LTA of CSOs and the Affinity Group of National Associations (AGNA)

14 December 2011, Quezon City

AGNA

-launched in 2004

-around 50 national associations from several countries

-Working Group on LTA:

- VANI - India
- NFN - Nepal
- JACO - Japan
- CEMEFI – Mexico
- Imagine Canada
- NCVO - England
- ADA-NGO -Jamaica
- Alianza ONG – Dominican R.
- ANCB –Afghanistan
- CODE-NGO

Self-Regulation

*For Legitimacy, Transparency and Accountability:

Need to balance different forms of CSO regulation: (a) government, (b) independent body and (c) self-regulation

*note: Self-regulation at 2 levels – organizational/internal and sector-wide

Self-Regulation

***343 self-regulatory initiatives**

(309 – national level): mapped by One World Trust -http://oneworldtrust.org/csoproject/

-codes of conduct

-certification schemes

-working groups

-information schemes

-others

>>and many more initiatives unmapped

Self-Regulation

Some Motivations:

-to raise standards across the sector

-to build public trust

-to attract funding

-to enable the sector to share good practices and learn from each other

-to pre-empt government regulation

Trends and Common Issues

1) Recognition that CSOs need to apply the same standards of transparency and accountability that they ask of government and private businesses

2) Most see the importance of regulation, especially self-regulation, in increasing the LTA of NAs and CSOs

3) Self-regulation is often difficult because of the diversity of CSOs in a country

-thus, the need to ensure proportionality

Differences

1) In one country, the emphasis for LTA is not on regulation/self-regulation BUT on ensuring that the NA's work delivers real and positive change in the lives of its members/ constituents

2) Different political environments: some governments are sceptical of/ antagonistic towards CSOs while others partner with CSOs

Gaps and Next Steps

1) Information on self-regulatory initiatives in other AGNA countries

>>and assessment of regulatory and self-regulatory initiatives by AGNA members

-in OWT Data Base: of 22 countries in 2011 AGM of AGNA

>3 countries have zero initiative in DB

>9 have only 1-2; 4 have only 3-4

>only 2 countries have more than 10 initiatives

Gaps and Next Steps

2) Information on good practices of AGNA members in handling issues of proportionality (plus downward accountability and political legitimacy)

3) Maximized utilization of the LTA toolkit and other resources in the LTA Center of CIVICUS