

# EU ROADMAP FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA 2018–2020

A joint initiative of the European Union Delegation to Papua  
New Guinea and Member States (UK & France)

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

### 1. STATE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The development of civil society in Papua New Guinea has been influenced by the roles of the churches and traditional social structure. The earliest form of civil society in PNG was the clan, which is still the second most important social unit after the family. Beyond the clan, the churches are the largest and most prominent components of civil society, fulfilling primary service-delivery roles, particularly in health and education. Churches provide about 50% of PNG's health services, run two universities and are estimated to co-manage roughly 40% of the primary and secondary schools.

Beyond the churches, many Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) emerged during the 1985-1995 but failed. They lacked diversity and density and there was little cooperation among them. However, civil society in PNG has evolved over the years and today it includes a range of church-run and secular organizations as well as variety of local and indigenous organizations. CSOs are active in a variety of areas, among them: community development, youth issues, gender equality, human rights, good governance and transparency, environmental protection, education and capacity building, health, family welfare and domestic violence, food security and poverty alleviation and also conservation and natural resource management.

#### Government-Civil Society Relations

Civil society's engagement with the government remains limited especially in remote or rural areas, where there is little government presence. Nevertheless, civil society and the

government do interact through a number of forums like the Government of Papua New Guinea and Development Partners Forum on Gender and the Human Rights Forum.

The government and the Christian Churches signed the Partnership Policy Framework for Service Delivery in 2010. The implementation of this partnership framework remains largely a challenge. Vision 2050 is the framework of the Papua New Guinea Government for a long-term strategy that maps out the future direction for the country. It acknowledges the role of civil society, especially churches, representing the majority of civil society in the country, as partners in national development, specifically in the delivery of health and education in remote areas of the country.

#### Legal Framework for Civil Society

It is a mandatory requirement that CSOs are legally registered to operate in the country. The Investment Promotion Authority is the government agency that is responsible and oversees this. Civil Society in PNG encompasses both incorporated and unincorporated associations, as well as membership-based and non-member based organizations. The Association Incorporation Act 1966 is the principal legislation applying to CSOs in PNG. Under this act, a CSO can become an incorporated association if it fulfils certain criteria, such as promoting an objective that is 'useful to the community' and being non-profit (prohibiting the distribution of profits to members). Organizations must go through several steps in

order to register, such as holding a meeting, preparing a notice for registrar, lodging and submitting the notice and then lodging an application with accompanying documentation. There is total income exemption for non-profit organizations, however it is limited.

### **Umbrella and Coordinating Bodies**

There is no single umbrella body coordinating CSOs in PNG. There have been attempts to unite civil society under an umbrella organization but the National Alliance of Non-Government Organizations in Papua New Guinea, established in 1998, failed to gain support across civil society and it folded. The current interim body is the Papua New Guinea CSO Forum, which serves as the country's National Liaison Unit for the Pacific Islands Association of Non-Government Organizations (PIANGO).

### **Civil Society Capacity**

Civil society capacity in PNG is strong on service delivery at the local level but weak on research and advocacy at the national level. The proliferation of service-delivery organizations,

particularly faith-based ones, compared with the smaller number of individual or collective rights advocacy groups, demonstrates this pattern. PNG's civil society is also characterized by weak governance, limited management capability and minimal collaboration and networking with other sectors. Poor communications, transportation difficulties and limited financial resources also inhibit civil society capacity in PNG.

Human resources are another area in which civil society's capacity is limited and PNG's civil society groups have a relatively limited capacity for networking and building coalitions. Consequently, CSOs tend to work in isolation from one another. Nevertheless, strong networks do exist in some areas, particularly among conservation and environmentalist groups.

The development of civil society capacity, particularly for having an impact on democratic governance, has been a major focus for the European Union under its Non State Actors Programme (NSAI & NSAI) and the human rights and democracy (EIDHR) programme. The Government of Australia (DFAT) with its 'Empower People': 'Strengthen Nation' Programme has heavily supported building the capacity of CSOs.

## **2. LESSONS LEARNT FROM THE EU ENGAGEMENT SO FAR AND REFERENCES TO DEEPEN THE KNOWLEDGE**

### **EU Civil Society Cooperation in PNG**

The assessment of the implementation of the Civil Society Country Road Map 2014-2017 reveals that implementation was mostly on an ad-hoc basis, not coordinated and not funded. Implementation of the Road Map encountered an extra challenge when the decision was made to withdraw CSO country allocations for 2013-2015. Without funding support, the CSO mechanism that was supposed to be established to coordinate civil society engagements with the EU and MS, was not established.

The EU continued however to engage with civil society through already existing platforms and in many cases led by non-EU donors such as UN and AusAid.

Current EU engagement in terms of promoting an enabling environment for CSOs in the country lacks institutionalized policy dialogue platform and tools. EU interventions towards promoting an enabling environment are project-oriented and substantial support to civil society has been provided under the Non State Actors Programme (NSAI & NSAI) and under the EIDHR programme.

In the programming of future country interventions, EU has attempted to mainstream civil society, to enhance the complementarity between geographic and the various thematic instruments in support of civil society.

## PART II – EU STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN TO ENGAGE WITH CSOS

Areas	KEY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES	PRIORITIES FOR EU ENGAGEMENT	ACTIONS (analysis, policy dialogue, operational support)	MEANS (programmes/instruments, etc.)	
<b>Creating a Strong Platform for Civil Society Participation in Policy Dialogue</b>	There is no strong platform for regular dialogue among the CSOs and engagements between the CSOs-GoPNG and Donors. Sectoral coordination mechanisms currently exist, which provides the opportunity to establish a platform for regular dialogue.	Support the efforts of other actors to provide a conducive environment for CSOs participation  Initiate regular dialogue with CSOs	Support the establishment of a credible and resilient national CSO umbrella body that can represent the voices of all civil society organizations in PNG.  Support a CSO-GoPNG and Donor Partners Coordination mechanism to encourage regular coordination and dialogue can take place.	Responsible Institution/Actor  EU Delegation  EU Delegation, French Embassy, UK	Funding Mechanism/ Programme  CSO-LA Instrument  CSO-LA Instrument, Political Outreach
<b>Strengthen the Capacities of CSOs</b>	Local CSOs lack capacities and are not sustainable, international NGOs who have capacity provide an opportunity for local NGOs to work alongside to acquire international best practices in order to operate and sustain themselves in a shrinking space.	Capacity building of CSOs partners	Identify CSOs capacity issues and constraints and provide technical and financial support.	EU Delegation	CSO-LA Instrument, EIDHR Instrument, 11 <sup>th</sup> EDF
<b>Promote the Role of CSOs in Nation Building</b>	CSOs often tend to be seen as scrutinising Government.  The GoPNG is developing a State-CSO Partnership Policy for service delivery, which should provide the framework for partnerships in development and nation building.	Support the implementation of the Partnership Policy	Support the initiative of CSOs to collaborate with government on institutional and policy reforms.  Support CSOs role as a development partner supporting government's key development issues.	EU Delegation, French Embassy, UK  EU Delegation, French Embassy, UK	CSO-LA Instrument, EIDHR Instrument, 11 <sup>th</sup> EDF (WaSH, Rural Entrepreneurship, Trade and Investment)  CSO-LA Instrument, EIDHR Instrument, 11 <sup>th</sup> EDF (WaSH, Rural Entrepreneurship, Trade and Investment)

## PART III – FOLLOW UP OF THE PROCESS AND STRATEGY

INDICADORES DE PROCEDIMIENTO		
INVOLVEMENT OF MEMBER STATES IN THE RM	TARGET	BASELINE INFORMATION AND FURTHER COMMENTS

<b>Involvement of Member States in the RM</b>	Member States present in the country are actively involved in the RM process.	<b>The Roadmap was developed in consultation with resident Member States (France and UK).</b>
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<b>Level of consultations held with CSOs regarding the RM</b>	The RM entails consultations with a broad range of local CSOs. Ultimately, it leads to more permanent and structured dialogue.	<b>CSO partners directly receiving funding support from EU were consulted bilaterally. Consultative Implementation and Monitoring Council (CIMC) also hosted a series of consultative workshops, round table meetings and discussions in 2017 with the funding support from EU under the NSAI Project.</b>
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<b>Complementarity of RM vis-à-vis related EU and other Donors &amp; partners' processes</b>	RMs are complementary to related processes including human rights and democracy country strategies, the rights-based approach to development, gender action plans, etc.	<b>The RM to the EU Human Rights and Democracy Country Strategy, EU Gender Action Plan (GAPII) and the National Indicative Programme (NIP).</b>
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PRIORITIES	INDICATORS	SOURCES OF INFORMATION & MEANS OF VERIFICATION
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<b>Support the efforts of other actors to provide a conducive environment for CSOs' participation</b>	Number of initiatives from CSOs supported by EU and MS	<b>Human Rights and Democracy Country Strategy Annual Implementation Reports, GAPII Implementation Reports, EAMR</b>
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<b>Initiate regular dialogue with CSO</b>	Number of meetings and consultations hosted by EU and MS with CSOs	<b>Human Rights and Democracy Country Strategy Annual Implementation Reports, GAPII Implementation Reports, EAMR</b>
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<b>Capacity building of CSOs partners</b>	Number of trainings and capacity building workshops hosted by EU and MS for CSOs	<b>Human Rights and Democracy Country Strategy Annual Implementation Reports, GAP II Implementation Reports, EAMR</b>
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<b>Support the implementation of the Partnership Policy</b>	Number of successful applications awarded grants by EU	<b>Human Rights and Democracy Country Strategy Annual Implementation Reports, GAPII Implementation Reports, EAMR</b>
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