

**CSO-NGO Sector with Self-esteem: Campaign on Grand Bargain and Localization  
Chittagong Divisional Workshop  
17 October 2018, District Council Auditorium, Chittagong**

A day-long campaign and workshop titled “CSO-NGO Sector with Self-esteem: Campaign on Grand Bargain and Localization” was held in District Council Auditorium, Chittagong on 17 October 2018. Local NGOs, INGO representatives, representatives of donors organization, environmental organizations, journalists, government officials from 11 districts of Chittagong division participated in the workshop. The introductory segment was conducted by Mustafa Kamal Akanda, Assistant Director of the COAST Trust, while the workshop was conducted by Coast Trust Assistant Director Rezaul Karim Chowdhury.



Chittagong: : Campaign on Localization

NGO Bureau Director General (Additional Secretary) KM Abdus Salam was present as the chief guest at the program. ADB director AKM Jasim Uddin, Chittagong ADB president Jasmin Sultana Paru, NRDS coordinator Abdul Awal were also present in the inaugural session.

The day's session begins with national anthem. Then the Executive Director of the Coast Coast Trust Rezaul Islam

Chowdhury described the day's program. At the beginning, he described the context and background of grand bargain. He said the main goal of this grand bargain was localization. He gave basic ideas about Grand Bargain, Charter for change, Development Effectiveness, GPDC, etc. in the workshop. He told the participants to know a lot by their own initiative, if local NGO-CSO does not become the Knowledge Leader, then they will have to lag behind.

He also said on 19th August, 2017 in Dhaka, In the presence of 32 INGO and UN organizations at a meeting we gave eighteen expectations. This is not the end here. With these workshops, you have the opportunity to change and be revise these points. We hope this year in Dhaka on October 25<sup>th</sup> and next year in April after the elections with the new government we'll rally again.

Rezaul Karim Chowdhury explained the process of this three-dimensional material of state, market and civil society. He said that if these three associations work properly the society will work well. Civil Society - SGOs are working at their own as a third party outside state and market.

Chittagong ADB president Jasmin Sultana Paru said, "We have to be sincere in our work. And as we cooperate in the development activities of the government similarly, the government will also have to cooperate with us. In the development, small organizations must not stay behind. This small ADAB director AKM Jasimuddin said, there is a fund in corporate social responsibility in Bangladesh. He draw the attention of The Chief Guest of the program the director general of the NGO Bureau regarding take this initiative to implement this fund in implementing the government's policies to implement the activities of local NGOs. Whether foreign aid is aling with SDG and projects are sustainable, He also said to give importance of the matter. Referring to the problems of NGOs, she

said that despite no trade, NGOs are asked for a trade license. Again, the NGO bureau's registration was sought for the government's local government's work.

Abdul Awal of NRDS said that none of the new generation is coming to NGO activities. But NGOs can play a more important role than corporates in implementing the SDG.

NGO Bureau Director General (Additional Secretary) KM Abdus Salam said, The NGO Bureau has been established to help the organizations not to control them. He assures that he will be careful about not to harass anyone in the NGO Bureau. He also said that there is a problem with some law or regulation, they might be discussed in the government's forum for amendment of those laws. At the end of the speech, he announced the inauguration of the workshop.

At the begining, the workshop's policies and values were presented by Coast Trust Assistant Director Shawkat Ali Tutul.

## **Principles of Partnership:**

**This segment was hosted by Shawkat Ali Tutul, Assistant Director, COAST Trust.**

### **The Basis of Partnership Policy :**

1. Humanitarian actions due to ethical obligation, increase of efficiency in the workings of partner NGOs, and accountability to the harmed population.
2. Acknowledging diversity as an asset of the humanitarian community and recognizing the interdependence among humanitarian organizations.
3. Commitment to building and nurturing an effective partnership.

### **Principles of Partnership:**

#### **1. Equality:**

Equality requires mutual respect between members of the partnership irrespective of size and power. The participants must respect each other's mandates, obligations and independence and recognize each other's constraints and commitments. Mutual respect must not preclude organizations from engaging in constructive dissent.

#### **2. Transparency:**

Transparency is achieved through dialogue (on equal footing), with an emphasis on early consultations and early sharing of information. Communications and transparency, including financial transparency, increase the level of trust among organizations.

#### **3. Result-oriented approach:**

Effective humanitarian action must be reality-based and action-oriented. This requires result-oriented coordination based on effective capabilities and concrete operational capacities.

#### **4. Responsibility**

Humanitarian organizations have an ethical obligation to each other to accomplish their tasks responsibly, with integrity and in a relevant and appropriate way. They must make sure they commit to activities only when they have the means, competencies, skills, and capacity to deliver on their

commitments. Decisive and robust prevention of abuses committed by humanitarians must also be a constant effort.

## **5. Complementarity**

The diversity of the humanitarian community is an asset if we build on our comparative advantages and complement each other's contributions. Local capacity is one of the main assets to enhance and on which to build. Whenever possible, humanitarian organizations should strive to make it an integral part in emergency response. Language and cultural barriers must be overcome.

### **Grand Bargain : Hosted by Shawkat Ali Tutul, Assistant Director, COAST Trust**

In 2015 the Secretary-General of UN had been Ban Ki Mun, who appointed a high-level panel on humanitarian financing that was titled :“Too Important to Fail: Addressing the Humanitarian Financing Gap”. This panel recommended an increase in financing to prepare for disasters and to mitigate the ensuing losses. Its recommendations also included an increase in asset-based humanitarian activities to lessen humane demands worldwide, an emphasis on localization of power, and a reduction of transaction costs.

To realize these recommendations, UN, Red Cross, Red Crescent and more than 35 donor organizations and International NGOs signed a pact titled “Grand Bargain”. In the Istanbul World Humanitarian Summit this Grand Bargain was first discussed, and it was included in the WHS outcome report.

In this global pact, 52 commitments were pledged grouped into ten (10) branches. A large number of donors and aid organizations signed the pact to make the humanitarian activities more efficient.

#### **The Ten Branches :**

The signatories' committed to:

1. Greater transparency
2. More support and funding for local and national responders
3. Increase the use and coordination of instant cash-based programming
4. Reduce duplication and management costs with periodic functional reviews
5. Improve joint and impartial needs assessments
6. A revolution in participation : include the affected people in making the decisions
7. Increase the number of partners in collaborative humanitarian multi-year planning and funding
8. Reduce the earmarking of donor contributions
9. Harmonise and simplify reporting requirements
10. Enhance engagement between humanitarian and development actors

These key notes were discussed in brief subsequently.

### **Charter for Change**

This segment was hosted by Barkat Ullah Maruf, Assistant Director, COAST Trust.

BarkatUllahMaruf detailed the funding parameters and strategies in his speech. The discussion quickly moved to why the local NGOs are not treated equally as the International ones when a donor organization contemplates funding. Barkat Ullah Maruf stressed that what should dictate the amount

and the implementation of the fund is the need of a local organization, not the themes and the whims preset by the donor. In the Charter for Change, 150 Donor organizations from 43 countries pledged to fulfil 8 conditions. These conditions are :

1. Increase direct funding for humanitarian action to NGOs working in the least-developed and developing countries.
2. Reaffirm the Principles of Partnership.
3. Increase transparency around resource transfers to southern-based (i.e in Asia, Africa and South America) national and local NGOs.
4. Stop undermining local capacity.
5. Emphasize the importance of national actors.
6. Address subcontracting.
7. Robust organizational support and capacity strengthening.
8. Communication with the media and the public about partners.

## From Aid-Effectiveness to Development Effectiveness

Hosted by Barkat Ullah Maruf, Assistant Director, COAST Trust

In the discussion titled “AID effectiveness to Development Effectiveness” this much became clear that the so-called aid is more commercially motivated than a help. But, contrary to the approach of aid and for the benefit of NGOs of multiple tiers, the Istanbul Principles were formulated. With GPEDC by our side we have accumulated a reservoir of moral energy and now can demand for equity based redistribution.

### Aid Effectiveness

- Charity
- Analysis of the symptoms of poverty
- Human needs
- Trickle down
- Short-term result
- Supervised by Donors
- Equality for women
- Employment
- Apolitical aid

### Development Effectiveness

- Equity
- Analysis of the roots of poverty
- Human rights
- Equal Distribution
- Long-term result
- Supervised by all partners
- Sexual equality
- Work with respect
- Politics is power

## Group Work

The participants were split into three groups, and each group was given a particular topic to discuss and analyze, so that they may express their desires and their opinions regarding the said topic.



Chittagong: Campaign on Localization- Group Work

**Group 1 :** Make a list of our demands from Donors, the UN, International NGOs and our government with respect to the Grand Bargain and other similar global pacts. Make sure that everyone participates in the task.

**Group 2 :** Make an announcement outlining the minimum that we can do to keep our self-esteem intact and to guarantee our accountability to our beneficiaries (the people), the laws of the state, and the ones who send the donations and the management facilities (i.e. donor organizations, donor countries, UN, INGOs). Develop it further with everyone's active participation.

**Group 3 :** What can be done to unite the local NGOs and the CSOs? (CSO = Civil Society Organizations) Make a list of such tasks and develop it further with everyone's active participation.

**Group 1- Recommendation:**

1. Taking long-term project
2. Identify the problems of the respective districts
3. Skill-based evaluation
4. FD-6 approval shortage
5. Projects of National NGOs work through local NGOs
6. Local NGOs involved in all activities of local government
7. The importance of NGOs in the area where the work is done
8. Perform all the information data in Bengali

**Group 2- Recommendation:**

1. Show activities and funds
2. Budget details on the website, such as; Add Citizen Charter, Strategy and Policy. Including audit reports.
3. Initiating the activities at the local and national level, inform all the stake holders and the beneficiaries of formalities through formalization
4. Proper implementation of the program and preserving records
5. Confirmation of job results
6. To ensure transparency and accountability in donor agencies, NGOs and beneficiaries, these three levels
7. Not accepting conditions by the donor, which is not the dignity of the organization or country.

**Group 3- Recommendation:**

1. Network creation and committee formation
2. Common Information Pool formation
3. Learning and Sharing
4. Identify specific issues
5. Yearly planning
6. 5 year plan
7. Organizational Capacity Building
8. Making local Resource Chart
9. monthly meetings and establish communication
10. To implement the project jointly
11. Creating a Network with CSO
12. Work on equal issues distributed among all
13. Growth knowledge about grassroots

After the groupwise presentations, the women leaders from multiple Districts came up on the stage and expressed their opinions on the information and lessons gleaned from the workshop. The program ended with a performance of patriotic songs.



Chittagong: : Campaign on Localization

## Opinion



Md. Rafiqul Alam



Lalit C. Chakma

Executive director of Society for Advancement and Solidarity-SAS Lalit C. Chakma said that, You might not have the capability that I have as a local person. I want to ask, the feelings that local people have for me, can they evoke this love, these same feelings?



Mehbuba Yesmin



Parveen Halim

Executive director of Dwip Unnayan Sangstha Mr. Md. Rafiqul Alam said that, Bangladesh government is now more capable than before The funding sent at Upazilla level, Especially in

sanitation, in environment preservation. These issues may be small-scale but local NGOs can work in these sectors with the local government.

Parveen Halim Executive Director of Children and Women Development Association Said that, the administration often harasses us. We are development organizations. They should call us to integrate with the process and get works done by us. But they rather want to test what we actually do

Mehbuba Yesmin Senior Policy officer of Oxfam said that, the international organizations that are working here, the donor organizations, UN, IOM, if we can connect with their capacity building programs then I think the roles of INGOs will be more fruitful.



**Abdul Awal**

Chief coordinator of NRDS Mr. Abdul Awal said that, the developmental NGOs have a duty here. To win everyone onto their side, they should develop the capability of working with all the stakeholders as well.