A Global Standard for CSO Accountability: Does it contribute to CSO legitimacy?

Anabel Cruz

ICD / Rendir Cuentas / CIVICUS

Initiators of the Global CSO Standard
NINE National and international networks

InterAction

Accountable Now

RENDIR CUENTAS

NGO QUALITY ASSURANCE CERTIFICATION MECHANISM
QuAM

Viwango
Towards Civil Society Excellence

VOICE OF THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR
VANI

BALKAN CIVIL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

CCC
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Cooperation Committee for Cambodia
Comité de Coopération Pour le Cambodge

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Partners

- *Australian* Council for International Development (ACFID)
- Cooperation Committee for *Cambodia* (CCC)
- Accountable Now (former *INGO Accountability Charter*)
- InterAction, *USA*
- NGO Quality Assurance Certification Mechanism (QuAM), *Uganda*
- Rendir Cuentas, *Latin America and the Caribbean*
- Viwango, *Kenya*
- Voluntary Action Network *India (*VANI)
- *Balkan* Civil Society Development Network (BCSDN)

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Project Partners have 1,500+ CSO / network members

Implementation Process

Key Milestones

2015	• Develop understanding of the overlaps in existing codes and decide on improvement plans for each of the Project Partners' own code
2016	• Develop collective *Global Standard for CSO Accountability* as global reference standard
2017	• Roll out of *Global Standard* / Launching in December 2017

GLOBAL STANDARD FOR CSO ACCOUNTABILITY

12 COMMITMENTS FOR DYNAMIC ACCOUNTABILITY

GLOBAL STANDARD FOR CSO ACCOUNTABILITY

CLUSTER A/
WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE

1 Justice & Equality

2 Women's Rights & Gender Equality

3 Healthy Planet

4 Lasting Positive Change

CLUSTER B/
OUR APPROACH TO CHANGE

5 People-driven Work

6 Strong Partnerships

7 Advocating for Fundamental Change

8 Open Organisations

CLUSTER C/
WHAT WE DO INTERNALLY

9 Empowered, Effective Staff & Volunteers

10 Well-handled Resources

11 Responsive Decision-making

12 Responsible Leadership

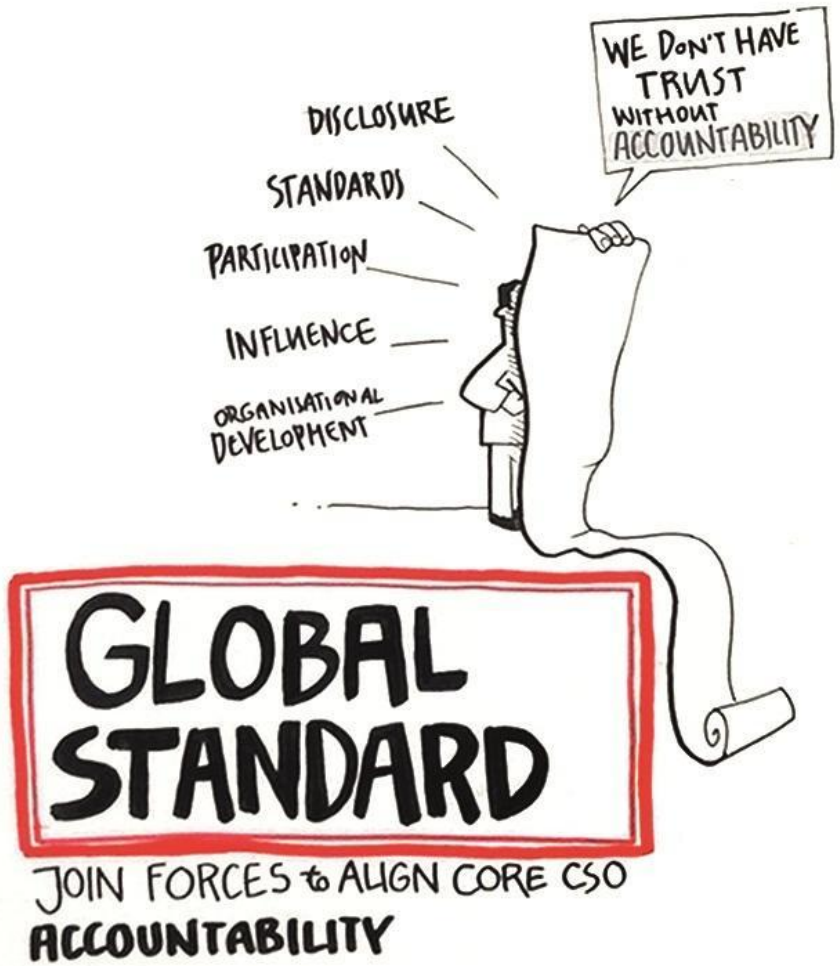
FOUR research questions

What are the reasons behind the aspiration of a global standard for CSO accountability?

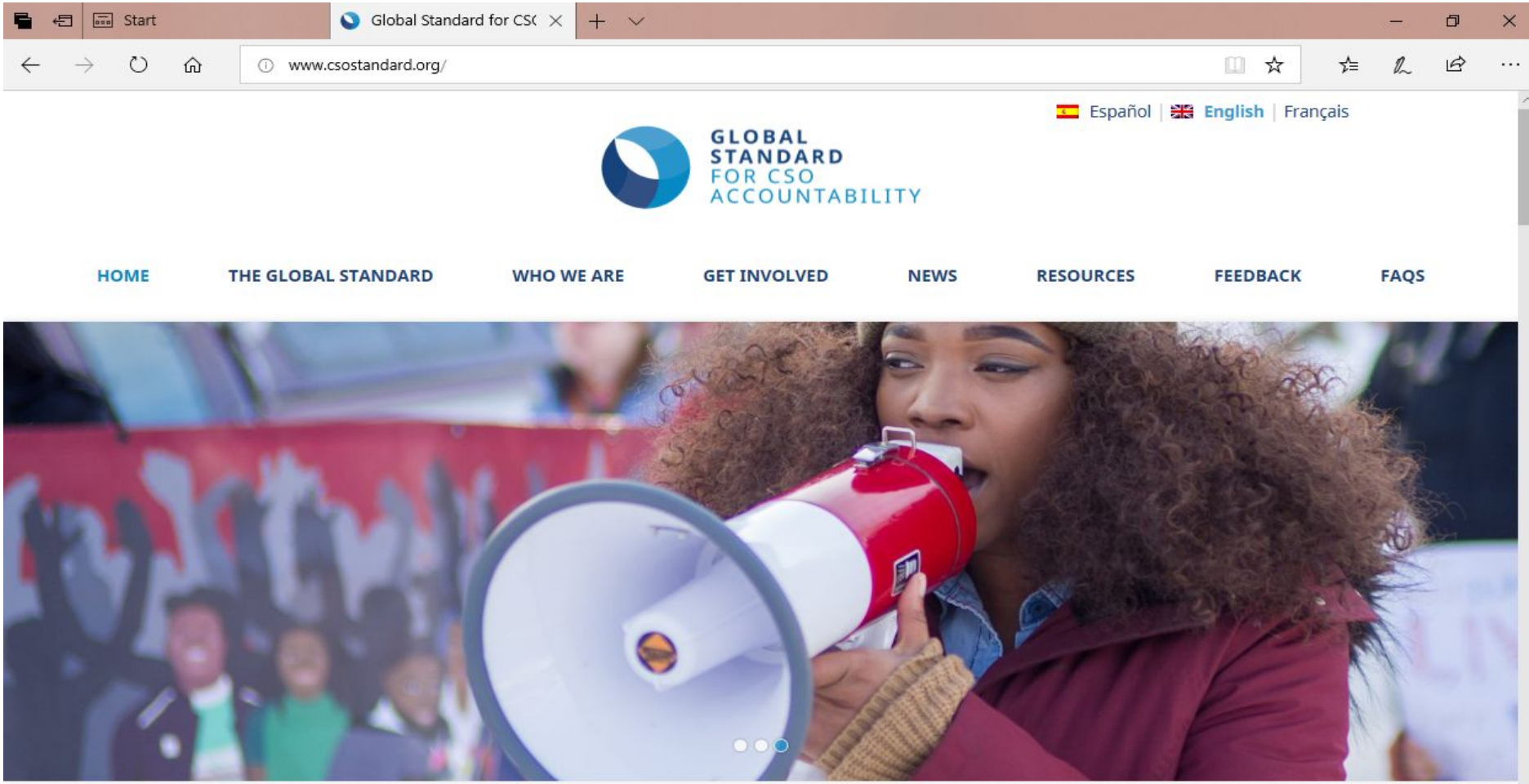
Which are its main expected benefits?

What are the lessons learned at national level?

Does the implementation of a Global Standard strengthen CSO legitimacy and their advocacy capacities?



Methodology / more information



- Fragmentation of CSO accountability fails to show CSO impact
- Benefits of a global standard vis-à-vis national instruments
- Can an aspirational standard capture the support of donors and policy-makers?
- The Global Standard and shrinking civic space
- Dynamic Accountability: key concept

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THANK YOU!