# Strengthening Capacity for Collaboration, Policy Dialogue and Advocacy

**Strengthening RAS Actors for Advocacy and Dialogue on Policy Reform and Action**

*6th GFRAS Annual Meeting "Global Good Practices in Rural Advisory Services"*

**18 September, Issyk Kul, Kyrgyzstan**

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# About FANRPAN

**Vision**: A food secure Africa free from hunger and poverty

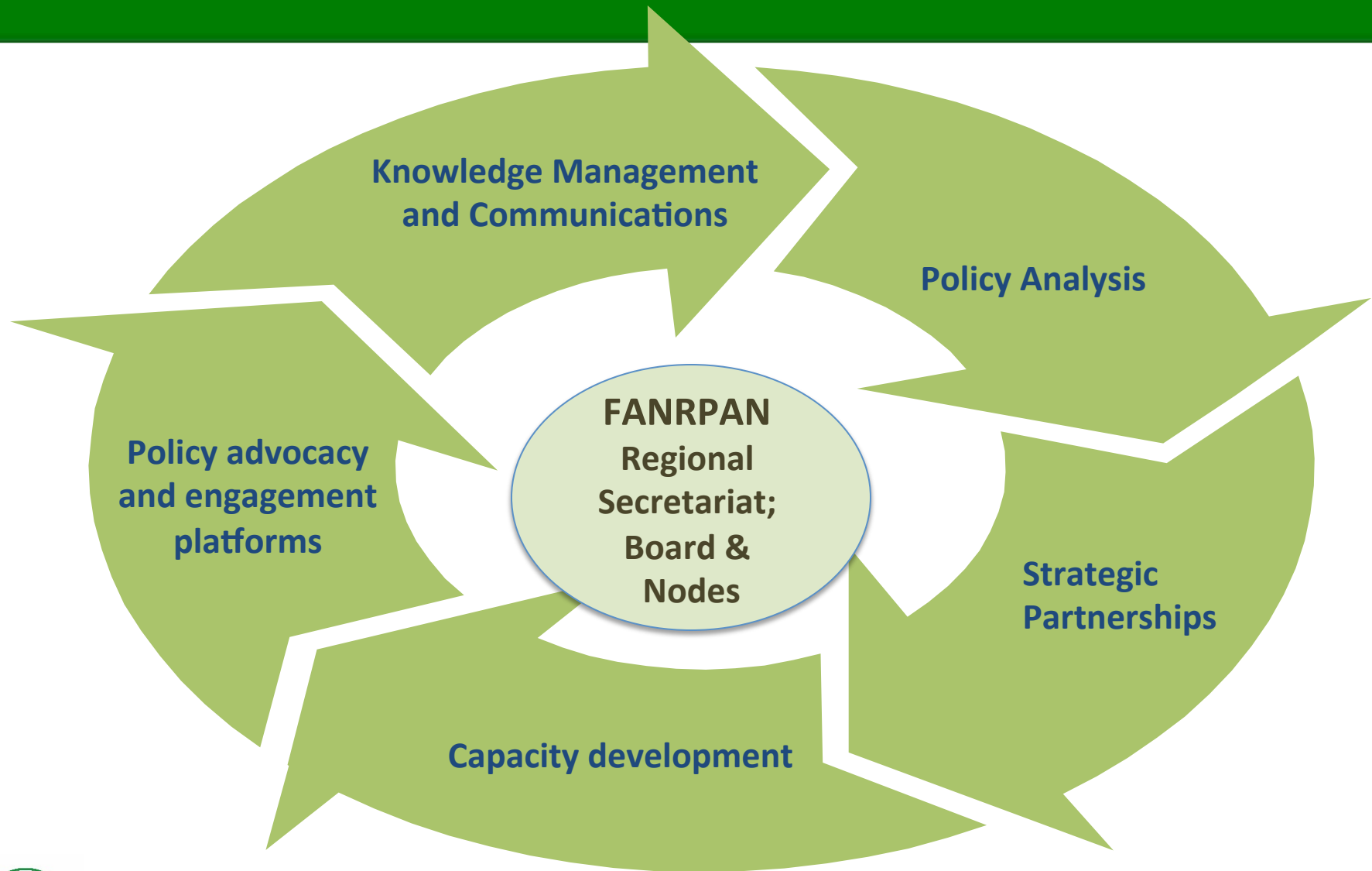**Mission**: To promote effective Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) policies by
- *facilitating linkages and partnerships between government and civil society,*
- *building the capacity for policy analysis and policy dialogue in southern Africa, and*
- *supporting demand-driven policy research and analysis*

**Mandate:** An Africa-wide with presence in 17 African countries
*Angola, Benin, Botswana, DRC, Kenya, Lesotho, Namibia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.*

# FANRPAN Policy Engagement Cycle

Knowledge Management and Communications

Policy Analysis

Policy advocacy and engagement platforms

FANRPAN Regional Secretariat; Board & Nodes

Strategic Partnerships

Capacity development

*The **mission** of GFRAS is to provide advocacy and leadership on pluralistic and demand-driven rural advisory services for sustainable development*

global forum for rural advisory services
forum mondial pour le conseil rural
foro global para los servicios de asesoría rural

# *Strategic Fields of Action*

*1.**Advocacy and support for an enabling policy environment and appropriate investment in rural advisory services***

*2.**Professionalisation of rural advisory services***

*3.**Facilitation and enhancement of effective, constructive, and continuous knowledge and information exchange***

# 1. Advocacy and Support for an Enabling Policy Environment and Appropriate investment

## Main goal:

*Increased recognition of rural advisory services in policies and investments*



*Source: Kristin Davis*

![gfras logo] global forum for rural advisory services
forum mondial pour le conseil rural
foro global para los servicios de asesoría rural

# What is Policy Advocacy

- … any effort to **influence** public policy by providing **information**, speaking to decision makers, **demonstrating benefits** for policy change and other such activities that encourage the adoption of the desired **policy change**.
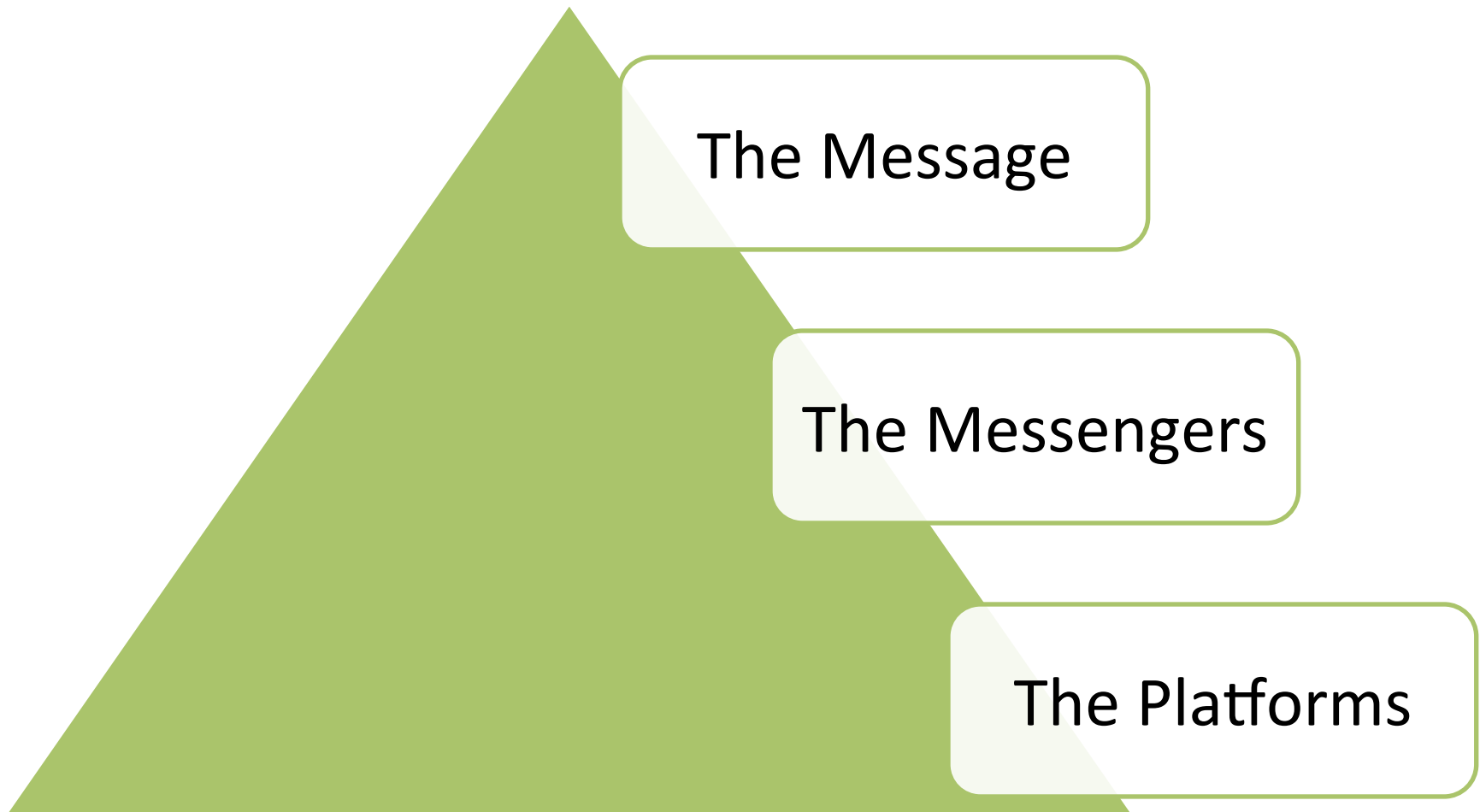
# Whose Voices Are Heard

- Representation: speaking on behalf of the voiceless (for)

- Mobilisation: encouraging others to speak with you (with)

- Empowerment: supporting the voiceless to speak for themselves (by)

# The FANRPAN Advocacy Model

The Message

The Messengers

The Platforms

# The Message

*Advocating for evidence-based policies on food, agriculture and natural resources management (FANR) - for improved and sustainable livelihoods and food security in Africa!*

## Key Policy Areas:

- *Seed Policy harmonisation - HaSSP*

- *Climate smart agriculture – LBDC, SECCAP, EPCSA*

- *CSOs engagement in CAADP implementation- CADDP*

- *Mainstreaming women and youth in the FANR sector - WARM*

What is our message as RAS Actors?

# The Messengers

- FANRPAN National Node Coordinators

- Policy Champions

- Policy Advocates (youth and women)

- Journalists

- Elders

# Who are the RAS messengers?

# The Platforms

- National Advocacy Initiatives
  - Multi-stakeholder policy dialogue platforms
  - Community Theatre for Policy Advocacy
  - Parliamentary engagements
  - Field days

- Regional Advocacy Initiatives
  - FANRPAN Flagship Multi-stakeholder Regional Policy Dialogue
  - Media Training on documenting best practices in the region
  - Training  scientists in policy development and national priorities
  - Regional harmonization of policies-engagements with Regional Economic Communities SADC, African Union, sharing experiences
  - Pan-Africa Parliament engagements

- Global Advocacy Initiatives
  - United Nations Engagements: UNFCCC & FAO Ministers of Agriculture
  - World Economic Forum
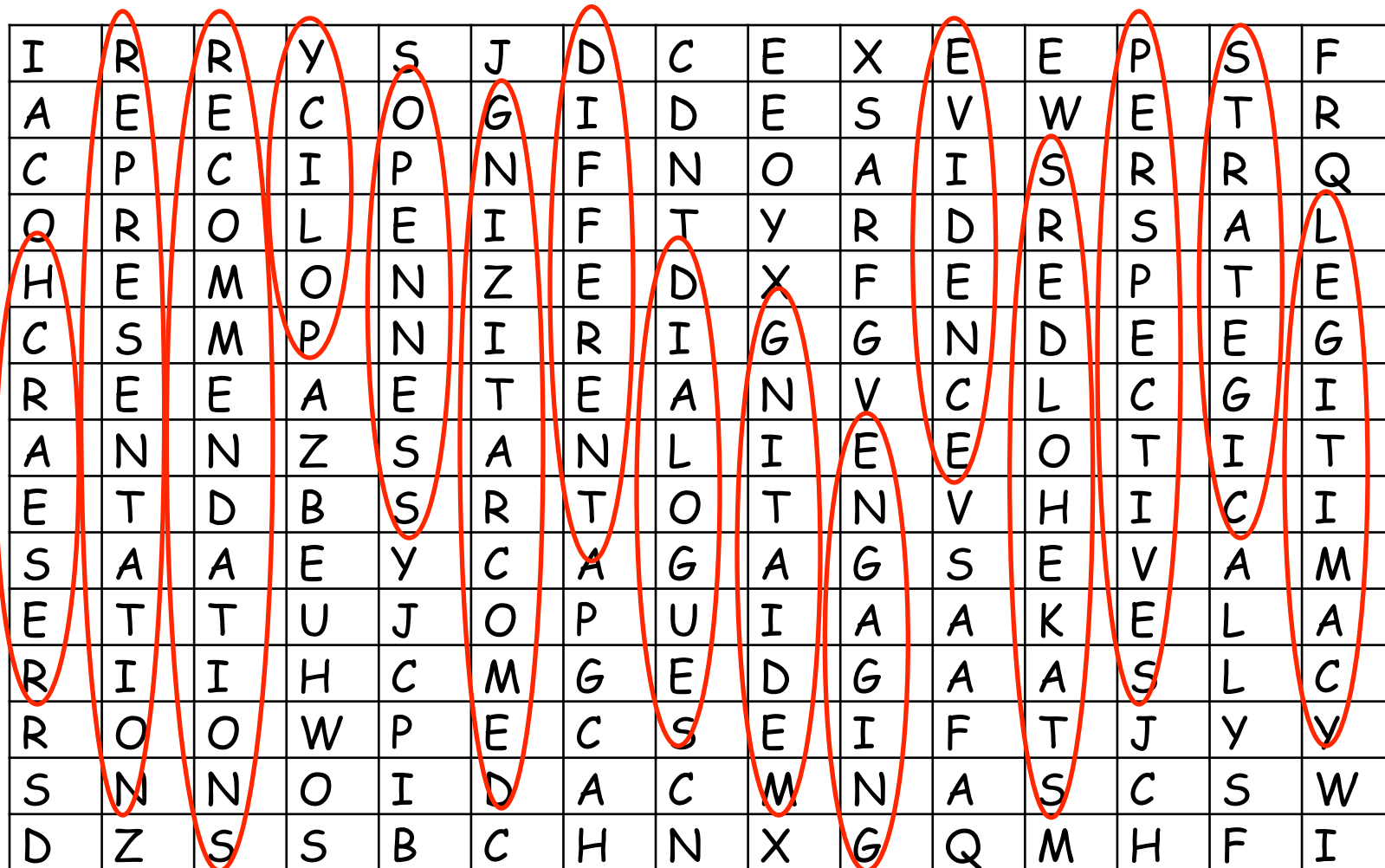  - World Bank Food Security Forum

# Key Things to Remember About Advocacy

- Policy advocacy is the essential link that ensures research results enter the policy domain.

- Policy advocacy should be integrated into project design and management from the outset.

- For policy advocacy to be successful, research teams need to identify and gain access to appropriate political decision makers at the most opportune moments. Timing of research outputs is crucial to maximise the opportunity for policy reform.

- Communication of policy messages must be targeted carefully to different stakeholders. One size does not fit all.

- Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of the uptake of research outputs in policy processes is critical to assess progress and learn from experience.

- Policy advocacy should be a long-term process that continues beyond the conventional lifetime of a project so that research findings can be incorporated within policy processes when appropriate.

# Policy Dialogue Word Search

# A Policy Dialogue is <u>NOT</u>....



THE CONTRACT IS <u>OURS</u>!
YES IT IS!
YES IT IS!
YES IT IS!!

NO IT ISN'T!
NO IT ISN'T
NO IT ISN'T!
NO IT ISN'T!!

COMPETITIVE DIALOGUE

- A mass meeting

- An event controlled by only one interest group

- An event dominated by formalities and protocols

- A seminar or lecture

- An event for sharing research results with the general public

- An occasion to present pre-prepared resolutions or deliver an ultimatum

- A spur of the moment meeting

# Defining a Policy Dialogue

- Policy dialogues go by many names:

  "Roundtables" or "Issue Workshops" or "Working Groups"

- Policy dialogue may be defined as:

  "organized deliberation between two or more actors on the allocation of values that is likely to result in new policies or modification of existing ones"

  "carefully constructed, deliberative meetings that address both politically controversial and technically complex aspects of a policy issue of concern to a particular polity or society" *Adler and Celico, 2003*

# Defining a Policy Dialogue

- Regardless of their name, all policy dialogues
  - bring diverse interest groups to the table,
  - focus on a regulatory, policy, or planning issue that is of common interest,
  - have a life cycle with a beginning, middle, and end, and
  - seek to formulate practical solutions to complex problems

- So how does a policy dialogue work?
  - No ideal model of a Policy Dialogue

## Definition and Characteristics

An ***all-inclusive platform*** for ***discussion and sharing of views*** with the ultimate goal of ***generating resolutions***.

- *Equal participation by all*
- *Acceptance of different or divergent views*
- *Agenda is set by members*
- *Enables entry of research outputs into policy*
- *Information is shared freely*

# Characteristics of FANRPAN Policy Dialogues

1. **Linking research to Policy** - to promote equitable and evidence-based Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) policies that will ensure a southern Africa free from hunger and poverty.

2. **A 2-tier balancing act** - brings together country, as well as, regional level stakeholders to one discussion table.

3. **Convening Power** - who are the stakeholder and do they have potential to influence policy change

4. **Evidence more than just scientific data** - evidence for the formation of policies is not only scientific data and analysis, but also voices, views, experience and feedback from various groups of stakeholders 3.5 Policy Dialogue – a process not just an event

5. FANRPAN Policy analysis is **a complex process** that involves, at least, six main activities (explained in following slide)

6. **Pursuing the Issue** - follow-up advocacy for the issue in order to ensure policy change

# The FANRPAN Multi-stakeholder Policy Dialogue Model

Policy dialogue cuts across the six core activities that constitute its full policy analysis cycle

(1)Research and analysis - to ensure scientific quality, validity and reliability of policy proposals;

(2)Designing and recommending - policy options that are relevant, usable and action-oriented;

(3)Advising strategically – advising different clients strategically to ensure political effectiveness and workability of the proposed policy options,;

(4)Mediating – between different clients and stakeholders to ensure acceptance of different perspectives, new learning and commitment to new approaches;

(5)Democratising – to ensure democratic principles and legitimacy, openness, transparency of the policy proposals, as well as, ensuring adequate representation of all key stakeholders and

(6)Clarifying values and arguments – to ensure the highest quality of debate and arguments, consistency, richness and openness.

# FANRPAN Regional Policy Dialogues



Annual High-level Food and Nutrition Security Multi-Stakeholder Policy Dialogue

**Policies for Climate Smart Agriculture Family Farming in Africa**

Antananarivo, Madagascar 29 September - 2 October 2014



FANRPAN High-level Food Security Multi-Stakeholder Policy Dialogue 2013

Maseru, Lesotho, 2 - 5 September 2013



**From Policy to Practice:**
Advocating for Active Engagement of Youth in Agriculture Value Chains

3 - 7 September 2012 | Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania.

http://www.fanrpan.org/about/annual_dialogues/

# Planning a Policy Dialogue

- What Do You Want to Achieve?

- Who Should Participate?

- Who Will Facilitate and Keep the Policy Dialogue on Track?

- When and Where Should the Event Be Held?

- Setting up the Programme

- Preparing for Policy Dialogues

- Keeping the Record

- Running a Policy Dialogue (facilitator should be clear about who is present and why: what the different interests in the issues are and what role each participant plays)

- Getting the Commitments

- Following Up After the Event

# Multi – Stakeholder Dialogues

## Outputs

- Dialogue Proceedings and Resolutions

- Policy Recommendations

- Stakeholder development commitments

- Case Studies of success stories to facilitate best practice transfer

- Agenda setting and coordinated next steps/way forward

Policy dialogue should not be confined to the meeting room only