



EU ROADMAP FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY **IN MONGOLIA**

for the period 2021 - 2025

PUBLIC SUMMARY





EU-MONGOLIA RELATIONS AT A GLANCE

Mongolia and the European Union are much closer than you would think from looking at a map. Our cooperation is based on our shared commitment to the principles of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. What guides our cooperation is a genuine partnership, which takes into account the challenges we face. The EU supports economic diversification, green sustainable development and decent job creation in Mongolia. Our actions also support legal reforms, an independent judiciary, human rights defenders and the involvement of civil society organisations in policy-making. Through its Delegation to Mongolia, the EU maintains good relations with a variety of civil society actors and engages in regular dialogue with them on a range of issues and challenges Mongolian society is facing. In 2020, the EU Delegation launched a consultation process with CSOs in Mongolia to enhance further cooperation with civil society. As a result, this Roadmap was developed with the EU Member States to structure our engagement, strengthen our communication, and provide information on funding opportunities with the overall goal to contribute to a safe, inclusive and enabling environment for CSOs in Mongolia. The Roadmap, summarised by this document, was approved in February 2021 by the EU Heads of Missions in Ulaanbaatar.

CONTEXT

Since the transformation into a market-oriented democracy in the early 1990s, Mongolia has significantly reduced poverty and elevated human well-being. Today, Mongolia has a vibrant democratic society. Governments have made efforts in devising policies, laws and regulations that comply with international standards and agreements on fostering partnerships with the private sector, civil society and international development partners.

Over the past two decades, within the democratic system and often working alongside international NGOs, civil society movements have diversified,

becoming an active part of the Mongolian society. They encompass NGOs, as well as associations, research organisations, community groups, common interest groups, political movements, and interest clubs, amongst others. The Constitution of Mongolia (1992), the NGO Law (1997), the Civil Code (2002), and the Law on State Registration of Legal Entities (2015) constitute the main legislation applying to CSOs. In 2019, a new draft law on non-profit legal entities (NPLE) was included in Mongolia's fall legislative agenda. The Law has not been finalized yet. However, CSOs expressed extreme concern over efforts to restrict civil society organisations. The proposed legislation envisioned the creation of a "Civil Society Development Council" which would allow the government authority to oversee the activities of non-governmental organisations in the country.

BRIEF ANALYSIS OF MONGOLIAN CS INVOLVEMENT IN DOMESTIC POLICIES

Article 9 of the 1997 NGO Law describes the key principles underpinning the relations between NGOs and the State. It stipulates that: (i) NGOs shall be independent of the state and it is the duty of the State to protect the legitimate rights of NGOs and; (ii) The state bodies may support, financially and otherwise, activities of NGOs; (iii) Information relating to activities of state bodies, unless it is classified as state secret, shall be open to NGOs; (iv) NGOs may be involved in drafting and implementing the decisions to be taken by legislative and executive authorities based on their opinion and; (v) NGOs may make public statements about their positions on decisions taken by state bodies.

According to a survey circulated by the EU Delegation for the update of the Roadmap in March 2020, more than 70% of the CSOs consulted are involved in the elaboration and/or monitoring of public policies together with the Mongolian authorities. Having most of the CSOs surveyed a national coverage, involvement takes place mostly at national level followed by the provincial level. In most cases, dialogue

is not institutionalised, but rather ad-hoc. On average, CSOs consider that they can only influence the Mongolian authorities moderately, but their influence varies very much depending on the sector, as well as on the overall quality of the dialogue. Successful engagement experiences are cited regarding environment, education and health.

One of the biggest challenges facing CSOs now is their limited experience mobilizing funding, both within the country (i.e., local philanthropy, vis-a-vis the authorities) as well as internationally. The main sources of CSO financing include membership fees, donations, and donor-funded projects and programs. Mongolian CSOs require support to explore alternative ways to raise funds, through dedicated fundraising campaigns and professional communication towards private sector and philanthropists.

Based on our consultation with CSOs the most urgent common challenges that deserve special attention are:

- Overcoming social and economic inequalities
- Strengthening civil society and promoting an enabling environment
- Human Rights Protection
- Environment and climate
- Development of a sustainable economy

WHAT IS AN EU ROADMAP?

Civil Society has always been at the core of EU development aid. An empowered Civil Society is a crucial component of any democratic system and is an asset in itself. It represents and fosters pluralism and can contribute to more effective policies, to equitable and sustainable development and inclusive growth. It is within this framework that the EU developed Country Roadmaps for engagement with CSOs enabling a more structured and strategic cooperation with Civil Society in each of the countries with which the EU works, including Mongolia.

The EU defined **three main priorities for Society engagement**:



Enhancing efforts to promote a conducive environment for CSOs



Increasing the capacity of local CSOs to perform their roles more effectively as independent development actors



Promoting meaningful and structured participation of CSOs in domestic policies¹

This Roadmap identifies long-term objectives of EU cooperation with Civil Society Organisations in Mongolia. It encompasses dialogue, and operational support, taking into account the views and challenges of CSOs.

WHY AN EU ROADMAP MATTERS?

1. Provides active and more strategic support for the capacity development of Civil Society Organisations, with special emphasis on networking efforts, internal governance systems and the sustainability of CSOs.
2. Strengthens a more structured and inclusive dialogue with CSOs.
3. Reinforces mainstreaming efforts of Civil Society into EU focal sectors of cooperation, to ensure that Civil Society voices are heard and taken into account in EU cooperation.
4. Makes the EU a broker facilitating CSO involvement in domestic policies, from their design to their implementation (as partners in the delivery of public services) and their monitoring and evaluation, enhancing accountability and transparency.

1. EU Communication 'Roots of Democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with Civil Society in external relations'

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OUR AIM



Promote a more **inclusive society**



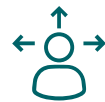
Foster an enabling space for **CSOs advocacy**



Support the capacities of CSOs to be **effective governance actors**



Improve **accountability and transparency**



Support CSOs involvement in **legislative drafting and decision-making**



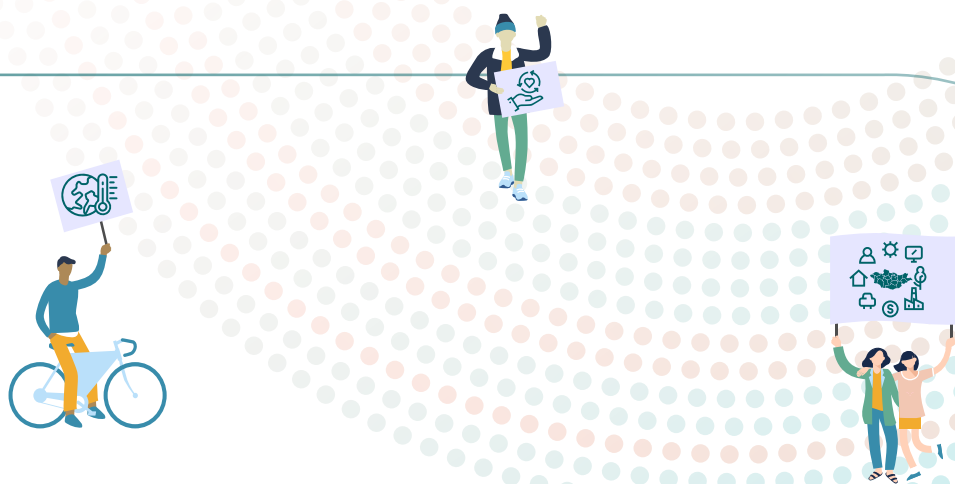
Inform on **funding opportunities** for CSOs



ACTIONS

To implement this Roadmap, the EU Delegation to Mongolia will continue the dialogue with civil society, enhance political and policy dialogue with the Government and local authorities to promote an enabling environment for civil society. The EU will provide operational support and capacity building activities to strengthen the role of civil society in Mongolia.





OUR PRIORITIES

PRIORITY 1



Promote an enabling environment allowing Mongolia CSOs and International NGOs to better **contribute to the development and governance of Mongolia**

PRIORITY 2

Support Civil Society engagement in **climate change adaptation and mitigation**, including moving towards a low-carbon, resource efficient, green circular economy



PRIORITY 3



Support public-private partnerships and alliances with Civil Society to promote **inclusive growth for sustainable economic diversification**, and improve **competitiveness and public service**



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CIVIL SOCIETY IN MONGOLIA

Funding for CSOs is available both under programmes run by the European Commission and by the EU Delegation to Mongolia.

Calls for proposals are published in national newspapers, on the EU “e-calls PADOR” platform and on the website of the EU Delegation to Mongolia and social media. We encourage you to register your organisation on “e-calls PADOR” so you can be receiving information on all calls for proposals. You may submit a proposal for a concrete project which covers your area of activity. If successful, this project will be co-financed by the EU.



When a local call for proposals is announced, the EU Delegation will organise information sessions for civil society, so stay tuned into our social media for any announcements!

CSO THEMATIC PROGRAMME²

Civil society organisations in Mongolia are eligible under this thematic programme which aims to enhance CSO contribution, to governance and accountability, to social development and to promote inclusive and sustainable growth.



THE EUROPEAN INSTRUMENT FOR DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS (EIDHR)³

The EIDHR is a thematic financial instrument which aims to provide support for the promotion of democracy and human rights in non-EU countries through grants. The instrument is mainly implemented through Calls for Proposals.

2. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/our-partners/civil-society_en

3. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/topics/human-rights_en

SWITCH ASIA PROGRAMME

SWITCH-Asia promotes Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP). It aims to improve the environmental performance of products throughout their life cycle, stimulate demand for better products and production technologies, and help consumers make informed choices. You can find more information about this Programme and regional Calls for Proposal at <https://www.switch-asia.eu/>



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