



# Semi-Annual Report

JANUARY - JUNE 2025



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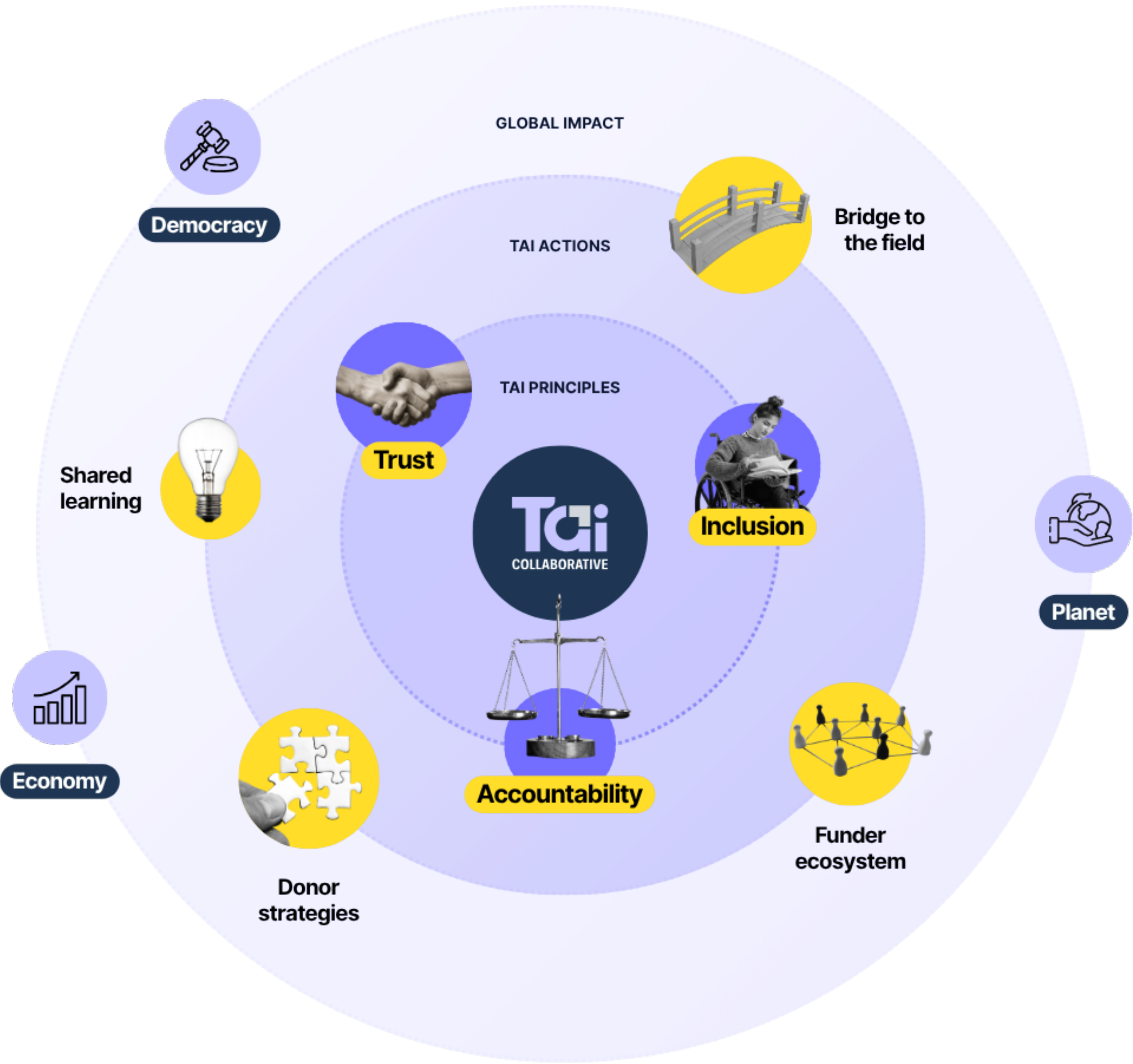
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# Who we are

The *Trust, Accountability, and Inclusion Collaborative (TAI)- Funders for Participatory Governance* is a platform for donor learning and action. Our members seek to strengthen trust, accountability, and inclusion in societies around the globe (and in their own funding practices) as building blocks for a more just world where democracy, economy, and planet thrive.

TAI connects and leverages the deep expertise and leadership of those who fund programming related to trust, accountability, and inclusion. We provide a space for them to learn from each other and build new thinking and action. Our members come together to strengthen their strategies, evolve funder practices, and expand the funder ecosystem. TAI helps members serve disadvantaged communities and support their inclusive grantmaking, further enhancing the impact of their efforts. TAI also acts as a bridge with the field, assuring flows of knowledge and exchange on evidence, funding trends, and pain points in the funder ecosystem.



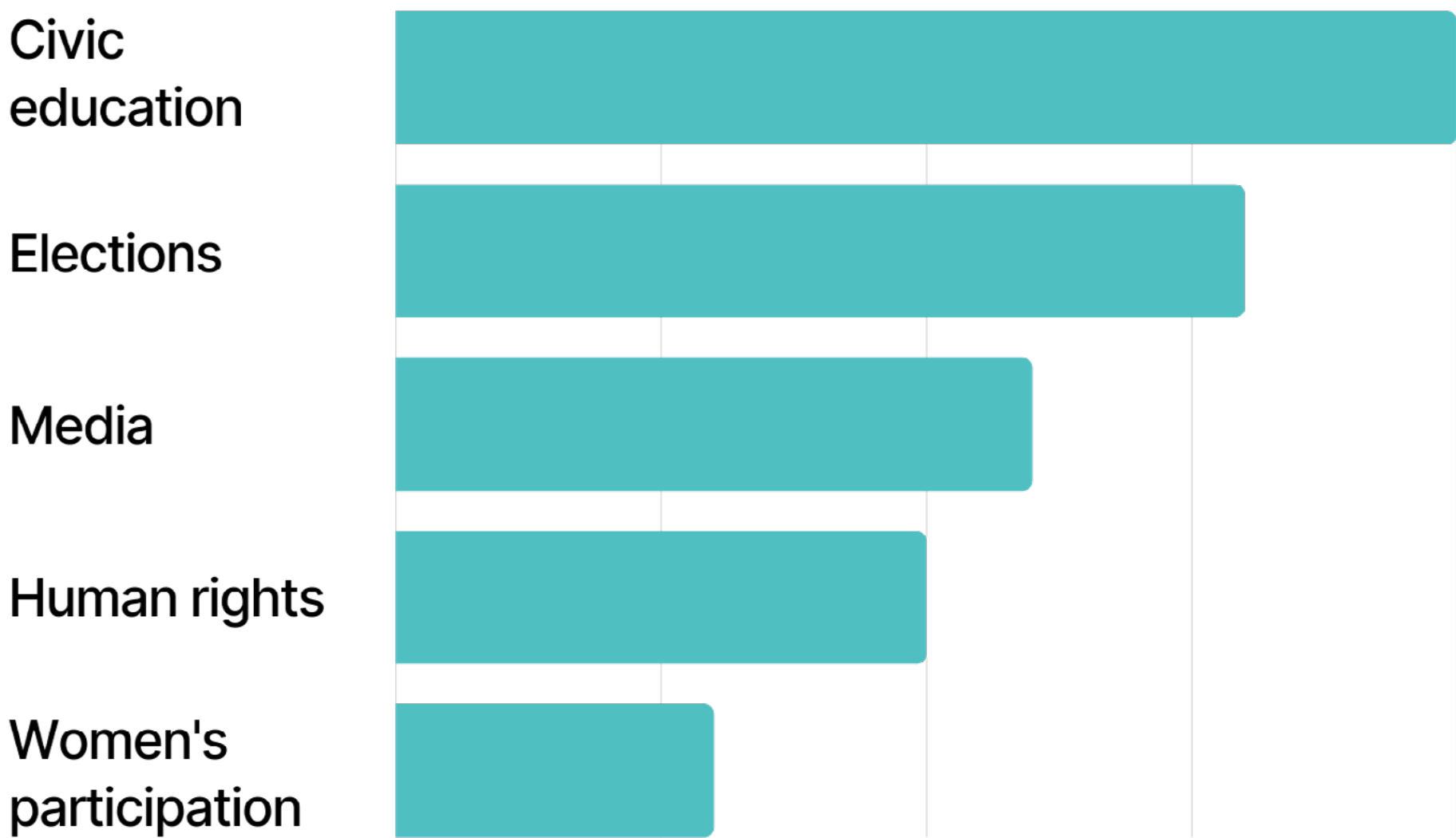
# Shifting Global Context

The first half of 2025 will go down in the history books. The new United States (U.S.) Administration moved hard and fast from January, sparking a rapid realignment in geopolitics, trade, and international norms.

For TAI members and their mission, two trends stood out as especially relevant: the dramatic cuts in overseas development aid, especially for programming related to TAI priorities, and the deepening of autocratization and emboldening of opponents of democracy, rights, and good governance. (For more details on these trends, see this [presentation](#) prepared as an input for our mid-year Steering Committee discussions.)

The dismantling of *USAID* has been followed by cuts by other donors. [OECD data](#) suggests that only the humanitarian sector will face deeper cuts than those for democracy and civil society-related issues between 2023 and 2025. The impact is widespread, but local partners in low-income countries have been hit especially hard. Surveys of civil society groups consistently suggest that a majority have already had to cut programming and staff levels, and few are finding alternative funding sources. Many groups have shut their doors or are facing closure.

TOP 5 MOST AFFECTED SECTORS:



**\*Source:** Own elaboration with data from May, 2025 IDEA Survey: “Impact of US foreign assistance cuts on DRG programming”



Nearly 3 out of 4 people in the world now live in autocracies (the highest number since 1978). Essential freedoms are under attack in a growing list of countries, while anti-rights groups are increasingly well-networked and resourced. Levels of state capture are on the rise, which further threatens hopes for a healthy economy, democracy, and planet. Debt burdens continue to mount for many countries (amplified by tariff impacts), creating a fiscal crunch and raising risks of measures that only deepen inequality.

The ecosystem of actors championing trust, accountability, and inclusion is being undermined just as there is a growing need for those with expertise in governance and accountability. For example, artificial intelligence (AI) technology is advancing ahead of regulatory capacity and agreed governance frameworks. There is growing recognition that hopes for a just energy transition are at risk in part due to accountability gaps.

More encouragingly, there are signs that multilateralism is far from dead. When the U.S. walked out of negotiations for the United Nations (UN) Convention on International Tax Cooperation, no other countries followed. The UN-guided [Financing for Development \(FfD\) process still led to an agreement that retains some ambition and signals broad consensus](#). Global majority countries have taken on leadership roles and formed effective blocs for reform. Conversations about rethinking development paradigms are proliferating.

At the national level, people continue to find ways to make their voices heard. The power of popular anger at corruption continues to be felt with demonstrations continuing to rock governments from Serbia to Mongolia to Ukraine. Demands for fiscal fairness are growing in rich and poor countries alike. However, discontent is also fueling the appeal of far-right parties, especially in Europe, or even the appeal of military rule, as seen in the Sahel region.



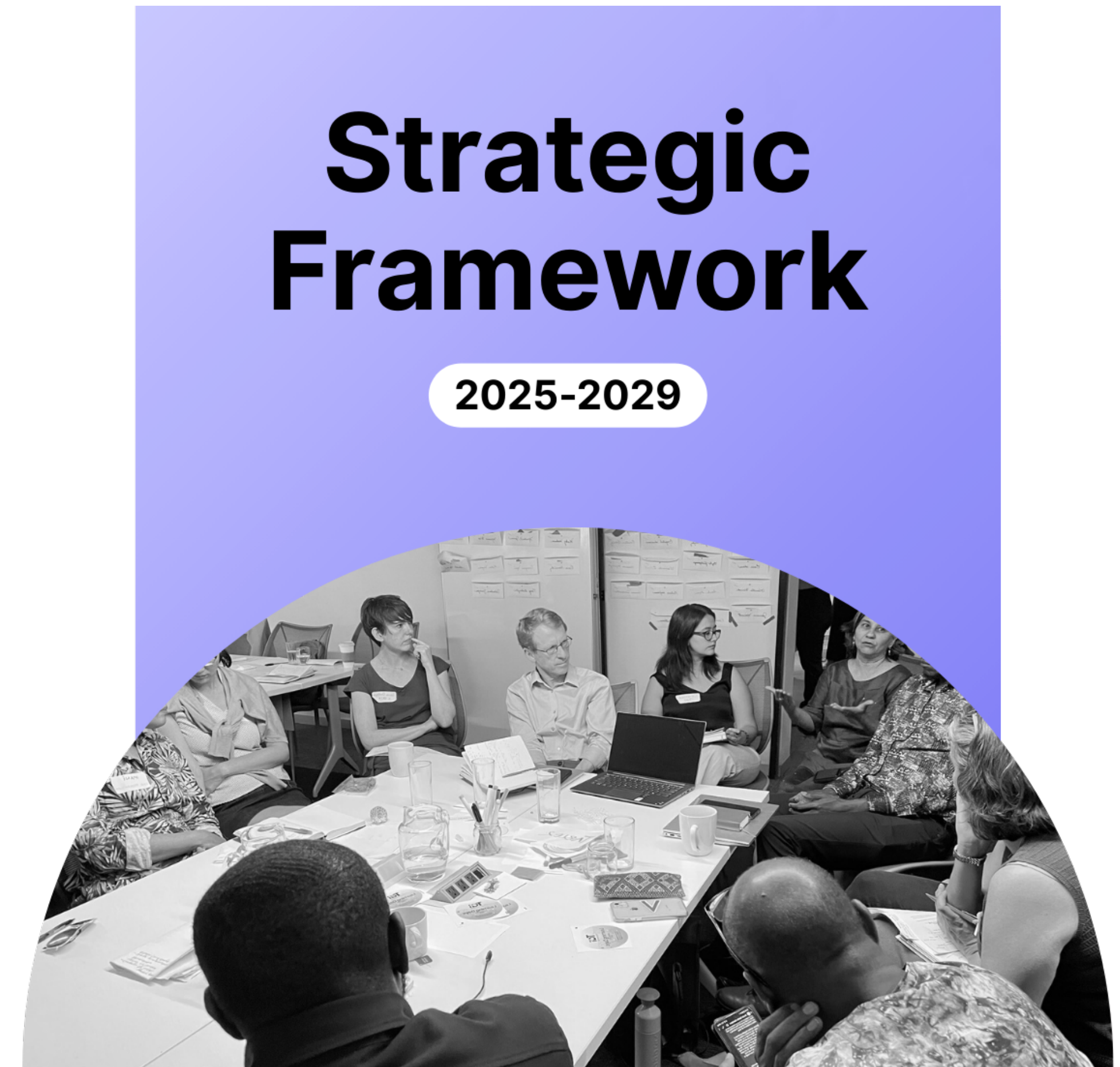


# Evolving Internal Context

As one would expect, the dramatic external shifts have been accompanied by shifts in approach by TAI members and as a collective. We have seen significant transitions, new partnerships, and strategic refinements. We believe that our collective work to advance trust, accountability, and inclusion is only growing in terms of relevance and urgency.

U.S. philanthropy itself has been under increased scrutiny since January, which, when combined with the need to understand the new operating context, led to what looked to some as a “freeze state” among funders. However, initial actions to help existing partners have now been combined with bolder steps. More funders are unlocking additional resources and rethinking approaches - no more “business as usual”. A notable example among TAI membership is the *MacArthur Foundation*, which has increased the payout from its endowment for 2025 and 2026 and is [urging fellow philanthropies to step up](#) in response to diminishing government support for civil society.

As funders turn to each other for solidarity and inspiration, we have seen more demand for TAI peer-to-peer conversations since January. This is the first year operating under our new [2025-2029 Strategic Framework](#), and it is already serving us well. It was deliberately designed for flexibility - a very useful attribute amid so much international uncertainty.





EXCITINGLY, TAI’S STEERING COMMITTEE HAS AGREED ON FOUR PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT 12-24 MONTHS, ALIGNING WITH OUR NEW STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK. THESE ARE:

■ **Reinvigorating Democratic and Civic Space**

■ **Building Fiscal Funding Infrastructure**

■ **Strengthening Climate Accountability**

■ **Resourcing Civil Society**

Members also considered cross-cutting threats to these priorities and asked the Secretariat to scope potential actions to counter rising corporate and state capture.

TAI will also continue to host specific projects that align with these four priorities. For example, we host a [Fiscal Ecosystems project](#) that aligns with Building Fiscal Funding Infrastructure, and the learning community of the [Collaborative for a Gender Just Economy](#) that relates to multiple priorities.

Transitions in leadership and strategy rethinks are inescapable, and following new leadership at the Hewlett Foundation last year, fellow member *Ford Foundation* [announced that Heather Gerken will assume the role of President in November 2025](#), succeeding Darren Walker. *Hilton Foundation* is reviewing its strategy, while, at the program level, *Ford Foundation’s Natural Resource and Climate Justice* team finalized their strategy refresh. Several others have evolved grantmaking practices, simplifying asks of partners, and are looking to think through medium to long-term implications of the many contextual shifts. TAI offers one platform to discuss those implications collectively.

Looking ahead, preparations are well underway for the TAI Learning Days 2025, scheduled to take place in Berlin on November 12-13. Themed around “Reimagining Civic and Democratic Futures,” this event will be a central gathering during the inaugural [Berlin Freedom Week](#) and is set to be a cornerstone of our collective learning and exchange.

Lastly, we are pleased to confirm Capital for Good as our new fiscal sponsor. Over the coming months, we will transition our funds and administrative functions to this new host. We are confident that this partnership will enhance TAI’s operational effectiveness, ensuring we remain well-positioned to tackle today’s complex challenges.

# What progress are we seeing?

We are creating a robust Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) plan matched to our new Strategic Framework. It will enable us to track progress while remaining adaptive to the evolving systems at play. As a result, we will no longer track progress against the indicators used under the Collaborative's previous strategy. For the concluding progress made against those preceding indicators, please see our [2024 Annual Report](#).

While our MEL plan is in development, we have already agreed on two cross-cutting learning questions for which we have begun tracking evidence - see the Learning section below for more.

We are also seeing positive signals that point to TAI's value at this moment. Across the first half of 2025, we recorded 1,045 participation instances in TAI-hosted and co-hosted spaces. Of these, 811 unique participation instances came from members, non-members, and practitioners representing 567 institutions and organizations, reflecting both expansion in reach and greater diversity.

Notably, non-member participation continues to account for more than half of the total, underscoring TAI's role as a hub for broader philanthropic and civil society engagement. Practitioner participation also grew, with 109 practitioner organizations and 147 unique individuals engaged, highlighting the success of TAI in attracting participants from a wide range of professional backgrounds.

Member engagement has remained steady, with 84 unique individuals participating in 156 instances, ensuring continuity and active involvement from TAI's core base. Compared to the first half of 2024, there is evidence of both growth and diversification, including an increase in the number of organizations represented and a broader reach across stakeholder groups.



FOR A FULL BREAKDOWN, SEE  
THE TABLE BELOW.

CATEGORY	REPRESENTATIVE ORGANIZATION		UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS		TOTAL ATTENDANCE	
	Q1 + Q2 2024	Q1 + Q2 2025	Q1 + Q2 2024	Q1 + Q2 2025	Q1 + Q2 2024	Q1 + Q2 2025
Member	9	11	56	84	96	156
Non-Member Funders	107	312	243	518	276	663
Practitioners (Org.+ Individuals)	129	109	182	147	197	164
Unknown	not registered	62	not registered	62	not registered	62
Grand Total	245	494	481	811	569	1045

We have also seen an uptick in asks for advice on what to fund as well as how, and connections to partners to offer insights on the funding landscape. In addition to providing advice to individual TAI members, the secretariat also advised the United Kingdom (U.K.) *Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office*, the *United Nations Development Programme*, several pooled funds, and individual donors on topics ranging from potential investments to event speakers to modes of giving. Advice is encouraging new investments in topics such as tax justice and economic growth. Such engagement reflects TAI’s broader role in bridging bilateral, multilateral, and philanthropic actors, supporting alignment and coordination across sectors to advance inclusive and sustainable development outcomes.

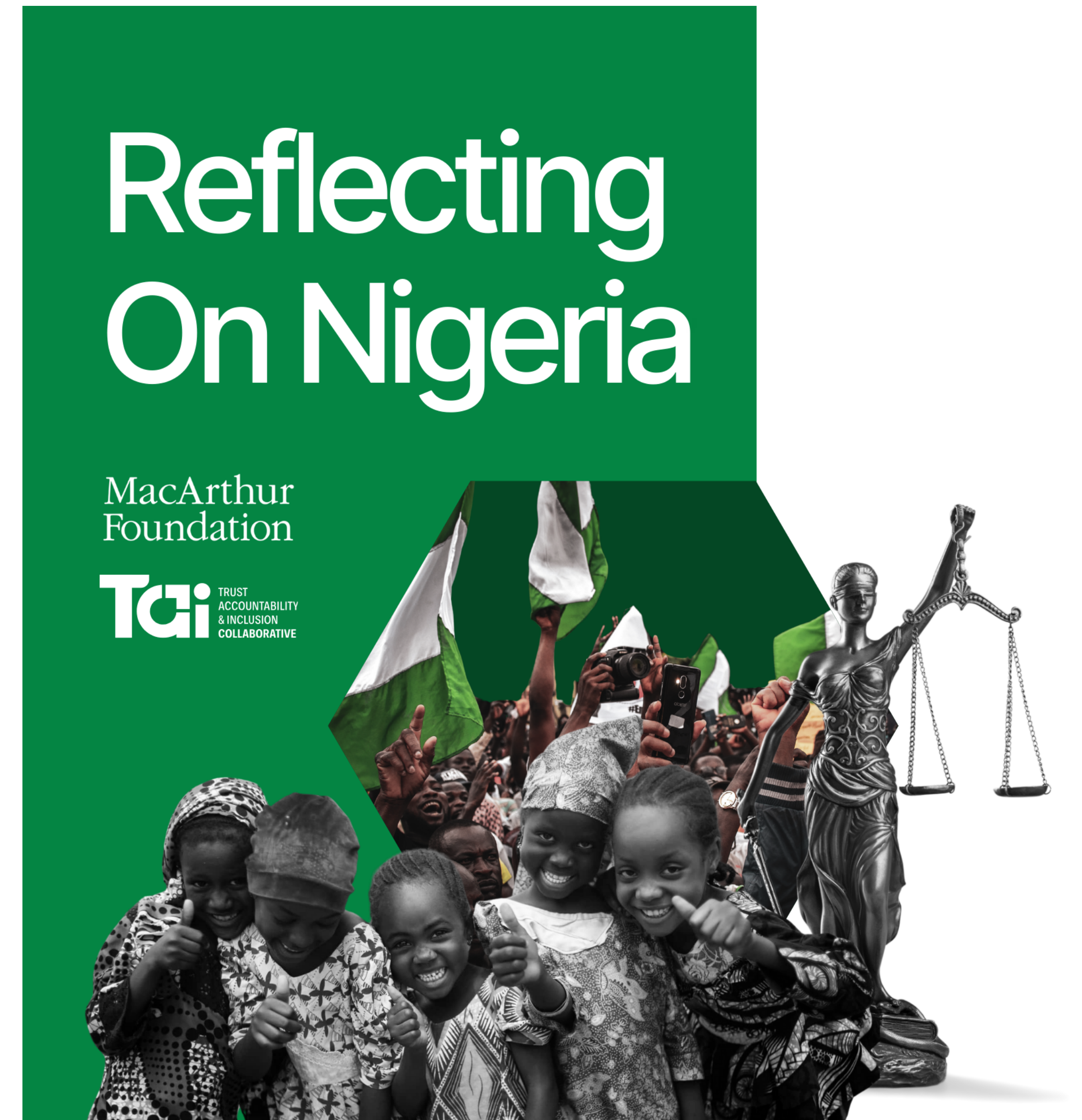
We continue to influence funder and partner strategies, investments, and narrative shifts across multiple areas. Several members have made new co-investments, while TAI-hosted projects are also fostering collaboration. For example, members of the *Collaborative for a Gender Just Economy* co-created shared learning priorities among funders and practitioners. One partner organization noted it had revised its anti-rights strategy after engaging with TAI’s brief on enablers of illicit financial flows.

Increasing visibility for trust, accountability, and inclusion in development is also important. TAI significantly expanded its thought leadership and visibility, contributing to major outlets such as *Bloomberg*, *Foreign Policy*, *The Chronicle of Philanthropy*, and *Billionaire Magazine*. Through timely op-eds, interviews, and features, TAI helped shape public debate on the future of development finance, climate accountability, and philanthropic leadership amid shrinking aid budgets. These media moments reinforced TAI's role as a trusted voice advancing transparency, participation, and smarter resourcing in global governance.

Between January and June 2025, the secretariat also provided targeted support to members to strengthen strategic communication and resource mobilization efforts. Notably, TAI offered ongoing [communications assistance to the MacArthur Foundation's On Nigeria program](#), helping distill and disseminate key learnings for broader visibility and uptake within the governance and accountability ecosystem. This effort supports shared goals of transparency, local impact, and peer learning.

*“Just wanted to send appreciation for all the wisdom, strategy, and guidance that you all at TAI are sharing during these times.”*

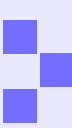
TAI Member Funder

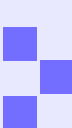




# What have we been doing?

From January through June 2025, TAI hosted 36 discussions, published 16 external media pieces and articles, and produced 6 research products and two minisites.

 **EVENT:** Funder calls, in-person meetings, online multi-stakeholder discussions

 **PRODUCT:** Publications, studies, scoping, and interviews conducted by TAI

 **MEDIA PRESENCE:** Articles authored by TAI that appeared in newsletters or on websites not owned by TAI

TAI organized and co-hosted over 30 learning and influencing events across its strategic pillars, providing dynamic spaces for funder collaboration and peer learning. Highlights include the launch of the *3D Dialogues*: A funder roundtable on Democratic and Civic Space, and several funder learning series on localizing support, gender and tax, and [philanthropy-government collaboration](#). TAI had a strong presence - both members and secretariat - [at the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development](#) (FfD4) on philanthropy's role in leaving no one behind. Dedicated convenings, such as the Debt Integrity Call, the *Collaborative for a Gender Just Economy* launch, and the Climate Accountability Roundtable during *London Climate Action Week*, fostered alignment on urgent themes like debt justice, fiscal-climate coherence, and inclusive economic reform. Feedback on TAI-hosted convenings has been very positive. The head of one non-member funder praised TAI's facilitation as "head and shoulders above typical funder spaces."

TAI also produced several influential knowledge products aimed at supporting funder action. [The Fiscal Ecosystems](#) mini-site and its companion blogs elevate the visibility of underfunded actors working on tax, debt, and fiscal accountability. In collaboration with the *Climate Emergency Collaboration Group* and *ClimateWorks*, TAI also released "Supporting Sustainable Debt Solutions", a practical framework for coordinating funder efforts at the climate-fiscal intersection.

The following is a sampling of what the Secretariat delivered across our strategic priorities from January to June.

# Building Fiscal Funding Infrastructure

## FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Since January, the secretariat has been busy encouraging philanthropic attention to fiscal issues. We followed our brief for philanthropy on why the [UN Tax Convention matters](#) with one on the [FfD process](#), and kept members closely informed on the progress of FfD negotiations. We worked with UN counterparts to support conversations designed to maintain ambitious language related to tax and debt justice, combating illicit financial flows, and greater transparency in development finance. The final Sevilla Commitment text retained many of those elements. We then began working with members and partners to spark more discussion of potential accountability mechanisms to deliver on the promises made in Sevilla. (For more on FfD, see our featured box.)

Outside of FfD, we continued to convene meetings of our donor tax and debt working groups - spaces for learning and strategizing - and cohosted a discussion of the impacts of aid cuts on fiscal programming. We continue to advise donors new to fiscal issues, offering guidance on potential investments.





Collaborative for a  
**GENDER-JUST  
ECONOMY**

Let's reimagine the global  
economy — together



## GENDER JUST ECONOMY LEARNING COMMUNITY

After a strategy retreat with the steering committee in March and the official launch of the Collaborative in April, our work has begun in earnest. We held two learning calls, published two issues of our monthly newsletter, and one issue of our quarterly review—a reading companion to go along with the theme of the second learning call on gender and trade. Our side event at the *Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development*, while acknowledging the criticality of philanthropy in filling financing gaps, stressed the criticality of philanthropy being a strategic enabler of human rights and social justice.

## FISCAL ECOSYSTEMS

The [Strengthening Fiscal Ecosystems initiative applies a systems lens](#) to uncover strategic pathways and coalitions that can advance fiscal accountability and equity. Over the past six months, the initiative has collaborated with local researchers in Brazil, Indonesia, and South Africa to produce in-depth case studies that track country-level progress over the last 30 years. Each study highlights not only the obstacles to fiscal accountability but also the emerging “green shoots” that hold potential for deeper reform.

Building on this evidence, the initiative convened researchers to compare cross-country similarities, differences, and lessons, drawing out strategic implications for strengthening fiscal systems more broadly. To expand visibility, a project website and blog series were launched to share methods and early findings with a wider audience. Looking ahead, the initiative has laid the groundwork for a high-level international dialogue that will bring together 35 leading public finance practitioners—from civil society, oversight institutions, governments, and international donors—to reflect on the findings and chart next steps for advancing fiscal accountability and equity.



# Strengthening Climate Accountability

## CLIMATE GOVERNANCE FORUM

In June 2025, TAI partnered with 3EG in sponsoring the first-ever Climate Governance Forum that took place during *London Climate Action Week*. The event brought together 250 practitioners, researchers, and funders in person and many more online to discuss what we mean by climate governance, why it matters, and dive deep on specific aspects, including bringing in more participation in climate decision-making.

TAI Secretariat hosted a workshop on Climate Accountability as part of the Forum that explored ways to strengthen accountability within the design and implementation of climate projects, and the allocations from broader pools of climate finance.

## SCOPING AND MAKING CONNECTIONS

The TAI secretariat and members continue to look for ways to pinpoint and share lessons from democracy, rights, and governance programming to those working on climate mitigation and adaptation. This includes commissioning think pieces, such as on the potential of “[Fast Accountability](#)” applications in the energy transition, inviting guest blogs, cohosting calls for funders, such as on corporate accountability dimensions, and providing input to other funder efforts, such as the identification of investment opportunities to strengthen responsible political engagement by companies in relation to climate.





# Reinvigorating Democratic and Civic Space

## 3D DIALOGUES: DEMOCRATIC AND CIVIC SPACE FUNDERS TABLE

In the first half of 2025, the 3D Dialogues emerged as a vibrant and evolving space for funders to reflect on the complex realities facing democracy today. The dialogues created a shared space for examining dimensions of democratic practice, exploring diverse democratic models, and interrogating the current demands for democratic renewal. The February session introduced the 3D framework and encouraged collective ownership over the agenda. By March, the group moved into deeper reflection, using participants' Theories of Change to challenge outdated assumptions and co-create new hypotheses on how change happens in the face of rising authoritarianism, shrinking civic space, and disinformation.

By June, the dialogues had shifted from theoretical to strategic. A focused session on pro-democracy narratives drew participation from *Open Society Foundations* (OSF) and elevated the urgency of supporting narrative infrastructure, not just content creation. The discussion highlighted the need to connect cultural production, youth engagement, and strategic communication as integral parts of democracy-building. Participants also stressed the value of South-South collaboration, the importance of inclusive and emotionally resonant messaging, and the risks of philanthropy unintentionally reinforcing exclusionary practices. A [podcast](#) episode and [mapping of narrative initiatives](#) helped bring the conversation to life and energized calls for collective action. We have also created a [resource page on democratic and civic space](#).

## FUNDING CUTS: CIVIC SPACE SURVEY AND CALLS

TAI has supported efforts to track the impacts of the U.S. government aid freeze and other bilateral donor reductions on organizations working to advance trust, accountability, and inclusion. We contributed to the [Global Aid Freeze](#) surveys and resource hub, hosted a session in collaboration with *Accountability Lab and Development Gateway* to explore practical tools developed to support nonprofit mergers and strategic partnerships, and are actively participating in the *Better Preparedness Initiative* to strengthen coordinated philanthropic responses.

TAI and *Funders Initiative for Civil Society* co-hosted a funders-only learning call to share findings from an [online survey](#) conducted by TAI. The survey, circulated among groups working across the civic space field, aimed to identify the most urgent needs for sustaining civic space infrastructure. Top concerns included financial sustainability, security, and authoritarian pushback.

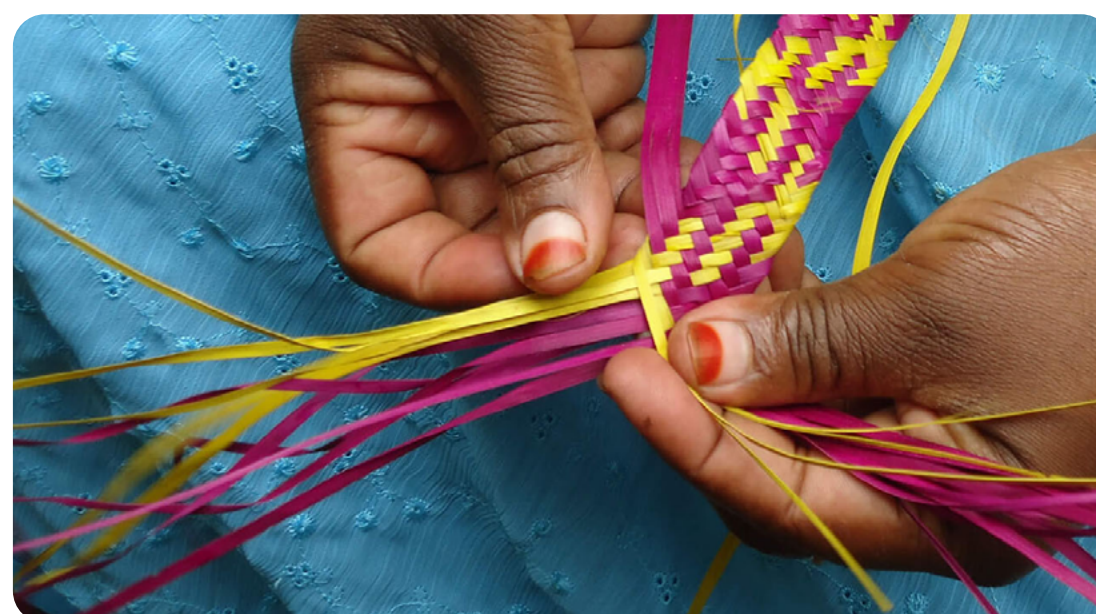


# Resourcing Civil Society



## GOVERNMENT AND PHILANTHROPY

In 2025, the [TAI Funder Series on philanthropy's engagement with government](#) continued with two dedicated sessions. The first session explored the opportunities and risks of direct philanthropic engagement with governments, sharing insights from a recent *On Think Tank* (OTT) study and OSF's experience advising on economic policy, tailored for funders in Asia, Australia, and Africa. The second session highlighted the Chandler Foundation's evolving partnership with the *Government of Malawi* to support good governance reforms.



## INFLUENCING PEER FUNDERS

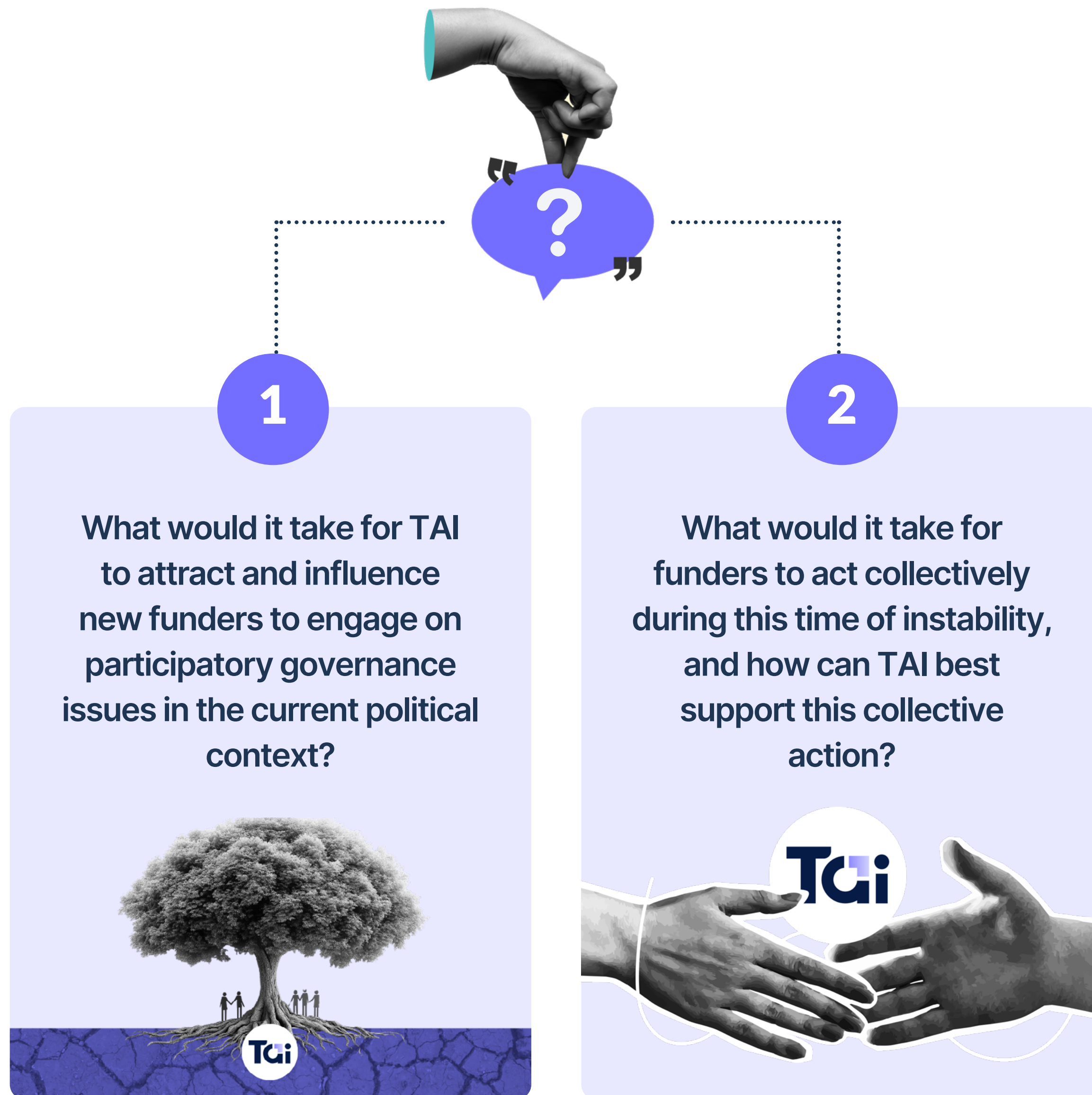
TAI's *Influencing Peer Funders Working Group* gained momentum this year through focused learning sessions. We examined strategies to engage High-Net-Worth Individuals around social justice, democracy, and taxation, and previewed key insights from *Bridgespan's* "[At Common Cause report](#)" on philanthropy's collaboration with bilateral and multilateral agencies in Africa. Additionally, practical workshops equipped funders with tools and approaches to develop effective strategies for influencing both foundations and high-net-worth individuals.



## INTERMEDIARY FUNDERS

We began the year with a funder learning call to launch [TAI's study on Global South intermediaries](#). In April, we convened a group of foundations to explore the current landscape and identify opportunities for future coordination. Building on this momentum, TAI will launch a funders community of practice in September, focused on strengthening infrastructure for resourcing civil society—including intermediaries and other funding mechanisms.





## What have we learned?

In 2025, TAI's learning agenda is anchored in two critical questions. Their answers will inform how TAI shows up in this moment marked by rapid change and widespread uncertainty.

### **1 WHAT WOULD IT TAKE FOR TAI TO ATTRACT AND INFLUENCE NEW FUNDERS TO ENGAGE ON PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE ISSUES IN THE CURRENT POLITICAL CONTEXT?**

It is a particularly difficult moment to convince funders to invest in issues where they are not already engaged. Philanthropy is under immense pressure to fill the gaps left behind by the disappearance of bilateral aid dollars and other public funds, and few are seeking new opportunity areas. Meanwhile, funders long committed to participatory governance issues are holding the line but are unable to expand their giving in the current environment.

And yet, in our 2025-2029 strategy, TAI set the explicit goal of expanding the funder ecosystem, increasing visibility, recognition, and funding for participatory governance. What options does TAI have to do so, based on evidence from the first half of this year?



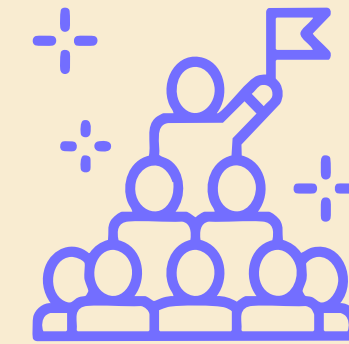
### **ENGAGE FUNDERS ON NEWLY SALIENT ISSUES**

TAI members have long contended with several issues that now sit at the forefront of the global conversation, like countering authoritarianism, strengthening civil society, transforming public debt, and localizing funding. This moment presents a window of opportunity to welcome newcomers to these issues and offer TAI's longstanding expertise.



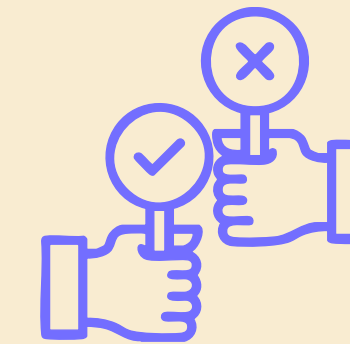
### **PROVIDE A TRUSTED SPACE IN A TIME OF UNCERTAINTY**

Faced with mounting risks and threats, funders need a place to discuss uncomfortable topics and compare notes on how to move forward. TAI's reputation as a trustworthy and inclusive space allows it to step in and draw in new funders.



### **ENGAGE AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF LEADERSHIP**

In many cases where new emergency funding has been made available, funding decisions are not being made by program officers but rather by directors, presidents, or boards. This trend of top-down decision-making may push TAI to engage with funders beyond the program level.



### **RELY ON PEOPLE OVER PRODUCTS**

Many of TAI's hard-earned lessons on attracting new funders continue to apply in today's context. Most new funder relationships emerge through warm referrals from member funders and ultimately through offering one-on-one advising from a position of recognized expertise. Research publications have rarely brought new institutions into the TAI fold, and less so now.



## 2 WHAT WOULD IT TAKE FOR FUNDERS TO ACT COLLECTIVELY DURING THIS TIME OF INSTABILITY, AND HOW CAN TAI BEST SUPPORT THIS COLLECTIVE ACTION?

Earlier in the year, we had two contradictory guesses as to how the philanthropic field would react to the disruptions and threats of the moment. On one hand, foundations might retreat into their own institutions and silos, taking a self-protective stance to focus on internal stability and opting not to risk the attention that might come with visible collaborations. On the other hand, foundations might be pushed to act collectively to counter threats and to defend the sector as a whole.

TAI's new strategy contends that funder collaboration is not the only pathway to impact, but it has an important amplifying effect. As such, TAI has dedicated infrastructure to support funder collaboration where useful and is well-positioned to play a bridging role. But where seeding successful collaborations is challenging even in normal times, what options does TAI have in 2025?



### STAY PRACTICAL AND SOLUTION-ORIENTED

Strapped for portfolio space, funders are looking for alternative ways to bolster the sector in the short term and shape the landscape in the long term. TAI can take advantage of this energy to convene solutions-oriented conversations and support sector-wide initiatives to respond.



### USE TRUSTED SPACES AS A STARTING POINT

Building on funders' acute need for opportunities to share and sensemake together, TAI can use the spaces it fosters as sources for emergent collaboration ideas.



### TIMING IS EVERYTHING

Internal shifts – like leadership changes, staff turnover, strategic refreshes, and institutional reorganizations – can provide openings for seeding collaborative work. Outside of these flux moments, it can be hard to find the budget space and bandwidth for programs already mid-course.



### OFFER SOLIDARITY AND RESOURCES TO EXISTING OR EMERGING COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

TAI collaborations have been most successful when the Secretariat supports emerging collaborations rather than trying to seed new ones. TAI's infrastructure can support aligned emerging collaborations, for instance, around resourcing global development and defending democracy.

# TAI at FfD

At the end of June 2025, TAI was on the ground at FfD4, convened under unprecedented global urgency around debt pressures, shrinking aid budgets, and widening inequality. The event produced the Sevilla Commitment, a landmark consensus among 192 countries with commitments to raise tax revenues to at least 15% of GDP, triple multilateral development bank lending, strengthen domestic resource mobilization, and tackle illicit financial flows through stronger fiscal governance and corporate transparency.



TAI's Executive Director, Michael Jarvis, emphasized that while the Commitment lays essential groundwork, "the hard work starts after this", turning high-level pledges into concrete implementation via accountability, tracking, and built-in mechanisms to ensure equity and inclusiveness in finance systems. He argued that philanthropy's role is shifting: no longer just filling aid gaps but investing in the "plumbing" of development: tax systems, debt architecture, and domestic institutions, helping sustain long-term transformation rather than short-term relief.

TAI co-hosted key side events that convened funders, civil society, and multilateral partners to translate finance talk into systems-level change. One session co-organized with the *Collaborative for a Gender-Just Economy* explored how philanthropy can support rights-based, gender-responsive public finance reforms and leave no one behind. Another, with UNDP, *Tax Justice Network Africa*, the *Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation*, and others, focused on enhancing domestic resource mobilization, debt transparency, and inclusive governance in public finance systems.

These events showed TAI's emerging strategic focus on two intersecting priorities at FfD4: first, the transition of philanthropy from donor to systemic partner in the domestic fiscal landscape; second, the integration of accountability mechanisms, measurable benchmarks, participatory transparency, and multisector partnerships, to make multilateral finance commitments real and equitable.

Beyond convening, TAI heightened its thought leadership during FfD4. Michael Jarvis was interviewed by Devex, [reflecting on how the Sevilla Commitment offers both risk and opportunity](#), and calling for philanthropy to help operationalize the outcome document through active accountability collaborations and technical support.



# How are we doing it?

## MEMBERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

Given the closure of relevant departments, USAID is no longer an affiliate partner of TAI, but we are delighted that Humanity United and the Hilton Foundation have joined as new members. Their entry into our community enriches our collective capacity, and we are eager to learn alongside their teams as we pursue shared goals.

TAI's Steering Committee has met twice so far in 2025, with a virtual meeting earlier in the year and an in-person gathering hosted at the MacArthur Foundation offices in Chicago. The in-person meeting provided a valuable opportunity to reflect on barriers to more effective collective responses to today's challenges and to identify concrete actions—both for members and the Secretariat—to overcome those obstacles.

The Steering Committee also endorsed a new systems-based approach to Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL), emphasizing learning questions to guide data gathering. Two cross-cutting learning questions were agreed upon, focusing on attracting new funders and fostering collective action during times of instability.

This meeting also marked a leadership transition, as Leslie Tsai of the Chandler Foundation stepped in as Chair for the next 12 months, succeeding Ford Foundation.

## FINANCES

For 2025, the Secretariat proposed a significantly larger budget than in previous years, reflecting expanded activities and new funding partnerships. Key initiatives include hosting a fiscal accountability scoping, supported by the Gates Foundation, Ford Foundation, and the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, and the Gender Just Economies Collaborative Learning Community, funded by Hewlett and Wellspring. Additionally, the Ford Foundation provided extra support for the 3D Dialogues series. Packard, Ford, and Hewlett further reinforced their commitment by making multi-year core funding pledges.

The Steering Committee approved a budget of \$2,281,857 for 2025. Our mid-year spending is on track - spending \$963,019 in the first half of the year, 42% of our approved budget for the year.

COMMUNICATIONS

In the first half of 2025, TAI’s communications continued to strengthen our role as a trusted connector and knowledge hub for participatory governance funders. Our Weekly newsletter reached a milestone of over 5,000 subscribers, delivering 24 issues that curated timely research, field updates, and member news. We also launched targeted email campaigns to promote new resources and events, achieving strong engagement (around 40% open rate).

Between January and June, we published 9 blogs and 5 major reports:



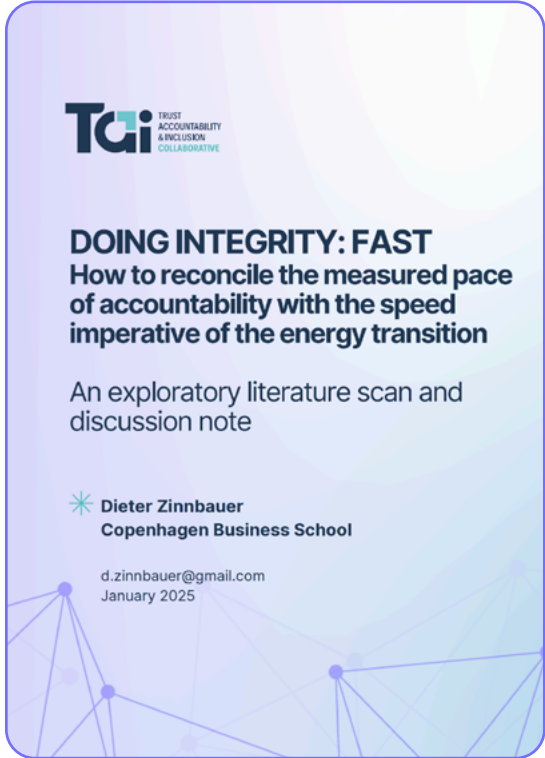
“Why Philanthropy Should Engage Now: The UN Tax Convention and the Fight for Global Tax Justice” – TAI (June 9, 2025)



“TAI 2024 Annual Report: Advancing Participatory Governance Amidst Global Uncertainty” – TAI (February 6, 2025)



“The Delivery Imperative: Making Every Climate Dollar Count” – Anjali Garg & Warren Krafchik (April 23, 2025)













“Doing Integrity: Fast – How to Reconcile the Measured Pace of Accountability with the Speed Imperative of the Energy Transition” – Dieter Zinnbauer, Copenhagen Business School (January 13, 2025)
























“TAI Strategic Framework (2025–2029)” – TAI (February 25, 2025)



In the first half of 2025, TAI’s expertise and perspectives were featured in prominent international outlets and platforms, reinforcing our position as a trusted voice on participatory governance, fiscal justice, and philanthropy:

	<i>Why Funders Are Reluctant to Provide SA with Climate Finance</i>	
	<i>UN Tax Deal May Replace OECD After Trump Executive Order</i>	
	<i>Top-Rated Charities in Jeopardy Amid Battle Over Foreign Aid</i>	
	<i>Trump USAID Cuts Threaten Philanthropy’s Role</i>	
	<i>Billionaire Donors Weigh Priorities After USAID Cuts</i>	

	<i>Slashed Aid Budgets Leave Door Open for Family Offices</i>	
	<i>The Impact of USAID Cuts</i>	
	<i>Climate Priority 2025: Focal Points for the Remaining Year Ahead</i>	
	<i>In a Post-Aid World, Billionaires Must Lead the Way</i>	
	<i>Make-or-Break Moment for Global Development Finance: The Role Philanthropy Must Play</i>	

THE CHRONICLE OF PHILANTHROPY	<b><i>How Philanthropy Can Tap Unemployed USAID Workers to Fix Democracy at Home</i></b>	
	<b><i>Fair Fiscal Policies Must Start with the People Who Know the System Best</i></b>	
	<b><i>As FfD4 Kicks Off in Spain, Global Cooperation Still Matters</i></b>	
	<b><i>Accountability Key to Realizing Financing for Development Promises</i></b>	
	<b><i>Philanthropy's Expanding Role in a Shifting Aid Landscape</i></b>	
	<b><i>Supranational Integrity in Climate Finance</i></b>	

We also launched the 3D Dialogue tab on our website, consolidating more than 50 resources on democracy and civic space, and unveiled the new [Fiscal Space](#) and the [Fiscal Ecosystem](#) site as part of our funding fiscal infrastructure work.

Our website attracted nearly 10,000 new users, with top-performing content including our new strategic framework, climate finance analysis, and fiscal governance studies. We expanded our digital library to over 100 curated resources for funders. On LinkedIn, we reached 2,260 new followers and 9,492 total followers, with engagement driven by thought leadership posts, event highlights, and publication launches. You can access our detailed social media tracker [here](#).

Looking ahead, TAI will continue refining its communications by launching its communication strategy and related policies aimed at sharing knowledge, sparking collaboration, elevating member voices, and inspiring investment in participatory governance across sectors.

### INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

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## DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION AND JUSTICE

At TAI, we place a significant emphasis on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice across all facets of our operations. With a diverse Steering Committee and a dedicated secretariat team spread across the US, Europe, Latin America, and Africa, we seek to ensure that our initiatives are globally inclusive and locally impactful.

Our communities of practice, including the 3D Dialogues on democracy and civic space and the Gender-Just Economy Collaborative, have placed particular emphasis on amplifying Global Majority voices, ensuring that funder conversations are informed by diverse lived experiences and perspectives. This focus enriches dialogue, strengthens legitimacy, and fosters collaboration that reflects the realities of those most affected by governance challenges.

We also value our ongoing partnerships with other organizations, which enable us to benefit from the knowledge and perspectives of consultants from diverse backgrounds and regions. These collaborations not only broaden perspectives but also foster cross-cultural understanding. For our members, gender and social inclusion remain a priority, explicitly embedded in our new strategic framework plan for the first time.

Through these efforts, TAI continues to promote an environment where all voices are heard, valued, and respected, advancing our shared vision of a more equitable and just world.

***“You (TAI) are such a wealth of bold ideas, meaningful connections, thought leadership and action for system change! Thank you.”***

TAI Member Funder

# What are we excited about for the rest of this year

Eszter



*The launching of TAI scoping on narratives on civil society “The Stories We Tell” and subsequent brainstorming with funders and other stakeholders on how to implement some of its recommendations.*

Yery



*Hosting a successful 3D Dialogues in-person meeting during TAI Learning Days (12-13 November during Berlin Freedom Week), serving as the culmination of our online sessions and collective efforts to strengthen democratic and civic space.*

Michael



*Agreeing on learning questions specific to each of our four priorities and building momentum for a new vehicle to channel investment to fiscal issues.*

Cristina



*The launching of the funder community of practice on strengthening the infrastructure for resourcing civil society. We look forward to engaging a broad group of funders to explore diverse support and funding mechanisms and foster a shared space for learning and practical collaboration.*

Leah



*The Gender-Just Economy Festival of Ideas, the flagship event of the learning community. In this inaugural convening, we are looking forward to engaging with funders of different stripes as we build a common vision for what a gender-just economy is, and how funder strategies could support the realisation of this agenda.*