

PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS

Priority 1: To increase the space for CSOs to operate

Proposed actions include:

- Study on the implementation of the new Association Registration Law and how existing legislation and administrative procedures impact CSOs.
- Continue to advocate for CSO space with the authorities.
- Promote the engagement of CSOs in the aid effectiveness structure.
- Advocate for a Freedom of Information/Access to Information law.
- Funding opportunities to focus on strengthening local authorities.
- Promote the understanding of human rights, freedom of association, assembly, information, good governance to local authorities.
- Support the development of the media, and CSOs' research skills to ensure good quality research.

Priority 2: To enhance the relationship between CSOs and public institutions

Proposed Actions include:

- Encourage local and national authorities to recognise the need for policy suggestions proposed by CSOs.
- Encourage the establishment of formal mechanisms of consultations and facilitate CSOs participation in consultations organised by the authorities.
- Encourage political parties to engage with civil society.
- Funding opportunities to focus on strengthening relationships between Parliament, local authorities and civil society and on strengthening CSOs' advocacy skills and supporting umbrella organizations and networks so they can actively participate in national and local governance processes.

Priority 3: To increase CSOs' capacities for research, advocacy and policy dialogue with government

Proposed actions include:

- Advocate with the authorities for systematic consultations before the drafting and adoption of new laws and policies.
- Continue consultations with CSOs to better understand the needs and challenges faced.
- Funding opportunities to focus on supporting advocacy, research skills and policy-dialogue.
- Support to projects to strengthen the media and its relation with civil society.

Priority 4: To enhance the organisational structures and internal management of CSOs and CSO networks

Proposed actions include:

- Study on CSO networks' capacities and coordination mechanisms, including outreach to different faiths, ethnicities, sectors, regions.
- Encourage INGOs to support local CSOs in a sustainable manner.
- Encourage CSO networks/platforms to organise and participate in policy dialogue.
- Funding opportunities to focus on strengthening the organisational capacities of CSOs and support projects on civil society networking and to use sub-granting mechanism and encourage support to CSOs in ethnic states and rural areas.
- Provision of programme management trainings to CSOs.

All priorities and proposed actions of the EU Roadmap in Myanmar can be found on the EU Delegation's website.

CONTACT



For more information on the EU Roadmap for engagement with civil society in Myanmar:

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EU ROADMAP FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY IN MYANMAR 2014 - 2017



**Strengthening Europe's engagement with
Civil Society Organisations in Myanmar**

EU AND CIVIL SOCIETY

An empowered civil society is a crucial component of any democratic system. It represents and fosters pluralism and can contribute to more effective policies, equitable and sustainable development and inclusive growth. It is an important player in fostering peace and in conflict resolution. Civil society organisations (CSOs) are active in the public arena, engaging in initiatives to further participatory democracy. They also embody the growing demand for transparent and accountable governance.

The European Union defined three priorities for EU – Civil Society engagement:

- Enhancing efforts to promote a conducive environment for CSOs
- Promotion of a meaningful and structured participation of CSOs in the domestic policies of partner countries
- Increasing local CSOs capacity to perform their roles as independent development actors more effectively

It is within this framework that the European Union in September 2014 launched the EU Roadmap as a framework for its engagement and that of EU Member States with CSOs in Myanmar. It is a new way of working for the EU and its Member States, allowing for more strategic cooperation and structured dialogue with civil society.



OBJECTIVES ROADMAP

As one of civil society's most important development partners in Myanmar, the EU considers the Roadmap to be a key tool through which its engagement with civil society is structured. One of the objectives of the Roadmap is to improve the impact, predictability and visibility of EU actions. The Roadmap also identifies long-term objectives of EU cooperation with civil society organisations and encompasses dialogue as well as operational support, taking into account the views and challenges of CSOs in Myanmar.

The EU Roadmap for Myanmar is therefore meant to trigger coordination and sharing of good practices with the EU Member States and other international actors. It is based on a sound understanding of the wider contexts CSOs operate in and it aims to ensure that EU support to civil society in Myanmar is more demand-driven, focused and joined-up.

EU IN MYANMAR AND THE ROADMAP PROCESS

Since 2011, Myanmar has embarked on a process of extensive political and economic reform and the once limited space for civil society in public life has expanded as a result. However, civil society's ability to participate in the different domains of public life still remains restricted in several ways.

CSOs in Myanmar have historically played a crucial role in service delivery across the entire country, and especially in conflict areas where they have been providing social services for decades. With ongoing efforts in the peace process and the government's increasing spending in the social sector, the future delivery of these services presents both challenges and opportunities. At the same time legitimacy for CSOs is increasing and there is a growing recognition of the need for civil society to be consulted as well as included in policy formulation.

The priorities of the EU Roadmap in Myanmar and its specific actions are the result of four consultations between civil society and the EU



in Mandalay, Mawlamyaing and twice in Yangon in late 2014. To achieve these four priorities identified, the EU and EU Member States propose to carry out a set of concrete actions in the coming years. The goal is to create an environment where CSOs are able to fully play their legitimate role in Myanmar society, as service providers, advocates and watchdogs.

