

THE GLOBAL STANDARD

PARTNERSHIP

The Global Standard Partnership objective is to transform the work of civil society organizations for strengthened impact and resilience by becoming more transparent, responsive, and accountable towards the people whom they work for and with. The Partnership will enable civil society organizations (CSOs) around the world to use the Global Standard for CSO Accountability by promoting its implementation, endorsement, and application. It is based upon a new paradigm that put people at the core of the work and embraces new forms of dynamic accountability and permanent dialogue with all stakeholders.

THE PURPOSE OF THE GLOBAL STANDARD PARTNERSHIP

The Global Standard Partnership recognises the many interconnected purposes that enable CSOs worldwide to thrive. Considering this broader spectrum, the Global Standard Partnership's purposes include:

- a) Enabling CSO's around the world to use the Global Standard to strengthen their accountability practices.
- b) Building and reinforcing trust in the CSO sector through enhanced accountability practices putting people at the centre of CSO's work.
- c) Confronting challenges to and enhancing civic space; and
- d) Promoting the use, endorsement and application of the Global Standard in the practice of dynamic accountability with donors, governments, and international organisations.

OUR OBJECTIVES

1. The General Objective of the Global Standard Partnership is to transform CSOs' work for strengthened impact and resilience by becoming more transparent, responsive, and accountable towards the people whom they work for and with.
2. The specific objectives for which the Global Standard Partnership is established are:
 - a. To support CSOs to strengthen their accountability practices through the application of the tools and guidelines of the Global Standard.
 - b. To develop new guidelines and tools for CSOs regarding how to apply dynamic accountability to the people they work for and with.
 - c. To foster more horizontal and dynamically accountable relationships between CSOs and with donors, governments, international organisations and the media.
 - d. To create methodologies for collecting and systematising learnings and impact that dynamic accountability brings to organisations and creates change.
 - e. To do other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of any of the objects and purposes specified above

Accountable Now | Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) | Balkan Civil Society Development Network (BCSDN) | Cooperation Committee for Cambodia (CCC) | Development Network of Indigenous Voluntary Associations (DENIVA) | InterAction | Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (PIANGO) | Population, Health and Environment (PHE) Ethiopia Consortium | Rendir Cuentas | Viwango | Voluntary Action Network India (VANI) | West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI)

GLOBAL STANDARD PARTNERSHIP MANIFESTO

OUR SHARED CONTEXT AND HISTORY

- Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) around the world continue to face challenges to operate. Shrinking civic space is tangible and visible in our day to day work. Scarcity of funding and the stringent due diligence processes through which CSOs can access these limit our organisations' opportunities and hinder their impact.
- CSOs have to work with new challenges where engaging with different stakeholders has become more difficult; governments are increasing executive powers and restricting fundamental rights, and donors are shifting their attention to funding responsive action in the light of global health catastrophes, the climate emergency and fracturing global stability.
- Civil Society has to be agile in this increasingly changing context, and prepare for the slow transition into a "new normal" while continuing their work and addressing systemic problems.
- We need to continue to counteract the attacks on civil society, and to mitigate the effects suffered.
- Since its conception, the Global Standard has ensured that accountability is not a one-size-fits-all exercise, but a practice that aims to continuously represent stakeholders' interests and shifts the power directly towards the people whose lives CSOs impact with their work.
- We see that civil society can be organised in a different way, improving the way CSOs work, strengthening and developing capacities to be accountable, shifting the power, and achieving a more horizontal landscape.
- Civil society needs tools and an enabling environment to prove their adaptive and resilient capacity, and creatively engage with and strengthen CSOs' relationship with the people that they work for and with.
- Unifying an understanding of accountability within the civil society sector that gears towards Dynamic Accountability, is key for accountability to be used as a lever of change addressing power imbalances from within. Where organisations are prepared for instead of responsive to the challenges they face.

OUR COLLECTIVE VISION AND MISSION

OUR VISION:

A global civil society sector that is more responsive, impactful, sustainable and resilient as a result of improved accountability practices and mechanisms.

OUR MISSION:

The Global Standard exists to transform CSOs' work, as **individuals and as a collective**, to strengthen impact and resilience by becoming more transparent, responsive, ethical and accountable towards the people whom we work for and with.

[See our Bylaws](#)



OUR FOUNDING VALUES

The foundations of the Global Standard Partnership were laid on fundamental ideas and values to which every Partner organisation subscribes. These values are clearly reflected and embodied in the Global Standard for CSO Accountability:

Equity and Justice – We, the GS Partners, affirmatively advance and live by the principles of equity and justice. We recognise that within society there are systemic inequalities that need to be addressed in order that every voice is heard. We embrace a Human Rights Based Approach.

Integrity – We, the GS Partners, practice and promote integrity because it fosters openness, empowers us, and makes us consistent in how we present the facts. Integrity gives us the legitimacy to promote accountability to other organisations. It creates space for our partners to ask questions in an open and cohesive environment.

Mutual respect – We, the GS Partners, are committed to welcoming every partner organisation and every individual for their diversity of views, input and experience. In solidarity, we support and protect each other and other like-minded civil society organisations. Respect within the Partnership helps us to create a culture of trust, safety, and promote the well-being of the organisation and its staff.

Accountability – We, the GS Partners, are accountable to each other, to our members, to our staff and to any other organisation or person affected by our work. We continuously implement dynamic accountability, practising reflective learning, owning our actions, closing the feedback loop and encouraging others to do the same.

Inclusiveness and Diversity – We, the GS partners, recognise that our partnership performs at its best when it purposefully includes and celebrates a diversity of attributes, abilities and lived experiences. We embrace the belief that all people have value to share and the right to belong. We respect and appreciate differences in age, gender, ethnicity, education, physical abilities, race, and religion among individuals and ensure diverse viewpoints are included when making decisions.

A STRONG FUTURE, TOGETHER

- This is a moment of opportunity. Taking advantage of the changing environment, we can identify new ways of working for civil society to build a future that tackles inequality and injustice.
- Civil Society can embrace a “better normal”, where CSOs can continue to build trust with their actions, engaging different stakeholders through different channels of communication.
- This is the time to establish more collaborative leadership. We strive to be an initiative that others seek to emulate, bringing new partnerships and alliances, new ideas and different approaches, making us vibrant and relevant to the future we want to see.
- As civil society, it is our duty to monitor the situation of fundamental rights, be ready to contest infringements on human rights and work to enable spaces for people to participate.
- We must identify and respond to levers for change that will allow us to meaningfully engage with the people that CSOs work for and with, and retain people at the core of decision-making processes.
- CSOs should continue working without taking for granted what people expect to see from them, enabling spaces for dialogue, reflective learning and mutual collaboration.