

CSB OUTPUTS FROM RETREAT 19 & 20 NOVEMBER 2016

DAY 1 - 19 NOVEMBER, 2016

Present Richard Johnson, Terry Miller, Leonard Archer, Kevon Lightbourne, Sherry Benjamin, Lowena West & Mark Palmer

SESSION 1/ BRAINSTORMING CORE VALUES OF CSB (15 MINS)

A/ BRAINSTORM OUR CORE VALUES

Democratic, Systematic, Accountability, Transparency, Participatory, Informative, Advocacy, Sustainability, Mobilization, Inclusivity, Exemplary, Integrity, Non-partisan, Apolitical, Research, Innovative leadership, Uniting, Human rights (promoting, protecting, respecting), **Transformative, Disruption, Visionary, Organized, Caring, Responsible, Watchdog, Evidence based, Courage, National Development, Unifying, Personal development, Umbrella, Reporting, Strengthening, Democracy, Economic development, Humanity, Communication, Trustworth, Social & economic justice, Capacity development, Monitoring & evaluation.**

B/ DECIDE ON OUR TOP 5 CORE VALUES

The original narrative for values 1-5 has been provided by Kevon Lightbourne.

1/ Human rights and justice

All of our work is based on respect for the inherent worth and dignity of all people, and the rights that follow from this understanding.

2/ Transparency and accountability

CSB will provide and expects to access clear, accurate and up-to-date information. We are willing to hold ourselves to high standards and seek to hold others to similar standards as the ones we set for ourselves.

3/ Sustainability and capacitance development

CSB is committed to development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. By empowering members, our networks and the communities they serve, we believe that the benefits of our work will be enduring.

4/ Cooperation and partnership

We respect the wishes and requirements of our members and networks – and the communities they serve – and we endeavour to create a shared voice, working together in a manner that enables us to achieve our shared goals and live our shared values.

5/ Democracy and Equity

CSB shares its own resources fairly and wants to see that the natural and intellectual wealth of The Bahamas is also distributed fairly, so that everyone is able to gain their share. We know that the success of development can be measured by how the least powerful people and the smallest minority groups are faring.

6/ Advocacy and Research

Narrative to be developed

CSB OUTPUTS FROM RETREAT 19 & 20 NOVEMBER 2016

7/ Democracy & Equity

Narrative to be developed

SESSION 2/ NICHE (15 MINS)

A/ IS OUR NICHE PEOPLE? IF SO, DESCRIBE THEM.

Community leaders, Advocates, Activists, educators, Researchers, Religious leaders, Legal professionals, Youth leaders, Media leaders, Health practitioners

B/ IS OUR NICHE ORGANISATIONS? IF SO, DESCRIBE THEM.

Four categories of membership - Inform, Consult, Associate, Collaborate

Media houses, Professional association (conflict of interest), Non profit organizations, Non governmental organizations, Advocacy / activist groups, Faith based organizations, Community organizations, Government agencies (social, justice and equity), Universities, Civic clubs, Fraternal clubs, Lodges, Trade unions, Formalized movements, International organizations, Embassies (US)

C/ OF THESE PEOPLE AND ORGANISATIONS, WHO IS OF MOST IMPORTANCE TO US AND WHY?

To be developed by the Membership Committee

SESSION 3/ DIFFERENTIATION (15 MINS)

A/ WHAT ARE THE COMPLAINTS THAT MEMBER ORGANISATIONS HAVE, OR WHAT DO THEY CARE ABOUT?

Training resources, Capacity building, Funding, Strategic plan/roadmap, Administrative help, Skill development, Statistics and data (quantitative and qualitative), Information, Coordination, Monitoring & evaluation, Sustainability, Promotion, Reporting, Service mapping, Auditing, System of accreditation, Help with innovation (IT), Supportive legislation, Marketing and promotion (inter agency), Communication tool

B/ WHAT ARE THE COMPLAINTS THAT INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS HAVE, OR WHAT DO THEY CARE ABOUT?

Strategic plan / roadmap, Problems in question / theory form, Skill development, Information, Incubation of NPOs, Recognition, Directory of services, Systems of referral, Systems of accreditation of members (all)

C/ HOW DO WE SOLVE THEM FOR MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS?

1/ Lack of funding / Sustainability ⇒ Write grants, Teach grant writing, Fund raising committee, Major grant writing (\$10 million +)

CSB OUTPUTS FROM RETREAT 19 & 20 NOVEMBER 2016

- 2/ **Lack of administration** ⇒ Link to consultants (accounting/social media/reporting/grant writing/M&E/marketing), Resources for nonprofits
- 3/ **Training** ⇒ Training resource/library, Subsidising training, Connect with training opportunities
- 4/ **Skill Development/Capacity Building** ⇒ Training resource/library, Subsidising training, Connect with training opportunities
- 5/ **Strategic Plan** ⇒ Inputting into National Development Plan and advocating for it
- 6/ **Statistics and Data** ⇒ Research committee, questionnaires & surveys, Focus groups, White papers
- 7/ **Co-ordination** ⇒ Forum, Committee, Meeting place
- 8/ **Reporting** ⇒ Collecting and collating information
- 9/ **Service Mapping/Auditing** ⇒ Research, Directory of CSOs
- 10/ **System of Accreditation** ⇒ Create criteria
- 11/ **Help with Innovation** ⇒ Innovation portal
- 12/ **Supportive Legislation** ⇒ CSO Bill, Electoral reform (through member support)
- 13/ **Lack of voice** ⇒ Advocacy and Research, platform to get ear of Government / Collaboration / Committees / Partnerships

C/ HOW DO WE SOLVE THEM FOR INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS?

- Lack of voice ⇒ Create platform to get the ear of Government
- ⇒ Connecting to CSO organisations
- ⇒ Help with incubation of new CSOs

D/ WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT?

To be developed

SESSION 4/ SIGNIFICANCE (15 MINS)

A/ FROM THE LIST IN SESSION 4, WHAT ARE THE MOST SIGNIFICANT BENEFITS THAT WE OFFER MEMBER ORGANISATIONS?

To be developed

B/ FROM THE LIST IN SESSION 4, WHAT ARE THE MOST SIGNIFICANT BENEFITS THAT WE OFFER INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS?

To be developed

C/ CHOOSE THE MOST IMPORTANT ONES THAT WE WANT TO BE KNOWN FOR

CSB OUTPUTS FROM RETREAT 19 & 20 NOVEMBER 2016

To be developed

SESSION 5/ SWOT

<p><u>STRENGTHS</u> Established Incorporated Governance Several committed directors Several established committees Combined experience Members Several respected members and directors Affiliations CSO Draft Bill The only incorporated umbrella body Committed leadership Consultation Recognised by international bodies</p>	<p><u>WEAKNESSES</u> Poor accountability and responsibility No properly formulated strategic plan Poor administration and support team Poor branding and PR Not enough directors heading committees Low membership Little in the way of financial resources Lack of performance indicators Lack of headquarters and poor accessibility by phone Lack of executive director Poor systems Disconnect Internationally Poorly functioning committees and Board Dropped the ball on the CSO bill Few outputs - papers / letters /media Lack of grant writing Poor social media Poor mobilisation of stakeholders Lack of programs and products to attract members</p>
<p><u>OPPORTUNITIES</u> International grants Registration/networking Increased membership Utilisation of social media to build a community Professional enhancement Resource library Directory of members organisations/CSOs in country Becoming official registrar Bahamas representative International treaties International development goals</p>	<p><u>THREATS</u> Competing or emerging groups Apathy among CSOs Government Lack of funding</p>

CSB OUTPUTS FROM RETREAT 19 & 20 NOVEMBER 2016

Advocacy on other national issues Participating in governance	
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SESSION 6/ VISION (30 MINS)

A/ WHAT IS THE NOBLE WORK THAT WE ARE HERE TO DO/ OUR CALLING/PASSION ?

Fairness, Equity, Voice, Nation Building, A voice for civil society, Respect for civil society, Protecting marginalised and vulnerable people

DAY 2 - 20 NOVEMBER, 2016

Present Richard Johnson, Terry Miller, Leonard Archer, Kevon Lightbourne, Sherry Benjamin, Lowena West & Mark Palmer

B/ REVIEW OUR EXISTING VISION

Civil Society Bahamas (CSB) is the focal point of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), and individuals committed to enhancing democracy, good governance, and promoting social and economic justice for the purpose of national developments and national unity.

Ideas put forward were ⇒

Promoting good governance through civil society

People involved in changing lives

Creating a society that is actively involved in its own development

To enhance democracy through participation

To engage our people in sustainable practices to build good governance

To inspire all people to come together for the benefit of society

People centered, governance driven, I am civil society, Vox populi

C/ NEW VISION

A Bahamas where is civil society is respected and fully engaged in good governance.

D/ NARRATIVE FOR VISION

To be developed from the text in A/ and B/ above.

SESSION 7/ MISSION (30 MINS)

CSB OUTPUTS FROM RETREAT 19 & 20 NOVEMBER 2016

A/ REVIEW OUR EXISTING MISSION

To foster greater civil society participation in national development activities throughout The Bahamas

Ideas put forward were ⇒

Our mission is to coordinate and equip our members and other civil society organizations in actively engaging in policy dialogues and national development

To facilitate and coordinate greater civil society participation in national development

Coordinating function

Unifying function

Collaborative function

Leading coalition building amongst all CSOs, member organisations and facilitating by participation in national development

B/ NEW MISSION

As the third pillar of governance, 1/ leading coalition building among members and other CSO partners, and 2/ promoting full civil society engagement in national development

As the third pillar of governance Civil Society Bahamas will lead coalition building among members and other CSO partners and promote civil society engagement in national development.

SESSION 7/ CSB GOALS

We came up with four pillars, or four goals, and all our objectives should fall under one of these pillars.

1/ To promote and enabling environment for CSO activities and efforts.

2/ To strengthen capacitance, collaboration and sustainability among and of members CSOs and other partners.

3/ To strengthen capacity of CSB to deliver its objectives.

4/ To be the lead negotiating agent for CSOs with the Government and International agencies.

- **To be the lead negotiating agent for CSOs with the government, the private sector, and international agencies.**

CSB OUTPUTS FROM RETREAT 19 & 20 NOVEMBER 2016

SESSION 8/ CSB OBJECTIVES

This objectives to be further developed by the individual committees. Initial suggestions for further development were:

- 1/ Create an inclusive membership base that truly reflects civil society in the Bahamas (equal in gender, marginalised populations and youth with balanced and diverse representations).
- 2/ Establish permanent ongoing relationships with regional and international partners to influence and participate in decision making processes.
- 3/ To open and maintain ongoing dialogue and consultations with government.
- 4/ To build and maintain strong channels of communications and cooperation between civil society, government and the private sector.

From Terry's list we add:

- 5/ To provide forums for education and dialog on matters of public concern
- 6/ To assist CSOs in building healthy communities
 - a. Strengthening institutions through technical and other resource support
 - b. Encouraging community development by strengthening social infrastructure
- 7/ To open and maintain ongoing dialog and consultations with government
- 8/ To participate in regional and international associations and conferences designed to enhance the development of civil society in general
- 9/ To facilitate of formulation, development, and execution of a shared national vision
- 10/ To provide a clearinghouse of information for CSOs, NGOs and individuals on social, economic, cultural and other issues of national import
- 11/ To empower people through economic and trade opportunities

CSB OUTPUTS FROM RETREAT 19 & 20 NOVEMBER 2016

SESSION 9/ STANDING COMMITTEES

Governance and National Affairs (headed by Leonard Archer)

Finance (headed by Lowena West)

Membership (headed by Mark Palmer)

Public Relations (headed by Richard Johnson/Kevon Lightbourne)

Youth Development (headed by Sherry Benjamin)

External Affairs (headed by Lowena West)

Consumer Education (headed by Terry Miller)