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HOW DO WE SUPPORT CIVIL SOCIETY IN NEPAL?

## The EU ROADMAP FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY IN NEPAL (2021-2024)

### WHAT IS THE ROADMAP?

The EU believes that supporting the development of a pluralistic and vibrant civil society is key in devising policies that meet people's needs; increase awareness and citizens' engagement around global challenges and on all three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental), both within and outside the EU. Civil society is vital to fight inequalities to build inclusive societies, and, thereby fulfil the central commitment of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development of leaving no one behind.

In a context in which there is a trend towards a more restrictive environment for civil society worldwide (which has been aggravated by the COVID-19 crisis), the EU attaches particular importance to promoting a more conducive space for civil society while supporting civil society capacities to operate and its participation in the public policy cycle.

This Roadmap expresses the EU's and its Member States' commitment to civil society in the design and execution of their country strategies and development programmes, as well as in ensuring that civil society voices are reflected in the political dialogue that the EU has with the national authorities. This Roadmap is part of "Team Europe", a joint initiative by the EU and Member States.

In Nepal, the Roadmap for Civil Society acknowledges the increasing challenges and complexity of the environment civil society is operating in, and envisages the promotion of a more effective dialogue between Civil Society and the Government of Nepal, with clearer modalities for civil society to partner with the Government and International Development Partners to achieve the SDGs. The Roadmap also recognises the incredible diversity, experience and knowledge of the civil society organisations present in the Country and the promising opportunity that federalism presents, as more cohesive partnerships with Local Governments will result in greater participation of civil society in policy dialogue at the local level.

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# WHICH ARE THE PRIORITIES OF THE ROADMAP FOR CIVIL SOCIETY IN NEPAL (2021-2024)?

## **PRIORITY 1**

**Strengthen the partnership between the EU, the Civil Society and the Government to promote a conducive environment enabling Civil Society Organisations to contribute to the development efforts in Nepal.**

Some of the concrete actions include, among others:

- Support active dialogues between the EU, EU Member States and Civil Society, as well as between Civil Society, Federal, Provincial and Local Governments on development and in achieving the SDGs.
- Provide capacity strengthening to both the Government and Civil Society Stakeholders on civil society issues, at the Federal, Provincial and at Local levels, including possible support to reforms of the regulatory and institutional frameworks.
- Monitoring and follow up of the civil society space in coordination with other partners.

## **PRIORITY 2**

**Promote a stronger voice and capacities of Civil Society, in particular in the areas of EU engagement in Nepal.**

Some of the concrete actions include, among others:

- Support the engagement of Civil Society Organisations in the design and oversight of public policies.
- Support Civil Society led initiatives aimed at strengthening social accountability and public engagement in the areas of EU engagement in Nepal.
- Support capacity strengthening of Civil Society, including internal governance.
- Support Civil Society led initiatives on associative capacity, pluralism, transparency and ability to communicate and advocate on their role.
- Improve access to funding, particularly for small and grassroots Civil Society Organisations.

## **PRIORITY 3**

**Promote the participation of civil society in good governance**

Some of the concrete actions include, among others:

- Advocate for effective engagement of Civil Society in public policy making and implementation.
- Strengthen the coordination between Civil Society Organisations and the three levels of Government on public policy cycles.
- Support Civil Society partnership with the Local Governments in the design, implementation and monitoring of public policies and provision of services.
- Support Civil Society focus on Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI), and inclusion of youth, minorities and most disadvantaged groups.