



ESCR & budgets Working Group Work plan for 2012

Partnership Initiative / Global Movement for Budget Transparency, Accountability and Participation

BACKGROUND

The Article 2 Project had its genesis in a meeting of the Partnership Initiative of the International Budget Partnership (IBP) held in May 2009, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. At that meeting, organizations identified common areas of interest which they wanted to pursue further, as a network, through joint research and advocacy at the international level. One of the areas was applied budget work as a tool to advance economic and social rights, for which a Working Group was constituted.

At a follow up meeting in Antigua, Guatemala (March 2010), a core group of organizations defined the goal of the Working Group: to achieve government's compliance with the obligations expressed in Article 2 of the Covenant for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which establishes the use of maximum available resources (MAR) progressive realization (PR) and non-discrimination (ND).

Article 2 states:

1. Each State Party to the present Covenant undertakes to take steps, individually and through international assistance and co-operation, especially economic and technical, to the maximum of its available resources, with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of the rights recognized in the present Covenant by all appropriate means, including particularly the adoption of legislative measures.
2. The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to guarantee that the rights enunciated in the present Covenant will be exercised without discrimination of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

The ESCR working group met again in Siem Reap, Cambodia (June 2010), and in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (November 2011), to report on activities and discuss further actions. Its work and objectives were also showcased and incorporated into the agenda of the Global Movement for Budget Transparency, Accountability and Participation (BTAP), thus expanding the working group beyond PI.

Art. 2 work plan – 2012

Two long-standing members of the ESCR working group will serve as **co-chairs during 2012**: Alexandre Ciconello (INESC, Brazil) and Ann Blyberg (International Human Rights Internship Program, US).

Activities during 2012 will focus on two **core goals**: i. Refinement and finalization of our position paper on MAR, ND and PR, and ii. Identify and seize diverse opportunities to raise the profile of our reflection, by developing a multi-pronged advocacy strategy.

Activities:

i. Position paper on art. 2

- a. Submit relevant comments, examples, research and write up of cases for the Art. 2 position paper.
- b. Submit suggestions for peer reviewers for the position paper. Peer reviewers should be knowledgeable in public finance and economics, and if possible, human rights. Most relevantly, we are looking for reviewers who are sympathetic to the human rights and development agenda, at the same time of being able to question the soundness of our arguments.
- c. Read and comment next draft of the position paper (March 2012).
- d. Simultaneously, the paper will be sent to a small group of experts at the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- e. The paper will also be reviewed and commented by peer reviewers.
- f. From April on, after comments from peer reviewers and the Working Group, the paper will be finalized and the process to develop a joint publication with UNHCHR will be stepped up.
- g. Once the publication is in its final stage, active Working Group members will have a meeting to develop a multi-pronged advocacy strategy to push governments and other actors to respond and make use of the guidance in the paper. This might include the development of a user-friendly version of the paper.
- h. Follow up to publish paper jointly with OHCHR.

ii. Outlets and opportunities for advocacy

All members of the working group will explore opportunities to promote the art. 2 WG agenda with regional or global networks they form part of, as well as with regional development banks and institutions.

Currently, WG members have identified the following opportunities to push this agenda:

- i. **Rio+20**, June 2012: INESC and IBASE.
- j. **G20 in Mexico**: Fundar to take lead. Fundar and Oxfam Mexico are working on prep meetings for the G20 alternative forum in June. Fundar is pushing to integrate ESCR and budgets into the agenda of the alternative forum.
- k. **Human Rights Council**: NCDHR to take the lead on this. The idea is to have a seminar on the Art 2 position paper in Geneva, involving SRs and staff of OHCHR. This can be done at the 21st HRC meeting in September; a smaller prep meeting could be held at the 20th session of the HRC in June.
- l. **People Summit**: Action Aid is working on UNCSD and the People Summit in Rio de Janeiro, in June; it may be possible to include include ESC rights in the agenda.

In addition, in mid 2012 the Working Group will have a face to face meeting, to strategize on how to use our paper with national, regional, and international human rights bodies.

	Jan 31	Feb 15	Feb 29	Mar 31	Apr 30	May	Jun	Jul	Sept
Send examples and case studies for Art. 2 paper	X								
Volunteers for Chairs of WG	X								
Suggestions for peer reviewers	X								
Suggestions for events to raise WG's profile		X							
Next draft of Art. 2 position paper to WG, UNHCHR and peer reviewers			X						
Comments from WG, UNHCHR and peer reviewers				X					
Final position paper					X				
Start process of joint publication						X			
Rio + 20							X		
G20							X		
People's Summit							X		
WG meeting, to work on advocacy plan							X	X	
Human Rights Council									X

List of working group participants

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Email</u>
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Involvement of WG members in sub-groups:

a. Article 2 position paper

TALC

NCDHR

ACIJ

Fundar

Grupo Faro

INESC

ActionAid

b. Advocacy opportunities

CGD

HakiElimu

TALC

NCDHR

Fundar

Grupo Faro

INESC

ActionAid