

Honduras Foro – Session Descriptions

Morning Talleres:

Derecho Tributario

In many legal systems, tax preferences are extended to civil society organizations (CSOs) and those individuals and/or entities that support them. Benefits can vary depending on the type of organization, its purpose, and/or the type of activities it undertakes. The tax rules affecting CSOs can create an enabling fiscal environment and contribute significantly to their financial sustainability. This session will outline common preferences, the incentives they create, and their impact on CSO and donor behavior.

Participación Social / Incidencia

CSOs often are key participants in the framing, developing, and support of law reforms to enable the sector. When operating in a participatory democracy, however, it is imperative that CSOs foster participación social and engage in meaningful incidencia for the reforms they propose. This can involve: soliciting detailed input and support from a broad cross-section of the sector; using and analyzing data to inform policy positions; drafting legislation; and engaging the interest and backing of government officials. In this taller, we will look at effective mechanisms for promoting participación social and incidencia and consequent results. Experiences from Mexico, El Salvador and Honduras will be featured

Afternoon Talleres:

Transparencia y Rendición de Cuentas.

CSO accountability and transparency are critical in an environment where the role of CSOs is becoming increasingly important and visible in countries throughout the world. But should all CSOs be held to the same accountability and transparency standards? This taller will explore key concepts including which types of organizations should be subject to accountability and transparency requirements, to whom, and for what types of information should they be responsible. It will explore the degree of acceptance by the sector of accountability and transparency principles, and the role of self-regulation versus government-mandated transparency and accountability obligations.

Mejorando Relaciones entre Gobierno y Sociedad Civil

Mechanisms to promote government/CSO relationships can facilitate CSOs' ability to deliver services. These mechanisms can range from government/CSO commissions to jointly developed compacts or agreements to informal government support of CSO activities and initiatives. This session will present several tools and tactics used effectively in Honduras and other countries throughout the world. It also will consider when these mechanisms are helpful, how to develop them, and how to tailor them to

achieve anticipated results, including ensuring fair access to government funds and establishing licensing procedures to ensure quality services.