

**2017 SUN Movement Global Gathering
Executive Committee Meeting with Civil Society Network
7 November 2017, 18:30-19:30
Summary Report**

Participants

Civil Society Network (CSN)	Executive Committee (ExCom)	SUN Movement Secretariat (SMS)
Elise Rodriguez, Action Contra La Faim Milo Stanojevich, Care Peru Katherine Richards, Save the Children Cecilia Ruberto, Save the Children Megan Pennell, Save the Children Marie Rumsby, Global Citizen Connell Foley, Concern Anushree Shiroor, Results Asma Lateef, Bread for the World Institute Cara Flowers, Save the Children	Shawn Baker, BMGF, (Chair) Abdoulaye Ka, Senegal, (Vice Chair) Lawrence Haddad, GAIN Uma Koirala, CSA Nepal Lauren Landis, WFP Daysi de Marquez, El Salvador Tumaini Mikindo, CSA Tanzania Martha Newsome, Medical Teams Intl. Felix Phiri, Malawi Aslam Shaheen, Pakistan Fokko Wientjes, DSM <i>Absent:</i> Francesco Branca, WHO	Gerda Verburg, SUN Coordinator Sergio Teixeira Marlen Schuepbach

Agenda

1. SUN CSN contribution to the roadmap 2017

Discussion topics, with guiding questions for ExCom and all participants:

2. Sustainability of the SUN movement: How can we address the sustainability and financing challenges all networks are facing? What will the ExCom contribution to this be?
3. Business and the private sector in SUN: How does the ExCom view the current challenges the SUN CSN is facing in relation to private sector engagement particularly around the BMS code?
4. Gender in SUN: How can this be embedded throughout the work of the SUN movement in a systematic and impactful manner?
5. MEAL in SUN: What opportunities does the ExCom see for improved tracking of impact and feedback loops so that course correction can take place? How feasible is this given the size and complexity of the movement?

Key take-aways

- CSN is facing funding challenges and is hoping for the SUN Pooled Fund to be established and running in 2018
- CSN was encouraged to work on a funding strategy including robust impact monitoring, to provide capacity building on fund raising to CSAs, and to look for innovative funding opportunities outside nutrition

- Risk of businesses doing harm to nutrition is a major issue for CSN. CSN open to work constructively with SBN, but facing challenges in certain countries where companies do not comply with SUN Principles of Engagement and SBN guidelines, and cannot meet with them.
- SUN private sector engagement requires further discussion by Executive Committee and solid review of SBN membership requirements
- Discussion between Executive Committee and CSN was considered useful and should be repeated

Action points

Item	Timing	Responsible
- CSN encouraged to develop crisper narrative, and review existing funding strategy in view of general resource constraints	Tbd	CSN Secretariat
- CSN to send documentation on agenda items 4 and 5 (MEAL and Gender) which were not covered during the meeting due to time constraints	30 Nov	CSN Secretariat
- Issues to include on Executive Committee retreat agenda: SUN Movement long-term funding, private sector engagement	Retreat January 2018	SMS
- Meeting between CSN Secretariat and SBN Secretariat to discuss issues around private sector engagement and BMS Code	28 Nov London	CSN Sec. & SBN Sec.
- Develop proposal, in collaboration with SBN, for a reporting mechanism on company behavior	Tbd	CSN Sec. & SBN Sec.
- SMS to provide guidance to CSAs and countries on using the conflict of interest toolkit	Tbd	SMS
- SMS to share ExCom meeting notes	Asap	SMS (Marlen)

Notes

The Chair of the Executive Committee opened the meeting, welcoming this first opportunity for discussions between the SUN Civil Society Network (CSN) and the Executive Committee, and asking how the Executive Committee can be constructive for CSN.

1. Update: SUN CSN Contribution to Roadmap 2017

The Chair of the CSN Steering Group, Milo Stanojevich, provided an update on the contribution of the CSN to the SUN Roadmap, highlighting activities and progress achieved in 2017. Despite funding challenges, the network is growing. Advocacy and accountability are at the center of CSN work. Efforts have been made to strengthen tracking of contributions and to learn how to be more impactful. Collaboration with other stakeholder groups and between different Civil Society Alliances have been fostered.

2. Sustainability of the Movement / Funding Challenges

The CSN outlined the funding situation and the challenges it is currently facing. Hopes were expressed that the SUN Pooled Fund would bring some financial relief next year. Representatives of the CSN were interested to hear from the Executive Committee how sustainability and funding issues could be addressed. The CSN raised concern regarding one of the proposed eligibility criterion to access the Pooled Fund, and flagged that the CSN Secretariat cannot access funding from the Pooled Fund.

Putting the discussion in the current global context, it was highlighted that today traditional donors are less able to fund networks, due to networks' complex accountability. The importance of a crisp narrative was underlined by the Executive Committee, and CSN was encouraged to further develop evidence that demonstrates clearly the impact of its work, which might require further capacity building at country level.

Executive Committee members suggested CSN could also try to look for financial support outside nutrition-specific area and sources. It was clarified that the SUN Pooled Fund was established for Multistakeholder Platforms, having prioritized the national Civil Society Alliances (CSA) that support them, as opposed to global Secretariats like the CSN. ExCom members further suggested to CSN: i) to come up with a clear plan of actions on fund raising; ii) to strengthen capacity building on this issue with national CSAs; iii) to use score cards at country level; iv) to collaborate more with other stakeholder groups, such as the SUN Business Network (SBN), to build trust between actors.

In view of limited time, representatives of the CSN suggested to focus the discussion on private sector engagement. CSN will send documentation on the remaining agenda items 4 and 5 (MEAL and Gender).

3. Private Sector Engagement

The CSN explained how it is working constructively with the SUN Business Network (SBN) where such a platform is available at country level. Positive experiences were presented from Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan. However, CSN highlighted a case in Indonesia where a SBN member company is facing criticism over BMS Code and other violations, explaining that in such situations CSN is not comfortable with working with SBN.

It was discussed how the Movement can better support Governments in dealing with such issues, and how the Executive Committee can help foster trust amongst networks and strengthen accountability. The CSN also raised the question of how to deal with the private sector's role in addressing obesity.

Executive Committee members agreed that the SBN's membership guidelines are not very clear, and that this issue must be addressed. A brief update was provided on the decision by the SBN Advisory Group Steering Committee in September to review the SBN Terms of Reference, with a special focus on membership criteria and compliance. Companies which do not comply shall be excluded. The importance of working together on this was highlighted. Performance evaluation of companies is challenging but possible, while assessing impact is recognized to be more difficult.

Governments are responsible for setting evidence-based policies for private sector engagement. Mapping of policy gaps could be undertaken country by country. There was a suggestion for the Executive Committee to help explore new forms of collaboration with the private sector (e.g. in water and sanitation). A need was identified to further explain the BMS Code at national level. The SBN and CSN Secretariats could work together on way forward on BMS Code. Follow-up could be provided to the Conflict of Interest tool kit that was elaborated in 2015.

Private sector engagement was rather considered as a Movement issue, not only an issue for civil society. Similar considerations were made on obesity, which is a SUN-wide issue.

ExCom members suggested to put private sector engagement as a priority issue on the retreat agenda, and to continue discussions with CSN.