

Minutes of the Policy Forum Monthly Meeting

Haki Elimu Conference Room, 5th July, 2007.

Key Action Points

- *Members to decide whether to take up the offer from the Steadman Group of Companies regarding their research on the media, members to also decide whether they want a tailor made program.*
- *PF members agreed that the selection of the remaining members for the steering committee is to be opened to all (men and women)*
- *Policy Forum Website needs to be up and running.*
- *Budget Working Group to suggest ways of improving quality.*
- *Members to try to attract MP's with better event management.*
- *Members to decide which sectors they would like to be allocated to or how to question MoF on their request for CSOs to categorize themselves.*

Opening

The meeting was officially started by Coordinator of Policy Forum, Gertrude Mugizi at 10:30am. There was a round of introduction as there appeared to be a few new faces.

Attendance:

1. Rita Toutant	TNCH
2. Ruth Carlitz	HakiElimu
3. Gertrude Mugizi	Policy Forum
4. Tejal Raichura	Policy Forum
5. Namwaka Omari-Mwaikinda	Policy Forum
6. Semkae Kilonzo	Policy Forum
7. Moses Kulaba	AP2000
8. Festa Andrew	WDP
9. Andrew Williams	TNRF
10. Elle Hughes	ECD Practitioner
11. Rose A Mushi	ActionAid Tanzania
12. Felician C Lyimo	HEMFA
13. Camily I Ilessy	HEMFA
14. Honesti A. Nyallu	HEMFA
15. Audax Rukonge	Concern WW
16. Joyce Muya	UDI
17. Major M Majaliwa	Mikumi Youth
18. Amina Litaka	UDI
19. Mary Jumbe	UDI

Agenda

1. Matters arising
2. Feedback from the CSO Exhibition in Parliament (Semkae)
3. Collaboration on a campaign to promote better forest governance (Andrew

Williams - Tanzania Natural Resources Forum)- see attachment

4. Framework for engagement with National Policy Processes - (Gertrude/Namwaka)
5. Working Group Updates
6. AOB

Agenda 1: Matters Arising

Members of PF were requested to consider the Steadman Group of Companies' offer regarding getting the results of their research – two for the price of one. Another option would be to give a tailor made research proposal to Steadman whereby the indicators would be picked by CSOs. However the quality of the research was questioned by the members.

Applications to join the steering committee are open to all member organizations.

Website service provider failed to deliver, other negotiations are in progress.

Agenda 2: Feedback from the CSO Exhibition in Parliament

- The event was successful, PF represented by Semkae Kilonzo with a total of 95 organizations represented.
- When split into groups, CSOs decided to not use a confrontational or negative approach, and that the parliament should be applauded and appreciated.
- A verbal agreement was made to formalize more encounters.
- Issues that were raised; the seating allowances for MP's caused a great problem. Also, the attendance of the MPs was not up to par, and hence something different should be tried, perhaps better event management.
- This was a good opportunity for networking.

Agenda 3: TNRF Presentation

- Issues on illegal logging to be raised to the general public. The question was how to get this sort of information to rural parts of Tanzania.
- What the campaign has started doing: organizing a mobile road show, radio, media in general. Need to monitor what form of media is best.

Agenda 4: Framework for New Dialogue Structure

- Ministry of Finance organized a meeting at the end of March to propose new dialogue structure between government, development partners and CSOs. This was based on the observation that the current structure has high transition costs due to: overlapping agendas, schedules and memberships, no clear selection criteria, weak and unclear interlinkages.
- MoF has asked CSOs to organize themselves into thematic and/or sectors areas, asking all non-state actors to identify where they fit in according to the MKUKUTA clusters

- Questions to raise to MoF; can all CSOs fit into thematic or sector area categories? PF for example does not necessarily only work in one thematic or sector area.
- Where did this idea originate from? Some members were concerned that this categorization would “pigeon-hole” organizations, and restrict them to solely their sector (if clearly defined).
- The MoF spoke of non-state actors, it is not clear who they mean by that; will that include trade unions for example? Is it only CSOs or also private sector? Need to be clearer.
- Members believe that this could also be viewed as positive development, as the MoF is recognizing the shortcomings of the current structure and encouraging dialogue, hence given the opportunity to comment, CSOs should present their views clearly.
- A small team is to be put together to help understand what the government is trying to do. To discuss and debate the issue of using old structures to create new ones. Mrs. Rose Mushi was nominated to lead the group, and Moses Kulaba volunteered to join the group.

Agenda 5: Working Group Updates

Budget Working Group:

- Pre-draft of the post budget brief to be circulated.
- Request for MPs to attend GDSS.
- Opposition have put forward an alternate budget; need to take a look at it
- The breakfast talk on Revenue collections was successful.

Agenda: AOB

The Breakfast Debates that have been hosted jointly by Policy Forum and Haki Elimu will now be handled by PF Secretariat. HakiElimu will still assist in topic and presenter selection but all logistics will be taken care of by the Policy Forum Secretariat.

Closure

- The meeting was closed at approximately 1:30 pm.