

New roles of CSOs for inclusive development closing conference: *Co-creating knowledge on advocacy with civil society*

Tuesday 8 October 2019, 9:00–17:00, The Student Hotel The Hague, Hoefkade 9, 2526 BN The Hague

1. Goal

The research programme '[New Roles of CSOs for Inclusive Development](#)' (the Assumptions Programme) investigates the assumptions underpinning [the current civil society policy framework 'Dialogue & Dissent'](#) of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). On Tuesday **8 October 2019**, the fourth and closing conference for this research programme will take place. While the previous meetings focused on the findings of the literature reviews conducted by [the research groups](#) in the Assumptions Programme (May 2018) and the interim empirical findings as input for the MFA's new policy framework (January 2019), the closing conference will focus on **co-creating the knowledge on advocacy** that has come out of the eight research projects **with civil society experts**.

INCLUDE will, for the last time for this programme, bring together a range of researchers, MFA policymakers, civil society representatives from the global north and south, and other experts for the conference. CSO representatives from inside and outside the current Strategic Partnerships under the Dialogue & Dissent framework are highly welcome to take part in the interactive discussions. In addition, eight southern CSO representatives from the research consortia have been invited to share their insights as well as members of the INCLUDE Knowledge Platform. About 140 participants, at least half from civil society, are expected.

2. Set up

The conference will have three main and related components: research pitches, round tables and a panel discussion. Research groups will first pitch their main empirical findings and policy messages for CSOs. The pitches will be followed by round tables – the main body of the day. Following the [previous expert meeting](#) in January 2019 and the [research two-pagers](#) with empirical findings, several issues have been identified, cross-cutting the three main research themes, namely, the political roles of CSOs in low and lower middle income countries (LLMICs); the aid chain; and political space under pressure. These issues will be central to the discussions in eight round tables. In these highly interactive discussions, taking place in two rounds, the research findings will be fleshed out with insights and similar or contrasting experiences from the CSO representatives and other experts in the audience. The day will conclude with a panel discussion on the new roles of CSOs in relation to inclusive development. This will us bring back to the heart of the theory of change underlying the Dialogue & Dissent, which envisages inclusive sustainable development in LLMICs as a long-term impact. Closing the research programme, we will, therefore, ask ourselves about the implications of the research findings for inclusive development in LLMICs. How, and to what extent, do people living in poverty in LLMICs actually benefit from civil society's political role in

terms of reduced inequality, as envisioned by the Dialogue & Dissent policy framework? These and related issues will be critically discussed by a panel consisting of experts from policy, research, civil society, media and INCLUDE.

Throughout the day, the co-creation of knowledge on advocacy between researchers and CSO experts around the cross-cutting issues identified will take place and form a major step in building a final synthesis of the research programme. The synthesis will be produced by INCLUDE after the conference and will aim to inform both the MFA and CSOs working on lobbying and advocacy in the global south.

3. Programme

- 09:00–09:30 Registration with coffee/tea
- 09:30–09:40 **Welcome**, by chair Adrie Papma, former Director of Oxfam
- 09:40–09:50 **Co-creation with Slido**, by Kim van Wijk, INCLUDE
- 09:50–10:00 **Background to the Assumptions research programme**, by Jelmer Kamstra, MFA/DSO-MO
- 10:00–10:45 **Pitches on research findings and policy messages for CSOs (part 1)**, by research groups
- 10:45–11:00 Coffee and tea break
- 11:00–11:30 **Pitches on research findings and policy messages for CSOs (part 2)**, by research groups
- 11:30–11:45 **Q&A**
- 11:45–12:00 **Introduction to the cross-cutting research issues**, by Frank van Kesteren, INCLUDE
- 12:00–12:30 **Spotlights on the invited southern CSO research partners**
- 12:30–13:30 Lunch
- 13:30–14:10 **Round table discussions – first round**
- 14:10–14:20 Short break
- 14:20–15:00 **Round table discussions – second round**
- 15:00–15:30 **Highlights of the round tables**
- 15:30–15:45 Coffee and tea break
- 15:45–16:15 **Panel discussion: New roles of CSOs for inclusive development?**
- 16:15–16:25 **Closing remarks**, by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 16:25–16:30 **Closing remarks**, by Isa Baud, INCLUDE
- 16:30–17:00 Drinks & bites