

## Concept Note for the Regional Workshops on Inequality

### Objective:

- Enhance the collective capacity of PBI and WNTA Networks to engage with multi-stakeholder dialogues and influence global policy-making fora on issues of Inequality from a pro-poor and rights-based perspective.
- Create an informed civil society group that is aware about what are the critical asks and mechanisms in this regard.

### Rationale:

The rise of BRICSAM countries in the global economy signifies the emergence of a multipolar world, however, the growing inequality in these countries points towards the emergence of an increasingly unequal world. While governments of BRICSAM countries have been active in forging a coalition for seeking solutions to common challenges of development, civil society efforts in these countries have lagged behind in developing a parallel network to address these challenges. Civil society organisations (CSOs) in India also lag behind CSOs of the global north in their efforts in engaging with international policy platforms. This has been primarily due to the lack of necessary awareness, skills and capacities to engage systematically with global policy discussions.

In India, CSOs are yet to engage with Global policy-making platforms in a sustained manner. PBI and WNTA need to prioritise engaging with global processes and devise comprehensive strategies to take forward their national advocacy efforts to the global stage. PBI and WNTA member's work on inequality related issues, however, their understanding of inequality can be sharpened further so that they can articulate their demands and policy-asks within the framework of Inequality in global forums.

Therefore, the essence of these Workshops is to empower the two CSO networks to advocate for the issues of Inequality in the global fora as well as building their understanding of the changing dynamics of the global political-economic environment and its implications for the Global South.

## Content of the Workshops:

We would organise four Regional Workshops with CSO members of PBI and WNTA with a purpose of strengthening their capacity to articulate the challenges and priorities of deprived sections in global policy discussions.

The main running theme of these Workshops would be related to the issues of inequality. Each of the Workshops would focus on some of the major dimensions of inequality in India, viz. economic dimensions of inequality; gender dimensions of inequality; inequality in access to essential services (education, healthcare etc.) in comparison to other countries in the BRICS and G20.

The agenda would have a 70:30 ratio of training and the plan of action respectively. 70 percent on training (content) and processes (global mechanisms) and 30 percent for discussions on what are the next steps to be taken by the network partners.

## Reading Material:

- Report of the National Consultation on Inequality in India: Major Dimensions and Policy Challenges, CBGA
- India: Moving Towards Equal Opportunities For All, working paper, Oxfam India
- Engaging BRICS: Challenges and Opportunities for Civil society, working paper, Oxfam India
- Achieving Healthcare for All, Policy Brief, Oxfam India
- G20: How Responsive to Inequality, CBGA
- BRICS: Prospects and Challenges, CBGA
- Post 2015 Development Agenda, CBGA
- Educational Inequality in India, CBGA
- Inequalities in Financing Healthcare in India, CBGA
- Gender Inequalities Hurting India, CBGA
- Wage Inequality in India, CBGA
- Taxation and Inequality in India, CBGA

## Participants:

20 to 25 participants per workshop.

Co-hosts, Venue and Dates:

- 28-29 January 2015 in Trivandrum, Kerala: co-host-Institute of Sustainable Development and Governance (ISDG).
- 5-6 February 2015 in Ranchi, Jharkhand: co-host -LEADS TRUST.
- 10-11 February 2015 in Guwahati, Assam: co-host- North East Network (NEN).
- 27-28 March 2015 in Jaipur, Rajasthan: co-host – Budget Analysis Rajasthan Centre (BARC).

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