

## National Consultation on Niti Aayog - From the Planning Commission to the Niti Aayog

Event Date: February 11<sup>th</sup> 2015



Wada Na Todo Abhiyan and Oxfam India jointly organised a National Consultation on Niti Aayog on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2015 at India Habitat Centre in New Delhi. A national consultation meet that brought together voice of the experts, civil society and intellectuals focussed primarily around understanding NITI Aayog and its transition from the Planning Commission, Social Justice and Inclusion, Role of CSOs and Citizens and fitment post Millennium

Development Goals (MDGs) which are set for achievement by 2015.

Some of the thoughts shared in the discussion revolved around the fact that:

*“NITI Aayog should not be a one way top-down flow of ideas from the Centre to the States, but a genuine and continuing partnership with the States.”*

*“While it is good move to include State Chief Ministers in the Governing Council of the NITI Aayog, the Council should not become a ritualistic exercise like the National Development Council and the Inter State Council in the past. The processes for the Chief Ministers' Council should be laid down clearly post adequate consultations.”*

*“It is important that NITI Aayog fits in with the United Nations initiative to establish a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be achieved by 2030 which are to replace the MDGs soon.”*



*“Whether the Niti Aayog will have enough influence especially when it does not have the power to give grants and make plan allocations to different ministries and departments is not clear.”*

*“Doing away with the distinction between Plan and Non-Plan classification in the Centre and State Budget was acceptable as it would help simplify budget documents, keep the focus firmly on functions and not lead to a proliferation of schemes.”*

Concerns bordering on optimism and hope from the new government till Niti Aayog find its feet firmly on the ground was the general consensus among the participants at the meet. **Knowledge Partnership Program (KPP)** of IPE Global – a UK DFID funded programme – also shared these thoughts and highlighted the fact that the architecture, execution and impact of Niti Aayog should be such that it acts as a catalyst to the overall development process in a harmonious manner.