

## What are the components of an Enabling Environment (EE)? Working Group Conclusions

The creation of an EE has been a permanent field of work and debate of the PFD. The Global PFD 2015 took advantage of the large variety of participants to ask them directly, according to their own experience, what are the components of an EE.

Both Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Local Authorities (LAs) reacted to the panel presentations, provided examples of their own work contributing to an EE and then answered the question of how CSOs and LAs could work together to enhance an EE.

The key components of an Enabling Environment mentioned include the following:

- Freedom of expression
- Freedom of association
- Political and financial autonomy of CSOs
- Social dialogue
- Trust and mutual understanding
- Independence of media
- Freedom of speech and association
- Independence of judiciary
- Judicial and administrative frameworks
- Rule of law and enforcement of frameworks
- Legitimate representation from CSOs and democratically elected LAs
- Self-regulation of CSOs
- Multi-stakeholder dialogue
- Right of initiative of CSOs
- Mutual accountability and transparency
- Respect for workers' rights
- Peace and Stability
- Permanent, institutionalised dialogue, including social dialogue (workers, private, state)
- Equal dialogue - coming together as equal partners
- Space for advocacy
- Monitoring and participation of stakeholders in monitoring
- Access to finance
- State/government understanding of the roles and responsibilities of actors
- Government recognition of CSOs and institutionalised space for engagement with CSOs
- Predictability of legal and political systems
- Political coherence
- Functioning formal economy
- Autonomy of CSOs (political and financial)
- Political willingness
- Technical competence and capacity

This extensive list has been revisited and further discussed during working groups of succeeding PFD events (e.g. Multi-Stakeholder PFD in Latin America in July 2016, Regional PFD in Africa in October 2016, etc.) to allow us to have a better understanding of 1) regional contexts of how can CSOs and LAs work together better to promote and EE and 2) how that could contribute to the implementation of the SDGs. Those two questions provided for highly enriching debates between PFD members and the following provides a synthesis of the areas that have been repeatedly mentioned:

- **Their right to undertake their activity, free from intrusion or interference, to accomplish its proposed objectives**
- **The possibility to access funding from national and international sources**
- **Laws that respect and encourage freedom of association and freedom of expression**



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- **The possibility to participate in multi-stakeholder dialogues and networks, both nationally and internationally**
- **An institutional environment that acknowledges and encourages their work as development actors in their own right**