Striking a Balance between Country-Level Progress and Advocacy Impact in the Post-2015 "On the Ground" Shared Framework

In approving the Post-2015 "on the ground" shared framework[i], the global board and senior management emphasized that work should take place in countries where OSF is already operating and has a strong in-country presence, and in countries with strong potential to influence international advocacy around the inclusion of justice and governance within the final post-2015 development agenda. To help define the scope of work under a Post-2015 shared framework, a Working Group[ii] has organized a three-day working meeting (or 'charette') in OSF's New York office. At the end of day one, a small deliberative body[iii] will reach a reasoned decision on a limited number of countries for OSF's on-the-ground focus within a Post-2015 shared framework. Day two and three of the charette will be devoted to translating those decisions into a plan for action.

This document lays out a set of recommended *selection criteria* that Working Group members recommend to inform the country decision-making process. These criteria draw from the Working Groups' three-part understanding of what success within a Post-2015 shared framework would look like, including:

a) Achieving the inclusion of Justice and Governance as prominent features (and ideally in a stand-alone goal or goals) in the final Post-2015 Development Framework with meaningful, country-owned targets and indicators to assess them;
b) Accelerating and entrenching Justice and Governance-related reforms and methods of measurement/assessment at the national level in key countries; and
c) Leveraging OSF work in Justice and Governance by building common goals that could be used by our network and our partners.

In reviewing the OSF network's pre-charette strategy submissions, the Working Group grappled with how the deliberative body might weigh these triple goals when assessing the range of on-the-ground proposals, and still remain true to the global board's mandate. Below is a brief typology of proposals that OSF thematic programs and foundations have shared, followed by a recommended approach for how the deliberative body could assess them against the three objectives described above.

Typology of Country Proposals

1. *Type 1*: *("Direct Advocacy Benefit")* There are a set of proposals to do "on the ground" work around justice/governance in countries that we know *a priori* have serious influence in UN Post-2015 policy debates and where explicit links between national- and international-level work and potential to impact the final framework can be clearly identified.

2. *Type 2:* ("*Indirect Advocacy Benefit*") There is a second set of proposals that relate to countries that are not seen as particularly influential in UN policy debates *at this time*, but where there may be strong prospects for rapid on the ground progress on justice and/or governance concerns and/or opportunities to impact the shape of other donor assistance, which could then be held up in international advocacy debates as real life examples of what is possible to achieve and measure in these fields. *This is a more indirect form of influencing international advocacy and we are not clear how this work may or may not fit within the Global Board's mandate right now.*

3. *Type 3 ("Building OTG Influence")*: There are a number of countries that we likewise might anticipate are not likely to wield significant influence in UN post-2015 decision-making processes, and where prospects for leveraging the post-2015 development framework to make significant progress on the ground are slim. Local OSF foundations and programs working in these contexts nonetheless see possibilities in making

progress on justice/governance. We will seek clearer understanding of these possibilities and ways to continue to share knowledge and experience that can support this important ongoing work.

The Working Group's recommendation is that the final pool of countries should include countries where we have the *ability to produce results in the time frame* that is proposed, a *plurality* of countries that reinforces the idea that goals are useful at a global level (in developed, developing, and fragile countries), and a *mix* of countries that are supportive and not explicitly supportive of goals 10 and 11 at the UN level - only including supportive countries will strength the argument that only countries with interest in the goals are supporting them at the UN level.

Assessment Recommendations for Charette Deliberations

The Post-2015 Charette Working Group recommends that the deliberative body weighing the final charette proposals include both Type 1 and 2 in their understanding of potentially eligible and influential proposals. This will allow OSF to pursue work in countries that are likely to be able to directly influence post-2015 framework debates, while also taking advantage of real openings in less influential countries that, if successful, can have resonance for post-2015 international advocacy activities. The final group is thus likely to include countries in both the global north and the global south. *Determining which countries fit into which categories will be an important aspect of day one of the charette*.

While important work for the longer-term, we would recommend *not* including Type 3 within the Post-2015 shared framework effort. These are countries that do not seem to fit the global board's mandate or do not demonstrate potential for achieving either of the Post-2015 framework's goals in the near term. Instead, it makes sense to encourage programs and foundations to continue building their work in these countries as it aligns with and reflects their approved national strategies, rather than within the Post-2015 shared framework. We will look to find productive, supportive, and light-touch ways to plug these actors in to Post-2015 Shared Framework information/communications infrastructure to allow their national efforts to benefit from broader network insights.

Levels Network Engagement in the Shared Framework

There are three levels at which OSF programs and foundations might engage in the Post-2015 Shared Framework:

Level 1: Programs and foundations working in/on Type 1 and Type 2 countries that are selected for the shared framework, and are thus directly involved in the development of the shared framework.

Level 2: Program and foundations working in/on Type 3 countries that fall outside of the shared framework's focus. These units might participate in the shared framework using their own budgets and take advantage of the learning and comparative approach it offers, but will not be eligible for reserve funds. They are associated with the shared framework, but not directly included in it. If a country moves from Type 3 to Type 1 or 2 over the course of the shared framework, programs and foundations working in/on that country might also move to engage at Level 1.

Level 3: Programs working on other issues within the Post-2015 agenda that fall outside of the shared framework. This work should be coordinated with the advocacy conducted as part of the shared framework in order to ensure coherence and prevent contradictory positions or activities from being taken by different parts of the OSF network.

[i] Shared frameworks are projects with high-priority goals and a limited time frame to which multiple OSF programs and foundations contribute their own programming. A shared framework allows multiple programs and foundations to reconceive a complex problem in a new way--one that would not yield to the efforts of any one program or foundation.

[ii] The Post-2015 Charette Working Group includes Pedro Abramovay, Vonda Brown, Peter Chapman, Heather Grabbe, Julie McCarthy, Louise Olivier and Johanna Chao Kreilick.

[iii] The Post-2015 deliberative body will be chaired by Chris Stone and include participating Global Board and Senior Management Committee members.