

## Supporting Partner Advocacy

Northern NGOs can support their partner organisations to do advocacy in a number of ways. This can range from the more obvious funding and training programmes through to less obvious methods of support. Support activities can be classified in four types (although many activities may fit into more than one type):

- Resource transfer
- Skills development
- Facilitation & accompaniment
- Parallel advocacy

**Resource Transfer** – financial, physical, human and information resources are all needed by organisations to do advocacy. Grants may be given for specific advocacy activities and IT equipment, but more importantly is to provide flexible funding for staff to spend time doing general research, building up relationships and responding to unplanned opportunities. Information on issues and the activities of other organisations and international institutions can be shared easily through electronic and print media.

**Skills development** – organisations need to have a range of knowledge and skills available among their staff. Learning can be gained through a range of means, not just training workshops but also through exchange programmes, distance learning, practical experience and constructive feedback.

**Facilitation & Accompaniment** – support can be given by helping partners to devise their strategies, accompany them in doing advocacy activities, giving advice and feedback, and helping to set up opportunities. Funding organisations can also help set up networks and South-South linking, and invite partner organisations to policy forums and lobbying meetings.

**Parallel advocacy** – the advocacy of partners can be supported by advocating to the target institution that they listen to the partner, or by doing advocacy with other institutions on the same issue.

However, to be effective, that support should meet the expressed needs of the partner organisation and be based on a thorough needs analysis.

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