



THINK TANK INITIATIVE EXCHANGE
ÉCHANGE DE L'INITIATIVE THINK TANK
INTERCAMBIO INICIATIVA THINK TANK

2018

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Sustainable Organizations for Sustainable Development

Into the future: How can think tanks continue to contribute to building more equitable and prosperous societies?

Context

In the last quarter of 2018, the Think Tank Initiative (TTI) will bring together representatives of think tanks, policymakers, donors, and other research-to-policy actors for a final TTI Think Tank Exchange. The two previous exchanges (Cape Town, 2012 and Istanbul, 2015) were linked clearly to the third objective of TTI's results framework:

"Facilitate and share learning about strategies for defining, building, and managing successful, sustainable think tanks with a wide range of policy research organizations and interested stakeholders."

This exchange will build on the successes and lessons from previous events whilst also placing strong emphasis on the sustainability dimension of the program's objective and what it means for policy research organisations and their work.

The rationale for this emphasis is twofold. First, TTI is ending in 2019. The Program and its participants have nearly a decade of TTI lessons, experiences and insight to share on the challenges of building and sustaining policy research organizations that are able to maximize the quality and effectiveness of their contributions to policy processes and to improving development outcomes in their countries and their regions.

Second, with ambitious agendas captured in international policy architecture like the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 agenda and the Paris Agreement of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the need to bring evidence to bear on policy and to facilitate efforts to drive policy-informed action has never been greater. Policy research organizations are already making valuable contributions to the achievement of these frameworks at national, regional and global levels, and have the potential to catalyze further action around these agendas, working collectively with other key actors, in the years to come. This Exchange will allow participants to explore how policy research organizations can further improve their contributions to a sustainable future and what new kinds of collaborations might be required to promote evidence informed policy making as successfully as possible.

Aims

To share lessons on the most effective strategies for achieving the sustainability of policy research organizations.

To reflect on what these lessons suggest for future approaches to supporting evidence informed policy processes that promote sustainable development, including international policy frameworks like the Sustainable Development Goals.

Objectives

- Promote debate and dialogue on the critical factors contributing to the sustainability and impact of policy research organizations;
- Generate critical insights and reflections on effective approaches to supporting policy research organizations;
- Understand the catalytic role that policy research organizations can play in contributing to international frameworks like the SDGs, and how they might work collectively with other key actors to contribute more effectively;
- Explore strategies and approaches for how best to animate evidence informed policy ecosystems with a view to identifying opportunities for future collaboration amongst policy research organizations, funders and other relevant actors.

