

8. The advantages should be considered of using the good offices of hybrid or parastatal institutions as convenors for policy fora (i.e. policy events hosted by the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development, the International Development Research Centre, etc.)
9. Systems should be established to ensure timely and easily accessible sharing of information, conclusions and outcomes.
10. Government should be cognizant of, and responsive to, the resource implications for NGOs of sustained policy engagement.
11. Policy processes need to be cognizant of, and sensitive to, inter-departmental dynamics.

NGO Pre-Dialogue Checklist

Looking at the NGO side of the policy engagement in dialogue, NGOs need to:

- i) have a realistic assessment of what really is being placed on the table by government
- ii) decide how much to invest in the process at the outset (there are moments to decline to participate, which would avoid the mistake of doing it badly and communicate the seriousness of the investment when dialogue invitations were accepted)
- iii) hone policy proposal skills by being able to illustrate points clearly with micro examples of macro policy impact (e.g. demonstrating community level impacts)
- iv) understand the implementation context for policy proposals (to ensure that proposals concretely reflect doable and step-by-step suggestions for incremental progress)