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COPASAH

SHARED PRACTICE. GROUNDED KNOWLEDGE.

COMMUNIQUÉ



Strategic Directions and Future Pathways of COPASAH



EDITORIAL

COPASAH

Re-thinking Social Accountability through a Power Discourse

E. PREMDAS PINTO

Following the path of a good learning organisation, COPASAH undertook a year long journey of reflection on its relevance to the field of accountability and evaluating its own strategic directions and pathways. The process which began in 2016 with the community feedback and strategic directions meeting in Vancouver (November 2017), continued with an external evaluation and a debriefing meeting in Delhi (September 2017). The current issue of COPASAH Communiqué provides the glimpses of this collective introspection, reflection and insights for the future directions.

Such a reflection will be followed up

by marshalling the energies to consolidate the central theme of COPASAH, i.e. community centred participatory accountability processes and bottom up knowledge making, through the Global Symposium on social accountability, that will be hosted by COPASAH in February 2019, in New Delhi (India). It will be a unique opportunity for the practitioners of social accountability across the global south and supporters of such apraxis from other fields such as academia and research, donor community, global



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policy bodies and institutions, and human rights based civil society organisations.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) followed by Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have rallied the Governments around the world and the civil society to think together and setting collective goals. However, achieving such

goals would be highly improbable, without accountability to such goals and participation of the community. COPASAH firmly believes and would like to reiterate, social accountability is not a ritual or a master-piece that elites and intellectuals can showcase, but is a process of empowerment and re-configuring power-relations of the

community with the structures of power at various levels. We would like to reach out to all friends and associates to be part of the upcoming global symposium to refine and reiterate such a power discourse in social accountability.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

E. PREMDAS PINTO is the Global Secretariat Coordinator for COPASAH. As an Advocacy and Research Director at Centre for Health and Social Justice (CHSJ), India, he facilitates the thematic area of social accountability with a special focus on processes of community monitoring and accountability in health. He also coordinates the South Asia region for COPASAH. He is a Human Rights advocate and Public Health practitioner- scholar, actively engaged in processes and social justice issues of the communities of Dalit Women, rural unorganized labourers and other disadvantaged communities for the last 22 years.

To know more about the work of CHSJ and COPASAH please visit, www.chsj.org and www.copasah.net

GLOBAL SYMPOSIUM

Watch out for...

COPASAH Global Symposium on

**CITIZENSHIP, PARTICIPATION, GOVERNANCE
AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN HEALTH**

Join Us in New Delhi (India) in February 19-22, 2019



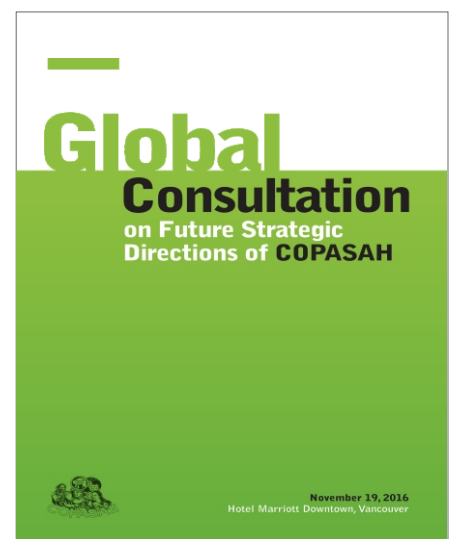
COPASAH Secretariat

Global Consultation on Future Strategic Directions of COPASAH

It is often useful for networks to look at the present status of the locus of impact it has, and based on the areas that it impacts change, it also calls for pausing a bit, to relook and examine the future of the network. At Community of Practitioners on Accountability and Social Action in Health (COPASAH) it was an important time to look at the future in ways to innovate, evaluate, tweak approaches, and strengthen practices. Thus, in an effort to look ahead a global consultation to set the future

strategic directions of COPASAH was held in Vancouver on November 19, 2016. COPASAH has traversed a journey of five years since its genesis in 2011. These five years have laid the foundation of realizing the vision and aspiration of COPASAH, where in this time the COPASAH Steering Committee members, accountability experts and advisors to COPASAH felt a need for undertaking a strategic consultation to identify priorities

for COPASAH as well envision the future pathways for the global network. The global consultation



brought together experts on social accountability from diverse arenas along with academicians, researchers, accountability practitioners and human rights activists. The Report presents the deliberations of the interactive dialogue from the array of experts. The dialogue was held in a participatory manner, allowing re-examining the vision of COPASAH.

The experts from the research, academia and field of accountability provided a vision for the future direction and priorities of COPASAH across four dimensions: ways to include a global agenda setting, strengthening shared learning, building constituency to

galvanize social change and building a partnership through alliance. The experts mooted for establishing 'thematic hubs' as a way forward for COPASAH in organizing and building itself and a way to influence practice and global discourse. The insights from the diverse expertise spelled out the need for a collaborative and collective strategic direction that is supported by rich community experience to touch both regional and global stakeholders. In addition, the invitee experts, deliberated that COPASAH continues with building, facilitating, exchanging and connecting with the regional realities, research and citizen led accountability processes leading up to the global level. Apart from

this the consultative exercise enunciated two-fold direction for COPASAH as of enriching and strengthening existing constituencies and expanding its constituency ambit. Concomitantly, the deliberations advocated for COPASAH mapping diverse allies as well deepening and expanding the thread of accountability across different sectors, movements, stakeholders and actors as well diverse networks. To get more details on the Global Consultation, please see: http://www.copasah.net/uploads/1/2/6/4/12642634/copasah_strategic_meeting_vancouver.pdf

THEMATIC HUBS

COPASAH strives for field building through three **Thematic Hubs** that concern Citizens' Right to Health:

Reproductive/Maternal Health and Accountability

Indigenous People's Rights and Accountability

Accountability of Private Medical Sector

Get Involved in the Thematic Hubs for Consultations, Capacity Building of Practitioners, Creating Knowledge and Advocacy for Social Accountability

Know more: <http://www.copasah.net/thematic-hubs.html>

THEMATIC HUBS



SHARED PRACTICE. GROUNDED KNOWLEDGE.

COPASAH's Social Accountability Practice through Thematic Hubs

Currently COPASAH's field of practices' core is based in three thematic domains focusing on social accountability. The idea of thematic hubs has emerged as policy making now is virtually thematic and within each theme it is again verticalised or thematised and hence requirement of a thematic approach. The underlying assumption is that the communities are getting increasingly excluded from participating in the policy making processes even as the governments are seen to move away from social security and social rights of people which includes health leaving it to the private players who operate in a policy context of non-regulation. Hence the grounded knowledge emanating from the realities of the communities increasingly is not finding space in the knowledge that informs policy making of the governments, funding organizations and other national and global actors. Alongside, increasingly non-state

actors are influencing policies which are adversely impacting communities of the marginalized – women, indigenous people and other disadvantaged communities – all over the global South. Human rights actors too are facing hostility from their governments while raising issues locally. In addition, civil society voices representing community realities are also shrinking due to varied reasons, the shifting agenda of the funding agencies being the chief one. In this context, the key focus is building and maintaining a Southern global solidarity of voices as a countervailing voice demanding accountability to health and wellbeing as one of the key necessities. As a move to create space for community practices and voices in the policy arena thematically, at global and regional levels, thematic hubs have been conceptualized in COPASAH.

Hence the three thematic hubs operational in COPASAH currently include reproductive/maternal health and accountability, Patient's Rights and private medical sector accountability and Indigenous Peoples Rights and Accountability. The three thematic hubs have laid out their concept notes, which outline the exploration of the themes of the hubs, with descriptions of the aims and objectives of the respective hubs. The concept notes also detail out the agenda of the three hubs for field building for intensified focus on issues that concern citizen lives, capacity building of practitioners and accountability advocates and how the hubs aim to create a policy and knowledge agenda, for participatory evidence building, and build alliances for influencing policy processes and actors.

THEMES	REPRODUCTIVE/MATERNAL HEALTH AND ACCOUNTABILITY	INDIGENOUS PEOPLES RIGHTS AND ACCOUNTABILITY	PATIENTS' RIGHTS AND PRIVATE MEDICAL SECTOR ACCOUNTABILITY
THEMATIC ANCHOR	Centre for Health and Social Justice (CHSJ), India	Center for the Study of Equity and Governance in Health Systems (CEGSS) Guatemala	Support for Advocacy and Training to Health Initiatives (SATHI), India
FOCUS OF THE THEMATIC HUB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To synergise civil society voices for reproductive and maternal health in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa for advocating towards strengthening the demand for accountability from the governments for the reproductive rights of adolescents, young and adult women. It will focus on influencing institutions, policy spaces and grant makers nationally, regionally and globally. The hub will focus on using digital and social media for making such voices and stories from the ground visible being supported through systematic documentation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participatory knowledge generation on the health related issues affecting Indigenous People 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote policy discourse and networking regarding private health sector regulation and patient's rights, with focus on South Asian countries
OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highlight gaps in last mile programming and adverse effects on marginalized communities with respect to maternal health and family planning programming Share and highlight existing innovations to promote participation and social accountability in the field of maternal health and family planning programming among practitioners, INGOs, Researchers, donors, technical agencies and other global actors Advocate for greater incorporation of participatory methodologies to strengthen health system planning, implementation and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing the thematic hub with an initial concept and action plan. Strengthening the practice around indigenous health and accountability through production of knowledge and enhancing the analytical skills of practitioners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop a conceptual discourse and evolving framework for social accountability of the private medical sector, keeping in view the context of Low Middle Income Countries (LMICs) especially in South Asia. To promote networking among civil society organisations and networks on issues related to private health sector regulation and patient's rights, with a focus on South Asia. These efforts would support and complement existing networks like the People's Health Movement. To engage in relevant knowledge generation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • monitoring for developing appropriate and effective reproductive health care to communities. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • through publication of papers and policy briefs. It is expected that this hub would help to orient and activists and civil society members, enabling them to raise key issues related to the private healthcare sector, in inform health the spirit of accountability and rights.
PROPOSED ACTIVITIES	<p>The hub will interface with the two other two thematic hubs of COPASAH. Some activities proposed to keep the momentum up in the thematic hub include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify key practitioners and academics who are raising the issue of disrespect and abuse around SRH services in respected institutions as well as field based organizations in South Asia, Africa, Latin America and in Eastern Europe. • Contact these individuals and organizations to understand their concerns and share our concerns and experiences. Develop a wider stakeholder group on this issue. • Organise/find opportunities for a consultation with the key stakeholder group to develop a plan for advocacy • Highlight the practices of COPASAH members through COPASAH communication channels • Interact with key policy influencer agencies and platforms drawing attention to COPASAH member practices • Create opportunities of partnership between field practitioners with academics for collaborative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To build alliance and networking of the thematic hub with global and regional networks, academia and with policy makers and policy space. • To generate knowledge of academic standard and dissemination to global audience • Holding a regional consultation with multiple stakeholders on critical accountability issues relating to health care of the indigenous populations Rights • Organize webinar on the theme of Indigenous People Right and Accountability • To develop a thematic component for the Global Symposium (GS) on Social Accountability in Health to be held in early 2019 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The thematic hub will work through organising global thematic webinars, networking and alliance building in South Asia, regional consultations, and capacity building of activists. Key activities would include: • Forming an e-group of the Thematic Hub, and sharing regularly about accountability of private medical sector and patients' rights, especially in South Asia context. • Organising a Regional consultation on accountability of private medical sector and patients' rights involving civil society activists from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka, during December 2017 at Mumbai. • Organising webinars on accountability of private medical sector and patients' rights, focused on South Asia context but with relevance for various LMICs. These would have involvement of interested civil society activists and health professionals from various countries. • Developing policy briefs and widely disseminating these; sharing literature on

	research/ papers/joint publications etc. drawing attention to the importance of social accountability in global RH field		this theme, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparations related to the theme for the Global symposium on Health sector accountability, including organising various workshops and sessions.
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More details on the concept notes of the thematic hubs, the core group members, the proposed activities and agenda can be accessed on the following links:

Reproductive/Maternal Health and Accountability: <http://www.copasah.net/thematic-hub-1-reproductive-health.html>

Indigenous Peoples Rights and Accountability: <http://www.copasah.net/thematic-hub-2-accountability-of-private-medical-sector.html>

Patients' Rights and Private Medical Sector Accountability: <http://www.copasah.net/thematic-hub-3-indigenous-peoplesrights-and-accountability-thematic-hub.html>

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COPASAH

www.copasah.net



Charting the Future Pathways and Directions for COPASAH

*Debriefing Review and Strategizing Future Directions Meet, September 6-7, 2017;
New-Delhi (India)*

COPASAH's unassuming but steady journey in bringing together the field of practice of accountability in health from the Global South began in 2011 from Johannesburg. COPASAH has covered a substantial ground in centre-staging the community centeredness and citizen leadership in accountability praxis and discourse along with its like-minded associates and alliances. After having traversed a journey of five years, a move was initiated in the network to deliberate upon COPASAH's vision and future. Thus COPASAH brought together accountability experts, researchers and practitioners in Vancouver on November 19, 2016 to discuss on the strategic directions and pathways for COPASAH. With the insights

gained from this strategic discussion, it was mooted by the larger group of COPASAH to hold a Organizational Development (OD) of the network to understand the field of practice, the collective strengths and also to know the challenges that the network is facing as a community of practice in the rapidly changing global and local contexts of policy making in health. Accordingly, COPASAH commissioned an external review of its processes and organizational mechanisms, to an external reviewer. The review took place during July-August 2017 through an OD expert, Florencia Guertzovich. To take the learning's from the review forward and

evolve plans for strengthening of COPASAH in consultation with group of experts, a two day strategic meeting was convened in Delhi (India) on September 6 and 7, 2017. In this meeting the external reviewer debriefed about the findings of the OD exercise and besides this intense discussions were held with a larger group of COPASAH associates and experts to chart pathways for COPASAH's future. The two days meeting focused on developing strategic future directions as well sharpening COPASAH's strategic directions and strengthening solidarity. The meet witnessed participation of diverse experts from the field of

accountability, health rights movement, accountability practitioners, academics and research. The participants spanned across countries from Guatemala, Peru, Uganda, Tanzania, UK, USA, Nepal, Bangladesh apart from India.

The objectives of the meeting were:

- To showcase presentation of the strategic review findings of COPASAH by an external reviewer to the broader core group and associates of COPASAH
- To facilitate critical discussions among the associates of COPASAH on the future directions and strengthening of COPASAH alliances
- To discuss and finalize on a Global Symposium on Social Accountability

De-briefing by OD expert and other deliberations

On the first day of the meet, the OD expert Florencia Guerzovich presented her findings on the OD review of COPASAH to the larger core group and associates of the network. Through her presentation she highlighted the global South footprint of COPASAH and relevance of the network in the current context. In her findings of the OD exercise she highlighted the aspect of how COPASAH as a group has created value for its members. Outlining about the capacity building activities of COPASAH during its three different phases, she reflected that in the OD

exercise it discerned from the responses across regions that the learning visits have allowed the group members to think differently while strategizing their work at the community level, COPASAH helped position member's work and grow relationships that were conducive for work opportunities. Following engagement with COPASAH the group members are motivated to use COPASAH'S methodology in other thematic areas as well. She also explored different facets of COPASAH including the network being a social capital and having a good reputation for supporting southern and northern countries. In her presentation she touched upon the issue of funding and grants. She suggested for the need to build on a network, maintaining equality within the various regions to overcome the need of managing regional variations of the group members of COPASAH. It was also suggested by her to have constant dialogues within the members to make the accountability practice stronger and effective.

Following the OD De-Briefing, the larger discussions towards the end of the first day and on the second day premised upon how to take the network of COPASAH further and also strengthening it regionally as well deepening its presence in the domain of health policy. The deliberations pivoted around expansion of outreach of COPASAH thematically at policy level and strengthen its presence regionally

as well deepen its presence and responsiveness in the East Southern Africa (ESA) region. In addition the discussions focused on refurbishing of the oversight SC group, suggesting for its expansion with an adequate gender balance and regional representation and strengthening of the guidance manual of COPASAH. A new member representing the ESA region was also proposed to be an add on to the current SC group in this meeting. After consultation with the larger group of COPASAH, Moses Mulumba from CEHURD, Uganda agreed to be the new SC representative of the SC group. The discussions also revolved on a global symposium that COPASAH is going to organize in 2019, in collaboration with other like-minded organizations on the proposed theme 'Citizenship, Participation, Governance and Accountability in Health'. The Global Symposium will have the focus primarily on learning from practitioners from the Global South. The GS will interface practice and discourse of social accountability in health. Other participants will represent various other stakeholders such as academia, policy makers, human rights bodies, researchers, funders and so on.

Accountability DIALOGUE



Deepening of Accountability Practice through COPASAH Social Accountability Dialogues (CoPSADs)

With the use of the digital media, COPASAH has strived to let the mutual exchange and sharing of knowledge on social accountability practices continue. This deepening of accountability practice and capacity building has happened through COPASAH Social Accountability Dialogues (CoPSADs). To facilitate mutual learning among practitioners and accountability thinkers across the globe as well enrich the field of social accountability with insights and experiences from the field of accountability practice, COPASAH planned a series of Social Accountability Dialogues which initiated in March 2017. So far COPASAH has held four Social Accountability Dialogues.

COPASAH Social Accountability Dialogue I: Can Social Accountability Strengthen Family Planning Programming? Lessons from Small Scale

efforts in India.

In the first Dialogue Dr. Abhijit Das, anchor for the thematic hub of Maternal Health Rights and Accountability, shared insights and experiences from small scale efforts in India on the theme - Can Social Accountability Strengthen Family Planning Programming? This first in the series of Social Accountability Dialogues was held on March 15, 2017. The Dialogue witnessed participation of nearly 21 persons from different geographical locations including Turkey, Pakistan, Myanmar, New Zealand and India. The details of the first webinar can be accessed on <http://www.copasah.net/accountability-dialogue.html>

COPASAH Social Accountability

Dialogue –II: Mapping Social Accountability in Health in East Southern Africa

The second webinar in the series was held on April 24, 2017 on the theme 'Mapping Social Accountability in Health in ESA'. In this dialogue independent researcher Luul Balestra, shared the findings from a study 'Mapping Social Accountability in Health in East Southern Africa' done by her in collaboration with COPASAH. She highlighted the trends, successes and challenges for social accountability in ESA and the context, presence of COPASAH in the region and also shared the recommendations as shared by key informants for strengthening COPASAH in the region as deliberated by different social accountability

practitioners during the study period. The Dialogue witnessed participation of nearly 14 persons from different geographical locations including Italy, ESA regions including Uganda, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Zambia and South Africa. The details of the webinar can be accessed on: <http://www.copasah.net/accountability-dialogue-2.html>

COPASAH Social Accountability Dialogue –III: Use of ICT for Social Accountability

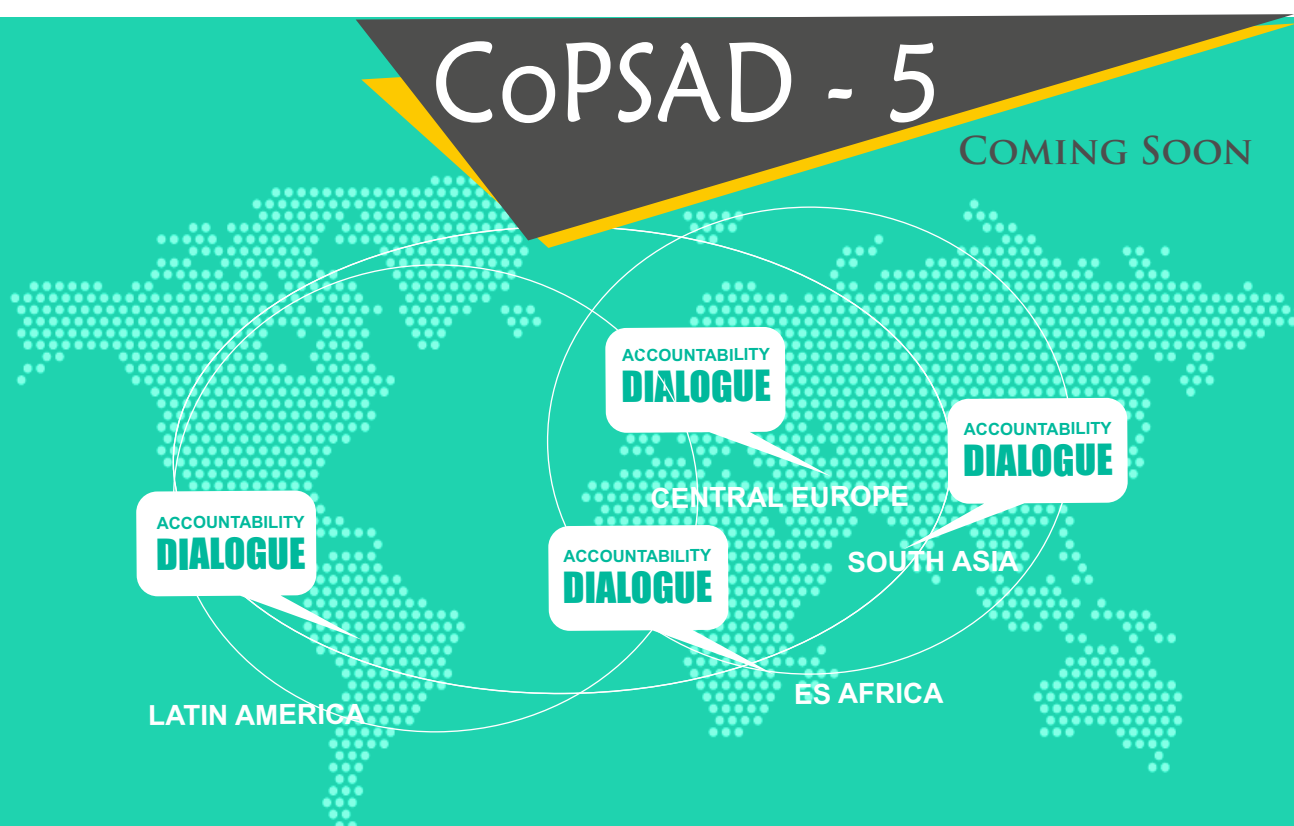
In the third dialogue noted health rights activist and one of the founding members of COPASAH currently also Steering Committee member of COPASAH, Renu Khanna shared the experiences from the COPASAH initiative carried in India where

community leaders and community members collectively used ICTs to generate evidence as well used it to negotiate for denial of health rights. The third CoPSAD was held on July 12, 2017. The Dialogue witnessed participation of nearly 22 persons from different geographical locations of India and Uganda. The details of the third CoPSAD can be accessed on <http://www.copasah.net/accountability-dialogue-3.html>

COPASAH Social Accountability Dialogue IV: Engaging Judiciary on Maternal- Reproductive Health Crisis In India: Roadblocks, Challenges And Possibilities

In the fourth CoPSAD, held on November 28, 2017; lawyer and development practitioner and

COPASAH Secretariat coordinator E. Premdas Pinto showcased results of a primary inter-disciplinary doctoral research undertaken with a mixed method design. It explored the role of the Supreme Court of India, High Courts and the quasi-judicial bodies such as National Human Rights Commission and Women's Commissions in addressing health systems issues around reproductive and maternal health services of rural, Dalit (ex-untouchable) and Adivasi (tribal) women and adolescent girls. Nearly 14 participants from India took part in this Dialogue. The details of the Dialogue can be accessed on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d mOvfJInOPc&feature=youtu.be>



COPASAH Global Symposium 2019: Social Accountability in Health

As an outcome of the different process of capacity building, field building, networking, creating knowledge and advocacy through the thematic hubs, COPASAH proposes to organize a Global Symposium (GS) on Accountability and Social Action in Health in collaboration with different stakeholders in 2019. This will also serve as the converging point for the three thematic hubs to synthesize knowledge, to strengthen alliances and to facilitate learning exchange. Discussions on COPASAH Global Symposium on Social Accountability in Health within the core group and with an array of stakeholders have led to an agreement about the proposed theme, venue, participants, and design etc. of the GS.

COPASAH GLOBAL SYMPOSIUM ON SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY IN HEALTH

Proposed Theme	Citizenship, Participation, Governance and Accountability in Health
Venue	New Delhi, India
Date	February 19-22, 2019
Design	Apart from Pre –Symposium activities and events and Post –Symposium follow up, the GS to be a three day event, preceded by a day for satellite sessions. It will be more in the nature of practitioners’ assembly. There will be five –six tracks which will be linked to the themes and thematic hubs.
Participants	The GS will interface practice and discourse of social accountability in health. The practitioners from global South will be the prime focus participants. Other participants will represent various other stakeholders such as academia, policy makers, human rights bodies, researchers, funders and so on.

COPASAH STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The COPASAH Steering Committee (SC) includes representatives from each of the three geographical regions represented in the convening (Africa, India and Latin America) and a representative from Open Society Foundations (OSF). The SC is composed of the following members:

ABHIJIT DAS, Global Convener - COPASAH
Centre for Health and Social Justice (CHSJ), India

ABHAY SHUKLA, Member (South Asia)
Support for Advocacy and Training to Health Initiatives (SATHI), India

ARIEL FRISANCHO ARROYO, Country Director, CMMB, Peru (Latin America)

RENU KHANNA, Member (South Asia)
Founder Member, SAHAJ Society for Health Alternatives, Baroda

WALTER FLORES, Member (Latin America) and Ex-Global Convener
Centro de Estudios para la Equidad y Gobernanza en los Sistemas de Salud (Center for the Study of Equity and Governance in Health Systems)-CEGSS, Guatemala

MOSES MULUMBA, Member (East Southern Africa)
Centre for Human Rights and Development (CEHURD), Uganda

DHANANJAY KAKADE, (Ex-officio - Special Invitee)
Open Society Foundations

COPASAH STEERING COMMITTEE ASSOCIATE MEMBER

Borjan Pavlovski, ESE, Macedonia

COPASAH SOUTH ASIA STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Gulbaz Ali Khan, CIG, Pakistan

Renu Khanna, Sahaj, India

Abhay Shukla, SATHI, India

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Opio Geoffrey Atim - Uganda

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COPASAH

Community of Practitioners on
Accountability and Social Action in Health



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