

EU ROADMAP FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY IN GHANA FOR THE PERIOD 2021-2024

GENERAL INFORMATION

Status: public

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Update of a previous RM: Y

Part of the Joint Strategy? N

Approved by (list of MS and possibly other donors endorsing the RM): Shared and approved by all Member States with representation in Ghana.

PART I – BRIEF ANALYSIS OF THE CONTEXT AND PAST EU ENGAGEMENT

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

Key developments in the CS context (Enabling Environment for Civil Society¹) over the past two/three years.

Government representatives and civil society organisations over the past three years have held discussions on the regulatory environment for civil society organisations in Ghana. The focus of these discussions has been on strengthening transparency and accountability of civil society organisations to their constituents and to the government and on the Government's concerns on terrorist financing using non-governmental and not-for-profit organisations as channels. The exchanges between the Department of Social Welfare and civil society' representatives culminated also in the formulation of draft guidelines to regulate the not-for-profit organisations in Ghana.

A Secretariat was established under the Department of Social Welfare to oversee the operations of Non-Profit Organisations in the country. The Secretariat has started licensing Non-Profit Organisations and registered over 10,000 organisations.

¹ Dimensions of enabling environment including: Access to information and to spaces for dialogue and partnerships with governments and other development actors; legal and regulatory frameworks that support and promote CSOs' work, rather than constrain it; funding mechanisms for CSOs that allow them to operate in a way that is responsive to the individuals and communities they serve or represent, and values, norms and attitudes in society that are conducive to civil society. Additionally, CSOs can contribute to an enabling environment by advancing their own accountability and effectiveness as independent development actors.

Ghanaian civil society organisations consider these developments as useful in enhancing the credibility and accountability of civil society organisations. The Secretariat is currently sourcing for funds to carry out its mandate effectively, including tasks such as monitoring the activities of civil society organisations.

The Government intends to draft a bill for presentation to Parliament to regulate the activities of civil society organisations and civil society organisations are engaging actively with the Government to ensure that the final outcome is mutually beneficial.

In relation to the civil society organisations' role as actors of governance and development, they continue to play an important role in shaping and influencing governance and policies in the country and hold the government accountable.

There has also been significant advocacy on gender issues, such as the affirmative action (to promote gender equality) draft bill, that has still to be passed into a law.

As far as anticorruption and environmental related crimes are concerned, in 2020, the alliance of civil society organisations working in the natural resource, anti-corruption and good governance sectors, carried out a successful advocacy campaign against the benefits that would have been obtained from a company authorized to be registered in a tax haven in UK. The company set-up in an opaque manner, with a weak transparency on shareholders, and no public oversight arrangements.

Challenges

CSOs still depend heavily on foreign donor funding for their activities due to their numerous challenges:

1. Inadequate skills and capacity of their staff.
2. Limited sustainability, due to lack of resources, mainly human and financial.

Further threats to the sustainability of CSOs are related to the relevance, legitimacy, accountability and credibility of the organisations.

Discussions are on-going on the creation of a Philanthropy Forum in Ghana to promote the concept of Community Foundations and to build capacity for local resource mobilisation.

B. LESSONS LEARNT FROM THE PAST ENGAGEMENT WITH CSOs

The process for developing the Roadmap for the engagement with civil society in Ghana was very participatory, it brought together a wide variety of civil society organisations i.e. think tanks, networks and coalitions, district-based civil society organisations, community-based organisations, faith-based organisations and thematic groups (on oil and gas and other minerals).

The priorities identified reflect the views and aspirations of civil society in Ghana, highlighting the important role that civil society plays in Ghana's socio-economic development. Donor organisations participating in the roadmap drafting included EU Member States, Canada, World Bank and the United States.

The implementation of the Roadmap was led by civil society organisations, working in areas such as natural resource and environmental governance, anti-corruption and the right to Information. The European Union provided funding from the Civil Society Organisations' thematic programme to support its implementation. The support of the EU, Member States and the multi-donor pooled fund, STAR-Ghana, was instrumental in helping civil society organisations and the media in achieving one of the priorities of the Roadmap – the adoption of the law on the Right to Information.

Important lessons learnt include the following:

1. EU Member States played an active role in strengthening the dialogue between EU/MS and Civil Society;
2. The Existence of multi-donor pooled fund (STAR-Ghana) was instrumental in the implementation of the Roadmap;
3. A whole EU Delegation approach is critical for the successful implementation of the Roadmap;
4. Civil Society Organisations expect support from donors to access the space for dialogue and engagement with State authorities.

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
Strengthening the dialogue with CSOs working as process facilitators and catalysts between the State and local CSOs in the natural and environmental resource governance sector (Oil & Gas, Forestry, Environment, Land, Water, etc.)	Natural Resource Governance <i>Green Deal Alliances</i>	<i>SDG: 6, 13, 14 & 15</i>
Enhancing the space for dialogue on inclusiveness in the area of gender equality and women's empowerment and the needs of vulnerable and marginalised groups.	Gender Equality <i>Governance, Peace and Security, Human Development.</i>	<i>SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</i>

Enhancing CSOs' efforts towards promoting internal transparency and accountability and to strengthen links towards their constituents.	Enabling Environment for Civil Society <i>Governance, Peace and Security, Human Development.</i>	<i>SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels</i>
The coordination and networking amongst CSOs and with other actors (i.e. private sector, traditional leadership) is enhanced, while allowing for diversification in the sources of funding for CSOs.	Enabling Environment for Civil Society <i>Governance, Peace and Security, Human Development.</i>	<i>SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels</i>
Enhancing participation of CSOs in the Multi-annual Indicative Programme (MIP) on smart and sustainable cities	Green and Smart cities <i>Green Deal Alliances</i>	<i>SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities</i>
Promote the CSOs catalytic role in the discussion for reforms that will enhance democracy and Human Rights. The devolution of power to local governments.	Human Rights & Democracy.	<i>SDG 16: Peace, Justice and strong institutions</i>

D. THE ACTION PLAN

OBJECTIVES FOR THE EU ENGAGEMENT WITH CSOs	ACTIONS (including analysis, policy and political dialogue, operational support)	MEANS (EU programmes / instruments to implement the actions)
Maintain sustained dialogue with CSOs working as process facilitators and catalysts between the State and local CSOs in the natural and environmental resource sector (Oil & Gas, Forestry, Environment, Land, Water, etc.)	<p><i>-CSOs to publish and share existing research and knowledge on experiences of CSO engagement in policy processes, particularly at local and national level in the natural resources sector.</i></p> <p><i>-CSOs to advocate for regular participation of CSOs in government-led fora on natural resources.</i></p>	

	<p><i>-CSOs to facilitate the engagement of the media in existing CSO platforms that promote policy dialogue at local and national level to have country discussions on crucial issues, and promote links with the relevant Parliamentary Committees.</i></p> <p><i>-Donors to support capacity development of CSOs in facilitating community engagements that promotes proper utilization of resources for local economic development.</i></p>	<p><i>-Technical Assistance facility to include Exchange learning.</i></p> <p><i>Grants through call for proposals</i></p>
Enhancing the space for dialogue on inclusiveness in the area of gender equality and women's empowerment and the needs of vulnerable and marginalised groups.	<p><i>-CSO Research and knowledge production on experiences of mainstreaming gender and promoting women's participation at various levels.</i></p> <p><i>-Support from donors for the passage of the Affirmative Action Bill into Law.</i></p> <p><i>-Political and diplomatic support, engaging with government and public authorities both in a public way and through dialogue with government to promote and enlarge gender policies.</i></p>	<p><i>Standalone gender intervention: Support to civil society partners such as research institutions to carry out research on the contribution of women in governance and decision-making linked to the challenges they face.</i></p> <p><i>Awareness raising activities through communication and visibility support under gender intervention.</i></p> <p><i>EU Partnership dialogue</i></p>
Enhance CSOs' efforts towards promoting internal transparency and	<i>-Donor support for the implementation of the guidelines for</i>	

accountability and to strengthen links towards their constituents.	<p><i>the operation of CSOs in Ghana.</i></p> <p><i>-Donor support for the dialogue between CSOs and public authorities in the process of drafting a legal and policy framework that defines the civil society sector and its interaction with the State.</i></p> <p><i>-CSO initiatives focusing on the sharing of experiences and knowledge among organisations.</i></p> <p><i>-Donor support for the strengthening of internal capacity of CSOs in fundraising, reporting, research and advocacy.</i></p>	<p><i>Support the process for the registration and regulation of Non-profit organisations.</i></p> <p><i>Grants through call for proposals</i></p>
Ensure coordination and networking among CSOs and other actors (i.e. private sector, traditional leadership) is enhanced, while allowing for diversification in the sources of funding for CSOs.	<p><i>-Donor support for dialogue among CSOs on thematic/sectoral level, as well as grassroots, local and national, through platforms, which contribute to policy formulation and advocacy around thematic areas.</i></p> <p><i>-Donor support for civil society's dialogue with the private sector and traditional leaders and build alliances with these actors.</i></p> <p><i>-Donor support to strengthen and institutionalise dialogue among CSOs to find alternative sources of funding.</i></p>	<p><i>Support dialogue among CSOs and with private sector operators, traditional leaders, etc.</i></p> <p><i>Support the formation of a Dashboard by the philanthropy forum in Ghana.</i></p> <p><i>EU Partnership dialogue</i></p>

Enhanced participation of CSOs in the Multi-annual Indicative Programme (MIP) on smart and sustainable cities	<p><i>-EU & MS consultation with CSOs with a view to elaborate the MIP (on smart and sustainable cities) and prior to implementation of programme.</i></p> <p><i>-EU & MS support for CSOs participation in implementation</i></p>	<p><i>-Regular EU/MS dialogue with CSOs.</i></p> <p><i>-Small Grants through call for proposals</i></p>
CSOs catalytic role in the discussion for reforms that will enhance democracy and Human Rights. The devolution of power to local governments.	<p><i>-Donor and Government dialogue with CSOs on specific reforms;</i></p> <p><i>-Donors support CSOs' advocacy for reforms.</i></p>	<p><i>-Regular EU/MS dialogue with CSOs</i></p> <p><i>-Small Grants through call for proposals</i></p>

PART III– FOLLOW-UP OF THE RM

The following table outlines the M&E framework that will be used to monitor the RM and therefore, the EU (EUD and MS/EU+) engagement with CSOs. For each objective, the table proposes one (or several) outcome indicators, as well as the suggested target(s), baseline information (if possible) and sources of information/means of verification, as described below.

Please refer to the “Suggested menu of indicators to guide the definition of indicators for the Roadmaps from 2020 onwards” for a list of indicators, to draw inspiration from.

OBJECTIVES FOR EU ENGAGEMENT WITH CSOs	OUTCOME INDICATORS	TARGET	BASELINE INFORMATION (if available)	SOURCES OF INFORMATION & MEANS OF VERIFICATION
1. Maintain sustained dialogue with CSOs working as process facilitators and catalysts between the State and local CSOs in the natural and environmental	-Number of CSOs consulted for suggestions, which reflect in relevant policies and legislation. Results of consultation are made publicly available.	Institutionalised dialogue between CSOs and State agencies to ensure transparency and accountability in environmental and natural resource	Not available	<p>-Minutes of public consultation between the Government and CSOs on environment and natural resources</p> <p>-Thematic specific indexes (e.g. the natural resource governance index).</p>

<p><i>governance sector (Oil& Gas, Forestry, Environment, Land and Water, etc.)</i></p> <p><i>2. Enhancing the space for dialogue on inclusiveness in the area of gender equality and women empowerment and the needs of vulnerable and marginalised groups.</i></p> <p><i>3. Enhance CSOs' efforts towards promoting internal transparency and accountability and to strengthen links towards their constituents.</i></p>	<p><i>-Number of successful national and local dialogues concluded and implemented with CSOs involvement</i></p> <p><i>-Number of CSOs engaged in women and gender policy issues and active in raising awareness on gender issues and/or active in monitoring the implementation of gender equality policies.</i></p> <p><i>-Number of CSOs actively involved in representing women's voices regarding women's economic empowerment.</i></p> <p><i>-Number of CSOs having a clear capacity development strategy, including a clear work plan with activities for their staff.</i></p> <p><i>-Number of CSOs conducting annual audits.</i></p> <p><i>-Number of CSOs that monitor and evaluate their projects and programmes using baselines and quality indicators.</i></p>	<p><i>governance.</i></p> <p><i>To ensure a fairer, just and inclusive society.</i></p> <p><i>Enhance the relevance and effectiveness of CSOs in national development.</i></p>		<p><i>-National Codes of conduct/covenants/etc. reports</i></p> <p><i>-EU-funded project/programme progress</i></p>
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4. Coordination and networking amongst CSOs and with other actors (i.e. private sector, traditional leadership) is enhanced, while allowing for diversification in the sources of funding for CSOs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Number of networks and alliances established among CSOs and private sector increased and level of engagement of CSO platforms and networks in finding alternative ways for funding. -Volume (and change) in partnerships between CSOs and INGOs/donors. -Level of accessibility to foreign or domestic funding 	Sustainability and strengthened capacity of CSOs		<p>reports.</p> <p>-CSOs activities reports.</p> <p>-Civicus Civil Society Index</p> <p>-Ghana Philanthropy Forum</p>
5. Enhanced participation of CSOs in the Multi-annual Indicative Programme (MIP) on smart and sustainable cities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Number of successful national and local dialogues concluded and implemented with CSOs involvement. -Number of projects implemented with the involvement of CSOs 	To ensure a fairer, just and inclusive society.		<p>-Consultation reports and minutes of the meetings organised between the EU/MS and CSOs on the MIP.</p> <p>-Actual projects implemented with CSOs involvement.</p>
6. CSOs catalytic role in the discussion for reforms that will enhance democracy and Human Rights. The devolution of power to local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Number of successful national and local dialogues concluded with CSOs. -Advocacy campaigns by CSOs. 	To ensure a more democratic, just and inclusive society.		<p>-Consultation reports and minutes of the meetings organised between the EU/MS and CSOs on the state of governance and human rights in Ghana.</p> <p>-Number of advocacy campaigns conducted by CSOs.</p>

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PART IV – ANNEXES & REFERENCES

ANNEX 1: THE PROCESS

The aim of this annex is to provide information about the process of the RM (i.e. how MS/EU+ were involved and will remain involved, the consultations with CSOs, links with other country processes, etc.).

How were MS/EU+ present in the country involved in the drafting of the RM?	The draft Roadmap document was shared with them and inputs from the Member States incorporated into the final document.
What mechanisms are set up to ensure the involvement of MS/EU+ in the implementation and follow up of the RM?	There will be regular updates with the Member States; in addition, Member States are also providing support to CSOs working on the priorities of the Roadmap.
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?	<i>Questionnaires were sent to CSOs that participated in the drafting of the first Roadmap as well as new ones. Exchanges at various level were carried out to clarify some of the issues.</i>
What mechanisms, are set up to continue the dialogue with CSOs? What mechanisms, if any, will used to ensure the inclusiveness of the dialogue?	<i>Thematic group/network meetings are being organised, mainly in the current programming phase, involving relevant colleagues of the Delegation and Member States.</i>
How is the RM integrated /coordinated with the JP process?	<i>Some of the priorities of the Roadmap document are in alignment with the MIP (Joint Programming Ghana 2021-2027). Also, the CSOs will be playing the role as actors of governance and of development by giving their contribution to the preparation of the actions of the Joint Programming.</i>
How does the RM relate to other country processes including human rights and democracy country strategies, the gender action plan, etc.?	<i>The Roadmap is relevant to Ghana's quest to maximise returns from the natural resource endowments of the country. It is also in line with the aim of ensuring a more democratic, accountable and just society. Above all, it fits in with the efforts by CSOs to survive and be more sustainable as development actors in their own right.</i>

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

Civicus Report

Daily Graphic online