

The Bellagio Initiative

Global Dialogue Summary

November 2011

BRICS Countries: Delhi

The consultation addressed the trends, opportunities and challenges for the future of philanthropy in the BRICS countries. The trends which can be observed are: the growing wealth of the BRICS, less support from traditional donor countries, increased local wealth and readiness to give, the impact of new technologies and the increasing number of family foundations. Since these are rich countries with high rates of economic growth, there are considerable new opportunities emerging. These include growing citizen participation, a movement from charity to social investment, cross-border/diaspora giving, use of the media and social networks, as well as harnessing innovation. Many of the challenges emerge from this being a new and developing sector, which needs more reliable leadership, coordination, and better quality decision-making. The interface between foundations and the state is very significant – evading payment of tax raises questions about the commitment to civic engagement. Government taxes and fees discourage cross-border giving.

New resources for promoting wellbeing include the 'new wealthy', including high net worth individuals; the rise of the middle class; venture philanthropy, social enterprise, micro-finance and legacy funding; religious institutions; community networks and family funds.

A number of proposals were made on how to capitalise on new funding opportunities, including: education and involvement of new donors; peer meetings for donors; nurturing philanthropy and understanding wellbeing; working through networks and association; raising the profile of the sector; ensuring that good evaluations and strong monitoring and evaluation characterise the work; investing in capacity development and professionalization of the sector. In addition to these elements, work needs to be done on improving the legal

framework for the sector and maintaining high standards within the sector, as well as understanding of the changing roles of development actors.

The following were points stressed in discussion on the frameworks needed for creation of an enabling environment for philanthropy. Professionalising development and philanthropic organisations, for example, by providing certificated training for board members to ensure high standards of governance. Foundations need to be more business-like in their approaches to government and corporates. Monitoring and evaluation needs to be strengthened. Better data is required on the sector. Cooperation with research academics needs to be strengthened. 'Borderless giving' should be facilitated in cooperation with governments. Better coordination between donors, foundations and development actors on similar themes, or active in the same region is required. There is further scope for networking for Foundations in BRIC countries. Strong and decisive leadership is also necessary.

A key issue for the future is:

Where do you expect the middle class to be economically in 20 years and what potential will they have to give?

Bellagio Initiative

The Future of
Philanthropy and
Development in the
Pursuit of Human
Wellbeing

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The Bellagio Initiative is a series of global consultations to produce a new framework for philanthropic and international development collaboration in pursuit of human wellbeing in the 21st century. The project is led by the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), the Resource Alliance and the Rockefeller Foundation.