



EUROPEAN UNION (EU) COUNTRY ROADMAP FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY IN ZAMBIA



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1.

INTRODUCTION - BRIEF ANALYSIS OF THE CONTEXT AND PAST EU ENGAGEMENT

The EU Roadmap for Engagement with Civil Society (CSO Roadmap) is a joint process between the European Union and its Member States (Team Europe) in Zambia, to strengthen partnership with civil society and provide support to their endeavours. The CSO Roadmap relates closely with other EU initiatives such as the Human Rights and Democracy Country Strategy, the Multi-Annual Indicative Programme (MIP 2021-27), Team Europe Initiatives (TEIs) and the Gender Action Plan (GAP III). The two previous CSO

Roadmaps, i.e. 2015-2017 and 2018-2020 provided pointers on how to reach out to a broader range of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), rather than with the EU/Member States' usual interlocutors and grantees, and on how to engage more strategically on issues such as policy dialogue and operational support to CSOs. During the development of this third CSO Roadmap (2021-24), both rural and urban-based CSOs and other stakeholders participated actively and provided very valuable input.



Presently, CSOs in Zambia include professional bodies, trade unions, gender-based groups, human rights and advocacy groups, service-oriented CSOs, faith-based organizations, International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs), and the media.

As of November 2021:

4,154

organizations were registered with the Registrar of Societies.

418

organizations were registered with the Patents and Companies Registration Agency (PACRA) as companies limited by guarantee.

1,228

organizations were registered under the NGO Act.

This brochure is a summary and focuses on the priorities of the CSO Roadmap and its accompanying Action Plan. The implementation of the Action Plan will be followed up regularly and pro-actively with

civil society, the EU and its Member States through bi-annual and ad-hoc events that will be organised. The Action Plan will be the tool for conducting regular follow-ups.



2.

STATE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN ZAMBIA

CSOs' involvement in different sectors cannot be overemphasised. They have been playing different roles, ranging from undertaking evidence-based advocacy, delivering services, and addressing poverty, especially at the community level, targeting the most vulnerable groups. They are active in the thematic sectors of education, public health, gender, including Sexual Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) prevention and response,

women's empowerment, disability inclusion, environment and climate change, agriculture, nutrition, and emergency response, e.g. where floods and severe drought have occurred. CSOs are also engaged in the protection of fundamental freedoms and the rights of other minority groups; though due to low capacities, weak support and/or limited space for action to much lower extent.

However, the following different contexts affect their work:

The legal environment



The current NGO Act (No. 16 of 2009), the Public Order Act No. 38 of 1955 (POA), and the Access to Information Bill of 2002 (AtB) are some pieces of legislation that continue to challenge CSOs' civil liberties and freedom of assembly. Fortunately, the New Dawn government has assured to facilitate the enactment of and/or further progress to pending/outdated CSO related legislation. Some CSOs argue that the Cyber Security and Cyber Crimes Act contain some provisions that threaten the right to freedom of expression, and are unclear about how the new Act will be implemented. They have thus petitioned the Cyber Law in court. The lack of harmonization and inconsistent application of legal and policy frameworks are considered as a barrier to the effective work of civil society.

The registration process



Registration of CSOs remains uncoordinated with several different institutions mandated to do so and there is no consensus as yet on CSO self-coordination and regulation. Due to the lack of mapping for CSOs undertaken in the last two to three years, there is uncoordinated data on the registration and exact number of CSOs, and their geographical and thematic areas of operation remain unclear. As a result of lack of coordination, CSOs in the recent past aligned themselves to different political interests, thereby contributing to polarisation and fragmentation and further shrinking of the civic space.

The economic situation



The amount of funding to civil society has seen a steady decline since Zambia was declared a middle-income country in 2011. The perceived economic growth has not translated into inclusive and sustained economic development, and as such, affecting CSOs' resource mobilisation efforts. In a context of high inflation, this will likely have lasting effects and substantially delay a return to economic growth. Additionally, the fragile economic outlook coupled with a debt default under the previous regime and the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic negatively affected the nation and did not spare civil society.

Lack of capacities



Capacities and resilience of CSOs remain variable and their policy engagement initiatives continue to be more visible at the central level. This affects genuine dialogue with communities. Local CSOs' capacities and resilience are varied, e.g. in terms of their internal governance, systems in place, financial and technical aspects. The operational, financial, and technical capacities of local CSOs have continued to decline. Lack of capacities, especially amongst local CSOs often forces them to serve their own survival needs, consequently compromising larger goals of development and change.



3.

OPPORTUNITIES AND ROLES OF CSOs

The new administration, in place since 24 August 2021, led by the United Party for National Development (UPND) in their maiden speeches made positive pronouncements around the protection of civil liberties, human rights and a willingness to 'free' the civic space. CSOs should ride on these assurances and undertake more systematic and constructive

work that seeks to ensure citizens are better equipped to defend democratic space. Similarly, CSOs should draw up a clear plan for consultation and engagement with the government based on a mutual understanding of their respective complementary roles in implementing the 8NDP.



4.

KEY LESSONS LEARNT FROM PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENT & RECOMMENDATIONS



Structured dialogue

involving the EU, its Member States and CSOs needs to be more predictable, more so with the positive pronouncements made by the new administration.



Due to the high staff turnover and dwindling financial resources to retain qualified staff, **capacity development** in CSOs has to be an ongoing process.



In line with the above, **operational support to local CSOs** need to include capacity development as a tool to enhance their technical and operational skills. Different funding instruments at the disposal of the EU and its Member States need to integrate this aspect.



Sustainability of local CSOs and CBOs continues to be a challenge and more concrete support for the effective rollout of resource mobilization activities is required



Women and youth as drivers of change

need to be specifically targeted with interventions that touch on their livelihoods. This component has been missed for a long time and requires strengthening linkages between networks/ coalitions/national CSOs and the rural-based ones.



Coordination mechanism and division of labour

between the EU and its Member States needs to continue and be strengthened further to allow for joint implementation of CSO activities.



More needs to be done by local CSOs and at the community level to ensure that **gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment** is understood and remains something the CSOs regularly monitor and can be held accountable for.



5.

EU STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN TO ENGAGE WITH CSOs

The EU shall focus on the following four objectives in its further engagement with CSOs, namely:



Promote an enabling legal and institutional environment for CSOs to effectively and sustainably fulfil their mandates.



Enhance CSOs' voice in public sector governance and development processes.



Enhance civil society organisations' capacities in fulfilling their mandates.



Support women, youth, and persons with disabilities incl. other vulnerable and marginalized groups as drivers of change in governance processes.

This new CSO Roadmap will be implemented in alignment and synergy with the new European Commission priorities, the new EU Multi-Annual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2021-2027 for Zambia and the Agenda 2030

for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as Zambian national strategies (8th National Development Plan, Vision 2030) and other sector policies.



THE ACTION PLAN ON HOW THE EU STRATEGY WILL ENGAGE WITH CSOs

In terms of actions, the following are the activities to be implemented during the lifeline of this Roadmap under each specific objective:

OBJECTIVES FOR THE EU ENGAGEMENT WITH CSOs	1. Promote an enabling legal and institutional environment for CSOs to effectively and sustainably fulfil their mandates
ACTIONS (including analysis, policy and political dialogue, operational support)	<p>Studies/analysis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor and analyse the trends in the legal and institutional environment. • Continue the initial work on social enterprises , e.g. through undertaking a comprehensive review of the existing CSO legislative, regulatory and fiscal frameworks and Income Tax Act to assess the suitability of social enterprise for CSOs. <p>Political and policy dialogue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate with the government on civil society space and rule of law, including the legal framework and harmonisation of the CSO registration process. • Promote and maintain a regular structured dialogue between the EU/ EU Member States and CSOs through Article 8 political dialogue covering all sectors and cross-cutting issues. • Promote CSO networking and thematic platforms for developing common CSO positions on various topics within different sectors. <p>Operational support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support CSO active involvement in preparations, consultations and then enforcement regarding legislative framework related to EU MIP sectors and civil society. • Support the organization of meetings, as need arises, for cross-pollination of ideas involving civil society, academia/local think tanks, research institutions, government and political stakeholders to ensure increased use of evidence on policy engagement. • Support engagements between CSOs and the private sector, in particular related to thematic priorities of the MIP 2021-27.
MEANS (EU programmes/ instruments to implement the actions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political, Policy and Human Rights Dialogue. • EU Heads of Missions (HoMs), Heads of Cooperation (HoCs) meetings and Cooperating Partners (CPs) groups. • EU-Zambia Business Club. • EU and EU MS support, incl. Cooperation Facility – Careful do-no-harm approach to ensure accurate funding.

OBJECTIVES FOR THE EU ENGAGEMENT WITH CSOs	2. Enhance CSOs' voice in public sector governance and development processes
<p>ACTIONS (including analysis, policy and political dialogue, operational support)</p>	<p>Analysis/studies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor and analyse the functioning of government participation platforms/ mechanisms concerning CSOs involvement, GRZ feedback /follow-up to CSOs' inputs. <p>Political and policy dialogue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and advocate for CSOs active and regular participation in revision/development of national sectoral policies/strategies/plans linked to all EU priority sectors, ensuring extensive consultation with civil society. • Promote and advocate for CSOs active participation in national annual budget allocation negotiations as well as in general PFM processes. • Promote CSOs engagement in producing statements, Shadow Reports on critical reports by the government to the International Community, e.g. Universal Periodic Reviews, SDG country reporting, CEDAW reporting, and then support them in follow-ups of those reports. • Promote community-led activism in building a critical mass of people raising a common voice in the EU/EU MS areas of engagement. • EU and EU MS regularly engage with civil society to get their feedback before and as a follow up of political and sector dialogue with the government. <p>Operational support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote active involvement of CSOs in the formulation and implementation of programmes under the new MIP and other EU funding instruments. • Support and/or protect CSO activists in the areas of EU interventions and linked to EU values. • EU and EU MS support to the facilitation of civil society engagement with media. • Organise annual Project Fairs, with the participation of EU and EU MS funded CSOs.
<p>MEANS (EU programmes/ instruments to implement the actions)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU and EU MS support, including CfPs specifically targeting local CSOs under the EIDHR and CSO thematic budget lines. • Gender Action Plan III. • Human Rights and Democracy Strategy. • Political, Policy and Human Rights Dialogue. • EU Heads of Missions (HoMs), Heads of Cooperation (HoCs) meetings and Cooperating Partners (CPs) groups. • Communication & Visibility Plan. • Position Papers and public statements.

OBJECTIVES FOR THE EU ENGAGEMENT WITH CSOs	3. Enhance CSOs capacities in fulfilling their mandates
<p>ACTIONS (including analysis, policy and political dialogue, operational support)</p>	<p>Studies/analysis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (MCDSS) in developing a capacity and skills gap analysis including a capacity building strategy for CSOs. • Support CSOs' mapping exercise including a review of CSOs' coordination strategy/mechanisms through the MCDSS. <p>Operational support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support CSO capacity building activities, including organizational reviews and assessments within programmes under the new MIP and other EU funding instruments. • Support capacity building training, mentorship, and coaching based on needs, especially targeting local CSOs with weak capacities. • Support training in project coordination and management (PCM), including logical frameworks/results chain, monitoring and evaluation. • Support training in policy dialogue, public financial management, resource mobilization, engagement with the private sector, social accountability, and communication and visibility for EU-funded actions. • Support training on crosscutting subjects such as gender mainstreaming (including analysis and development of gender monitoring tools), human rights-based approach, environment protection and climate change, disability inclusivity and SGBV. • Facilitate CSO capacity enhancement workshops on the interpretation of legislation affecting specific sectors, especially those linked to EU intervention areas and in policy engagement, particularly for the local CSOs and CBOs. • Support training of media institutions in investigative journalism, professional reporting, and gender equality/social inclusion. • Sensitize and train GRZ officials (especially NGO Department and CSO Registration agencies) on the importance, role, and mechanisms for CSO engagement in GRZ policy-making and governance processes.
<p>MEANS (EU programmes/ instruments to implement the actions)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU and EU MS support to local CSOs, including CfPs specifically targeting local CSOs under the EIDHR and CSO thematic budget lines and Cooperation Facility. • Specific service contract focusing on CSO capacity building.

OBJECTIVES FOR THE EU ENGAGEMENT WITH CSOs	4. Support women, youth, and persons with disabilities (PwDs) incl. other vulnerable and marginalized groups as drivers of change in governance processes
ACTIONS (including analysis, policy and political dialogue, operational support)	<p>Policy and political dialogue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote structured and regular dialogue with CSOs focused on the empowerment of youth, women, people living with disabilities and vulnerable groups as potential agents of change • Promote and engage those groups as agents of change in the EU and EU MS (Team Europe) communication activities (thematic/ national/ international days, Europe Month, Africa Day, specific campaigns etc.) • Support through advocacy and political dialogue youth movements, students' unions, platforms, associations, and entrepreneurial groupings such as cooperatives <p>Operational support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with the women's movement and promote their involvement in human development and governance processes • Support CSOs to follow-up on the recommendations contained in different reports being published by the state authorities and other stakeholders • Continue to mainstream women, youth, and persons with disabilities in EU and EU MS funded programmes and projects
MEANS (EU programmes/ instruments to implement the actions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU and EU MS support to local CSOs, including Calls for Proposals specifically targeting local CSOs under the EIDHR and CSO thematic budget lines. • Political, policy and human rights dialogue. • Gender Action Plan III. • Human Rights and Democracy Strategy. • EU Heads of Missions (HoMs), Heads of Cooperation (HoCs) meetings and Cooperating Partners (CPs) groups. • Communication & Visibility Plan. • Position Papers and public statements.



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