

# Who we are and why we are

## **It is a process, not a formal network**

We are not a formal network, not a forum, but we are a process. Any one of the other networks or forums can join in our process. We are terming this as a process, as we do like to invite anyone from any network or forum. It is important for us, as we do like to see unity among the civil society with a minimum common position. We feel in Bangladesh, a minimum unity of civil society is essential, for sectoral unity as well as to campaign on democracy and human rights. We also like to say, that we have had a glorious past, we have to reclaim those, and it is possible only while we will have a civil society unity with a common minimum position. It is also essential to promote our society with the philosophy of liberation war, ie, democracy, socialism, secularism, and nationalism.

## **What's are our principles, we maintain**

Taking this in view, we maintain some principles in this regard as follows (i) we maintain positive relationships with all actors, especially with our government; (ii) we encourage all others in the civil society sector for greater unity; (iii) we discourage any blame game; (iv) we do not leave anyone behind; (v) our relation will be based on knowledge and philosophy; (vi) we maintain good relationships with media; (vii) we try to forge relationships with common minimum principles; (viii) we also do like to positive relationships with all possible political forces, but we are not a part of any political party or forces. Sometimes one can feel that we are political but we are no partisan.

## **What is our motivation and what is our focus?**

We are greatly motivated by discourse related to Aid effectiveness to Development effectiveness discourse, we have followed all the declarations including the declarations from Monterey to Nairobi, especially including Paris Declaration and Accra Action Agenda. We are encouraged by the formation and work of GPEDC (Global Partnership on Effective Development Cooperation) who is trying to forge effective cooperation between State, Market, and Civil Societies. We are also encouraged by Principles of Partnership (2007), Charter 4 Change (2015), Grand Bargain (2016), and IASC guidelines on localization (July 2021). In fact, we give importance to homegrown local CSOs, they should be sustainable and accountable. We believe in NGOs with CSO characters, ie, whether the NGOs have service delivery they must also raise their voice for democracy and human rights. We focus on local civil society mobilization, where the scope for sustainability and accountability is possible with minimum effort, we believe in decentralized mobilization, priority wise we give emphasize leadership development, the leadership has to be based on knowledge and philosophy.

## **Our issue for 2021 divisional and national conferences.**

Divisional workshops will happen during the period of September and October. There will be a discussion on relations of (i) state, market, and civil society, why we need an effective third sector, (ii) what is our motivations, and (iii) what should be the characteristics of leadership. We will give the best effort to gather all possible networks and forums in the gathering.

In national level conferences, which will be happened on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 25<sup>th</sup> October and 27<sup>th</sup> October, daily two and half an hours. We will have three sessions (i) why and how civil society organizes to build effective third sectors, (ii) a transparent and policy-based partner's selection process we are expecting from international and other agencies, (iii) culture of inclusivity and tolerance for greater unity and mobilization. For each of the sessions, we invited national-level leaders, leaders from international agencies, and grass-root leaders, who have proven track records of grass root mobilization. We believe in a role of international agencies which is monitoring and technical assistance, but in field-level appropriate civil society to lead.

We will provide as much as possible scope to the participants for speaking. We have set an appropriate methodology so that there will be spaces. We will have an arrangement of English and Bangla translations.