Convergence

WHAT TO DO: Prioritize and refine what has been created and note areas of remaining divergence. Build toward a shared overall understanding of the issue and develop specific options for action.

WHEN IT’S IMPORTANT: Important at some convenings, when there is need for participants to come away with some greater degree of shared perspective. This is typically true when the primary purpose is to influence or align and act.

SAMPLE ACTIVITIES
- WORLD CAFÉ: (see “connection”)
- SYSTEMS MAPPING: (see “shared language”)
- ROLEPLAYING: (see “divergence”)
- BRAINSTORMING: (see “divergence”)
- THREE HORIZONS: Generate or evaluate proposals under the headings of basic hygiene, new ideas for focused exploration, and novel experiments.21
- BREAKOUT GROUPS: (see “divergence”)
- RAPID PROTOTYPING: (see “divergence”)
- POPCORN REACTIONS: (see “divergence”)

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT EACH ACTIVITY, SEE THE LIST OF RESOURCES LISTED AT THE END OF THE SECTION.
Commitment

WHAT TO DO: Refine and finalize the options, come to the appropriate degree of alignment and closure on the issue, define next steps for participants, and choose a method of staying accountable to these goals.

WHEN IT’S IMPORTANT: Important only for convenings that require follow-up action, typically when the primary purpose is to influence or align and act.

SAMPLE ACTIVITIES

DYNAMIC PLANNING: (see “co-creation”)

INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION ON NEXT STEPS: Participants work independently to list ideas, create a first draft of the output, or reflect on their personal next steps.22

THE GRADIENTS OF AGREEMENT: Give participants a numerical scale for indicating their level of agreement and use it to measure support for each idea.23

DEFINING GOALS AND MILESTONES: Place the goal and three to five milestones on a long sheet of butcher paper, then break into groups to list the steps required for each one.24

SYSTEMS MAPPING: (see “shared language”) TO LEARN MORE ABOUT EACH ACTIVITY, SEE THE LIST OF RESOURCES LISTED AT THE END OF THE SECTION.