

## CONCEPT NOTE

### Forum on Governance, Accountability and Transparency for CSOs in Cambodia

#### “Promoting CSO Good Governance and Legal Compliance”

13 December 2018, 8:00am - 4:30pm

Diakonia Center: #19-21, Street 330,  
Boeung Keng Kang III, Chamkamorn, Phnom Penh  
(Tel: 023 426 288 / 023 218 189)

#### I. Background and Rationale

The Cooperation Committee for Cambodia (CCC) is known as the largest and longest-established membership based organization in Cambodia. Since 1990, it has played a unique role in strengthening the cooperation, professionalism, accountability, governance, and development effectiveness of the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) working across diverse sectors in Cambodia. CCC is implementing its unique Governance Hub Program phase 3 (GHP 2017-2021) through which four key program approaches including Member centered, Decentralization, Inclusive partnership and Rights based approach/Do No Harm have been adopted to catalyze the realization of its strategic elements.

Since 2004, CCC hosts the NGO Governance & Professional Practices (NGO GPP) program (component), which is originally known as the NGO Good Practice Project, aiming at promoting good governance, accountability, transparency, professionalism, and good practices within NGOs operating in Cambodia. The NGO GPP is operated as the Voluntary Certification System (VCS)/GPP Certification System based on a set of GPP Standards (NGO Code in Cambodia). The Standards are in line with and responsive to the principles number 5, 6, and 7 of the Istanbul Principles on CSO Development Effectiveness which was globally endorsed in 2010 and Global Standard for CSO Accountability which was a joint initiative from nine managing code organizations in the world. As of June 2018, 91 certificates (65 Certified NGOs) have been awarded to the international and local NGOs that have successfully complied with the GPP Standards. The GPP Certified NGOs (CNGOs) play a vital role model to contribute to promoting good governance, accountability, transparency, and professional practices in compliance with the GPP Standard and VCS's requirement to NGO community. In return, the certification and practices beneficial to the target community, donors, the government, and beneficiaries. Moreover, the certification process helps build professionalism and adaptation of the organization against the changing environments that are impacting organizations positively and negatively.

This year, GPP will conduct the Forum on Governance, Accountability and Transparency for CSOs in Cambodia under the theme of “Promoting CSOs Good Governance and Legal Compliance”. Remarkably, the GPP Certificate Awarding Ceremony will also be attached to this forum which aims to award the GPP certificates to the six newly certified NGOs. With regards to the legal compliance issues and their levels of importance, the forum will address only three laws which including the Labour Law, the Law on Associations and Non-Governmental Organizations (LANGO) and the Law on Accounting and Auditing.

## **A. Brief Overview of the Key Topics of the Forum:**

### **1. GPP Awarding Ceremony:**

To honor, appreciate, and encourage NGO practicing good governance, professionalism, accountability and transparency, the Awarding Ceremony is celebrated to award the GPP Certificate to six NGOs which are certified by GPP in 2018. Within this special event, the certificates will be honorably awarded by H.E. Ngy Chanphal from the Ministry of Interior and by the representative of the independent NGO Code Compliance Committee (NCCC).

### **2. Global Standard for CSO Accountability**

The Cooperation Committee for Cambodia (CCC) and nine other organization from various parts of the world and who hold experiences in managing NGO codes of practices, join together to develop the Global Standard for CSO Accountability (GS). The Global Standard is building on the Istanbul Principles and the rich experience of the sector, accountability initiatives from Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, Latin America and the Caribbean worked together for two years to develop the Global Standard which captures a globally shared dynamic understanding of CSO accountability. The Global Standard includes 12 Commitments and associated Key Actions which CSOs promise to deliver and against which they can be held to account. The Commitments are organized into three clusters: what CSOs aim to achieve, their approach to change and their internal practices. We are going to present the GS (12 commitments, key action points, and possible progress indicators towards fulfillment of the commitment) to participants and provide them a chance to discuss and reflect the GS into their internal policies and system.

### **3. Call for Concept Note for EU and Bfdw Sub-grant**

Second round announcement of the call for concept note for sub-grant, funded by EU & Bred for the World's (BftW), and managed by Civil Society Fund (CSF) under strategic support from CCC. This sub-grant aims to assist local NGO partners of CCC, EU, BftW and LNGOs/Networks of 10 targeted provinces and city ( Phom Penh, Ratanakiri, Kratie, Kompot, Sihanouk Ville, Svay Rieng, Siem Reap, Kompong Chhnang, Pursat, Battambang, and Takeo) to develop and execute solution that could enable them to financially stand on their own through the use of inclusive partnership mechanism from cross sectors in wide variety of activities.

### **4. Civil Society Organization Compliance with Labor Law**

The Labor Law was promulgated by the King of the Kingdom of Cambodia on 13 March 1997. Regarding to the chapter 1, article 1 of this law, it is applied to every enterprise or establishment of industry, mining, commerce, crafts, agriculture, services, land or water transportation, whether public, semi-public or private, non-religious or religious; whether they are of professional education or charitable characteristic as well as the liberal profession of associations or groups of any nature whatsoever. Since the endorsement of this law, it was amended many times and the last amendment was made on 21 September 2018. In spite of the fact that this law was endorsed ages, most of CSOs have not gotten awareness yet. Lacking of understanding the law, the CSOs

find it difficult to comply with the law. The presenter from CCC is going to highlight only article relating to the operation of CSOs and explain the checklist to comply with this law to participants.

## 5. Civil Society Organizations Compliance with the Law on Accounting and Auditing, Law on Associations and NGOs (LANGOs)

The legal framework and the recent trend of enforcement related to CSOs in Cambodia has posed some significant concerns for them. While the overall awareness of CSOs related to their related legal framework remain limited, their compliance capacity and their advocacy positions towards those laws are not consistent. Recently, the enforcement of LANGO and the Law on Accounting and Auditing have caused significant implications on the operations and enabling environment of CSOs in the country.

Session on these two particular laws will also be covered within this forum. It will not only lead to promote the awareness, the legal compliance capacity of CSOs but also facilitate for common actions among them to address relevant challenges implicated by these laws.

### B. Objective

1. To award NGO GPP Certificates to the newly certified NGOs in 2018
2. To promote the CSO governance, accountability, transparency, and professionalism
3. To promote the awareness and legal compliance capacity (e.g. Cambodian Labor Law, Law on Associations and NGOs, Law on Accounting & Auditing) for civil society in Cambodia

## II. Target Participants

This forum offers to a maximum of 100 – 120 participants from GPP certified and GPP applicant NGOs, NGOs who wish to engage in the GPP Certification System, CCC members, Provincial-NGO networks, youths, and funding partners.

## III. Venue and Agenda

The Forum on Governance, Accountability, and Transparency for CSOs in Cambodia will be conducted on 13 December 2018 at Diakonia Center: #19-21, Street 330, Boeung Keng Kang III, Chamkamorn, Phnom Penh. The proposed agenda for the events is given in the table below:

| Time            | Topic  | Resource Persons                                 |
|-----------------|--|--|
| 07:30am-08:15am | Registration and networking among participants | <b>Mr. Kem Sereyneath</b><br>GPP Assistant       |
| 08:15am-08:25am | National Anthem                                | <b>All</b>                                       |
|                 | Introduction about the event objective         | <b>Mr. Chea Vibol</b><br><b>Ms. Tou Chandara</b> |

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|                              |   | Governance & Professional Practices (GPP)  |
|                              | Blessing dance  | Performed by youth group from BSDA   |
| <b>GPP Awarding Ceremony</b> |   |  |
| 08:25am-10:00am              | <u>Session 1: Speeches and Awarding Ceremony</u>  |  |
|                              | ❖ Welcome and update the progress of NGO GPP  | <b>Mr. Soeung Saroeun</b> , Executive Director of CCC  |
|                              | ❖ Opening speech  | <b>H.E. Ngy Chanphal</b> , Secretary of State, Ministry of Interior  |
|                              | ❖ Introductory video to the awarded NGOs certified by GPP in 2018   | <b>Moderated by Mr. Chhouk Phalputhiridh</b> , Communication Specialist  |
|                              | ❖ Chhayam Performance   | Chhayam Team of BSDA   |
|                              | <u>Awarding the NGO GPP certificates to newly certified NGOs in 2018</u>  |  |
|                              | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Transcultural Psychology Organization (TPO)-3<sup>rd</sup> times of certification</li> <li>2. Voluntary Service Oversea (VSO)-2<sup>nd</sup> time certification</li> <li>3. This Life Cambodia (TLC)-2<sup>nd</sup> times of certification.</li> <li>4. PEPY-1<sup>st</sup> time of certification</li> <li>5. Bandos Kumar (BK)-1<sup>st</sup></li> <br/> <li>6. Cooperation Committee for Cambodia (CCC)-4<sup>th</sup> time of certification</li> </ol> | <p><b>Honorably Awarded by H.E. Ngy Chanphal</b>, Secretary of State, Ministry of Interior</p><br><p><b>Honorably Awarded by Mr. Keng Bunchhoeuth</b>, NCCC member</p> |
|                              | ❖ Impression from the Awarded Certified NGOs  | <b>Moderated by Ms. Sin Putheary</b> , Head of Communications and Member Development of  |

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|   |  | CCC.   |
|   | ❖ Flowers and books for honored speakers and group photos  | <b>Moderated by Ms. Sin Putheary</b><br>Honored by: Mr. Soeung Saroeun, Executive Director of CCC.   |
| 10:00am-10:20am   | Exhibition and Coffee Break  | All  |
| <b>Promoting CSOs governance, accountability and transparency and professionalism</b> |  |  |
| 10:20am-11:30am   | <u>Session 2: Global Standard for CSO Accountability</u><br>❖ Rationale on the Global Standard<br>❖ The linkage between Global Standard and GPP Standards<br>❖ Main purposes of the Global Standard<br>❖ 12 Commitments and key actions.                     | <b>Mr. Chea Vibol</b> , GPPS   |
| 11:30am-12:00pm   | <u>Session 3: How CSOs comply with newly enacted laws:</u><br>❖ Overview key points in the law on Auditing and Accounting, Labor, and LANGOs<br>❖ The checklist study on Auditing and Accounting Law, Labor Law, and LANGOs                                  | <b>Mr. Kao Dyna</b><br>Program Manager of Legal Aid of Cambodia<br><br><b>Mr. Yoeurng Sotheara</b><br>Coalition Building, Advocacy and Networking Manager of CCC |
| 12:00pm-01:30pm   | Lunch Break  | Buffet lunch is served   |
| <b>Awareness and Legal Compliance Capacity</b>  |  |  |
| 1:30pm-3:30pm   | <u>Continue session above</u><br><u>Session 3: How CSOs comply with newly enacted laws:</u><br>❖ Overview key points in the law on Auditing and Accounting, Labor, and LANGOs<br>❖ The checklist study on Auditing and Accounting Law, Labor Law, and LANGOs | <b>Mr. Kao Dyna</b><br>Program Manager of Legal Aid of Cambodia<br><br><b>Mr. Yoeurng Sotheara</b><br>Coalition Building, Advocacy and Networking Manager of CCC |
| 3:30pm-3:45pm   | <u>Break</u>   | <b>All participants</b>  |
| 3:45pm-4:15pm   | <u>Session 4: Call for Concept Note for EU</u>   | <b>Mr. Nong Neatnorak</b>  |

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|                | <u>and Bfdw Sub-grant</u><br>❖ <u>Second round announcement</u> | Resource Mobilization<br>Manager of CCC                    |
| 4:15pm-4:20pm  | Evaluation the Forum  | <b>Mr. Kem Sereyneath,</b><br>GPP Assistant                |
| 4:20pm-04:30pm | Conclusion and closing remark                                   | <b>Mr. Soeung Saroeun,</b><br>Executive Director of<br>CCC |

☞ CCC Reserves the rights to alter the agenda based on the availability of the speakers and time constraint.