

Outcomes of APO NT NGO Forum, Darwin, 27 June 2014

1. The major outcome from this forum is a commitment from NGOs and Aboriginal organisations to work together to implement the NGO Principles.
2. Developing relationships between NGOs and Aboriginal organisations is a key priority to break down the 'us and them' mentality, and facilitated processes, such as this workshop, need to continue.
3. Aboriginal organisations, facilitated by APO NT, will develop a practical checklist of what NGOs need to do to enact the Principles in relation to tender processes.
4. NGOs can build processes into their own organisations to enact the Principles. For example, an internal process at board level to demonstrate that the NGO Principles have been met in developing each tender.
5. Engaging government on the Principles is a key priority, particularly in ensuring procurement and tender processes reflect the NGO Principles.
6. NGOs and Aboriginal organisations should make a joint approach to government to ask that program and service processes and contracts reflect the NGO Principles. The Steering Committee will facilitate this process.
7. Engaging with Aboriginal communities in establishing and maintaining cultural security and competence is an essential requirement for NGOs working in the Northern Territory and should be reflected at all levels of the organisation.
8. That this forum demonstrates the fundamental importance of self-determination to the future of Aboriginal peoples through strengthening the wording of the NGO Principles document.

9. That decision-making processes should be guided and underpinned by the rights enshrined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
10. NGOs and Aboriginal organisations agree to explore accountability mechanisms for the NGO Principles.
11. That the Steering Committee and signatories to the NGO Principles will seek to encourage other NGOs and Aboriginal organisations to adopt the Principles.
12. That a joint letter be prepared by the Steering Committee to the Commonwealth Government expressing our deep concern at the prospect of further cuts to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander funding.
13. That this meeting endorses the key issues document produced from the Aboriginal organisations meeting on the 26th June.
14. That an email contact list of NGO and Aboriginal organisation contacts be established.