic space “We are determined to reverse the trend of shrinking of civic space wherever it is taking place” (Para 25), and enabling environment “We will build trust, safeguard stakeholders’ enabling environment... (Para 24); “We are determined to accelerate progress in providing an enabling environment for civil society, including in legal and regulatory terms, in line with internationally agreed rights” (Para 25); and “We are determined to provide evidence on and address issues such as: ... enabling environment for civil society through the Global Partnership Monitoring and other sources of information.” (Para 43).

While the 2023-26 GPEDC Work Programme has as one of its core outputs and related activities to generate evidence through a new monitoring, there is no framework in place to understand how progress in following through on the commitments to the Outcome Declaration will be assessed. If this remains undefined, then WINGS suggests that the proposed thematic learning initiative on civil society, which will focus on enabling Civil Society Participation and addressing shrinking civic space, could put the Outcome Declaration’s commitments to an enabling environment on the table to discuss and develop how best to assess adherence to this new standard in evolving GPEDC context.

2) How will your constituency contribute to implementing this work programme? Which core outputs and activities will you be able to lead or support?

In WINGS’ further work, we will be improving the effectiveness of development co-operation by actively participating in multi-stakeholder dialogue, bringing our member organisations together to share their comparative strengths and learnings as well as to support their capacity development as they determine their needs, and to demonstrate the contribution of philanthropy and its impact in delivering on the SDGs through provision of resources, both financial and non-financial, for locally-led solutions for local communities.

WINGS will support its members to participate in Country Dialogues, but in particular would see greater funding would be needed from supportive governments for ensuring that all stakeholders including labour, parliamentarians, civil society and philanthropy understand how to assist and contribute to the multistakeholder dialogues. Guidelines are useful but in-person explanatory assistance from the Joint Support Team would be invaluable for the smooth organisation of the Country Dialogues.

WINGS believes there should be greater efforts to extend GPEDC national dialogues to other stakeholders, including local authorities, public development banks as well as the wider private sector. WINGS plans to make further, stronger outreach efforts to these other stakeholders, particularly partners that can support relevant communities to build and strengthen the ecosystem for local resource mobilisation. Deepening strategic partnerships with other sectors for improving the government's enabling environment through policy improvements will be key.

3) In addition, do you have interest in leading or supporting thematic learning initiatives? (If the answer is 'yes', please be in contact with relevant SC members to shape up your engagement).

WINGS confirms its interest in co-leading a thematic learning initiative on civil society participation with CPDE and governments at the GPEDC. In our active participation to shape the final proposal for this thematic learning initiative, WINGS will re-state our clear, shared understanding that the term "civil society" broadly includes philanthropy, since we have previously discussed that philanthropy can inadvertently be left out of discussions about shrinking civic space and promoting civil society participation.

As noted in our answer to Question 1, we believe linking the civil society Thematic Learning Initiative to the GPEDC monitoring exercise and country dialogues could give some focus to the group discussions and activities, assuming the latter are fully enabled with funding.

4) Do you wish to include events or other activities in the action plan or calendar of events?

Not at this time.