



Terms of Reference: Fingo Programme Advisory Group (2026-2029)

1. Background

Fingo is the Finnish CSO platform representing approximately 250 member organisations working in development cooperation, global citizenship education, humanitarian assistance, human rights, peacebuilding and sustainable development.

Fingo's Programme 2026–2029 aims to contribute to a stronger global civil society that advances a globally just sustainability transformation. The programme's main objective is that civil society partnerships promoting a globally just sustainability transformation are more equal and more impactful.

A central priority of the programme period is to strengthen equal partnerships, support local leadership and shifting power, and better understand global trends affecting civil society and development cooperation. As part of the programme preparation, Fingo piloted an informal advisory group with representatives from international civil society networks.

Building on this experience, Fingo will establish a Programme Advisory Group for the 2026–2029 programme period. Members are appointed for an initial two-year term (2026–2027), with the possibility of renewal for the remainder of the programme period.

2. Purpose of the Advisory Group

The purpose of the Programme Advisory Group is to:

- Provide strategic advice to Fingo and critical reflection on the implementation of its 2026–2029 programme.
- Advise Fingo in strengthening equal partnerships and advancing the shifting power agenda including local leadership and more equitable civil society relations.
- Contribute to Fingo's understanding of global civil society trends and changing development cooperation paradigms.
- Act as a sounding board for thematic priorities and strategic choices during the annual planning and monitoring cycle.

The Advisory Group has an advisory role only. It does not have decision-making authority over Fingo's governance or operations.

4. Composition

The Advisory Group will consist of:

- Representative(s) from national CSOs in the majority world
- Representative(s) from international civil society networks (such as FORUS)
- Expert(s) on shifting the power / local leadership

The Advisory Group will be supported by Fingo representatives:

- Programme Manager
- Executive Director
- Representative of the Fingo Board (TBC)

5. Roles and Responsibilities

Advisory Group Members

Members are expected to:

- Participate actively in meetings and discussions.
- Prepare for meetings by reviewing materials in advance.
- Share expertise, insights, and strategic reflections.
- Contribute constructively and respectfully to discussions.
- Maintain confidentiality when required.

Members act in their professional capacity and do not formally represent Fingo.

Fingo

Fingo will:

- Convene and facilitate meetings.
- Provide relevant documentation in advance.
- Ensure that advice from the Advisory Group is meaningfully considered in planning and reporting, and relevant deliberations are shared with Fingo's management structures.
- Ensure deep listening to the messages of the Advisory Group and provide feedback to the Advisory Group on how their input has been used.

6. Working Methods

The Advisory Group will meet **three times per year** (online).

In 2026, meetings are tentatively planned as:

- **June:** Constitutive meeting (orientation, expectations, programme overview)
- **August/September:** Strategic inspiration meeting (input to autumn planning)

- **November/December:** Thematic deep-dive and reflection meeting

Meetings will be held in English and last approximately 2-3 hours.

Additional informal consultations may take place between meetings if needed.

Where relevant and feasible, Advisory Group members may be invited to contribute to or participate in selected Fingo events. Opportunities for in-person engagement in Finland may be explored, subject to funding and practical arrangements.

7. Remuneration and Practical Arrangements

- External members will receive compensation for participation in meetings (and potential selected Fingo events as relevant), in line with Fingo's compensation policy.
- Meetings will be held online.
- If travel is agreed upon, Fingo will cover reasonable travel and accommodation costs according to its travel policy.

8. Eligibility and Selection Criteria

Required:

- Strong understanding of current global civil society and development sector dynamics.
- Experience related to development cooperation, equal partnerships, shift the power, locally-led development or civic space.
- Ability to work in English.

We seek diversity in:

- Geographic representation,
- Gender and other dimensions of diversity (including disability inclusion),
- Thematic expertise (e.g. multistakeholder engagement, civic space).

Selected Advisory Group members need to (after selection):

- Provide a declaration that neither they, the organisation they represent, or its decision-making structures fall within the scope of sanctions imposed by the Finnish authorities, the EU, or the UN.
- Provide a declaration that neither they, the organisation they represent, or the persons exercising decision-making or supervisory authority in the organisation, have engaged in corruption or illegal activities comparable to corruption.
- Provide a declaration that they adhere to a zero-tolerance policy regarding sexual exploitation, abuse, and sexual harassment.

If any of the situations mentioned above occur during the term of the Advisory Group, the collaboration will be terminated.

9. Duration

The mandate of the Advisory Group will cover the programme period 2026–2029.

Members are appointed for an initial two-year term (2026–2027), with the possibility of renewal for the remainder of the programme period.

10. Review of the Terms of Reference

These Terms of Reference may be reviewed and adjusted during the programme period based on mutual learning and evolving needs.

11. Expressions of interest

If interested in joining our Advisory Group, we invite you to send a short letter expressing interest (max 1 page) and CV to nora.forsbacka@fingo.fi by 15 May.