

10 things to know about the...



GLOBAL
STANDARD
FOR CSO
ACCOUNTABILITY

The Global Standard includes 12 commitments and associated key actions which CSOs can implement in their organisations to improve their accountability to all stakeholders.

The commitments are organised into 3 clusters and form an integrated whole, with each informing the other. They are deliberately aspirational: the focus is not only on what CSOs do now but what they can do in the future.

It has been developed in a participatory process by a partnership of 9 accountability initiatives from Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, Latin America and the Caribbean. These networks consulted on the commitments and key actions with their members and external experts.

Accountability is defined as:
'Taking responsibility for actions and impacts; being answerable and honest to all stakeholders - employees, communities, donors - in a transparent and easy to understand way; doing the utmost to achieve mission goals in a fair and just manners and openly sharing information.'

The Global Standard promotes a dynamic understanding of accountability that puts people in the centre of decision-making by encouraging CSOs to engage in a two-way dialogue with stakeholders.

The Global Standard provides a very practical framework that is adaptable to different cultural, geographical and organisational needs.

The Global Standard has supplementary guidance material and offers practical advice on how to use the Standard with various stakeholders such as CSO accountability initiatives, other CSOs, policy makers and funders.

It has already been used by different organisations in various forms. For example, adopting, aligning or creating a new accountability code for organisations, creating a self-evaluation tool or using it as a basis for a new format of annual reports.

The Global Standard guidance materials compile guiding questions for reflection and action towards the fulfilment of each commitment with complementing progress indicators. They encourage deeper reflection within the organisation particularly on challenges in implementation.

The Global Standard is a starting point to transform the civil society sector into a highly participative and responsive actor, generating trust on the ground and leveraging stakeholder contributions for greater impact which is crucial in times of shrinking civic space.