

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST MEETING OF TASK FORCE ON "STRENGTHENING
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT FOR GOVERNMENT - NGO PARTNERSHIP" HELD ON
14.8.2006 AT 3.30 P.M. IN THE THIRD FLOOR CONFERENCE HALL

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The first meeting of Task Force on "Strengthening Civic Engagement for Government - NGO Partnership" was held on 14.8.06 at 3.30 PM in the 3rd Floor Conference Hall of Secretariat. Shri Vivekananda Pattanayak, Chairperson of the Task Force presided over the meeting. List of Members present in the meeting is given in a statement at Annexure-I.

2. Welcoming all the members of the Task Force, the Chairperson elaborated the mandate of the Task Force and requested all members to provide their considered inputs to realise the mandate of the Task Force. Draft Rules of Business and Work Programme of the Task Force were also introduced for discussion and adoption. The approved Rules of Business and Work Programme are enclosed as Annexure-II & III.

3. Development commissioner-cum-ACS in his brief address mentioned that a large number of NGOs were working in Orissa and that there was a need for improving transparency, information-sharing and accountability. There was also a need to increasingly involve and integrate voluntary sector into the State's development process. He further emphasised that as Women Self Help Groups are very active and vibrant in Orissa, their participation in the working of the Task Force was desirable. NGOs also need to recognise that Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) are constitutional bodies and NGOs should develop ways to work with them.

4. All other members of the Task Force also provided their inputs and made several useful suggestions.

5. After detailed deliberations, the following points emerged.

- The terms of reference as indicated in the Resolution are exhaustive.
- There is need for interaction among NGOs, the Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs), and other civil society organisations to improve the present system with a view to framing rules and procedures for Govt.-NGO partnership within the ambit of the Resolution.

- A large number of NGOs are doing very well, whereas some may not have the same track record. There is a need to develop mechanisms which encourage greater participation of NGOs of proven track record and identifying those who have not attained acceptable standards. A regulatory framework is also needed to improve transparency, and accountability among NGOs.
- The best practices of NGO should be documented and disseminated among Government Departments, and they should flow to the ground level like districts, block etc for their response.
- Self-regulation of civil society organisations to improve their credibility and harnessing of their strength due to their grass root level contacts should be encouraged.
- In order to ensure better participation by NGOs, there should be support and cooperation from district level, and State level institutions while processing and recommending proposals of NGOs.
- The procedures for dealing with applications of NGO for receiving grants should be streamlined with a view to expediting decisions and reducing delay.
- At the district level under the Chairmanship of Collector the District Level Consultative Committee should be strengthened to ensure greater information-sharing between Govt. and NGOs.
- There was also a need to identify key partnership issues, competency mapping of NGOs, standardization of MOU, accountability and transparency issues, and public education and mechanism of sharing good publications.
- All members were requested to contribute working papers within the scope of the Resolution and to send copies to Member-Secretary in advance so that the working papers may be circulated among members for their views / comments well before the meetings of the Task Force.

5. Dr. R V Singh, Special Secretary and Member Secretary of the Task Force thanked Chairperson and all members for their contributions and productive participation in the meeting.

Sd/-
CHAIRPERSON

**MEMBERS PRESENT IN THE SECOND MEETING OF TASK FORCE HELD
ON 12.10.2006 AT 4 PM**

Sl. No.	<u>Participants</u>
1	Shri Viveknanda Pattanayak, Chairperson
2	Dr. U. Sarat Chandran, DC-cum-ACS, Vice-Chairperson
3	Shri S . P. Nanda, Principal Secretary to Government, Forest & Environment Deptt.
4	Dr. Mona Sharma, Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Government, W & CD Deptt.
5	Shri Tara Dutt, Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Government, ST & SC Development Deptt.
6	Shri G.K. Dhal, Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Government, P.R. Deptt
7	Shri M. Saran, Special Secretary, H & FW Deptt.
8	Shri Jagadananda, CYSD, Bhubaneswar
9	Shri Udaya Shankar Mishra, Gram Vikash, Mohuda, Berhampur
10	Shri Rabindranath Mohanty, Tagone Society for Rural Development
11	Shri Jajati Keshari Mohanty, Lutheran World Service
12	Shri R.K.Panda, CPSW
13	Robert De' Quadros, Credibility Alliance, Mumbai
14	Dr. S.P.Padhi, Director, NCDS, Bhubaneswar
15	Smt.Anjubala Chhotray, Vice-President, ZP, Khurda
16	Shri P.M. Swain, Member, ZP, Khurda
17	Shri A.C. Pradhan, Member, ZP, Khurda
18	Shri Bibhuti Bhusan Balabantaray, Member, ZP, Khurda
19	Dr. R V Singh, Special Secretary to Government, P & C Department, Member Secretary