

CUTS International to be a global partner of GPSA of the World Bank

Jaipur, July 27, 2013,

The approaches of Social accountability have drawn extensive attention across the development community of the world in recent years. This includes a growing emphasis on engaging beneficiary in monitoring and assessing the performances of government particularly through providing feedback on, and voicing demand for, improved service delivery and thus contributing to greater development effectiveness. This kind of engagement also referred to as social accountability enables beneficiaries and civil society groups to engage with policymakers and service providers to bring about greater accountability and responsiveness to beneficiary needs.

Civil society groups often operate on short programmatic funding cycles, and they lack the sustained support to build technical and institutional capacity to engage with governments over the long term on selected themes. At the same time, many factors especially the proliferation of new information and communications technologies are changing how beneficiaries and civil society organizations (CSOs) can engage with governments. To respond to the need, a global initiative called 'Global Partnership for Social Accountability (GPSA)' is established to respond to these demands. The GPSA is a coalition of governments, donors and civil society organizations (CSOs) facilitated by the World Bank.

GPSA aims to improve development results by contributing to country-level governance reforms. This initiative is to provide strategic and sustained support to CSOs' social accountability initiatives aimed at strengthening transparency and accountability. Major international donors are putting their money for governance work which will be channelized through GPSA. However, GPSA's funding component will only operate in countries where the government agrees to 'opt-in' to the GPSA. So far 20 countries have 'opted-in' for GPSA.

CUTS International, has been entrusted with the responsibility to act as a global partner of GPSA in terms of knowledge sharing and networking and is also included in the roster of experts. CUTS is also lobbying with the government of India and government of other countries to 'opt-in' to the GPSA through its international centres and open the gate for CSOs to work for improving governance and accountability scenario in the countries of developing world.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.worldbank.org/gpsa>

For more details, please contact:

George Cheriyan
Director, CUTS International
D-217, Bhaskar Marg, Bani Park
Jaipur 302 016, India
Cell: 91-98292 85930
Email: gc@cuts.org