



Workshop II D: "Domestic resource mobilization for think tanks"

Time: 14.00-16.00, 19th June

Resource Persons: Neville Gabriel (Southern Africa Trust); Neelam Makhijani (Resource Alliance); Federico Burone (IDRC) (Facilitator)

Preamble

The mobilization of domestic resources is a determining factor in a think tank's success. The origin of resources, methods of approaching a source of resources, and being accountable on their utilization are aspects that influence the evaluation of institutional capacities that external donors carry out when assigning their contributions. The financial sustainability of think tanks depends heavily on reaching a proper balance between various sources of funding, as well as demonstrating the existence of business models aimed at creative approaches, efficient utilization, and effective communication of results on the use of domestic resources. The session proposes an analysis of the relevance of the mobilization of domestic resources in developing the maximum potential of think tanks' work.

Objectives

The workshop will:

1. analyze the characteristics of possible sources of domestic financial resources in low and medium income countries, especially for the tasks of a think tank
2. share experiences of successful mobilization of resources on the domestic scene
3. discuss lessons learned in the implementation of business plans oriented towards the mobilization of domestic resources for think tanks

Approach and outcomes

In order to achieve these objectives, the session aims to tackle a set of questions, including the following:

- Why is the inclusion of a strategy for the mobilization of domestic resources in low and middle-income countries a critical aspect in the sustainability of think tanks? What is its influence in external donors' appraisal of capacities for policy influence, communication and innovation in the use of evidence?
- Which characteristics and tendencies exist in the presence of sources of domestic resources in low and medium-income countries? What institutional capacities or products are necessary for the improvement of possibilities for the mobilization of domestic resources? Is there a difference in capacities necessary for the mobilization of resources from international donors?
- What are we learning about the role of information technologies in the mobilization of domestic resources? In which dimension of mobilization of resources do these instruments have greatest potential in low and middle income countries?

Neelam Makhijani (Resource Alliance) and Neville Gabriel (Southern Africa Trust) will provide their experience in responding to these questions and use recent examples to illustrate their approach to the principal objectives. The process is designed to ensure a lively and open discussion with the session's participants. To this end, the participants will be invited to collaborate from the very beginning of the session. They will have the opportunity to emphasize the aspects that, from their perspective, are of the greatest interest for approaching the objectives in this exchange of lessons learned, and to share ideas that help orient strategies for the mobilization of domestic resources.