



Global Gateway



EU CIVIL SOCIETY ROADMAP 2026–2028

Zambia

#GLOBALGATEWAY

#TEAMEUROPE

GENERAL INFORMATION Scope of the Civil Society Roadmap

EU-Zambia MIP² priorities:

1. Green partnerships for sustainable recovery, growth and decent jobs
2. Supporting the people of Zambia to reach their potential and build resilience
3. Fair, inclusive and peaceful society.

Global Gateway priority sectors:

Digital, Transport, Climate and Energy, Education and Health

Global Gateway Flagships:

- (1) The Lobito Economic Corridor
- (2) EU-Zambia Critical Raw Materials (CRM) Partnership
- (3) Regional Fibre-Optic Backbone
- (4) Equal Chances for Human Development Programme
- (5) Safe Birth Africa Project
- (6) Zambia-Tanzania Interconnector Project (ZTIP)
- (7) Kariba Dam Rehabilitation.

Strategic Framework of the CSO Roadmap A Strategic Shift for Transformative Engagement

The EU Civil Society Roadmap 2026–2028 marks a renewed and more strategic phase of engagement with civil society in Zambia. It aligns Zambia's economic and social transformation agenda with the EU's Global Gateway strategy, recognising that large-scale investments, governance reforms and demographic change are reshaping the country's development trajectory.

The Roadmap is built on a simple premise: sustainable transformation requires legitimate, inclusive and accountable processes. Civil society plays a central role in ensuring that development initiatives, investments and policy reforms are transparent, rights-based and beneficial to all citizens.

Zambia's diverse and dynamic civil society sector—spanning environmental protection, disability inclusion, gender equality, governance and human rights—plays a vital role in advocating democratic reforms, defending media freedom, and safeguarding electoral integrity, among others. From grassroots movements to international NGOs, these organisations deliver services, enhance accountability and bridge communities with policymakers, ensuring that local priorities inform action across the country.

ROADMAP PRIORITIES FOR ALL

Priority 1:
Civil society at the heart of Zambia's just, inclusive and sustainable transformation

Outcome statement (2026 – 2028): Civil society and communities meaningfully engage in the design, implementation, and oversight of investments in infrastructure, energy, water, agriculture, and minerals' value chains. Their participation enhances **transparency, accountability, environmental stewardship and responsible business conduct**, strengthens **social inclusion and local value creation**, and contributes to **rights-based and corruption-resilient development** in Zambia.



Priority 2:
Democratic Governance, Human Rights and Civic Space

Outcome statement (2026 – 2028): Civil society actors, media and communities contribute effectively to democratic governance, respect for human rights and domestic accountability, by engaging in electoral, policymaking and public-finance processes, defending civic freedoms, and promoting transparency and integrity in public life.



Priority 3:
Youth Engagement and Empowerment in Democratic Governance and the Green-Digital Transition

Outcome statement (2026 – 2028): Youth participation in Zambia becomes more structured, legitimate and impactful through stronger youth-led organisations, enhanced representation in dialogue and decision-making processes, and greater access to opportunities in the green and digital economy linked to the Global Gateway sectors, as key sectors for the EU-Zambia partnership.



Priority 4:
(Transversal) – Strengthening Inclusive and Legitimate Dialogue

Outcome Statement (2026 – 2028): Dialogue between civil society, the EU, public authorities, private sector and communities become more legitimate, inclusive and impactful across Global Gateway sectors and governance priorities, through the strengthening and interconnection of dialogue spaces, from community forums to national multi-stakeholder initiatives.



Structured EU–civil society engagement consolidated

Regular and co-created dialogue spaces improve trust, policy coherence and inclusion across programming and implementation processes.



1. In alignment with the current MFF.
2. https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/document/download/bb7108b9-4a22-4ac7-ae16-95f815451bbb_en?filename=mip-2021-c2021-9057-zambia-annex_en.pdf

A Coherent and Integrated Framework

The four priorities of the Roadmap are interdependent. Together, they form a coherent strategic framework for 2026–2028 that strengthens transparency, civic space, youth engagement and inclusive economic development.

Through this Roadmap, the EU positions itself as a partner for inclusive governance and transformative investment, supporting Zambian civil society in shaping a fair, green and accountable development pathway. This commitment is reflected in the broader framework of the EU's Global Gateway Strategy, which operationalises these principles through concrete partnerships and targeted investments.

The EU's Global Gateway Strategy aims to deepen cooperation with Zambia through sustainable, inclusive and governance-driven investments. Using a Team Europe approach (EU and Member States), it seeks to strengthen transformative value chains, connectivity and local socio-economic development. Key initiatives include:

Lobito Economic Corridor: a regional initiative supported by a 2023 MoU linking Zambia, the DRC and Angola to global markets.

EU-Zambia Critical Raw Materials (CRM) Partnership: a joint roadmap for developing sustainable and transparent mineral value chains.



ROADMAP IMPACT

By 2035, Zambian civil society contributes decisively to an inclusive, transparent and sustainable development model, one that upholds human rights, is accountable to the citizens, and ensures that national and international investments generate tangible benefits for all.

KEY RESULTS :



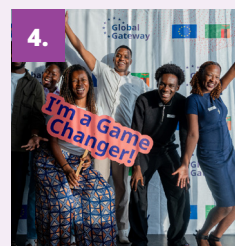
1. Community-level dialogue strengthened: Local forums are leveraged to connect community voices to national actors and EU processes, ensuring continuous feedback along the investment cycle.



2. National multi-stakeholder initiatives reinforced: EITI and OGP are strengthened and better connected to local levels, promoting transparency and coherence with Global Gateway standards.



3. Civil society-private sector dialogue enhanced: Structured engagement promotes human-rights due diligence, ESG compliance and responsible business conduct.



4. Youth and intergenerational dialogue expanded: Youth networks participate meaningfully in local and national decision-making spaces.

Conclusion

The Civil Society Roadmap seeks to strengthen the role of civil society as a long-term strategic partner in Zambia's development trajectory. By supporting inclusive dialogue, accountability and community participation, the EU aims to continue its support to civil society's contribution to democratic governance and human rights, while ensuring that economic growth, governance reforms and major investments translate into tangible and equitable benefits for citizens.

Ultimately, the objective is to embed civil society as a co-creator of sustainable development, bridging governance, investment and rights. Through continued collaboration between civil society organisations, public institutions and communities, the Roadmap will help ensure that policies and investments reflect local priorities, strengthen democratic processes and contribute to a more inclusive and sustainable development pathway for Zambia.