

# GALA Mongolia Capacity Building workshop

Ulanbataar, Mongolia, 24-25 January, 2019



ADA with support from Forus and KOICA organized the two days training program in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on 24-25 February, 2019 at the Holiday Inn hotel.

About 30 participants from rural and urban parts of Mongolia participated in the training program on SDGs, VNR and CSO coalition building sessions. The program was hugely supported by the local Co-host Center for Human Rights and Development (CHRD) and colleagues from Transparency International, Mongolia chapter.

## Day - 1

Mr. Tur-Od from Transparency International Mongolia welcome the guest and shared

how the SDGs can be used to establish links with the human right issues.

Mongolia has a history of being involved in SDGs earlier 8 MDGs

Mongolia has a history of working on Human Rights and Democracy which was included in SDGs 16 and Mongolia also added MDG 9, to reconfirm, that it will play a leadership role in implementation of the goal.

The importance of national CSO coalition in generating solidarity on various policy advocacy and development issues was discussed with Jyotsna Mohan of ADA deliberating the model of formation of national CSO coalition. The “NGO Coalition could be defined as a category of CSOs working on various thematic groups, assembled together in a coordinated way as members of an identified structured coalition formally or informally on the basis of a common purpose and seeking changes to government policies and practices or to national/international laws.”

Since in Mongolia there is no formal CSO coalition exist, the participants discussed the importance of having a national CSO coalition. The former Ambassador of Mongolia, who also attended PyeongChang Peace forum early in January discussed the relevance and importance of Goal 17 and 17 with the important role of CSOs on advocacy around disarmament, environment, poverty reduction and other such important issues.

Mr. Anselmo LEE, ADA advisors coordinated the rest of the sessions and divided to participants into four different groups for 30 minutes discussions for two consecutive relay sessions.



Following are the important points of discussions:

## **Round 1**

### **Group 1 – Education**

Challenges and problems

- Poor access to education: too many kids in one classroom, quality, kids dropping schools, migration to urban areas in search of quality education
- Low quality textbooks
- Safety of schools
- Inadequate education for people with special needs
- Poor health services
- Lack of lifelong education

Solution:

- Support child participation
- Training for teachers
- Tri-partite contracts
- Involved parents, teachers
- Improve school environment: classrooms, dormitories
- Stop bullying in schools
- Provide health education
- Establish schools for children with special needs

### **Group 2 – Gender equality**

Challenges and problems

- Traditional perception
- Low participation of women in political decision making
- Gender equality law was approved in 1993 despite no proper enforcement
- Education and health of men
- Promote empowerment

Solution

- Raising awareness
- Promote implementation and enforcement of existing laws
- Provide opportunities to participate in decision making on social, economic, political, health, education areas
- Be active
- Create platform (organize annual workshops, follow-up meetings)

### **Group 3 – Inequality**

Challenges and problems

- Lack of information, no link with SDG at national level
- SDG policy document only in Ulaanbaatar
- SME development is concentrated only in Ulaanbaatar

- Political partisanship/ inclusion
- Social protection policies : wage, Social security tax
- Foreign investment is not transparent
- Migration in and out
- Participation

**Solution:**

- Capacity building on SDGs, monitoring, training + local SDG
- Transparency
- Eliminate partisanship: code of ethics of public servants, accountability
- Actual research and studies

**Group 4 – Climate change**

**Challenges and problems**

- Mongolia joined Paris Accord but it failed to be reflected in the state policy
- Lack of knowledge and capacities to implement SDG13
- No access to statistics related to climate change
- Improve knowledge, understanding of policy developers, herders and other stakeholders on climate change, organize trainings for NGOs, organize advocacy campaigns, allocate resources
- Clarify translations climate change is translated differently
- Create international partnership, exchange information
- Nomadic culture is heavily impacted by climate change, so required to develop policies suitable for nomadic culture

**Solution:**

- Engage decisions makers to use studies, reports on climate change
- Policy developers fail to consider results of climate change which is poverty
- Expand participation of private sector, CSO and citizens to define and implement policies
- There is no information on green fund loan. It's the obligation of the CSO to
- demand disclosure of such information

**Round 2**

**Group 1 – Peace and Violence**

**Challenges and problems**

- Violence on TV, social media
- Traffic accidents
- Sexual abuse
- Parents do not know positive discipline
- Unfair court decisions
- Horse racing – little kids are jockeys

- Laws are not enforced
- Economic abuse
- Poor capacity service
- Banks are abusing offshore, organized crimes

#### Solutions

- Regulations
- School police
- Special number hotline
- Parent trainings
- Budget
- No action
- No horse races to be allowed in spring and winter
- Raising awareness
- No capacity building
- No accountability

### **Group 2 – Human rights**

#### Challenges and problems

- Lack of knowledge on Human rights – violence
- Policy, law, rule, regulation – not based on human rights. Example: moms with salaries
- Lack of collaboration of legal institutions

#### Solutions

- Promote Human rights knowledge to public
- Conduct monitoring and evaluation of law on HR
- Collaboration of multi-stakeholders
- Conduct advocacy to decision makers

### **Group 3 – Democratic governance**

#### Challenges and problems

- Reduced trust in judicial organizations, lawyers
- Capacity of lawyers to use laws
- Corruption
- Political appointments

#### Solutions

- Create public control
- Retraining of lawyers
- Application of laws in same terms
- Promote anti-corruption law
- Enlighten public
- 16.6.6 Local CSO + citizens + council of ministries + citizens = capacity (monitoring, presentation, influence) = state monitoring (state to provide financing)
- 16.6.7 Create independent institution with definite responsibilities and duties

## Group 4 – Anti-corruption

### Challenges and problems

- Corruption created own structure. For example: SME fund. Bribery and corruption exists at every level. Corruption is well organized: mining – banks – politicians
- Mega projects are failed to be implemented due to corruption
- Corruption becomes the key factor which neutralizes the development and democracy of the country
- Public has poor knowledge about bribery and corruption
- Anti-corruption agency is getting not independent
- Judicial independence, no case of delivering decision on corruption case
- Citizens who attend the court sessions to oversee the court process
- Reveal people who are getting benefits from public wealth
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### Solution:

- TAX must be properly managed according to merit requirements
- Ensure transparency of financing the parties as it due to lack of it, parties are not getting mature, no ethics
- Create public control, elects members from general public
- Civil control. Properly educated people shall develop Mongolia
- CSO to expand their activities on monitoring, cooperation
- Cooperate with international initiatives against corruption
- CSO to conduct analysis on state policies and programs
- Participate in international trainings
- Create a structure whereas different bodies are in charge of appointment, release etc
- Use laws on public hearing
- Appoint representatives of CSO into state development funds
- Citizens are empowered to appoint principles of schools and kindergartens
- Protect rights and interests of people who report corruption and bribery



## Day 2

### Recap from the participants

The climate change was identified as the main concern in Mongolia, due to many mining operation. The participants also understood linking SDGs with the human right articles and they learnt, that SDGs cannot be really separated from the human rights,

- The participants also discussed that there is no official translation that the translation version of the SDGs in the local language and there is also a need to figure out the exact wordings for the translation.
- Mongolia has no nuclear weapon.
- The local communities are not involved in the decision-making process, there is a need to promote the SDGs not only with the state departments but a lot with the local communities.
- SDGs 16 very helpful, linking HR to the SDGs.

#### VNR Process

Deirdre De Burca from Forus and Jyotsna Mohan from ADA made presentations on VNR with the global and the regional perspective. This was followed by the VNR status discussion in Mongolia and Ms. Urna of CHRD shared that she was the CSO representative in the government along with the representatives from academia, chamber of commerce in the writing process

The CSOs have also established the working groups on various themes and are preparing the shadow report. The report will also be presented to the government with a request to incorporate the recommendations in the official VNR report for Mongolia. .

Later the CSO also discussed on the national CSO platform and decided to create a national CSO platform named Mongolia CSO network on SDGs which would be formalized very soon with a request to ADA to consider for membership.

Mr. Anselmo LEE, advisor to ADA deliberated the importance of national CSO coalition in his closing remarks and stressed the importance of coalition, as no government will hear the individual suggestion but it will make difference if they send any suggestion/recommendation in a group/network.

#### **General evaluation**

- Learned a lot about SDG
- Gave opportunity to connect with others & work on **SDG with collaboration**
- Gave an idea of how to monitor implementation of SDG on local and national level
- Increased knowledge about SDG
- Also learn about VNR
- Made good connection with CSO & NGOs
- Learned more SDG 16

#### **Logistical Aspects**

- Air condition was not working properly
- All stakeholders were involved which was very good

- Venue, food & hotel was excellent
- Many thanks to CHRD & ADA for very good organization

### **Follow-up**

- Give information to others
- Acquire better training /go into depths with these issues/
- Set up coalition
- Learn about, how other countries are working on SDG, how they monitor & implement etc.
- Local administration and government officials need to learn and train in the field of SDG
- Want a study trip regarding KOICA, to implement projects
- Will continue working on SDG, but need more training within this field
- Will organize training about SDG 2030 for our local people
- Need to train people, making trainers, who can teach SDG & next level training about SDG
- Call projects if it is possible for them
- Also need other kind of training, like democracy, good governance, social accountability & community participation etc.
- Need study tour & field visit
- Go back & do some monitoring on SDG-work in our province
- Need this training at sum- and province-level, especially for the government.
- Will be more focused on SDG 16 & 17
- Will be writing VNR

### **Individual Session**

- In Session 3 we exchanged knowledge
- Methodology was very good
- Gave a very clear understanding about SDG
- There was a good amount of equal participation & group discussion
- Got a better understanding & knowledge
- Video was very interesting & the examples as well
- How to write VNR
- Collaboration work, also want to be a member of ADA

### **Evaluation about Materials**

- All materials were very useful & important

### **Final comments:**

- Learn about discrimination issues in other countries
- Don't have and specific recommendations. In my view this training was very effective. Gave us a lot of information and knowledge
- Was very effective
- Thanks a lot for organizing this training in Mongolia

- Give us PPT presentations
- Develop manual training in Mongolian language
- Thanks to the teachers, especially for Anselmo Lee and Urna

TOTAL – 22 participants

Excellent – 9

Very good – 12

Good- 1

Not so good – 0

Not good - 0