



*“Since a democratic government is meant to be a government for the people, by the people and of the people, social responsibility is expected to be the basic issue in all government agenda. Still, deviation in governance occurs for various reasons. **A knowledge-based civil society and responsible media can help a lot in putting the government on right track.**”*

***Financial Express, Bangladesh, 09 April 2010***

## Affiliated Networks for Social Accountability (ANSA)



Cross – country **knowledge sharing, learning and collaboration** to build social accountability capacities to achieve accountability and responsiveness of priority sectors

## History of ANSA



The ANSA “journey” begun in 2006 at a regional stakeholders’ conference in Ghana for African civil society organizations, government officials, private sector, research organizations/academia, and donors



Collectively vision for a regional platform serving as a continent-wide clearinghouse for knowledge products, capacity building, and networking for social accountability in Africa resulted in **ANSA Africa chapter in 2007**



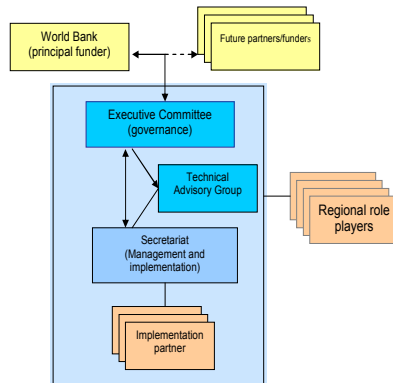
In response to regional demand, new ANSA networks were created in the **East Asia Pacific region (2008)** and **South Asia (2009)**



**ANSA Global was created in 2009** to bridge disparate regional work and to foster social accountability knowledge, approaches, and networks in new regions such as the Middle East/North Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Eastern and Central Asia.



## Funding & Governance Structure



- Seed funding from Development Grant Facility
- Diverse institutional arrangements
- Working with partnerships

## Lessons Learned: Network Start-up Phase

- Focus: start small, think big
- Identify priority themes and priority countries
- Partnerships are key
- Consider sub-regional hubs (Africa), network fellows (EAP) or local convener groups (EAP)
- Leverage expertise of host institution and/or existing regional expertise
- Network membership: “know your own”
- Start with regional mapping, stakeholder analysis
- Membership database and network member profiling



## How does the future look?



### Highlights

- Strong demand for ANSAs
- Quick network growth
- Innovative research products
- Websites and knowledge dissemination
- Capacity building partnerships
- Structured and South-South learning
- Recognized value-added of networks

## How does the future look?



### Challenges

- Governance models
- Membership models
- Scope and coverage
- Nurturing networks for sustainability – time, money, management
- Operational relevance
- Demonstrating results
- Role of research
- Engagement with government
- Learning by doing: linking capacity building to social accountability in action

## Re- thinking Financing



- Refining business model, exploring revenue-generating elements
- Expanding donors & foundations support
- Linking with other projects
- Strategic outreach; development of a global website and marketing tools