



# **Civil Society and Development: Global Trends and their Implications for the Agenda 2030**

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13 April 2016, Open GovHub

# 1. Growing Recognition of Civil Society as Development Partner

- Millions registered
- Contributors to growth and poverty reduction
- Diversity in roles
- Transferring resources
- Network and connectivity

## 2. Collaborative relationships with international organizations

- Busan (2008)
- Agenda 2030
- Members in governing bodies of global funds
- Open Government Partnership
- Global Partnership for Social Accountability

### 3. Private aid sources growing and seeking leverage

- 18,000 INGO secretariats: 70% funds from private sources
- International funding from Foundations up
- 141 billionaires. Giving Pledge.
- Addis Ababa welcomed philanthropic donors
- SDG Philanthropy Platform
- Multi-stakeholder funding partnerships

## 4. Civil society taking initiatives to improve governance

1. Civil society has acted to improve governance and accountability of CSOs.
2. Detailed codes of conduct, charters or covenants
3. International NGO Accountability Charter
4. National codes and self-regulation mechanisms throughout the world.

## 5. Space for CSO engagement varies among countries

- 94 countries open to citizen participation (EIU, OGP, Civicus, Indicators)
- 46 countries opted in GPSA (9 in Asia)
- Constructive engagement happening but..
  - Some governments restricting CSO operating space
  - Busan indicator on CSO enabling environment – mixed
  - CSOs face funding, legitimacy and impact challenges



## 6. Future funding of CSOs a growing concern.

- “The Future Role of Civil Society” -WEF
- 2015 State of Civil Society Report by Civicus.
- More resources for civil society but major gaps:
  - In countries where governments restrict foreign funding
  - In middle income countries that have not yet established strong domestic funding for CSOs; and;
  - For governance and transparency in countries where domestic philanthropy is focused largely on traditional charitable activities.

# **Implications of global trends for Agenda 2030**



# Who to proactively engage with and why?

 CSO Role  CSOs Type	Dev. NGOs	Foundations	Faith Based Org.	Community Based Organizations	Philanthropists
Watchdog					
Advocate					
Service Provider					
Expert					
Capacity Builder					
Representative					

# How to ensure effective CSO participation in Agenda 2030

- SDG#17- “partnerships between governments, the private sector, and civil society
- Global Partnership for Sustainable Development
- Effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships
- CSOs in Agenda 2030 follow up and review processes

# How to support good governance targets in SDG#16?

- *16.3: Promote the rule-of-law at the national and international levels, and ensure equal access to justice for all.*
- *16.5: Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms.*
- *16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.*
- *16.10: Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms.*

# How to influence MDBs to engage more effectively with CSOs?

- ✓ MDBs need to examine/revise their engagement strategies to reflect the new world view of CSOs.
- ✓ How to engage CSOs based on the purposes of the engagement.
- ✓ Engaging with CSOs requires new products and procedures—not an easy or low-cost task; this can entail:
  - Adjusting procurement rules,
  - Finding ways to intermediate very small grants, recognizing the high staff costs of such interactions,
  - Reducing the transaction costs for CSOs,
  - Designing contracts that open possibilities for CSO partnerships rather than assume only large private firms will tender etc.

# How to counter the tide of shrinking space for CSO engagement?

- Catalytic role by Development partners on enabling environment
- Support partnerships between CSOs, governments and the private sector
- Convene multi-stakeholder dialogues on policies and development priorities

**Thanks**