



EU ROADMAP FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE PACIFIC 2021-2027

The Delegation of the European Union for the Pacific, based in Suva, Fiji, is responsible for: Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.



PART I

BRIEF ANALYSIS OF THE CONTEXT AND PAST EU ENGAGEMENT

INTRODUCTION

General overview of context

The Pacific Region covers a vast Exclusive Economic Zone of approximately 30 million km². This large ocean space is accompanied by a mere 580,000 km² of total land area. This combined land area is shared between 15 island states, with 90% of both the total land area and population belonging to three larger states: Papua New Guinea, Fiji and Samoa. The region is also home to three Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) of the European Union Member State France (New Caledonia, French Polynesia and Wallis and Futuna). The political state of the majority of Pacific Island Countries (PICs) feature well-functioning democracies. There is still, however, a need to focus on having good governance mechanisms and strong human rights policies and practices, particularly for protecting the rights of women and girls and combatting gender-based violence.

In addition, economic and developmental challenges are extensive and heightened by Climate Change and Climate Induced Migration, particularly for the small islands, as they are most vulnerable to weather events. Pacific countries lack a diversified productive structure, are highly dependent on imports and are vulnerable to external shocks, whether natural or economic. Sea level rise and changes in rain patterns are threatening the mere existence of life in some islands. The COVID-19 pandemic has amplified already existing vulnerabilities and brought about additional difficulties for the most vulnerable populations, including for the activities of civil society organisations. This is despite the fact that most PICs have avoided the arrival of the virus itself or significant local transmission throughout the pandemic (with the exception of Fiji from April 2021). Following the COVID-19 pandemic, the EU supported the region by accelerating budget support disbursements and reorienting activities in several projects as part of the Team Europe response.

Roadmaps

In partnership with its Member states, the European Union (EU) is one of the main donors to the region together with Australia, New Zealand, the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank. For the period 2014-2020, the EU under its 11th European Development Fund allocated €800 million to the region focusing on addressing the challenges briefly evoked above: resilience, climate change, sustainability, economic growth, gender equality and regional integration. Under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI), the Pacific Multi-Annual Indicative Programme (Pacific MIP) 2021-2027¹ “A Green-Blue Alliance for the Pacific” three priority areas have been identified: i) Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability; ii) Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Development; iii) Fundamental Values, Human Development, Peace and Security. In line with the underpinning principles of NDICI, the EU will liaise with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) across these three areas and the Pacific MIP also sets up specific measures to assist CSOs as a natural continuation of previous support.

1 The French Overseas Countries and Territories of New Caledonia, French Polynesia and Wallis and Futuna are covered by a separate EU assistance framework.

In 2014, building on the Cotonou history of engagement with CSOs, two country specific National CSO Roadmaps for Fiji and Samoa were developed and implemented. A regional Roadmap, which covered the rest of the Pacific² countries where the EU engaged in cooperation activities, was also completed. Two more Roadmaps, one for the engagement in Timor-Leste and one for Solomon Islands were also finalised. In recent years, there has been a process of concentration of resources in the Delegation in Suva, Fiji, following the closure of the Delegation in the Solomon Islands and of the office in Samoa. Similarly, a decision was taken to develop a single Roadmap covering the Pacific region rather than individual maps for each country, adding flexibility and making it more useful for smaller countries. As a result, the 2018-2020 Roadmap covering the entire region was drawn up and has set the framework for collaboration between the EU and civil society in the different countries.

Implementation of the Roadmap and of EU engagement with CSOs is challenging, considering the geography of the region, the necessary but challenging national-regional links and the multiplicity of EU programmes and instruments (including CS components within sectoral programmes such as waste management, energy, fisheries, etc), which need to be played in a complementary and consistent way. The limited number of missions to the countries due to the huge distances have not allowed a more intense dialogue with CSOs; with the current pandemic, all missions have been cancelled since March 2020 adding difficulties for sustained engagement.

EU and Civil Society

An empowered civil society is a crucial component of any democratic system. Civil society organizations (CSOs) give voice to the otherwise voiceless segments of society, advocate for social change and empower local communities to act, thus facilitating a greater inclusion of the needs of citizens in policy and decision-making. They also stimulate enhanced transparency, accountability and effectiveness of public authorities by monitoring their policies and holding them accountable for their commitments. Moreover, the recent Covid-19 pandemic has shed light on the crucial role of civil society organisations in reaching out to and providing concrete help and relief to the most vulnerable parts of the population.



The EU's commitment to civil society is embedded in the European Consensus on Development, 'Our World, Our Dignity, Our Future', which aligns EU policies and actions to the objectives of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and stresses that good governance, democracy and rule of law are vital to sustainable development. It also acknowledges the multiple roles that CSOs play in this context "as promoters of democracy, defenders of rights holders and of the rule of law, social justice and human rights". The EU and its Member States will promote the civil society space in both the Pacific Island Countries and the region more broadly and enhance their support for building the capacity of CSOs to strengthen their voice in the development process and to advance political, social and economic dialogue.

² Pacific countries covered by the EU Delegation for the Pacific: Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Tuvalu, Nauru, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Palau, Cooks Islands, Niue, Samoa, Tonga, Kiribati.

Under NDICI (2021-2027), involving civil society, among other stakeholders, is a cross-cutting priority that will be applied systematically in international partnership actions. Meaningful engagement with local civil society will be sought in all priority areas and policy dialogues. Such engagement can range from granting improved access to information to CSOs, to consulting CSOs on specific policies or programmes, ensuring their active participation and involvement in policy dialogue and/or implementation, or strengthening CSOs' capacities through support interventions.

The EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024, launched in December 2020, sets out the EU's priorities for the next five years in the field of external relations globally, including in the Pacific region, notably protecting and empowering individuals; building resilient, inclusive and democratic societies; promoting a global system for human rights and democracy; harnessing the opportunities and addressing challenges of new technologies; delivering by working together. The EU and its Member States will promote women's and girls' full enjoyment of human rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as a priority across all areas of action. An independent civil society, enabling civic space and the support and protection of human rights defenders are essential elements to achieve these priorities. The EU will engage with civil society in the overall implementation of this Action Plan.

This Roadmap also takes into account the objectives of the Joint communication on the EU Gender Action Plan (GAP) III³. It will therefore pay particular attention to the inclusion of CSOs defending women's rights in all thematic areas of cooperation with the Pacific.

A. THE STATE OF CIVIL SOCIETY: BRIEF UPDATE ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Key developments impacting civic space

Democracy is facing serious challenges all over the world, often leading to democratic backsliding and a deterioration of the rule of law. Both old and young democracies are experiencing a shrinking civic space, with declines in civil liberties, attacks on civil society, and restrictions on freedom of expression⁴. Against this general backdrop, there is increasing evidence globally that governments are also exploiting the pandemic to further encroach on democratic freedoms and liberties, close civic space and criminalise criticism and dissent.

Across the Pacific, aspects of democratic practice that were negatively impacted by anti-pandemic measures were linked to restrictions on media reporting (Vanuatu), limitations on access to social media sites (Solomon Islands) and engagement in major constitutional changes, with little transparency or consultation, during the state of emergency (Samoa)⁵.

However, overall, the human rights and democracy situation in most Pacific Island Countries is stable with no systematic abuse of human rights. According to the Civicus Monitor⁶, on a five-point scale - ranging from open, narrowed, obstructed to repressed and closed - the civic space in several PICs such as Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Kiribati, Micronesia and Marshall Islands is considered to be open and therefore favourable to the activity of civil society. However, certain concerning practices that go against international democratic norms are also being observed in a number of countries in the region. For instance, Vanuatu and Tonga are considered to have a narrowed civic space, while the operating environment for CSOs in Fiji and Papua New Guinea is classified as obstructed.

3 Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council Gender Action Plan III: an ambitious vision on gender equality and women's empowerment for EU External Action (JOIN(2020) 17 final and SWD(2020) 284 final), welcomed by 24 Member States through EU Presidency Conclusions 13947/20 in December 2020.

4 <https://www.idea.int/publications/catalogue/global-state-of-democracy-2019>, p.x

5 Secretariat of the Pacific Communities, "Human rights in the Pacific. A situational analysis 2020", p.7

6 https://monitor.civicus.org/country/list/?country_or_region=region__7&status_category=all&submit=Search

In Fiji, freedom of expression and freedom of assembly are enshrined in the constitution, but legislation allows for certain restrictions. In this respect, concerns have been raised about the compounded effect of the Public Order Act (POA) and the Media Industry Development Act on the defense of human rights⁷. The POA for instance provides a basis for refusing permits for meetings or demonstrations deemed to prejudice peace, public safety and good order or to undermine the economy and authorities have, at times, refused or have been slow to issue permits to organise rallies⁸. Moreover, journalists reported practicing self-censorship on sensitive topics because of certain provisions in the law and monitoring by the Media Industry Development Authority⁹.

Civil society has also recently criticized the new provisions on criminal libel (Article 120) and slander (Article 121) adopted by Vanuatu in its Penal Code Act in April 2021. The new legislation extends these offences to cover the use of defamatory statements made on a broad range of public platforms (such as “television, radio, internet websites, social networking sites and blog sites) and therefore presents certain risks with regard to its application in the future¹⁰.

Overall, Solomon Islands fares well in terms of respect for civil liberties and fundamental freedoms. It is considered to have an independent press, an effective judiciary and a democratic political system that together create a conducive climate for freedom of expression and of the media¹¹. However, concerns have been raised regarding the civic space during the instauration of an extended state of public emergency, pointing to certain threats to freedom of expression and assembly¹².

Many of the issues facing civil society in the Pacific are therefore rooted in attempts to restrict freedom of expression, freedom of association and freedom of the media, which were exacerbated during the pandemic. Pressure from authorities to limit these fundamental freedoms also leads to constraints on the civic space and the capacity of civil society actors to act for social change. It is thus essential that civil society continues to maintain a dialogue with national governments on these topics while advocating for transparency, accountability and monitoring that restrictions on democratic freedoms introduced during the pandemic are proportionate, justified and non-discriminatory.

Challenges for CSOs in the Pacific

The conclusions from the capacity assessment conducted in 2012 by UNDP¹³ still prevail. The study noted that the CSO community represents a force for creating a positive change in the region, bringing a diversity of perspectives, experiences and networks that can enrich the policy dialogue and broaden the reach of implementation. The reality, however, is that this potential is constrained by the numerous challenges CSOs face, including various capacity challenges (little awareness of the policy cycles and entry points for engagement), restrictions in their operating environment in some cases, unavailability of stable funding, chronic limited human resource capacity, the inability to recruit and retain high quality staff and high staff turnovers.

In addition to the above, the limited capacity of most CSOs and particularly of national umbrella bodies including issue-based and thematic networks, coupled with the changing nature of civil society collective action and the lack of intermediate and resource organisations providing support to CSOs add to the complexities and challenges of the CSOs in the Pacific.

7 Secretariat of the Pacific Communities, “Human rights in the Pacific. A situational analysis 2020”, p.69

8 EU Annual Report on Human rights and Democracy in the world.2020 Country Updates, p.233

9 <https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/fiji/>, p.8

10 <https://monitor.civicus.org/country/vanuatu/>

11 <https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/solomon-islands/>

12 <https://monitor.civicus.org/country/solomon-islands/>

13 http://www.undp.org/content/dam/rbap/docs/Research%20&%20Publications/democratic_governance/UNDP_PC_DG_A_Capacity_Assessment_of_CSOs_in_the_Pacific_Six_Country_Profiles.pdf

The gap between Suva-based CSOs and the rest of CSOs is also evident, particularly when it comes to regional actions, as well as the widespread lack of knowledge and tools amongst CSOs to track gender equality and Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) policy implementation and resources and act on their findings to advocate for improvements. Organisations recognise that the capacity weaknesses highlighted by UNDP in its report are still valid for most of Pacific CSOs.

As pointed out by some EU MS, the size of most of the countries also limits the capacity of organizations to acquire the necessary expertise, dimension and funding to fully develop their role in society. These difficulties must be added to the weaknesses of public space in some of the countries, including a social environment that restricts debate and the possibility of CSOs to address issues not part of the mainstream.

Some of the major challenges for civil society are related to addressing the concerns of vulnerable collectives like people living with disabilities, rural communities, and indigenous people. They are often excluded from decision-making processes, they do not enjoy the same opportunities as the people in urban areas and they are particularly vulnerable to economic crises like those related to the COVID-19 pandemic. People living with disabilities face particular challenges in the fields of education and training, economic development and livelihood, in how they confront climate change elements and natural disasters; often they suffer double discrimination if they are also part of other vulnerable groups. Pre-conditions for inclusion of persons with disabilities go from accessibility, availability of assistive devices, additional social protection and services to ensure meaningful participation, and they also require adaptation of legal frameworks and ratification of related international conventions in some of the Pacific countries.

Pacific island countries are demographically characterized by very young populations in comparison with many other countries in the world. Despite this, however, young peoples' voices are largely missing in decision-making processes and policies across the region. As significant stakeholders in most challenges and issues, both present and in the future, it is essential that the large populations of Pasifika youth have their voices heard, and that their participation in public life is both encouraged and increased throughout the region. Another major challenge for CSOs is access to financial resources, as pointed out by PIANGO and some umbrella organisations like the Pacific Disability Forum in various consultations organized by the EU Delegation. The absence of regular funding to cover structural expenses (permanent staff, offices and other infrastructure) is a major difficulty to local CSOs as they are forced to divert resources from their core functions to implement short-term projects. Some organisations receive funds from Government but this can be detrimental to their independence.

Opportunities for CSOs in the Pacific

Despite the numerous difficulties (highlighted above) encountered by organisations in developing their activities, there has been important progress in recent years, also with the support of the EU. On the one hand, work has been strengthened at the regional level through the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and its Calls for Proposals (CfP). On the other hand, the priority of the previous Roadmap has been strengthened through EIDHR and CSO-LA CfPs in Fiji and Solomon Islands and with the support provided in the Technical Cooperation Facilities (TCF) in various countries, e.g. promoting the enabling environment, promoting CSOs participation and strengthening capacities.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a major impact on Pacific societies, both economically (job losses, lower household incomes, collapses of tourism industries) and socially (growing dependency, increased domestic violence) and CSOs have tried to respond to the needs of populations in the Pacific. Thanks to their readiness and flexibility in adapting their actions to the new COVID-19 context, CSOs have become key instruments in national responses. Public institutions, governments and donors have relied on them and have actively sought their collaboration, recognising their wide implementation and capacities. This experience has placed

CSOs in an important position in their countries and this is reflected in this Roadmap. CSOs can contribute to preserving economic livelihoods, promoting market participation, supporting sustainable food systems, facilitating access to finance and providing a variety of services that are not (or cannot) be provided by public institutions. Moreover, engagement with religious, political and traditional leaders is of the utmost importance to first make way for the social space necessary for advocacy or activism in certain communities. CSOs in the Pacific also have an important role to play in humanitarian aid interventions due to their direct knowledge and engagement with the communities as it has been seen in the aftermath of cyclones, flooding and other natural disasters.

Given the geographical complexity of the Pacific, there are clear opportunities for CSOs to make a better use of new technologies, social media platforms and digital tools to implement their agendas, combating fake news and sharing lessons and experiences.

Capacity Development

Understanding capacity development is crucial to the work that the Delegation does alongside Civil Society in the Pacific. Capacity development has two key dimensions - institutional development and technical skills development.

Institutional development, within the context of the region, encompasses, but is not limited to, internal governance systems and tools, project and financial management, fundraising, and relationship management and cooperation with other actors. These aspects all require proximity and continuity. This can be done using different approaches as well as with different actors. At present, there are several examples of support to CSOs provided by the European Union. These include mentoring offered under PIFS/NSA, INGOs shifting into resource organisations, such as OXFAM in the Pacific, and the pooling of resources to grant access to small organisations.

The EU contracted a helpdesk service to provide assistance to CSOs funded by the EU but the results were not very encouraging and the contract was not renewed. Capacity weaknesses have important consequences for relations between the EU and CSOs and there have been some discussions on how to improve the EU support, at least with regard to the financial and legal aspects. OXFAM in the Pacific is exploring possibilities for setting up a support facility for organisations at regional level.

Capacity weaknesses are the cause of underrepresentation of local NGOs in EU-funded initiatives. It is perceived that the strict eligibility criteria and reporting/operational requirements are a fundamental barrier for participation and affects the aid effectiveness principles. Promotion of local NGOs as equal partners to International NGOs will be promoted by the EU.



B. LESSONS LEARNT FROM THE PAST ENGAGEMENT WITH CSOs

Summary of key challenges and opportunities in the EU engagement with CSOs:

Key Challenges	Key opportunities
<p>The Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Geographical spread and country & sector specificities make it difficult to develop a blue print when it comes to CSO engagement (ii) Limited Capacity of CSOs and umbrella bodies and networks, particularly those outside of Suva/Fiji (iii) Limited engagement culture inside of national public institutions (iv) Lack of intermediate and resource organisations (providing support to CSOs) and those that exist often work remotely (v) Very limited information sharing and exchanges amongst CSOs across countries (vi) Unclear mandates leading to random actions without strategic vision <p>EU engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (vii) Absence of an EU - CSO engagement framework to guide Civil Society involvement in the different countries and sectors. (viii) Dual nature of EU CS support, combining support “to CSOs” and support “through CSOs” in the different sectors, and lack of clear articulation between the national CS allocations and sectoral programmes (ix) Limited knowledge of the CS landscape in many of the countries covered by the EU Delegation (x) Lack of flexibility for long term support to CSOs through direct funding or through technical facilities. (xi) Coordination and alignment of support to CSOs and other EU supported programmes and projects is limited and established on ad hoc basis 	<p>The Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Strong engagement with the Pacific Islands Association of NGOs (PIANGO) and other organisations with regional links (e.g. Oxfam in the Pacific) are key players to advocate for a regional vision. (ii) Interest and will on the side of public authorities to engage with CSOs and enhanced commitment to inclusive policy making (iii) CSOs as key partners for response to COVID-19 pandemic impacts at the social and economical level. <p>EU engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (iv) The 2021-2027 programming incorporates support to CSOs as a priority for NDICI implementation in the Pacific. This will be mainstream in relevant projects and programmes. (v) Additional support to CSOs implementing projects with EU funding is organised at the Delegation level with both Operations and Finance & Contracts Sections actively engage with partners. (vi) Through the ongoing projects implemented under the 11th EDF at regional and national level, active participation of CSOs is incorporated, in particular those related to gender mainstreaming, violence against women and children, access to justice and capacity building. (vii) Budget support programmes and EU funded investment to include specific clauses for accessibility and non-discrimination.

PART II

EU STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN TO ENGAGE WITH CSOs

C. THE STRATEGY FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH CSOS AND HOW IT RELATES TO THE EU COUNTRY ENGAGEMENT AND AGENDA 2030/SDG

OBJECTIVES FOR THE EU ENGAGEMENT WITH CSOs	RELATED SECTOR & COMMISSION PRIORITY	RELATED SDG
<p>CSOs, in particular those representing women and people with disabilities¹⁴, are consulted and participate in the design of actions related to climate actions and environmental sustainability at community, national and regional level.</p> <p>Communities and CSOs are active implementers of projects in their territories.</p> <p>CSOs monitor the EU, the national governments and implementers on climate and environmental actions.</p>	<p>Commission Priority: Green Deal</p> <p>PAC MIP Priority: Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability</p>	<p>SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation</p> <p>SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy</p> <p>SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities</p> <p>SDG 13: Climate Action</p> <p>SDG 14: Life Below Water</p> <p>SDG 15: Life on Land</p>
<p>CSOs, in particular those representing women and people with disabilities, maintain a constructive dialogue with private sector to address concerns of vulnerable people at national and regional level.</p> <p>The capacities of CSOs to monitor and supervise economic governance at government level, including transparency and PFM, will increase.</p>	<p>Commission Priority: Alliances for Sustainable Growth and Jobs</p> <p>Commission Priority: Digital and Data Technology</p> <p>PAC MIP Priority: Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Development</p>	<p>SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth</p> <p>SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities</p> <p>SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production</p> <p>SDG 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal</p>
<p>To strengthen CSOs capacities to monitor and advocate at national and regional level on democratic processes, access to justice and gender equality.</p> <p>To engage with civil society on the overall implementation of the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy and organise dedicated annual consultations.</p> <p>CSOs representing women and people with disabilities influence government institutions as duty bearers to address their rights.</p>	<p>EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024</p> <p>Commission Priority: Governance, Peace & Security</p> <p>Commission Priority: Migration partnerships</p> <p>PAC MIP Priority: Fundamental Values, Human Development, Peace and Security</p>	<p>SDG 5: Gender Equality</p> <p>SDG 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions</p> <p>SDG 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal</p>

¹⁴ This reflects the aim of the European Commission for 85% of its development projects to contribute to gender issues by 2025, as well as bringing visibility to PLWD.

D. THE ACTION PLAN

REGIONAL

Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI),
11th European Development Fund Regional Indicative Program

Key challenges	Priorities for EU engagement	Envisioned Actions	Means of implementation
Limited involvement of Civil Society in regional policy processes	<p>Priority 1</p> <p>To strengthen the enabling environment for Civil Society engagement in regional policy and development.</p>	<p>1.1 Formulation of a new Engagement Strategy Framework for the Pacific region</p> <p>1.2 Grants for CSOs for project work relating to policy engagement (research, consultative processes, advocacy, coalition building).</p> <p>1.3 Coordination of regional CSO events and policy seminar series to facilitate policy dialogue. Promotion of South-South cooperation with the Pacific region and beyond</p> <p>1.4 Facilitate CSO engagement at high level policy dialogue with Forum Leaders, Ministers and Officials.</p>	<p>Phase 2 – Non State Actor Regional Programme 11th EDF RIP – (2018-2020). Under implementation.</p> <p>NDICI – Global Thematic Programme – Human Rights and Democracy – EUR 1.300.000 Global Thematic Programme – CSO – EUR 4.075.000</p>
Limited institutional and technical capacity of Civil Society Organisations to contribute effectively to policy dialogue and advocacy	<p>Priority 2</p> <p>To enhance the capacities of regional networks and platforms to engage in policy dialogue and advocacy to effectively represent the region.</p>	<p>2.1 Provision of targeted capacity development support on key technical skills related to policy engagement (i.e. policy and budget analysis, evidence-based research and advocacy, coalition building, influencing).</p> <p>2.2 Provision of institutional strengthening support to CSOs, based on organisational capacity development assessments addressing governance and managerial Civil Society capacities, in particular for local NGOs.</p> <p>2.3 Support to regional exchange of information and regional and thematic coalition (Gender, Climate Change etc.) based coordination and networking efforts</p> <p>2.4 Support to adaptation of legal frameworks and ratification of international conventions, including those related to people living with disabilities.</p>	<p>Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership Agreement 11th EDF RIP – PEUMP (2018-2023). Under implementation.</p> <p>Phase 2 – Non State Actor Regional Programme 11th EDF RIP – NSA/PIFS) (2018-2022). Under implementation.</p>

Key challenges	Priorities for EU engagement	Envisioned Actions	Means of implementation
<p>Limited capacity of Civil Society to conduct research, track policy and advocate on specific issues such as gender-based violence.</p>	<p>Priority 3</p> <p>To enhance the capacities of Civil Society to advocate, monitor and report on the performance of regional institutions on gender equality, gender based violence, children right and migration</p>	<p>3.1 Support capacity of CSOs to track gender equality and EVAWG policy implementation and resources (e.g. budget monitoring); and to develop national advocacy campaigns for their effective implementation;</p> <p>3.2 Create templates for policy submissions and policy analysis that are gender sensitive; provide training and advocacy tools and bring in gender experts to support CSO dialogues and policy dialogues;</p> <p>3.4 Support country visits by the Sexual and Gender Based Violence Reference Group (expanded with CSO representatives) to provide feedback and advice to national institutions on gender mainstreaming;</p> <p>3.5 Support capacity of CSOs to identify, propose, formulate and monitor regional policies on children rights and migration.</p>	<p>Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women UN Women – SPC – PIFS 11th EDF RIP – PIFS (2018-2022)</p> <p>Pacific Transformative Gender Equality Programme UN Women – SPC (NDICI)</p>

NATIONAL

Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI),
11th European Development Fund NIPs

Key challenges	Priorities for EU engagement	Envisioned Actions	Means of implementation
Limited capacity (both in terms of institutional development and technical skills) of Civil Society to contribute effectively to policy dialogue	<p>Priority 1</p> <p>To enhance the capacities of national organisations and/or networks to engage in policy dialogue in the focal sectors of EU cooperation.</p>	<p>1.1 To strengthen the capacity of civil society in the following sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy efficiency and renewable energy • Good Governance and democratic processes • Human Rights / Gender • People Living with Disabilities • Water and Sanitation • Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development • Environment and Waste Management • Rural Development • Digital rights • Electoral processes and democratization. 	<p>No country allocations under the NDICI. EUR 5.375.000 million for national actions Country allocations below are under EDF and DCI</p> <p>Fiji – € 2.6 Million <i>(Development Cooperation Instrument)</i></p> <p>Federated States of Micronesia € 1 Million <i>(Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy)</i></p> <p>Kiribati – € 300,000 <i>(Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development of Kiritimati Island, WASH and Energy)</i></p> <p>Palau – € 200,000 <i>(Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy)</i></p> <p>Republic of Marshall Islands - € 400,000 <i>(Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy)</i></p> <p>Samoa – € 2 Million <i>(Water and Sanitation, Human Rights and Human Rights and Gender)</i></p> <p>Solomon Islands – € 2.1 Million <i>(Human rights and capacity strengthening)</i></p> <p>Tonga – € 600,000 <i>(Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, and Gender)</i></p> <p>Tuvalu – € 300,000 <i>(Environment and Waste Management)</i></p> <p>Vanuatu – Vanuatu – €3.4 Million <i>(Measures to strengthen food security and the economic empowerment of women, Institutional Capacity Building of Civil Society Organisations) (Rural Development)</i></p>
Limited Civil Society engagement in the domestic policy processes across the Pacific nation states	<p>Priority 2</p> <p>Enhance Civil Society engagement in domestic public policies in the focal sectors of EU cooperation</p>	<p>2.1 To facilitate Engagement Framework between Civil Society and government in the above mentioned sectors.</p>	<p>Country Allocation as above for EDF and DCI. No specific country allocations under NDICI.</p>

PART III

MONITORING AND REPORTING ON THE ROADMAP

The priorities below address the national and regional funding/ interventions

Priorities	Indicators	Sources of information & means of verification
<p>Priority 1</p> <p>To increase Civil Society's engagement in regional policy development and implementation</p>	<p>1.1 Number of high-level regional policy dialogue initiatives involving the CSOs supported by the EU.</p> <p>1.2 Evidence indicating that CSO engagement in regional policy making processes has been more effective in key dimensions (a) evidence informed, b) constituency informed, c) strategic, well-timed and effective use of influencing approaches, d) collaboration amongst CSOs;</p>	<p>PIFS NSA Phase II annual report</p> <p>PIANGO annual report</p> <p>OXFAM for the Pacific reports</p> <p>EAMR Report</p>
<p>Priority 2</p> <p>To strengthen the capacities of regional networks and platforms (also including issue-based networks) to engage in policy to ensure CSOs effectively represent the diverse voices of Pacific peoples, particularly poor and marginalised groups, in key national and regional policy processes.</p>	<p>2.1 Percentage of submissions to the post 2020 partnership consultation which take into account the views of key stakeholders including women's groups, CSO/NGOs, human rights groups and private sector</p> <p>2.2 Increased number of national/regional CSOs with enhanced institutional capacities in the areas of organisational planning, resource mobilisation, financial management/ transparency, project development and management, M&E, human resources management and sustainable planning;</p> <p>2.3 Increased number of effective national CSOs and regional CSOs in Melanesia, Polynesia and Micronesia sub-regions that have enhanced their institutional capacities and systems to garner citizenship participation in public policy process</p>	<p>PIFS NSA Phase II annual report</p> <p>PIANGO EU grant annual report</p> <p>OXFAM for the Pacific reports</p> <p>EAMR Report</p>
<p>Priority 3</p> <p>To enhance the capacities of CSOs to advocate, monitor and report on the performance of national and regional institutions and authorities in terms of gender equality and prevention of violence against women and girls.</p>	<p>3.1 Number of gender regional and national policy submissions by CSOs</p> <p>3.2 Number of CSOs participating every year in regional gender related fora</p> <p>3.3 Number of active 'Champions of EVAWG' CSOs groups;</p> <p>3.4 Number of regional proposals on children's rights and migration.</p>	<p>Spotlight and Pacific Partnership reports.</p> <p>Reports on the new regional gender programme under NDICI</p> <p>EAMR Report</p>
<p>Priority 4</p> <p>To strengthen the voices and capacities of in-country CSOs and enhance their engagement in domestic public policy (both service delivery and also in advocacy in the focal sectors of EU cooperation)</p>	<p>4.1 Number of alliance/networks members habilitated to train and mentor national CSOs in their sub-region on: technical aspects of influencing, advocacy and campaigning that is specific for their region and country;</p> <p>4.2 Number of effective national CSOs and regional CSOs in Melanesia, Polynesia and Micronesia sub-regions that have enhanced their institutional capacities and systems to ensure citizenship participation in public policy process.</p> <p>4.3 Number of sectoral consultations between government and CSOs at national level.</p>	<p>OXFAM in the Pacific Reports</p> <p>NDICI and 11th EDF Bilateral sectoral programmes report, minutes of meeting</p>

PART IV

ANNEXES & REFERENCES

ANNEX 1: THE PROCESS

How were MS/EU+ present in the country involved in the drafting of the RM?

MS present in the region were informed about the development of this RM and were consulted on priorities for future collaboration with CSOs. Limited answers were however received as most MS do not have cooperation programmes with civil society on the ground. A few MS directly supported the EU approach and attended the consultations.

What mechanisms are set up to ensure the involvement of MS/EU+ in the implementation and follow up of the RM?

MS present are always invited to see the work done by CSOs with EU funds in the region. They are also kept informed of consultations with CSOs on topics of common interest

What consultations with CSOs were organised? What type of actors were involved? What mechanisms, if any, were used to ensure the inclusiveness of the process?

Consultations were conducted with regional organisations (SPC, PIFS, PIANGO), INGOs with a regional focus (Oxfam), national umbrella organisations in various Pacific countries (PIANGO, SUNGO), as well as with thematic CSOs (women's rights CSOs, faith-based organisations etc.)

What mechanisms, are set up to continue the dialogue with CSOs? What mechanisms, if any, will be used to ensure the inclusiveness of the dialogue?

The MIP foresees the mainstreaming of civil society in its priority areas of cooperation. CSOs will continue to be involved through various thematic programmes and via consultations.

How is the RM integrated / coordinated with the JP process?

The RM is aligned with the MIP which was consulted with MS.

How does the RM relate to other country processes including human rights and democracy country strategies, the gender action plan, etc.?

The RM was developed in collaboration with the colleagues working on the Human Rights Strategy and the Gender Regional Profile and all three documents are aligned with the MIP for the region.

ANNEX 2: RELEVANT REFERENCES AND SOURCES TO DEEPEN THE UNDERSTANDING ON THE STATE OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND EU ENGAGEMENT WITH CSOs

CIVICUS, *“2021 State of Civil Society report”*

CIVICUS MONITOR - Tracking civic space <https://monitor.civicus.org/>

EU 2020 Annual Reports on Human Rights and Democracy (country reports)

International IDEA, *“The Global State of Democracy 2019. Addressing the Ills, Reviving the Promise”*

Secretariat of the Pacific Communities, *“Human rights in the Pacific. A situational analysis 2020”*

US Department of State, 2020 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices

EU ROADMAP FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE PACIFIC 2021-2027

