



forus CONNECT
SUPPORT
INFLUENCE



FORUS 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

REACHING FORUS'
STRATEGIC POTENTIAL



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1 Forus: a year supporting social change and democracy - Towards 2030

By IARA PIETRICOVSKY, FORUS CHAIR



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A GLOBAL NETWORK EMPOWERING CIVIL SOCIETY FOR EFFECTIVE SOCIAL CHANGE.

We live in a world undergoing rapid transformation, but we are divided by a tension between the multilateral globalization that followed World War II and a growing conservative and populist nationalism.

The first process is unfortunately incomplete and has not strengthened democracy or put in place a framework of full human rights in the real world of human relations. The second process is going down the single path of violence, discrimination and authoritarianism, destroying the few advances we have made.

On the one hand, there is a vision that seeks permanent dialogue, diplomacy, to face up to global crises such as: the climate crisis, mass migration flows, transition to a sustainable development model, and discrimination based on gender, race, religion and ethnicity, among others.

On the other hand, there is a reactionary push expressed through intensified militarization, negation of science, and the growth in religious fundamentalism and prejudice that culminates in war and violence.

In this play of tensions, the Forus network is with those who are

fighting for radical democratic change, diversity, freedom of expression and the effective implementation of a human rights perspective. This is why it supports the agendas created in these multilateral spaces, such as Agenda 2030 and climate change.

Forus, as a civil society organization, places itself at the service of those who are creating new paradigms for sustainable, democratic, fair and diverse societies.

Thus throughout 2018 we worked on finalizing our strategies for empowering members through education and exchanging experiences. Supporting regional platforms and coalitions. Fostering recognition at international level of the public, national, regional and international institutions within our Global Initiative, and engaging in intensive advocacy. And, finally, making communication within and outside the network more transparent and effective.



2 Forus' Mission and Highlights from 2018

By *MAGDA ELENA TOMA, FORUS DIRECTOR*



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Strengthening the capacity of civil society organisations and alliances is not only a priority that we, Forus, as a global network carry out; it is a prerequisite promoted by Forus for effective democratic engagement of civil society at national, regional and global levels.

Forus supports civil society's informed participation in political processes. We encourage and propose specific tools for civil society to build strategic knowledge amongst key players, institutional processes, and decision makers. **We support NGOs to address power imbalance and genuinely trigger social change for more democratic, just and sustainable societies.**

Fostering an enabling and inclusive environment for civil society is another priority of our strategy. This includes facilitating access to resources for civil society while helping NGOs to set up networks and collaborative tools, campaigns and platforms.

In this context, Forus' commitment to strengthening capacity and to empowering civil society is deeply political.

2018 was a very important year for Forus, its executive team, its governance and its membership, marked by various accomplishments and changes. You can see on our website and YouTube channel the new

[Forus Institutional video](#) presenting our network and its ambitions. The most visible change was the change of brand. In September 2018, the network officially became Forus. The decision to undergo the re-branding was taken based on a communication assessment which showed the need to find a more visible and understandable name and brand, which can be pronounced and is adapted to the different languages of the network.

In 2018, important new activities were implemented, especially the partnerships with national members. **20 national projects have been launched**, following internal assessment processes led by the members themselves. Activities implemented by national NGO platforms with support from Forus include: strengthening communications, membership involvement in the national platform, amplifying CSO's roles and effectiveness in the implementation of SDGs through awareness, etc. These new initiatives had a very positive impact on our



members' capacity, as well as their involvement and ownership and thus strengthening the network. The partnerships with regional coalitions continued and resulted in various joint activities on capacity development and advocacy.

2018 was also the year when Forus organised, alongside its General Assembly, a series of events, for members' capacity development and advocacy, during what we called the **2018 Forus Strategic Week**. This high-level initiative represented a big effort for the leadership and executive team, but the outcome was very rewarding. Organized 10 years after the creation of Forus, the Strategic Week represented a milestone for a general review of the collective achievements, and, more importantly, for strategic discussions to define our orientation and focus for the 2020-2025 period. The feedback received from the participants was extremely positive, reflecting the richness of the discussions, the relevance of the topics addressed but also the need for more direct interaction and solidarity

between Forus' peers. The positive results would not have been possible without the dynamic, diverse and constructive participation from all.

In 2018, Forus welcomed **8 new national platforms and 1 regional coalition, as members. We also ceased collaboration with 4 platforms**, according to Forus' internal procedures.

Forus' governance was also renewed. The Council was renewed by one third in 2018 and a new Executive Committee was elected, composed of very committed and knowledgeable leaders. Fundraising efforts are ongoing. Thanks to an agreement reached in 2018, a new series of activities will be implemented with the Fondation de France's support. Moreover, all of the activities launched in 2016 and 2017 continued: strengthening the network, the governance and communications with members; facilitating peer learning and exchanges among members and contributing to their capacity development; deepening of advocacy work at national, regional and global

levels on the 2030 Agenda. Additionally, prospective work was launched in 2018, regarding a narrative on civil society's roles in the 21st century, and strategic thinking regarding Forus' next strategy. This new framework is currently called the Global Initiative on "**Building essential infrastructure for the NGO sector & encouraging the emergence of supportive ecosystems**".

2018 ended on a very positive note. The conclusions of Results Oriented Monitoring exercise mandated by the European Commission (DG DEVCO) in autumn emphasised Forus and the overall relevance and effectiveness of its strategy. Members' ownership and involvement in the global network was also highlighted.

The evaluation activities continue in 2019 with a mid-term review of Forus' 2016-2020 strategy. The key findings and recommendations will form the basis of the design process of Forus' 2021-2025 Strategy, expected in 2019 and 2020.



3 Overview of

Forus' 2018 activities:

Promoting transformative political, economic & social changes to achieve democratic, fair and sustainable societies for all

3.1. CONNECT

In the framework of its current 2016-2020 strategy, Forus is engaging with several target groups:

- 150 international leaders directly involved in Forus;
- 600 Board members of Forus National NGO Platforms;
- 22,000 individual NGOs;
- National, regional and world-wide decision makers from governments and international institutions;
- Institutional donors supporting Civil Society capacity development & learning.

3.1.1. CONNECT: Enhancing synergies & fostering collaboration amongst Forus' members, peer organisations and institutional stakeholders

Forus recognises the importance of strengthening national and regional actors while fostering a multi-level flow of information and knowledge from the national through the regional and on to the global level, and vice versa.

Forus is active on these different fronts as it boosts the capacity of development NGOs to interact with national governments and authorities while simultaneously providing knowledge, intelligence, support and solidarity across countries and regions. Forus connects its members through the different working groups, peer-to-peer learning, dedicated toolkits

and exchange workshops and forums, regional events and gatherings, its General Assembly and a variety of members' meetings on the sidelines of international events.

Besides the examples mentioned above, Forus also fosters peer exchange through the Leadership Development Programme, an open space for civil society leaders to exchange information about their challenges and produce collective knowledge on NGO networks. Furthermore, the Programme encourages leaders of NGO platforms to reflect on their contribution to social change and strengthen the links amongst Forus members.

3.1.2. CONNECT: a cross-cultural and inclusive governance strategy representing Forus' diverse members and actions for social change

Forus 2018 General Assembly & strategic week: a milestone for the network

Forus organised its 3rd General Assembly and other connected events in 2018, under the name "Forus Strategic Week".

On September 4th-8th 2018, Forus organised a Strategic Week in Santiago, Chile, bringing together 55 National NGO Platforms and Regional Coalitions, coming from all regions of the world.

Organized 10 years after the creation of Forus, this Strategic Week represented a milestone for a general review of the collective achievements and for strategic discussions to define our orientation and focus for the 2021-2025 period.

The Strategic Week enabled Forus to strengthen solidarity across civil society globally, reflecting together on a new narrative on civil society's role, and on Forus' strategic mission. The Strategic Week was also the opportunity to review Forus' collective achievements, and for strategic discussions to inform our orientation and focus on the 2020-2025 period. Reflecting Forus' mission, the overarching theme of the Strategic Week was "**Connect, Support, Influence**":

- **CONNECT** - Enhance synergies & foster collaboration among Forus constituency and with partners ;
- **SUPPORT** - Share expertise & enable peer-to-peer cooperation from within the network ;
- **INFLUENCE** - Promote transformative political, economic and social change in our societies from national to international levels.

The events of the Week included the third Forus General Assembly, a high-level policy debate co-organized with the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) on



Executive Committee (September 2018 - Santiago, Chile)

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Agenda 2030 Implementation, capacity development and peer exchange workshops for members, and meetings with Chilean civil society activists.

Other key events were organised: The Leadership Development Programme workshop and the General Assembly of Mesa de Articulación de Asociaciones Nacionales y Redes de ONGs de América Latina y el Caribe), Forus' regional member in Latin America and the Caribbean. Participants shared success stories as well as challenges on shared priorities such as the defence of an enabling environment and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The broad participation of Forus members reflected the dynamism of the attendees and the richness of the interactions but also the informal moments, essential for building interpersonal relationships and trust.

Several Forus institutional partners joined us for key political debates including the French Development Agency (AFD), the French Foreign Affairs Ministry, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the European Union Delegation in Chile, the Canadian International Development Research

Centre (IDRC), the Worldwide Initiatives for Grantmaker Support (WINGS), the Deputy Regional representative for the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights, the former Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO), the President of the Senate of Chile as well as representatives of Chilean civil society organizations.

A renewed Council to address new challenges

In 2018, the members of the Council of Forus were renewed by one third via online elections on a regional basis, as per the Statutes. The composition of the new Council, reflecting the diversity of Forus membership, has been formally welcomed and approved by the Assembly.

Election of a new Executive Committee

Under the leadership of a new Chair, a new Executive Committee, composed of the following members, was elected in 2018 by the Forus International Council:

- Chair: Iara Pietricovsky ([ABONG](#), Brazil)
- Vice-Chairs: Saroeun Soeung ([CCC](#), Cambodia), Riili Lappalainen ([FINGO](#), Finland) and Sam Worthington ([InterAction](#), USA)

- Treasurer: Jean-Marc Boivin ([Coordination Sud](#), France)

With a 2-year mandate, the new Executive Committee is committed to work with the Council, the Secretariat and the members on the implementation of Forus' current strategy and the design of the priorities and key pillars of a new 2021-2025 strategic plan.

Active & vibrant membership all over the world

Since September 2018, Forus has **69 national members and 7 regional members**.

In 2018, 80% of the members (60 out of 75) were active in the network activities, either by implementing regional activities participating:

- in the Council, the Fundraising Committee or/and in the Leadership Development Programme,
 - in the Working Group on the 2030 Agenda or/and in advocacy activities,
 - participating in the General Assembly and the Strategic Week held in Santiago in September 2018,
 - implementing a national project (19 in total in 2018),
 - publishing an article on the Forus website,
 - joining a workshop organized by Forus or the regional coalitions,
 - organizing webinars with Forus or representing Forus in different events.
- 85% of Forus' members paid their annual fees based on a new system established late 2017.

In the framework of Forus' 2016-2020 strategy, the seven Regional Coalitions play a major role in the coordination between the international and national levels.

Activities are carried out in partnership with each and every regional coalition, and five of them (ADA, MESA, REPAOC, REPOGAC, PIANGO) received direct financial support for capacity development and advocacy activities in 2018. Within each regional coalition, activities are undertaken to strengthen the links among national members.



Enlargement of Forus's geographical outreach at national and regional level

Forus Council approves all new members, and in 2018, nine new members were accepted (one regional coalition and eight national platforms). Among the national platforms, two are from Africa, two from Latin America, three from Europe and one from Asia.

Regional Coalition

1) In Southern Africa: Southern Africa Development Community Council of Non-Governmental Organizations (SADC-CNGO).

National Platforms

1) Botswana Council of Non-Governmental Organisations (BOCONGO-Botswana). They also host SADC-CNGO's Secretariat.

2) Convention de la Société Civile Ivoirienne (CSCI-Ivory Coast), also a member of REPAOC (Réseau des Plateformes nationales d'ONG d'Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre).

3) Alianza de Organizaciones No Gubernamentales (Alianza ONG - Dominican Republic), also a member of MESA (Coordination Table of National Association and NGO Networks from Latin America and the Caribbean).

4) Asociación de Organizaciones No Gubernamentales del Paraguay (POJOAJU-Paraguay), also a member of MESA.

5) Taiwan Alliance in International Development (Taiwan Aid-Taiwan), also a member of ADA (Asia Development Alliance).

6) Global Focus (Denmark), also a member of CONCORD (European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development).

7) The Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations (Dóchas-Ireland), also a member of CONCORD.

8) National Non-Governmental Development Cooperation Organisations' Platform (Lithuanian NGDO Platform - Lithuania), also a member of CONCORD.

Adopted in 2016, **the Mediation Mechanism**, led by the Council ensures that all members comply with all the membership conditions. The mediation mechanism served as a tool to analyze inactive members in 2018. Following this process, 3 members from Gabon, Bangladesh and Mexico were excluded from Forus.

A fourth platform, PARTOS from the Netherlands, decided to step down for the moment from Forus.

Forus' membership strategy aims to support national and regional platforms to participate in self-evaluations and needs assessment processes, and to ensure their satisfaction with the technical

support provided by Forus and by the regional coalitions. In this context, **the Membership Survey**, finalized in 2018, is a broad questionnaire that gathers information on our members' priorities & activities, governance, services to local NGO members, national context, and partnerships. It provides Forus with accurate and up-to-date information on our members as well as baseline data for monitoring and accountability. The 2018 Membership Survey had a response rate of 68% (46 National Platforms). A needs assessment was also conducted with the Regional Coalitions, which are closely supported by Forus, namely through regular bilateral talks with the Secretariat.

3.1.3. CONNECT: A brand new identity and communication strategy for a greater and more effective impact

In 2018, the Forus name and brand were officially approved by the membership and the change became effective during the Strategic Week in September.

Alongside the change of brand, Forus' communications strategy evolved to embody its members' priorities and needs.

A [new website](#) was launched, showcasing Forus' new visual identity. Most content, including videos, is available in four languages.

From 2017 to 2018, the number of visitors increased by 18%, from almost 23,000 visitors to almost 27,000 visitors.

Since the brand identity change, articles about Forus members have been published every week on the website in 4 languages. In addition, since 2018, a new section has been dedicated on the website to displaying the capacity development best practices / initiatives through articles.

In 2018, 3 newsletters in 4 languages were released (in February, August & December). Forus's newsletter was



Forus General Assembly & Strategic week (September 2018 - Santiago, Chile)

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Leadership Development Program, Cycle 2 (September 2018 - Santiago, Chile)

adapted to respond to members' needs and provide the tools required by our members. A section called 'SUPPORT' has been created to showcase best practices and innovative initiatives in the field of capacity development.

With the new branding, Forus also developed a dedicated [YouTube channel](#) and a [LinkedIn profile](#) to interact with members, partners and other stakeholders. A social media editorial strategy will be developed early 2019, linked to the communication editorial strategy developed in December 2018.

Here are the key achievements in communications in 2018:

- 3 newsletters released;
- 48 articles published on the website (in 4 languages);
- 180 posts on social media (80 on Facebook, 100 on Twitter).

Forus new communications strategy consists of regularly promoting the network's key messages and priorities, while promoting the importance of working with national and regional coalitions as well as other CSO networks, including sharing information, publications and opportunities from its partners. We encourage members to interact directly and engage in partnerships and alliances. We collaborate with organisations including Civicus, GCAP, CAN International (Climate Action Network International), A4SD (Action

For Sustainable Development), CDRA & Barefoot guide connection, Asia Development Network, SDG Watch, UN NGO Major groups system, Together 2030, etc.

3.2. SUPPORT

3.2.1. SUPPORT: Prioritizing the development of capacity as a prerequisite to legitimate NGOs' voices in their national, regional environments and in international spheres

Capacity Development through partnerships with, and institutional support to, National Members:

CSO networks play a key role in promoting citizens' voices. This is why Forus also supports countries where national platforms are non-existent or emerging. These are called "Solidarity Grants", with the purpose of supporting the structuring of civil society. **For the first time in 2018, Forus' Solidarity Grant** was employed in collaboration with our Asian regional associate member, the Asia Development Alliance (ADA), to support the organisation of civil society in **Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Mongolia**. The local partners identified were:

- **Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan:** Civil Society Development Association

(ARGO), based in Almaty (Kazakhstan). ARGO is a nationwide association, uniting civil society organizations (CSOs) that provide services to public organizations and communities in Kazakhstan.

- **Mongolia:** Centre for Human Rights and Development (CHRD), which is a non-governmental organization that operates as a not-for-profit, public-benefit organization for the purpose of promoting and protecting human rights and social justice in Mongolia.

These three countries were selected according to two criteria: (1) absence of national platforms capable of coordinating CSOs at national level and (2) countries presenting voluntary national reports (VNR) in 2019. ADA organized two national level workshops to identify, promote, reinforce, and continue structuring civil society in central Asia. Following the workshops, ADA began a follow-up period of at least a year, according to interest expressed by the participant CSOs. Following the workshops and based on interest shown by participants, a working group is to be created in each country in order to write parallel CSO reports on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. These exchanges seek to engage the largest possible number of local CSOs and can be the basis for the future structuring of a national platform in each country.



Forus General Assembly & Strategic week (September 2018 - Santiago, Chile)

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Forus members are committed to ensuring that their capacity development is legitimate and invest in influential actors representing NGOs' voices in their national and regional environments. This is why, Forus provides support to capacity development projects, elaborated and implemented by its national members. These respond to their assessment of their own context, needs and members' needs, therefore with a great diversity of thematics. The different findings during these projects are shared with other Forus members, contributing to the collective knowledge of the network through critical analysis, recommendations, tools, etc. The long-term goal is to identify, share and capitalise on knowledge at all levels (regional, between platforms and with our members' own members).

Each project is proposed by members and selected by a Peer Support Committee who:

- (1)** decides whether to provide support in the corresponding cycle;
- (2)** sends personalized feedback and recommendations for improvement;
- (3)** proposes, when needed, a 1.5-day technical support session given by an

external consultant. In some cases, the consultant might assist the platform in replanning the implementation of the project, which is needed by a few platforms to adapt their activities or their administrative procedures so as to comply with donors' requirements.

Out of the four priority areas for capacity development, the distribution of projects is:

- 63% in Advocacy and Partnerships ;
- 36% in Communications and strengthening national platforms' member engagements;
- 16% in Leadership and Governance of National Platforms;
- 10% in Resource mobilization, financial management and accountability.

(Please note some projects have selected more than one priority area).

The geographic distribution of projects for cycles 1 & 2 is:

- 31% in Latin America
- 29% in Africa
- 24% in Europe
- 16% in Asia

In 2018, Forus increased its capacity development and learning activities, both at regional and national levels.

During 2018, capacity development projects were implemented by 20 National NGO platforms. The aim is to contribute to the collective knowledge of the network, to support National NGO platforms to be stronger and more effective and to strengthen their capacities to engage with Forus, thus strengthening the network as a whole.

An example of a joint project implemented on the African continent is ZCSD (Zambia) which improved its capacities by organising training on website & social media management. Members and staff also took part in activities to develop indicators for the Zambian National Poverty Reduction Framework. In Senegal, the national platform CONGAD (Conseil des ONG d'Appui au Développement) actively participated in the technical committee responsible for the preparation and monitoring of the Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) established by the Government of Senegal and aided by a CSO report, with the support of Forus.

In Europe and Asia, LAPAS (Latvia) and INFID (Indonesia) implemented advocacy projects at national level to advance the 2030 Agenda nationally and

internationally. Coordinadora (Spain) conducted an internal reflection on innovation to support open processes of participation. Forus also supported a consortium project between Plataforma ONGD (Portugal) and FONG-STP (Sao Tome & Principe) to jointly develop a "Development Academy" and "Training course on Leadership, Governance and Advocacy", in addition to experience sharing and mutual learning which strengthened the links between the two lusophone platforms.

In Latin America, ANONG (Uruguay) is implementing activities aiming to strengthen organized civil society, while CCONG (Colombia) is analysing the role of international cooperation in Colombia and ABONG (Brazil) is creating a communication network to increase the impact and strength of CSOs' political actions.

For the full list of national projects, see Annex 5.2.

3.2.2. SUPPORT: Addressing the evolving roles of National NGO platforms through the Leadership Development Programme and peer exchanges on social change

The Leadership Development Programme facilitates peer learning and innovation in leadership techniques and skills, identifying new approaches to improve the work of NGOs. Furthermore, the Programme encourages leaders of NGO platforms to reflect on their contribution to social change, and to bring the debate into their national contexts.

Currently, Forus is in partnership with the [Community Development Resource Association \(CDRA\)](#) to facilitate the Forus' Leadership Development Programme.

The first cycle of the Leadership Development Programme (LDP) took place from June 2017 to April 2018 and

gathered 12 participants for online and face-to-face peer learning, on leadership skills, helping to identify innovative approaches to improve the work of NGOs. The face-to-face workshop of this first cycle took place on November 18-21, 2017 in Dhulikhel (Nepal). Participants were selected through a peer-to-peer selection mechanism. During the programme, participants questioned the process of learning and ways of working in their platforms, bringing home lessons about participation and leadership, including asking questions about the platform's social change goals. For more junior participants, this was the occasion to broaden their view of the role of a national platform and opportunities for action. Their feedback was featured on [our website](#), [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#). A video from the first cycle with a testimonial is also available in four languages: [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#) and [Portuguese](#).



Peer exchanges and learning workshop with Forus members (September 2018 - Santiago, Chile)

The second cycle of the Leadership Development programme was organised from May 2018 to February 2019, with a face-to-face workshop being organized back-to-back with Forus' GA in September 2018. A video in 4 languages with testimonials from the participants is available on Forus' [YouTube](#) account and includes extremely positive feedback, such as the examples below:

- *“I am taking home with me amazing experiences from leaders doing similar things like I do in my platform from all around the world. At first, I thought that there were going to be many differences between us, because of our different countries, different contexts, different continents, but once you go through this meaningful and open process you realize that you have so much in common, that you take out a lot of food for thought when you go back home - Adela Rusu.”* (FOND, Romania)
- *“When I go back I'll bring back everything (from the LDP). I don't have to be reinventing the wheel again but maybe from the good positive side we can continue in a more proactive and also more holistic*

way so that the stakeholders are all involved.” - Tereao Teilingia, (Kango, Kiribati)

3.2.3. SUPPORT: Forus initiatives to strengthen CSOs and decentralised capacity development activities

Forus has also developed **3 tools that come into an Advocacy toolkit** for members linked to the 2030 Agenda monitoring and implementation. The purpose of these toolkits is to increase the capacities of Forus members to effectively advocate in relation to the implementation of Agenda 2030 at national, regional and global levels. The 3 tools focus on 3 different thematic areas:

- (i) Briefing Document: “All You Need to Know About VNRs”;**
- (ii) Checklist for CSOs engaged in SDG implementation at a national level;**
- (iii) Guidelines for CSOs for the production of Shadow Reports.**

These tools have been produced in 3 languages. They can be downloaded in the following section of the new website:

<http://forus-international.org/en/resources/toolkits>

Forus was also involved in a joint research project on identifying best practices from the VNRs submitted to the HLPF in 2017 and 2018. In

partnership with Forus, the research was led by CCIC (the Canadian Council for International Cooperation), Action for Sustainable Development, Bond (the UK International Development Network), the Catholic international development charity (CAFOD) and Together 2030. The report, called **“Progressing SDG implementation”**, identifies emerging standard practice and best practice across different countries. It is an advocacy tool, but also a resource and a toolkit which provides recommendations, from a civil society perspective, for improving the VNR process and reports, and for better accountability around the implementation of the SDGs (2018 reports here : <http://www.forus-international.org/en/news/global-launch-progressing-national-sdg-implementation>).

Two important workshops were organized in 2018 during the Strategic Week in September. To select the topics, an online consultation was held with members to choose the two topics from among a list of eight possibilities.



Leadership Development Program, Cycle 2 (September 2018 - Santiago, Chile)

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The first workshop was on “Addressing challenges of NGO platform Leadership” and was facilitated by BOND (UK). During this workshop the national platforms were invited to share experiences and learn with each other and build solidarity as they acknowledged common problems. Four case studies were presented. The national platform CEPS (Seychelles) spoke about collaboration and “inclusiveness” with other stakeholders, explaining the work done with the government in Seychelles. HAND (Hungary) showcased HAND’s recent researches on financial resources and platform business model. CCONG (Colombia) presented the solutions found in the Colombian context when it comes to shrinking space. Global Focus (Denmark) presented leadership trends and transformative learning initiatives from Denmark.

The second workshop entitled “Capacity development strategies adopted in different national or regional contexts” was facilitated by FCOSS (Fiji). The purpose of this workshop was to exchange capacity development strategies, findings and experiences among platforms from all over the world in order to learn and improve the respective capacity development strategies. There were four case studies as well: ADA (Asia) presented the Glocal Advocacy Leadership in Asia Academy (GALAA), a leadership programme ongoing for a few years that links Agenda 2030 with the human rights framework. TANGO (Gambia) presented their training on human rights-based approaches incorporating different stakeholders (police, local councillors and journalists). Coordinadora de ONG (Spain) discussed the Quorum Global initiative, that promotes dialogue and learning between other different stakeholders such as organisations, universities and National NGO platforms. CODE-NGO (Philippines) presented their organizational capacity assessment tool and training programmes on organizational development.

According to the responses to the latest Membership Survey, 60% of the members consider that Forus is either excellent or good in facilitating peer learning and intelligence sharing among member organizations.

3.2.4. SUPPORT: Strategic synergies with Regional Coalitions to foster peer-exchanges and learning for successful implementation of capacity development activities

In the Pacific region - actions carried out by PIANGO

At the end of 2017 and during 2018, PIANGO organised four flagship capacity development activities at regional level: the Pacific Regional CSO Forum, a roundtable in partnership with the Least Developed Countries Watch, the Inaugural Pacific Philosophy Conference and the Next Generational Leadership (NGL) Breakfast. In addition, one representative from PIANGO joined the regional training organized by ADA (GALAA in Sri Lanka). Besides these, several capacity development missions or workshops were organized at national level.

In 2018, an SDG Process Barometer survey was conducted with CSOs from 3 sub- regions (Micronesia, Polynesia and Melanesia). The SDG Barometer is a survey instrument with a three-tier set of questions administered with PIANGO’s members as a capacity assessment to strategize their policy needs.

In March 2018, a roundtable was organised in partnership with the Least Developed Countries Watch, which focused on raising awareness among LDC CSOs on the current status and measures around climate change adaptation, energy security, trade, technology transfer and international cooperation. 10 National Liaison Units were represented at PIANGO’s Least Developed Countries Roundtables. One of the outputs was a common declaration.

The Inaugural Pacific Philosophy Conference (IPPC) took place on 11-14 June, 2018, with a total of 161 participants representing several countries in the region. It had the theme: “*Vukuni Pasifika-Wisdom of the Pacific: Indigenous Relational Philosophies of Life*”, hosted by PIANGO and three universities: the Pacific Theological College, the University of the South Pacific, and Fiji National University. It brought together elders as well as custodians of Pacific wisdom and knowledge, culture, dances, art, and sea navigation to critically dialogue and offer philosophical underpinnings to debate ‘*Reshaping the Pacific we want*’. PIANGO positioned itself at the forefront of the search for alternative development paradigms that take into serious consideration the Pacific context and its lifeworld to reframe development.

The 3rd Next Generational Leadership (NGL) Breakfast was organized in August 2018, with 16 participants. The purpose of this breakfast series is to inspire and empower young CSO leaders, creating an open space for sharing experiences. During the programme, updates and lessons learned were shared from PIANGO’s participation in the HLPF 2018, with a panel composed of several CSO from the Pacific.

A representative of PIANGO also joined the Global Advocacy Leadership Academy (GALA) Asia, organized by ADA. PIANGO engaged in the 9 major assignments expected to be prepared before the face-to-face training. This year’s training was designed to help participants to learn about the “nexus” approach, a transformative and integral approach to SDGs that is conflict-sensitive, gender-sensitive, climate-sensitive and based on human rights, linking SDG 5, 13, 16, and 17. In the framework of the Micronesian Non-Profit Congress in April 2018, PIANGO organized a Micronesian Sub Regional Roundtable Meeting. The discussions during the roundtable, addressed issues such as localization



of the SDGs, linking Agenda 2030 with the SAMOA Pathway & Framework for Pacific Regionalism and to the National Development Plan, with an SDG Process Barometer exercise.

In Palau, a 2-day mission visit was organized in April 2018, with 25 CSO Leaders from Palau. During one of the workshops, the leaders were taken through the basics of SDGs, filled in the SDG barometer forms, and identified that there was a need for a follow-up workshop, to allow the leaders to truly grasp SDGs and the VNR process.

In the Solomon Islands, a workshop was organized in Partnership with Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the European Union on a CSO Code of Minimum Standards in September 2018. This is considered a major milestone, since it is the first document of this type to be produced.

In Fiji, PIANGO conducted a national workshop on Accountability, with Special Emphasis on Goal 17 in March 2018, for over 60 Fiji CSO leaders.

In the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), a CSO Roundtable on SDGs and Development Effectiveness was organized in March 2018 for 35 participants from all 4 states of FSM.

In Kiribati, VNR training and an organisational assessment of

KANGO for funding was organized in January 2018 for 30 CSO Leaders from Kiribati. As a result, Kiribati secured Commonwealth funding for the next 4 years.

In West Africa - actions carried out by REPAOC

REPAOC's capacity development activities focused on the Sustainable Development Goals, both for strengthening REPAOC as a network and for strengthening the activities of its members. On May 2nd, 2018 REPAOC participated in the integrated strengthening seminar of the voluntary national review and reports on Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063, at the 4th session of the African Regional Forum for Sustainable Development in Dakar, Senegal.

Based on the different national issues, REPAOC will develop a regional position paper for advocating vis-à-vis governments on the availability of statistics for monitoring the SDGs.

REPAOC participated in the national workshop on "*CSO Partnership on Development Effectiveness, which national pact for Senegal?*", which took place on 17th and 18th of April, 2018. This workshop brought together different CSO actors, including NGOs and trade unions. At the end of the workshop, a proposal for a national pact and action plan were drawn up.

REPAOC facilitated logistical arrangements for two major ECOSOCC meetings of the African Union: on the elections for the 3rd ECOSOCC General Assembly from July 17th to July 18th, 2018 and on the African Encyclopaedia from July 19th to July 20th, 2018.

REPAOC produced a video for an SDG awareness online course (MOOC), available in French, English, Russian, Portuguese and Spanish. This video was produced in the context of the Virtual University Environment and Sustainable Development (UVED), which received a prize for the entire training. Forus was also involved in this MOOC. REPAOC also started a collaboration with Advocacy Accelerator through the organization of a webinar on the ecosystem of advocacy in Francophone West Africa on November 28th, 2018. With the participation of forty people from different West African countries, the exchanges enabled the participants to share lessons learned from different advocacy approaches in the region.

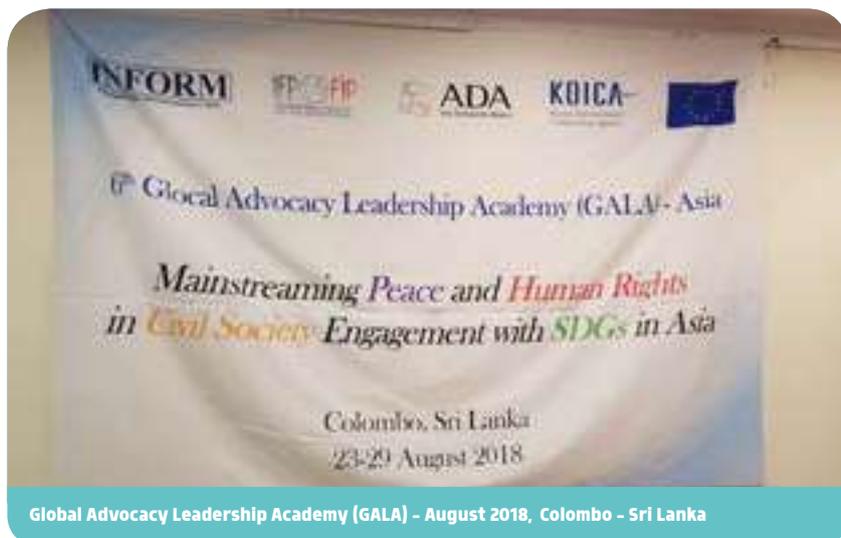
In Central Africa - actions carried out by REPONGAC

In 2018, REPONGAC released a short survey (comprising ten questions) regarding the progress of SDGs and their implementation in each country where the regional network has a member platform. The findings of the survey will be available in 2019. According to REPONGAC, the partnership with Forus enabled them to raise awareness on the SDGs and the Istanbul Principles (as well as of the intrinsic link between these two international frameworks) among national member platforms. Because Central Africa is a region threatened by conflicts, SDG 16 is at the centre of concerns to encourage adoption of the entire 2030 Agenda. In 2018, awareness-raising missions were organised in São Tomé, Príncipe, and in Cameroon. These activities will continue in 2019 in Rwanda, in the DRC, in Burundi and in Angola. A project for exchanging experience and good practice was also organised



Forus General Assembly & Strategic week (September 2018 - Santiago, Chile)

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from August 11 to 17, 2018 in Lomé (Togo). Led by the regional coordination REPONGAC, this mission made it possible to get in touch and exchange with the National Civil Society Dialogue of Togo. In terms of internal organisation, REPONGAC adapted its structure in 2018 following the end of a 3-year collaboration with the French NGO Acted. REPONGAC also participated in a mediation mission on the national platform in Bangui due to internal governance tensions.

At regional level, REPONGAC's new strategic guidelines were re-defined. In April 2018, REPONGAC organised a regional workshop in Brazzaville which brought together (with the exception of ADIR/Burundi) all the National Executive Secretaries of the national member platforms.

In Europe - actions carried out with CONCORD

On November 26-28, CONCORD convened a Forum called *"Looking in the mirror: Cultural shift towards resilience"* in Prague. CONCORD organized this Forum to examine whether CSOs are consistent in their work, living in alignment with organisational values. The regional coalition raised questions around the need for CSOs to change their culture and sharpen their values in order to remain relevant. ForR, the Czech member of both CONCORD and Forus, supported the organization of the event.

Forus and CONCORD have several members in common, and joint meetings were organized to identify possible synergies in our work in various countries. During these discussions, national platforms from Greece and Luxembourg expressed interest in joining the Forus. The dialogue is ongoing.

In South America - actions carried out by Mesa de Articulación

The main pillars of Forus collaboration with MESA was about ECLAC's Forum for Sustainable Development, both on advocacy and capacity development. MESA's annual General Assembly took place on September 9 and 10 back-to-back with Forus's Strategic Week in Santiago de Chile. The MESA Assembly was an opportunity to update the political situation of the region. A declaration on the situation in Nicaragua was released and the engagement of MESA in several advocacy processes was analysed (such as the ECLAC Forum, the Ibero-American meeting space of the SEGIB, and the Political Forum on Development of the EU, among others).

On the capacity development of its members, MESA organised two workshops. One was organised in partnership with AOED-LAC (CPDE Latin America) on the challenges of international cooperation for Latin American and Caribbean Civil Society

Organisations. Another workshop focused on the preparation of alternative shadow reports, facilitated by Social Watch.

In Asia - actions carried out by ADA

In 2018, ADA carried out many activities through outreach, research, advocacy and capacity development, being part of leading SDGs campaigns at national, regional and global levels. ADA actively participated and supported its members participation in SDGs implementation, monitoring mechanisms and voluntary national reviews.

ADA organized its main annual capacity building training (GALAA 2018) under the theme *"Mainstreaming Peace and Human Rights in CSO engagement with SDGs in Asia"* in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The international partner organizations were Forus as well as TAP. GALAA 2018 helped participants to learn about the "nexus" approach, a transformative and integral approach to SDGs that is a conflict-sensitive, gender-sensitive, climate-sensitive and human rights-based approach, by linking SDG 5, 13, 16, and 17.

30 Participants from all over Asia attended the 5-day training programme, including one participant from PIANGO, the Pacific regional coalition.

In 2018 ADA also got involved in national outreach SDGs campaigns in 5 VNR countries: Sri Lanka, Laos, Vietnam, Singapore and Bhutan. ADA helped CSOs in engaging with the government in the VNR process and instructed them on shadow reporting on VNR process (guidance on how to advocate, information on processes, publications of VNRs by governments, flow of information, etc.).

As part of the 8th World Human Rights Cities Forum (WHRCF) in Gwangju, South Korea, ADA also organized a workshop under the theme *"Human Rights Cities for UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies"* on 19-20 October 2018.



High-Level Political Forum (July 2018, New York)

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The Workshop aimed to provide space and opportunities for mutual learning and exchange among people engaged in human rights and inclusive cities internationally.

ADA and its members also participated in the UNESCAP Webinar Series on Stakeholder Engagement Module 1 and shared their experience in the VNR in the Asia region.

3.3. INFLUENCE

Most of Forus' work and priorities aim to strengthen NGOs' capacities in order to play their main roles which are to deepen democracy, to promote human rights, to foster citizens' participation and to defend the rule of law. In this context, Forus' members founded an international network which allows them to influence the most important international agendas building from local and national levels, to regional and global levels. This multi-level strategy is a pre-condition to create ownership and engagement from stakeholders all over the world.

3.3.1. INFLUENCE: Engaging Forus members in official negotiations, deliberations and public mobilisations to enable inclusive and participatory processes all over the world

Forus' network and its members aim to achieve more strategic dialogue with national, regional and international decision-makers in particular on Agenda 2030. In 2008, Forus played a key role in co-organising and leading the annual forum between "EU CSO Framework Partners" and the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO). Moreover, Forus has participated in the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF) for the past three years, networking with UN officials and organising key side events.

As stated by the 2018 Results-Oriented Monitoring (ROM) report: "the national NGO platforms are recognised as legitimate representatives of the development of the NGO sector in their respective countries". In addition, Forus advocacy activities give strategic attention to the issue of an enabling environment for civil society and on

funding schemes for CSOs capacity development.

3.3.2. INFLUENCE: Encouraging synergies with other civil society actors to resource civil society and preserve a common civic space

Forus is one of four leading global civil society networks which initially formed and steered the global campaign Action For Sustainable Development (A4SD):

- CIVICUS - the World Alliance for Citizen Participation
- GCAP - the Global Call to Action on Poverty
- Forus - the International Forum of NGO Platforms
- CAN - Climate Action Network International.

A4SD is a powerful civil society alliance and the broadest global civil society platform working on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It has a membership of over 1,500 organisations and individuals in 111 countries, of which 82% are based in the Global South. The organization is open to all civil society organisations, networks, and groups across constituencies and movements.

This self-organized civil society platform allows CSOs to connect across issues and countries, to promote learning and collaboration especially across development, environment and climate change, and to support citizens to widen and deepen their participation regarding the sustainable development commitments. In fact, it places particular focus on enabling the participation of organisations from the Global South.

More information here: www.action4sd.org.

In 2018, Forus also attended many regional and international events to promote its positions as well as Forus' members practices vis-à-vis the UN, governments and other peers from CSO:

- Early February, Forus participated in a working group discussion on the theme of **"Root causes of Migration"**

during the 2018 Forum of the EIDHR and CSO-LA Focal Points in Delegations

(Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities Focal Points in Delegations) in Brussels. In consultation with its members, Forus developed a position paper on Migration. Many of the advocacy proposals on migration presented at the Brussels workshop were framed in terms of Agenda 2030 and its commitments on migration.

- **Regional CSO Forums and official Sustainable Development Forums** organised by UN Regional Commissions.
- **SDG Watch General Assembly and National Level Exchange Programme on SDG Implementation** in European Countries, Brussels, 20th - 21st February. Forus participated in this Brussels-based workshop organised by the European cross-sectoral civil society alliance, SDG Watch Europe.

The purpose of the workshop was to support the capacity development needs of the national platforms linked to SDG monitoring and implementation especially on: Building SDG Networks, Lobbying for the SDGs on the national level, Mobilizing the Public, SDG Monitoring and Reporting.

- In March 2018 in Salvador de Bahia, Brazil, Forus organized a debate called **"Civil society experiences in building national and regional alliances", during the World Social Forum (WSF)**. The debate took place in Portuguese & English. The discussion highlighted challenges and solutions in building alliances, especially in the global context of shrinking space for civil society.
- Forus has also signed a proposition with CRID (France) and other civil society networks, to reinforce the international dimension of the [Festival des Solidarités \(Festisol\)](#). This was the



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Peer exchanges and learning workshop with Forus members (September 2018 - Santiago, Chile)



beginning of dialogues between these two organisations, that are currently analysing the possibility of organizing an event in partnership with other civil society networks, such as Bridge 47, on development education, presenting civil society initiatives as well as the SDGs to the wider public.

- For the **EU Partnership Forum in June 2018** in Brussels, Forus coordinated the input of the EU's Framework Partners and jointly developed an ambitious agenda. Forus organised and moderated a session on **"2030 Agenda - Implementing and localising the SDGs"** and was responsible for leading a session on **"Realising the transformational potential of the 2030 Agenda and promoting an enabling environment for civil society"**.
- In the framework of the **UN HLPF New York July 2018**, Forus organized three successful Agenda 2030 side events. The first one on **"CSOs Participation in the VNR Process and SDG Follow-up Mechanisms"** was

hosted by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in their offices at the U.N. Plaza. The second one was a discussion on **"Building an Inclusive Voluntary National Review Process"** with recommendations from the independent CSO joint report **"Progressing National SDG Implementation"**. The third one focused on **"Implementing the SDGs in Latin America - the challenges facing civil society"**. Forus also co-hosted a reception with its Asian regional coalition ADA. This event took place at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea following a side event on **"the role of Official Development Assistance (ODA) for SDGs & sustaining peace"**.

- **Action For Sustainable Development Civil Society weekend** during the HLPF New York, July 14-15, 2018 - Following the successful model of the last two years, Forus and its members co-organised the two-day civil society event on Agenda 2030, which provided an extremely

valuable opportunity for its members to engage in peer exchange and learn from other CSO networks from different parts of the world. CSOs from around the world strategized about their role in ensuring more effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Speakers at this CSO gathering included UN Global Elder & former UNHCR High Commissioner Mary Robinson and key figures from the UN NGO Major Group. Forus and its members also contributed through A4SD to the joint civil society response to the Inter-Ministerial Declaration issued at the end of the UN HLPF 2018. Forus members benefited from their participation as it is an opportunity to network among civil society representatives, to exchange experiences and best practices around VNR processes, and to think strategically together about the strengthening and future development of A4SD as a global CSO network.



High-Level Political Forum (July 2018, New York)

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"Agenda 2030 Implementation - challenges and opportunities for a meaningful engagement", High-level policy debate co-organized with ECLAC, UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (September 2018, Santiago, Chile)

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Forus 10 years' anniversary cocktail (September 2018, Santiago, Chile)

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- During its General Assembly in Santiago Chile in September 2018, Forus jointly organised a **public event with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN ECLAC) at the ECLAC Headquarters on "Global Civil Society and Agenda 2030 implementation - challenges and opportunities for a meaningful engagement"**.
- During 2018 Forus and its members were also represented at other key Agenda 2030-related events including the **UN Festival of Action in Bonn** in March which focused on the themes of Innovation and disruptive change: Citizen engagement; and Communicating the SDGs.
- Forus was also invited to participate in a **"Friends of high ambitions for the UNDS and HLPF reforms "Expert Meeting** in June 2018 in Berlin Germany organised by the German Council for Sustainable Development (RNE), Centro de Pensamiento Estratégico Internacional (CEPEI), Overseas Development Institute (ODI), Together

2030, United Nations (UN), UN Foundation (UNF) and World Resource Institute (WRI).

- Forus contributed to an **EU Council Working Group on Agenda 2030 in December 2018**, highlighting a range of civil society advocacy positions related to the HLPF review taking place in 2019. Representatives of all 28 EU Member States are active in this Working Group and it represented a very valuable opportunity to influence their thinking on Agenda 2030 implementation and calling for a HLPF reform.
- **In 2018, Forus became a champion in advocating vis-à-vis international donors and private foundations for a specific enabling environment and appropriate funding schemes for "CSO's capacity development & learning"**. The position paper published in 2017 **"Developing the capacities of civil society for a successful implementation of the 2030 agenda"** is a useful tool for advocacy being increasingly used by Forus members.

3.3.3. INFLUENCE: Agenda 2030 - An international opportunity and advocacy priority for a fair and sustainable implementation of the SDGs

In 2018, Forus and its members developed a Civil Society Discussion Document on HLPF Review. Forus is also working with other CSO networks (including A4SD and Together 2030) on joint positions and advocacy ahead of UNGA in September 2019.

Forus has worked with its 69 NGO national platforms on their advocacy at national level related to the SDGs.

Scaling up national level advocacy to impact at regional and global levels presents a challenge to member organisations. 57 Forus members are active in the internal **Agenda 2030 Working Group of Forus**. Meetings of the Working Group take place every 6-8 weeks and members use these meetings to gather intelligence about the UN's international and regional Agenda 2030 processes, to share experiences and good practice, and to strategize in relation to upcoming Agenda 2030 advocacy opportunities. In this group, a position paper on Migration was produced in 2018, with Forus leadership involvement.

Furthermore, in 2018, Forus members agreed to specifically focus Forus' global advocacy on Goals 16 and 17 of the 2030 Agenda. This work, which started in 2018, aims to produce in 2019: (i) **a Global Spotlight Report on Goal 16** based on a range of case studies of their government's implementation of Goal 16 at national level. (ii) **a Goal 17 advocacy paper** which analyses the track record of governments in fulfilling the capacity development requirements of Goal 17.

As an active member of the Coordinating Committee and Facilitation Group of **Action For Sustainable Development, Forus co-organised the joint Civil Society weekend seminar which took place in New York in July**



2018 during the HLPF. A yearly event, this weekend is always a valuable networking and mutual learning opportunity for Forus members and partners due to the presence of many civil society networks and organisations.

Organising international advocacy networking opportunities with civil society linked to Agenda 2030 is a priority of the Forus advocacy strategy.

Forus provides regular information to its members through its Advocacy Updates encouraging its members to attend upcoming relevant online webinars and events organised by UN agencies (UNDESA, etc.) and other civil society networks. Regular online webinars are organized to provide the members information related to capacity development, the 2030 Agenda, and how to engage with the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) developed by their governments (see as [an example an article about one of the webinars](#)).

3.3.4. INFLUENCE: Strategic support and synergies with Forus Regional Coalitions for better impact

From an advocacy perspective, Forus provides support to members to engage in dialogue with national and international policy-makers. Through the regular Advocacy Updates, Forus provides information about upcoming regional and international opportunities for engaging with policy-makers. Through the Forus Agenda 2030 Working Group, members are supported to prepare for their UN regional sustainable development forums and in the UN High Level Political Forum each year. Forus supports its members by organising side events at these regional and international events and by including government representatives in relevant panel debates. As mentioned before, in 2018 Forus continued the partnerships with 5 regional coalitions, including financial support for advocacy actions.

In Asia - main advocacy activities implemented by ADA

In 2018, ADA worked mainly with 5 countries: Sri Lanka, Laos, Vietnam,

Bhutan and Singapore. ADA has been instrumental in CSO report preparations and updates in the first three countries, where civil society prepared an independent CSO report. ADA also steered the preparation of a statement on behalf of CSOs from Singapore, who could not attend the HLPF.

During the HLPF, ADA co-organized a side event where the CSO reports from Vietnam, Laos and Sri Lanka were presented with Forus, TAP, the UNDP (Asia hub), the UNECE Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism and the UN ECLAC civil society engagement mechanism.

In 2018, ADA participated in joint activities with another Regional NGO Coalition, MESA, the regional coalition in Latin America.

ADA attended the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) and organised a side event with UNDP called “*CSOs Participation in the VNR Process and Follow-up Mechanisms*”. It was attended by approximately 40 participants.

The Busan Democracy Forum 2018 (BuDF) was co-organized in January 2018 by ADN, ADA and PSCD, with the support of the government of the Republic of Korea. BuDF 2018 addressed the thematic of democracy through the perspective of the SDGs.

In South America - advocacy activities implemented by MESA

MESA's advocacy strategy focuses on Latin American multilateral processes. Participation in regional processes allows national platforms to deploy advocacy work through access to national delegations, which is not possible in some capital cities.

The continuation of the agreement with Forus has enabled MESA to maintain its presence in this intergovernmental process concerning the 2030 Agenda in the region.

In 2018, the participation of an ADA (Asian Development Alliance) representative in the ECLAC Forum's Civil Society Consultation, sharing its experience on the construction and functioning of the Asia-Pacific Regional Participation Mechanism was key. The mechanism agreed by Latin American civil society is based on the Asian model. The main proposals are that different interest groups should compose this mechanism, in order to reflect the diversity of civil society in the region, with a coordination group ensuring coherent and integrated work.

Furthermore, in the framework of the United Nations HLPF in New York (July 2018), Forus, MESA and A4SD organized a side event which dealt with the challenges of civil society in the Latin American region in the context of the 2030 Agenda.

In Central Africa - advocacy activities implemented by REPONGAC

In 2018, REPONGAC's advocacy focused mostly on three themes: SDGs, regional integration and conflict prevention.

Regarding the SDGs, REPONGAC was present at three major events: the global and regional meetings of the European Policy Forum on Development (PFD), and the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, in preparation for the HLPF.

REPONGAC also participated in the PFD Regional Africa Meeting, held in Gaborone (Botswana) from October 8th to 11th, 2018. During this meeting, REPONGAC addressed conflicts in Central Africa (particularly in the Central African Republic) and the fight against corruption.

REPONGAC also attended the 2018 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development organised in Dakar (Senegal); this meeting focussed on VNR processes with presentations from different civil society stakeholders and government officials (from Senegal, Mali, Guinea Conakry, Benin, Togo and Niger) and experience-sharing on how to engage stakeholders.

REPONGAC actively contributed to the Kyeossi Border Agricultural Fair in Cameroon (June 30 - July 11, 2018), aimed at proposing an exchange on regional integration issues principally concerning three countries (Cameroon, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea). REPONGAC's contribution consisted of: (i) holding a conference on the free movement of people and goods in Central Africa, with a view to improving the population's living conditions as well as opening up the civic space; (ii) organising a meeting of NGOs and organisations to raise awareness of the SDGs and the Istanbul Principles ; and (iii) participating in the major review meeting presided over by the President of REFAC (Réseau des Femmes Actives de la CEMAC / Network of Active Women in CEMAC).

In relation to one of its main areas of intervention on conflict mediation, REPONGAC participated in two events: a multi-stakeholder meeting in Accra and the Paris Peace Forum organised by the OECD:

- In Accra, Ghana, REPONGAC took part in an annual meeting (October 21 to 24) between regional intergovernmental organisations and CSOs to share experiences. At the end of the meeting, REPONGAC was designated as a civil society representative. This involves working in partnership with ECCAS to identify regional CSOs working in the peace sector and to put in place a regional civil society structure which will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ECCAS.
- During the Paris Peace Forum (November 11 to 13, 2018), Central Africa's requests regarding REPONGAC's strategy on conflict early warning systems in collaboration with ECCAS were addressed.

In West Africa - advocacy activities implemented by REPAOC

REPAOC has coordinated the Francophone African Organization for Health Systems and Immunization (OAFRESS) since 2011. This responds to the need to strengthen health systems and promote vaccinations. In 2018, REPAOC co-organized the OAFRESS General Assembly in Nairobi (Kenya) from September 15th to September 17th, with 52 participants.

In the same area, REPAOC participated in the regional civil society workshop on budget advocacy in Dakar from April 3rd to April 5th, 2018.

Regarding SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), REPAOC participated in the panel on conflict prevention, organized by the World Bank and the United Nations Institute from March 5th to March 7th, 2018, entitled "**How can Bilateral and Multilateral Stakeholders Work Better: Operational Perspectives on the Pathways for Peace Report**". REPAOC is a member of the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and State Building (CSPPS), chairing its executive committee since October 2016.

In April 2018, REPAOC also participated in the annual meeting of the CSPPS core



“Agenda 2030 implementation - challenges and opportunities for a meaningful engagement”, High-level policy debate co-organized with ECLAC, UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (September 2018, Santiago, Chile)

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group in the Netherlands during which the new policy framework for foreign trade and development to be launched by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was discussed.

Several activities were carried out in 2018 around SDG 16, a priority area of work for REPAOC, such as participation in the World Assembly on democracy in Dakar, from May 6th to May 9th, 2018. Moreover, in 2018, REPAOC participated in the African Union’s ECOSOCC Political Affairs working group in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) from April 25th to April 27th, 2018, presenting human rights and political affairs issues on the continent from the point of view of civil society.

An additional example is the participation of REPAOC in the consultation of ECOWAS and EAC on the AU Protocol on the Free Movement of Persons, Right to Residence and Right of Establishment from October 10th to October 12th, 2018 in Senegal.

The last example related to SDG 16 is the participation of REPAOC in an African Union Election Observation Mission in Mauritania from August 27th

to September 5th, 2018.

REPAOC appealed to the President of the European Parliament about civil society in Niger through a position paper signed jointly by Forus and Coordination SUD. This letter was accompanied by REPAOC’s position paper signed in July 2018 after those of the “[Mouvement tournons la page](#)” and the newspaper “[Le Monde](#)”.

In the Pacific region - advocacy activities implemented by PIANGO

Forus’s support of PIANGO initial SDG work in the Pacific region in 2016 & 2017 contributed to PIANGO’s capacity to advocate on SDGs in the Pacific. There is a growing awareness in the Pacific region about SDGs and Agenda 2030. PIANGO’s credibility has led to the mobilization of increased resources for SDG work for the period 2018-20.

Climate change is a main strategic thematic for PIANGO, and the regional coalition works on this topic through the SDGs and climate change international agreements. Established under the COP23 Presidency in

July 2017, the Climate Action Pacific Partnership (CAPP) is a coalition of Pacific governments, CSOs and business stakeholders from various thematic and cross-cutting areas, supported by regional and international partners. Another PIANGO activity has been the participation - as a panellist - of its executive director in the Commonwealth Peoples’ Forum 2018 (CPF 2018), in London, on 16-18 April 2018. This forum was attended by over 350 CSO leaders from all Commonwealth countries.

The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), organized a CSO Forum on 20-22 March 2018, with the participation of 10 National Liaison Units of PIANGO and other Pacific CSOs, to promote good governance in the Pacific.

Regarding the Agenda 2030 in 2018, the Director of PIANGO, Emele Duituturaga, led a delegation of Pacific CSOs participating at the HLPF. The mission produced a huge learning experience for the Pacific Delegation, especially when it comes to exchanges around the value of Government-



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CSO partnership to achieve the SDGs. PIANGO also supports its national members in their engagement with Agenda 2030 through workshops organized at the national level.

In September 2018, PIANGO was invited as a panellist during a high-level policy debate co-organized with the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), in Santiago, Chile. PIANGO also attended 3 series of workshops convened by UNDESA and UNESCAP on a preparatory meeting for the 6th Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development from 24 to 25 September, the PSID VNR capacity building on 26 to 27 September and a Partnership Forum on 28 September 2018.

3.3.5. INFLUENCE: Forus’ new Global Initiative - Strategic thinking and research on civil society future roles & responsibilities

Building on recent initiatives in advocating for strategic approaches for civil society’s capacities, in 2018

Forus established a Global Initiative Task Team where members of Forus leadership **discussed the future role of civil society in the 21st century and the type of support infrastructure and processes needed.** In the context of the growing threats to the multilateral system as well as to civil society, Forus’ Global Initiative reflects on a longer-term political vision for how civil society can play a role in supporting and defending an improved multilateral order, while contributing to the urgent implementation of international commitments such as Agenda 2030, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Paris Agreement, and international human rights standards.

In early 2018 Forus developed an initial Discussion Paper on the **“Roles and challenges facing NGOs worldwide in the 21st century”**. Forus also supports its members who increasingly struggle with “shrinking space” and “enabling environment” issues. The ongoing political reflexion around Forus’ Global Initiative looks at **“Building essential infrastructure**

for the NGO sector & encouraging the emergence of supportive ecosystems” as a key contribution to a CSO Enabling environment. A conference was co-organized with the French Development Agency (AFD) on **Enabling environment for civil society**, on June 28th, 2018 in Paris. A specific workshop on the topic was also organized at Forus General Assembly in Santiago which generated a range of advocacy proposals on enabling environment. A discussion note has been prepared and shared with the members highlighting possible actions for Forus.

Within the scope of this Global Initiative, and in order to promote more effective funding systems to support the capacity development of civil society, in late 2018 Forus launched a research project on **“Promising Approaches to CSO funding”**. This initiative associates Forus members and partners in an attempt to identify best practices & promising approaches to CSO funding, particularly where advocacy & capacity development activities are concerned.



4 Financial report

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

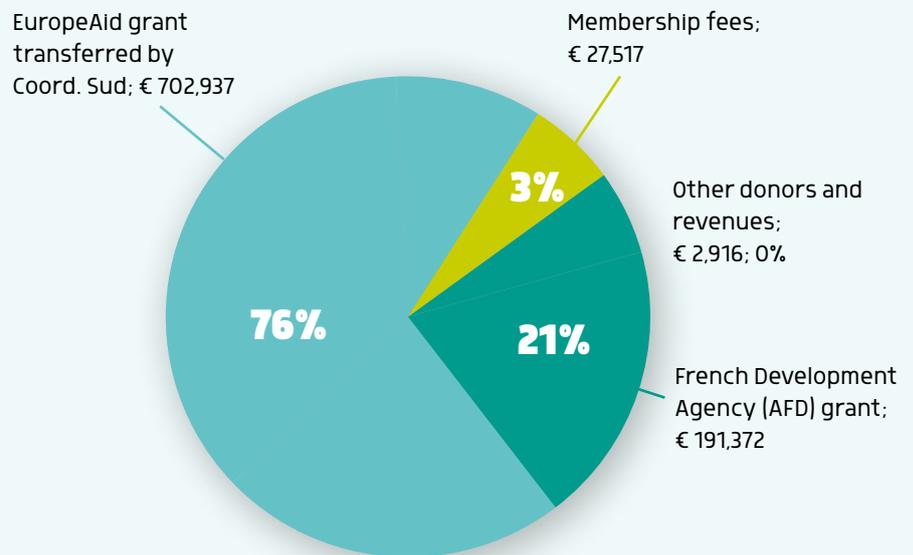
Revenues: €924,742 Forus activities in 2018 are mostly financed by public grants: EuropeAid's grant (€702,937) transferred by Forus French member Coordination Sud (acting as fiscal agent) and the grant awarded by the French Development Agency, of which €191,372 was allocated for financing activities in 2018. The call for membership fees was organized late in 2017, thus leading to a limited fee level; in 2018 this gap was filled, and the total membership fees reached the level of €27,517.

Expenditures: €882,823 The main expenditure items are HR costs (€209,345) and subgrants transferred to members: subgrants were awarded to 5 regional coalitions and 12 national platforms (€313,316 in 2018). Meeting costs are mainly related to the General Assembly (Chile).

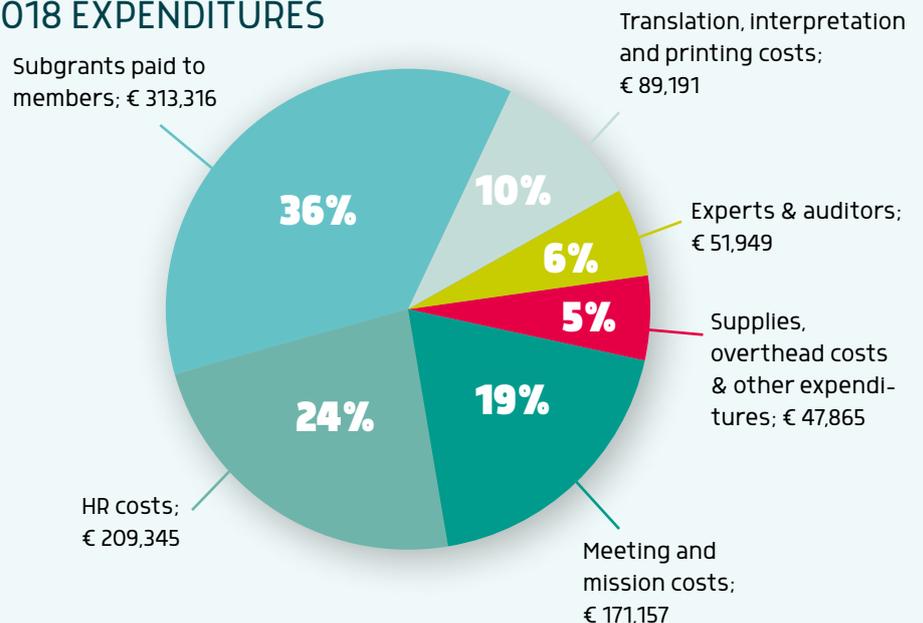
In-kind contributions: The regional and national members supported by Forus in 2018 through a subgranting scheme could identify cofunding for a total of €55,421.

Result: The positive result (+€41,919) of the 2018 financial year is related to unrestricted revenues (such as the membership fees) and savings with respect to overhead costs at the secretariat level.

2018 REVENUES



2018 EXPENDITURES



BALANCE SHEET AS PER 31 DECEMBER 2018:

Assets: The main feature of the balance sheet is the significant level of cash available as per 31 December 2018 related to unspent grants. Accounts receivable are advances or

reimbursements to be received. Pre-paid expenses are related to current service contracts. The fixed assets are mainly equipment purchased in 2017 for the headquarters and staff.

Liabilities: The main liabilities are unspent grants. Accounts payable are mainly related to member subgrant reports submitted in the beginning of 2019.

Assets	31 Dec 2018
Current assets	
Cash	€ 453 138
Accounts receivable	€ 4 650
Asset accruals	
Prepaid expenses	€ 2 862
Fixed assets	
Property and equipment	€ 7 746
[Less accumulated depreciation]	-€ 3 229
Other	€ 72
TOTAL ASSETS	€ 465 238

Liabilities	31 Dec 2018
Current liabilities	
Accounts payable	€ 59 066
Accrued social contributions and taxes	€ 43 608
Balance of subgrants to be paid to Forus partners and of the UE grant transferred to Forus by Coord. Sud	€ 217 312
Public & private grants: balance of payments	€ 94 262
Funds, net assets	
Investment grant	€ 2 337
Unrestricted Net Assets	€ 6 664
Result of the fiscal year	€ 41 919
Other	€ 72
TOTAL LIABILITIES	€ 465 238



5 Annexes

5.1. Acronyms/ abbreviations

A

A4SD: Action for Sustainable Development

AFD: Agence Française de Développement (The French Development Agency)

ADN: Asian Development Alliance

C

CAFOD: Catholic international development charity

CAN: Climate Action Network International

CDRA: Community Development Resource Association

CEMAC: Communauté économique et monétaire de l'Afrique centrale (Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa)

Civicus: World Alliance For Citizen Participation

CHRD: Centre for Human Rights and Development

CSOs: Civil Society Organizations

CSO-LA: Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities

D

DG DEVCO: European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development

E

ECLAC: UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

EU: European Union

EIDHR: Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development

ExCom: Executive Committee

F

Festisol: Festival des Solidarités

FBuDF: Busan Democracy Forum 2018

G

GA: General Assembly

GCAP: the Global Call to Action on Poverty

H

HLPF: UN High Level Political Forum

I

IDRC: The Canadian International Development Research Centre

ILO: The former Director-General of the International Labour Organization

L

LDP: Leadership Development Program

N

NGO: Non-Governmental Organization

NPF: National NGO Platforms

P

PFDF: European Policy Forum on Development

R

ROM (report): Results-Oriented Monitoring (report)

S

SDG: Sustainable Development Goals

SDG Watch: Sustainable Development Goals Watch

U

UN: United Nations

UNDESA: Department of Economic and Social Affairs United Nations

UNDP: United Nations Development Programme

UNDS: UN Development System

UNECE: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

UNGA: UN General Assembly

UN NGO: UN and Non-Governmental Organizations

UN ECLAC: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

UNFCCC: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

V

VNR: Voluntary National Reports

W

WANEP: West Africa Network for Peacebuilding

WINGS: The Worldwide Initiatives for Grantmaker Support

Regional Coalitions (RC)

ADA: Asia Development Alliance, Asia
CONCORD: European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development, Europe
MESA: Mesa de Articulación de Asociaciones Nacionales y Redes de ONGs de América Latina y el Caribe
PIANGO: Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations, Pacific
REPAOC: Réseau des Plate-formes nationales d'ONG d'Afrique de l'Ouest et du centre, West Africa
REPONGAC: Réseau des Plate-formes des ONG de l'Afrique Centrale, Central Africa
SADC-CNGO: Southern Africa Development Community Council of Non-Governmental Organizations, Southern Africa

National NGOs Platforms (NPF)

ABONG: Associação Brasileira de ONGs, Brazil
ACCIÓN: Asociación Chilena de ONG, Chile
ADIR: Action Développement et Intégration Régionale, Burundi
Alianza ONG: Alianza de Organizaciones No Gubernamentales, Dominican Republic
ANC: Asociación Nacional de Centros de Investigación, Promoción Social y Desarrollo, Peru
ANONG: Asociación Nacional de ONG, Uruguay
ASONOG: Asociación de organismos no gubernamentales, Honduras
BOCONGO: Botswana Council of Non-Governmental Organisations, Botswana
Bond: British Overseas NGOs for Development, the UK
CANGO: China Association for NGO Cooperation, China
CCC: Cooperation Committee for Cambodia, Cambodia
CCIC: Canadian Council for International Co-operation, Canada
CEPS: Citizens Engagement Platform Seychelles, Seychelles
CCOAIB: Conseil de Concertation des Organisations d'Appui aux Initiatives de Base, Rwanda
CCOD: Conseil de Concertation des ONG de développement, Congo

CCONG: Confederación Colombiana de ONG, Colombia
CFRONG: Collectif des Fédérations et Réseaux d'ONG du Bénin, Benin
CID: Council for International Development, New Zealand
CILONG: Centre d'Information et de Liaison des ONG, TCHAD, Chad
CIONGCA: Conseil Inter ONG de Centrafrique, Central African Republic
CNONGD: Conseil National des ONG de Développement, The Democratic Republic of the Congo
CODE-NGO: Caucus of Development NGO Networks, Philippines
CICSO: Cook Islands Association of NGOs, Cook Islands
Coordination Sud: Solidarité Urgence Développement, France
Coordinadora: Coordinadora de ONG de cooperación para el Desarrollo, Spain
CONGAC: Collectif des ONG Agréées du Cameroun, Cameroon
CONGAD: Conseil des ONG d'Appui au Développement, Sénégal
CONGCOOP: Coordinacion de ONG y Cooperativas, Guatemala
CSCI: Convention de la Société Civile Ivoirienne, Ivory Coast
Dóchas: The Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations, Ireland
EENGD: Encuentro de Entidades No Gubernamentales para el Desarrollo, Argentina
Espace Associatif, Morocco
FCOSS: Fiji Council of Social Service, Fiji
FECONG: Fédération des Collectif d'ONG du Mali, Mali
FINGO: Finnish NGO Platform, Finland
FOND: Romanian NGDO Platform, Romania
FONGDD: Forum des ONG pour le Développement Durable, Guinée
FONG-STP: Federação das ONGs de Sao Tomé e Príncipe, Sao Tomé & Príncipe
FONGTO: Fédération des ONG au Togo, Togo
FONGA: Foro das ONGs Angolanas, Angola
FORS: Czech Forum for Development Cooperation, Czech Republic
Global Focus, Denmark
HAND: Hungarian Association of NGOs for Development and Humanitarian Aid, Hungary

INFID: International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development, Indonesia
InterAction, USA
JANIC: Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation, Japan
JOINT: League For NGOs in Mozambique, Mozambique
KANGO: Kiribati Association of NGOs, Kiribati
KCOG: Korea NGO Council for Overseas Development Cooperation, Korea
LAPAS: Latvijas Platforma attīstības sadarbībai, Latvia
Lithuanian NGDO Platform: Lithuanian National Non-Governmental Development Cooperation Organisations' Platform, Lithuania
MACOSS: Mauritius Council of Social Service, Mauritius
NFN - NGO: Federation of Nepal, Nepal
NNNGO: Nigeria Network of NGO, Nigeria
PFNOSCM: Plateforme Nationale des Organisations de la Société Civile de Madagascar, Madagascar
Plataforma ONGD: Plataforma Portuguesa das Organizações Não-Governamentais para o Desenvolvimento Portuguese Platform NGOD, Portugal
PLATONG: Plataforma das ONGs de Cabo Verde, Cape Verde
POJOAJU: Asociación de Organizaciones No Gubernamentales del Paraguay, Paraguay
SKOP: National Platform of Maltese NGDOs, Malta
SLOGA: Slovenian Global Action, Slovenia
SPONG: Secrétariat Permanent des ONG du Burkina Faso, Burkina Faso
Taiwan-Aid: Taiwan Alliance In International Development, Taiwan
TANGO: The Association of Non-Governmental Organizations, Gambia
UNITAS: Unión Nacional de Instituciones para el Trabajo de Acción Social, Red Unitas, Bolivia
VANI: Voluntary Action Network India, India
ZCSD: Zambia Council for Social Development, Zambia



5.2. Overview of Capacity Development projects and initiatives supported by Forus in 2018

1. Consortium

PPONGD & FONG-STP

Plataforma das ONGD & Federação das ONGs de Sao Tomé e Príncipe

Platforms Unite: Partnerships for advocacy

Project budget: 38 500 €

Support requested from Forus: 30 900 €

Cycle 1: April 2018 - September 2019

Priority area for capacity development: Leadership and Governance of National Platforms and Advocacy and Partnerships.

2. Latin America

ANONG, Uruguay

Asociación Nacional de ONG

Strengthening organized civil society; towards more society, towards more rights

Project budget: 19 000 €

Support requested from Forus: 15 200 €

Cycle 1: August 2018 - February 2019

Priority area for capacity development: Communications and strengthening national platform's member engagement; resource mobilization, financial management and accountability.

CCONG, Colombia

Confederación Colombiana de ONG

The role of international cooperation in Colombia, its current action and its 10-year vision

Project budget: 20 262 €

Support requested from Forus: 15 197 €

Cycle 1: April 2nd, 2018 - December 1st 2018.

ABONG, Brazil

Associação Brasileira de ONGs

To resist is to transform Network communication to increase the impact and strength of our political actions.

Project budget: 18 984 €

Support requested from Forus: 15 197 €

Cycle 2: May 2018 - April 2019

Priority area for capacity development: Communications and strengthening national platforms' member engagements.

ANC, Peru

Asociación nacional de centros de Investigación promoción social y desarrollo

Articulating and strengthening strategic sectors of Civil Society through alliances for monitoring and advocacy for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Peru

Project budget: 19 015 €

Support requested from Forus: 15 200 €

Cycle 2: May 2018 - December 2018

Priority area for capacity development: Advocacy and Partnerships.

UNITAS, Bolivia

Unión Nacional de Instituciones para el Trabajo de Acción Social

Popular education and strategic litigation for articulation and advocacy on SDGs

Project budget: 19 000 €

Support requested from Forus: 15 200 €

Cycle 2: May 2018 - October 2019

Priority area for capacity development: Advocacy and Partnerships.

CONGCOOP, Guatemala

Coordinación de ONG y Cooperativas

CONGCOOP's Virtual Training Center

Project budget: 19 000 €

Support requested from Forus: 15 200 €

Cycle 2: April 2018 - April 2019

Priority area for capacity development: Leadership and Management of National Platforms.

3. Africa

ZCSD, Zambia

Zambia Council for Social Development

Strengthening Communications and Platform Membership Engagement

Project budget: 20 251 €

Support requested from Forus: 16 200 €

Cycle 1: April 2018 - December 2018

Priority area for capacity development: Advocacy and Partnerships; communications and strengthening national platforms' member engagements.

CONGAD, Senegal

Conseil des ONG d'Appui au Développement

Project to support the participation of the CSOs in the Voluntary National Review on the state of implementation of the SDGs in Senegal scheduled for 2018.

Project budget: 19 000 €

Support requested from Forus: 15 200 €

Cycle 1: April 2018 - June 2018

TANGO, Gambia

The Association of Non-Governmental Organizations

The Gambia We Want Campaign

Project budget: 19 000 €

Support requested from Forus: 15 164 €

Cycle 2: May 2018 - October 2018

Priority area for capacity development: Advocacy and Partnerships.

NNNGO, Nigeria

Nigeria Network of NGOs

Improving engagement and communication amongst NNNGO and its members

Project budget: 18 325 €

Support requested from Forus: 15 177 €

Cycle 2: June 2018 - June 2019

Priority area for capacity development: Communications and strengthening national platforms' member engagements.

CCOD, Republic of the Congo

Conseil de Concertation des ONG de développement

Organizational and operational capacity building of CCOD member NGOs

Project budget: 18 935 €

Support requested from Forus: 15 148 €

Cycle 2: May 2018 - May 2019
Priority area for capacity development:
Communication and strengthening the
engagement of members of national
platforms.

4. Europe

LAPAS, Latvia

Latvijas Platforma attīstības sadarbībai
**Voluntary National Reviews on SDGs:
Ensuring NGO Partnerships**

Project budget: 19 000 €
Support requested from Forus: 15 200 €
Cycle 1: March 2018 - October 2018
Priority area for capacity development:
Advocacy and Partnerships.

HAND, Hungary

Hungarian Association of NGOs for
Development and Humanitarian Aid
PUZZLE UP the development!

Project budget: 19 092 €
Support requested from Forus: 15 196 €
Cycle 1: April 2018 - September 2018
Priority area for capacity development:
Resource mobilization, financial
management and accountability;
advocacy and partnerships.

Coordinadora, España

Coordinadora de Organizaciones de
Cooperación para el Desarrollo
**Quorum Global, from Local Action to
Global Justice**

Project budget: 19 000 €
Support requested from Forus: 15 200 €
Cycle 1: January 2018 - November 2018
Priority area for capacity development:
Advocacy and Partnerships.

FOND, Romania

Romanian NGOs Platform
**Evaluating the Foundation for Policy
& Advocacy Work in Development
Cooperation in Romania (2007-2017)**

Project budget: 19 000 €
Support requested from Forus: 15 200 €
Cycle 2: May 2018 - April 2019
Priority area for capacity development:
Leadership and governance and
communications and strengthening

national platforms' member
engagements.

5. Asia

INFID, Indonesia

International NGO Forum on Indonesian
Development

**Promoting constructive and effective
civil society participation in key
Indonesian social and economic public
policy dialogue and implementation of
SDGs**

Project budget: 19 000 €
Support requested from Forus: 15 121 €
Cycle 1: April 2018 - January 2019
Priority area for capacity development:
Advocacy and partnerships.

VANI, India

Voluntary Action Network India
**Amplifying Indian CSO's role and
effectiveness in implementation of
SDGs through awareness building and
multi-stakeholder connect.**

Project budget: 19 000 €
Support requested from Forus: 15 200 €
Cycle 2: June 2018 - May 2019
Priority area for capacity development:
Advocacy and Partnerships.

CODE-NGO, Philippines

Caucus of Development NGO Networks
**Activating the CODE-NGO Advocacy
Working Groups**

Project budget: 25 982 €
Support requested from Forus: 15 200 €
Cycle 2: April 2018 - April 2019
Priority area for capacity development:
Advocacy and partnerships;
Communications and strengthening
national platform's member
engagement.



-  <http://forus-international.org>
-  contact@forus-international.org
-  @Forus_Int
-  Forus international

Forus, previously known as the International Forum of National NGO Platforms (IFP/FIP), is a member-led network of 69 National NGO Platforms and 7 Regional Coalitions from all continents representing over 22,000 NGOs active locally and internationally on development, human rights and environmental issues.



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