



EU ROADMAP FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

IN GUYANA FOR THE PERIOD 2024-2026



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

The EU believes that supporting the development of a pluralistic and vibrant civil society is key in devising policies that meet people's needs, and engage citizens in global challenges and sustainable development. Civil society is also vital for fighting inequalities and building inclusive societies, aligning with the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and to leaving no one behind.

With a growing trend of more restrictive environments for civil society worldwide, which was aggravated by the COVID-19 crisis, the EU attaches particular importance to promoting a more conducive space for civil society while it supports civil society to operate and participate in public policy. This Roadmap for EU engagement with civil society, expresses the EU's and its Member States' commitment to include civil society in the design and execution of development programmes, as well as to ensure civil society voices are reflected in political dialogue with national authorities.

In Guyana, the EU maintains the position of being the biggest international donor to Guyanese civil society. The CSO-LA thematic budget line has been instrumental in strengthening CSO partnerships. Since 2018, the EU Delegation has placed special emphasis on encouraging capacity building of small CSOs through the co-applicant and sub-granting mechanisms.

This new Roadmap was formulated with the inputs from 21 local CSOs working in the areas of women's rights and empowerment, children's rights, Indigenous peoples' rights, LGBTQI rights, youth empowerment, transparency and corruption and conservation. The information they provided supported the assessment of the civil society landscape, its challenges, opportunities and scope for potential partnerships.

Guyana is currently at a critical juncture when it comes to what role CSOs will play in the future in the area of providing services to the population. Most of the CSOs in Guyana are devoted to provide services to different sectors of society, contributing to implementing national policies and pursuing SDGs.

Cooperation engagement with CSOs since 2018 has been hinged on the successful implementation of action grants. This is primarily due to the strengthened relationship and increased technical support provided by the EU Delegation. To help build operational and financial capacity, it is offering technical support at the request of partner CSOs. This contributes to strengthening the knowledge and capacity of CSOs, notably on contractual and reporting procedures, as well as other project management tools such as logical frameworks.



The growing interest of CSOs to collaborate with development partners and government represents an opportunity to provide increased capacity building opportunities designed specifically for CSOs. This will ensure that as the country's needs and priorities evolve, CSOs will have the necessary tools they require to grow and respond accordingly.

The three main challenges affecting EU engagement with civil society are:

- CSOs' lack of technical capacity which can affect the quality of reporting or their ability to access EU funding
- Absence of financial absorption capacity which reduces eligibility of small/grassroots organisations from accessing EU funding
- Significant lack of capacity (financial and/or operational) of CSOs in certain thematic areas of interest to the EU, such as democracy, governance and security, and LGBTQI rights.

In the last three years the Delegation has sought opportunities through consultation with civil society and development partners such as the UN, to make calls for proposals more inclusive by supporting CSO alliances through the co-applicant and sub-granting schemes. This was pivotal in helping the Delegation to advance its CSO engagement while supporting the creation of an enabling environment for civil society.

PART II – EU 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>1. Strengthened capacity of CSOs, including grassroots/small CSOs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SO1.1: increase in number and nature of CSOs tackling new national, regional and global priorities such as migration and climate change. • SO1.2: Increased capacity of CSOs working on critical human rights issues (e.g. women and children rights, rights of disadvantaged groups, LGBTQI rights and gender equality); increased capacity of CSOs working on good governance, rule of law and democracy, (including electoral reform and other institutional and legal reforms). • SO1.3: Strengthened capacities of CSOs to effectively play their governance roles, including monitoring of the enabling environment and engaging on issues related to the defense and promotion of civic space. 	<p>Sector: Social</p> <p>Commission Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority 5 - Governance, Peace and Security, Human Development • Priority 3 – Growth and Jobs alliances • Priority 4 – Migration Partnerships 	<p>This objective encompasses most SDGs, including SDGs 1, 2, 3 and 15.</p> <p>It specifically addresses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDG 5 – Gender Equality • SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities • SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
<p>2. Enhanced dialogue with CSOs working within the scope of EU-Guyana MIP priority area on forest partnerships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SO2.1: Increased participation of CSOs in forest partnership activities. • SO2.2: Strengthened leaderships in local organisations related to accountability in the natural resources sector to exercise their watchdog role and contribution to forest governance spaces. 	<p>Sector: Environmental</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority 1: Green Deals • Priority 5: Governance, Peace and Security, Human Development 	<p>This objective indirectly addresses several SDGs including SDGs 1, 2 and 3, and notably:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDG 5: Gender Equality • SDG 14: Marine Life <p>It specifically addresses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDG 13: Climate Action. • SDG 15: Life on land.

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)
<p>1. Strengthened capacity of CSOs, including grass-roots/small CSOs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SO1.1: increase in number and types of CSOs tackling new national, regional and global priorities such as migration and climate change. • SO1.2: Increased capacity of CSOs working on critical human rights issues (e.g. women and children rights, rights of disadvantaged groups, LGBTQI rights and gender equality); increased capacity of CSOs working on good governance, rule of law and democracy, (including electoral reform and other institutional and legal reforms). • SO1.3: Strengthened capacities of CSOs to effectively play their governance roles, including monitoring of the enabling environment and engaging on issues related to the defence and promotion of civic space, without this role hindering its other role as service provider for the State. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1. (SO1,1) Targeted funding through thematic budget lines, to encourage CSO partnerships including when appropriate through co-applicant and sub-granting schemes, in view of multiplying and diversifying the number of eligible actors in civil society. • 2. (SO1.2) Technical support provided by designated Commission facilities to CSOs in the areas of reporting, contractual procedures and Logical Framework use, capacity strengthening on gender mainstreaming approaches, and use of aggregated data to support interventions. • 3. (SO1.2) Policy and political dialogue to assess the needs and gaps in civil society, as well as alignment with Commission priorities. This can be accompanied by sector gender and social analyses to obtain updated and accurate information on the situation of women and LGBTQI persons, as well as on the role and needs of civil society in bridging gender disparities, and on any other issue regarding children, vulnerable minorities and groups covered by this SO, as appropriate. • 4. (SO1.2) Analysis and participative discussion on Models of partnerships State – CSOs for service providing. • 5. (SO1.3) Capacity strengthening for CSO on their advocacy and governance roles, and CSOs regulation, including grassroots organisations and reducing the divide between rural and urban CSOs. • 6. Promotion of multi-stakeholder dialogue meetings on the dual role of CSOs as service providers subcontracted by the State and watchdogs of the Government in respecting human rights and the environment. 	<p>Budget lines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) • CSO thematic budget line • CSO Operational Facility in Brussels. • Human Rights and Democracy programme. <p>Political and Policy dialogue.</p>

OBJECTIVES FOR THE EU ENGAGEMENT WITH CSOs

ACTIONS (including analysis, policy and political dialogue, operational support)

MEANS (EU programmes / instruments to implement the actions)

2. Enhanced dialogue with CSOs operating within the EU-Guyana MIP priority area on forest partnerships.

- SO2.1: Increased participation of CSOs in forest partnership activities.
- SO2.2: Strengthened leaderships in local organisations related to accountability in the natural resources sector to exercise the role of "Watchdogs" and contribution to forest governance spaces.

- 1. (SO1) Involvement of CSOs in EU activities including inputs into policy and political dialogues, as well as mapping and information sessions on EU processes and procedure, as well as for programming.
- 2. Technical assistance and orientation to leaders participating in multi-stakeholders spaces and in local governance processes, on national and international regulation, FLEGT process and rights of the communities related to natural resources.

Budget lines:

- Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP)
- CSO thematic budget line
- CSO Operational Facility in Brussels.
- Human Rights and Democracy programme.



