

The catalytic role of philanthropy in early childhood development: financial input meets policy advocacy



Bronwen Magrath, IEFG (Moderator)

Peter Colenso, International Advisory Group, Sesame Workshop
International

Maniza Ntekim, Open Society Foundations

Teresa Sguazzin, Comic Relief

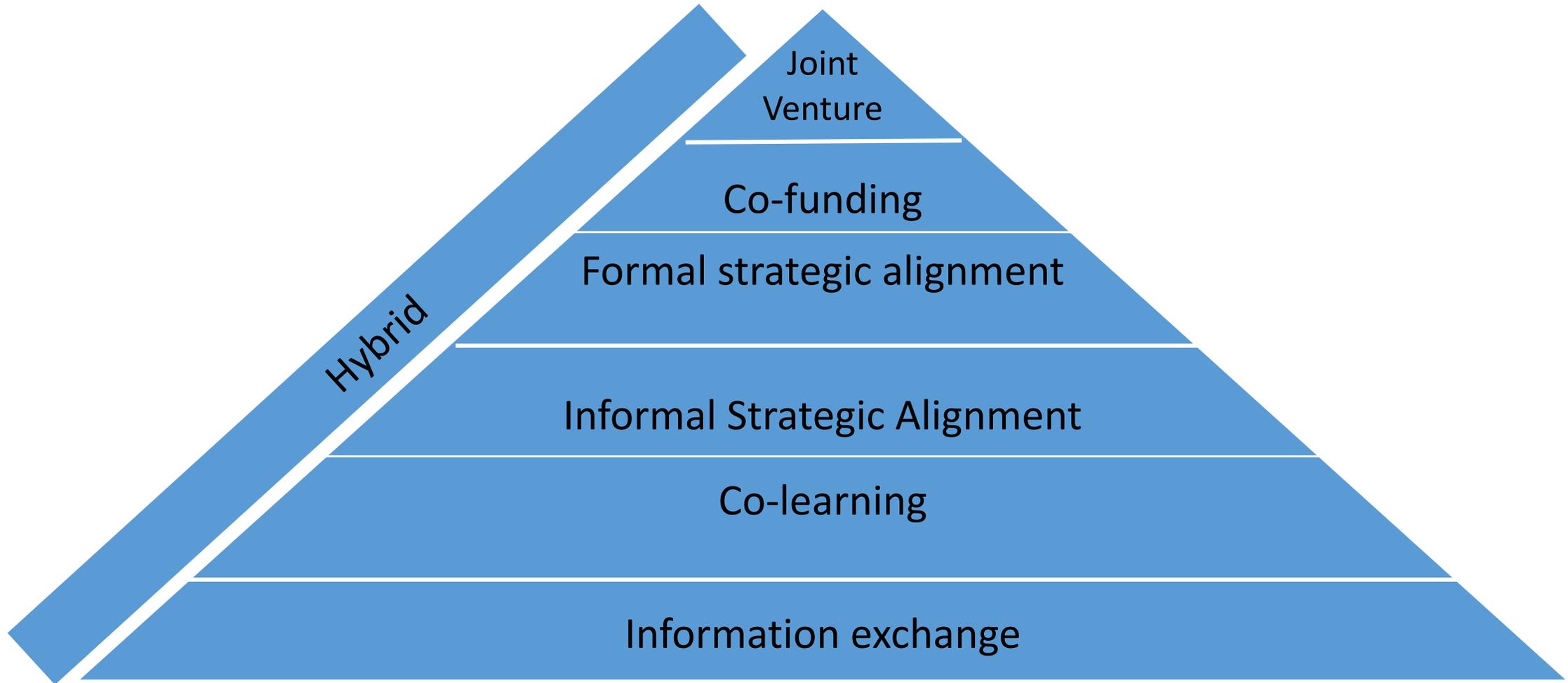
Outline of the session

- Introducing the panellists
- Introducing the International Education Funders Group (IEFG)
- Collaboration among philanthropic actors and in early childhood development
- So what: why do these networks matter?
- Moderated Q&A
- Audience Q&A

International Education Funders Group (IEFG)

- A **member-led** network of 100 foundations and donor-advised funds
- **Members are diverse** in approach; but share focus on **supporting basic education** and contributing to achieving **SDG 4**
- IEFG's purpose is to collectively strengthen its members' work and knowledge of the field; and to help its members have a stronger voice and impact in education by:
 - improving their strategic analyses and thinking,
 - informing and assisting their grant-making,
 - providing opportunities for collective learning and action

The Spectrum of Engagement



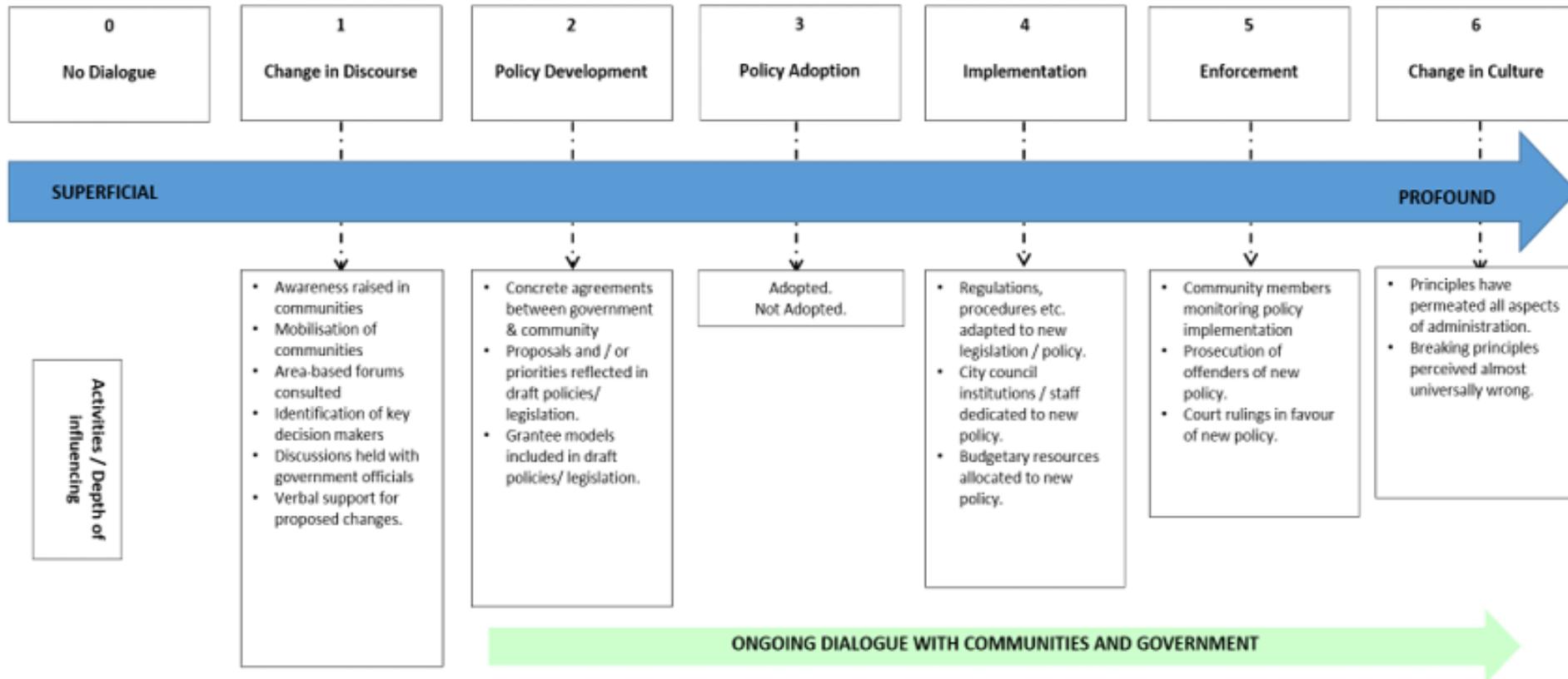
Collaboration in early childhood development

Recent gains and opportunities for the early childhood sector:

- Advances in knowledge - neuroscience and nutrition
- Equity implications
- Cross-sectoral importance
- Political opportunities
- Vocal champions

Philanthropy beyond financial input

Measurement Scale (Tracker) – Influencing Government Policy and Practice
For use in Comic Relief 4-Cities Initiative (indicators 3.3 and 3.4)



Why do these kinds of networks matter?

- Networks of non-state actors who can capitalise on political opportunities are powerful drivers of social change; nurture new norms that can reach a tipping point and cascade
- Post 1990: growth in networked forms of governance + nonstate actors
- The role of the actor within the structure
 - “the efforts of collective actors to vie for strategic advantage in and through interaction with other groups in what can be seen as meso-level social orders. We call these orders “**strategic action fields**” (Fligstein & McAdam, 2011)

Philanthropies, networks and early childhood development: hearing from the grant-makers