



EU ROADMAP FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY IN INDONESIA 2021-2025

SUMMARY





The state of civil society in Indonesia

With more than 270 million inhabitants and over 1,300 ethnic groups, Indonesia is the fourth most populous country in the world (accounting for 3.45% of the worldwide population) and one of the largest democracies. Indonesia's GDP per capita has been growing steadily (from USD 585 in 1990 to over USD 3,921 in 2020) and the country is the largest Southeast Asia economy. It is also one of the most socio-economically plural countries worldwide, characterised by a rising middle class. Yet, it is estimated that around 10 percent of the population still live below the poverty line. Besides, the country moved back to a lower category (as a lower-middle income country) in light of the impact of COVID-19 in 2020/2021¹.

With the paradigm shift in the country's development and governance model in the post-Soeharto era, the growth of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Indonesia has been remarkable. Today, according to official data there are 431,465 CSOs² registered under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Law and Human Rights, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, either as associations, foundations or society organisations, which work across the full range of policy and social welfare issues, with many CSOs addressing several issues. Yet, this number might be much higher considering the vast number of organisations which are not formally registered and the new emerging actors, i.e. digital-based, urban movement, etc.

Civil Society in Indonesia has been a key driver of political, social and economic reforms, including on issues such as women's rights, freedom of information, freedom of religion or belief, inter-faith dialogue and anti-corruption. CSOs have also made critical contributions to sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction, thanks to their presence and outreach to communities. However, the continued ability of civil society to play these roles is of critical concern in the face of various challenges such as political space and resource mobilisation.

Key challenges

Despite a conducive and stable democratic environment, CSOs in Indonesia face several barriers to perform their roles effectively.

- While the space for CSO participation has generally become more open since the Reform Era, it is still a **'fragile and evolving space'**, with **laws regulating the political space still being reconsidered, debated and revised**.
- **Financial sustainability of CSOs remains a key challenge**, particularly in a context of withdrawal of traditional donors. Public funding (especially for local service delivery) and local philanthropy has potential (also in light of an emerging and growing middle class) but needs to be further researched and developed, supporting the emerging initiatives, including the setting up of an Endowment Fund.



1 <https://blogs.worldbank.org/opendata/new-world-bank-country-classifications-income-level-2021-2022>

2 Ministry of Home Affairs Data of 22 November 2019

- While many CSOs have been directly participating in various public decision-making processes (such as *Musrenbang* and other participatory processes), and have better access to public funding, **the quality of their engagement needs to be improved particularly at local level.**
- While several CSOs have made substantial progress in their technical and managerial capacities, a vast number of Indonesian CSOs are confronted with numerous capacity challenges, including those related to their **internal governance**. This is particularly critical at decentralised level, and with regards to **women leadership and political participation**.
- Despite a number of successful coordination and networking efforts, Civil Society in Indonesia remains **fragmented and its collective voice could be stronger**. Also, **the voices of youth** need to be better integrated. Intersectoral partnerships between CSOs and local businesses, the government, and the media will need to be strengthened.

Lessons learnt from past EU engagement with CSOs

Over the past years, and since the elaboration of the first Roadmap back in 2014, the EU has ensured a comprehensive approach in its engagement with Civil Society, combining both operational and political support to CSOs as “actors in their own right” and supporting them in their capacity development.

At the policy level, the EU Delegation consults on a regular basis a number of CSOs working on issues such as human rights, interfaith dialogue, trade and economy, or climate change/environment. Indonesian CSOs have proved to be reliable and competent partners and important sources of knowledge. However, due to the large number of CSOs in Indonesia and their geographical presence, it proves challenging to identify organisations representing the wider society for participating in dialogues and consultations, and to reach out to CSOs in remote areas.

Financial-wise, the EU Delegation has awarded EUR 60 million in the period 2007-2020 to support CSOs, especially those working in governance and accountability, local economic development, inclusive and quality education, democracy and human rights, and sustainable consumption and production. Experience underlines the importance of an enabling environment that allows civil society in the country to develop in a sustainable manner. There is substantial and increasing demand for EU financial assistance to support capacity building of CSOs and local authorities in areas related to better governance and participative development process, as well as basic service delivery to people, in particular marginalised and vulnerable groups.

Together with EU institutions, EU Member States also have contributed to foster CSOs involvement in decision-making processes. The Netherlands has run the programme “Dialogue and Dissent” (2016-2020), aimed at promoting and strengthening policy dialogue and CSOs advocacy role, in addition to several direct partnership programmes with CSOs. Germany also has a long tradition of working with CSOs and is actively engaged at grass roots level, supporting CSOs to fight deforestation and environmental degradation. Other Member States have also provided technical assistance and funding to local CSOs in diverse areas, including education, environment, good governance and agriculture.

EU priorities and actions

PRIORITIES FOR EU ENGAGEMENT	ACTIONS
<p>1. Promote an enabling environment for CSOs to better contribute to the development, governance reforms, and gender equality in Indonesia</p>	<p>1.1. Support citizens' efforts to advocate for the reform of the current legal and institutional framework regulating CSOs to make it more enabling for CSOs (including digital space)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EU and its MS will include the issue of CSOs legal fragility into their political and policy dialogues and contacts with the government. Support CSO's initiatives to monitor the current trends in the enabling environment for CSOs and more generally in the democratic space (including freedom of expression, freedom of religion or belief, threats to the digital space, etc). Gender will be mainstreamed all across the board, in line with the dispositions of the EU Gender Country Level Implementation Plan 2021-2025.
	<p>1.2. Promote the financial sustainability of CSOs through the identification and deepening of domestic funding sources and establishment of partnerships with the private sector and better access to public funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support CSO's research and advocacy efforts to: (i) identify suitable (both conventional and innovative) local philanthropy sources of funding (including crowd-funding, social impact funds, etc.); (ii) ensure better CSOs access to public funding without diminishing the independence of CSOs. Benchmarking with other countries in similar conditions will also be promoted. Support initiatives to strengthen the financial sustainability of CSOs (e.g. set up of an Endowment Fund, Lokadaya Crowdsourcing-Platform³ established by EU-funded CO-EVOLVE project, etc)
<p>2. Promote a stronger voice and structured participation of CSOs in domestic policies at national and local levels, in the regional and global policy arenas, as well as in the areas of EU engagement in Indonesia</p>	<p>2.1. Enhance CSOs' engagement (targeting particularly women and youth organisations) in Musrenbang and other public decision-making processes, with a focus on Green Deal, SDGs, sustainable growth and jobs trade, digitalisation, etc</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EU and its MS will include the issue of an open government and CSO participation in domestic policies into their political and policy dialogues with the government. Support CSOs' initiatives/projects aiming at deepening the participation of CSOs in both invited and claimed spaces for dialogue, particularly at local level. Special efforts will be directed towards ensuring the participation of women and girls. Support initiatives of Civil 20 (C20) and Youth 20 (Y20) as the official Engagement Groups of the G20 to provide recommendations toward the collective solution of global problems, considering that Indonesia will hold the G20 Presidency in 2022 and the Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2023
	<p>2.2. Promote a structured dialogue between CSOs and the EU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EU and its MS will systematize their processes of consultations and dialogue with CSOs. Special attention will be given to ensure a balance in gender and in regional composition (i.e. Eastern and Western provinces). The EU will promote the participation of Indonesian CSO networks and Associations of Local Authorities in the Policy Forum for Development (PFD) as the European Commission's Flagship for consultation with civil society and local authorities on the global and regional levels

³ Lokadaya Crowdsourcing-Platform is a sourcing model which brings together knowhow, experience and ideas from all partners, and sharing that among them. It has 3 main features, namely: Galang Daya, Partner Profiles, and Story of Change. Galang Daya includes resource-raising options in the form of public donations, non-financial donations (e.g. volunteering, equipment or other assets), and partnership.

PRIORITIES FOR EU ENGAGEMENT	ACTIONS
<p>3. Strengthen the capacities of CSOs and promote networking, partnerships, and alliance-building (national, regional and global networks) to amplify the collective voice of Civil Society and their contributions to development, governance reforms and gender equality in Indonesia</p>	<p>3.1. Support CSOs' effort, particularly at subnational level, to develop their technical skills (in areas related to policy dialogue and evidence-based advocacy) and strengthen their governance and managerial systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EU and its MS will engage in discussions with the government with a view to promoting financial sustainability and capacity development of CSOs • Support CSOs' initiatives aimed at: (i) Strengthening CSOs technical skills in order to monitor public policies and hold government accountable, particularly at local level; (ii) Better access public funding at local level to be involved in public-private partnerships; (iii) Enhance internal governance and accountability of CSOs and develop technical skills; etc. Priority will be given to: (i) Indonesia's Eastern provinces and/or remote locations where CSOs are underdeveloped, and (ii) the institutional strengthening of women organisations and of organisations working with minorities and youth. • Capacity development of Civil 20 (C20)⁴ and Youth 20 (Y20)⁵ to participate in the working groups that work on issues of health, energy, financing sustainable development programmes, gender equality, anti-corruption, digital taxes, and education.
<p>3.2. Support CSOs' efforts to enhance their collective voice through improved networking, alliance building and coordination (national, regional and global networks), with a focus on the areas of EU engagement in Indonesia (i.e. Green Deal, SDGs, sustainable growth and jobs, trade, digitalisation, etc)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide funding (also for their capacity development efforts) to networks, Working Groups, coalitions, and alliances, advocating for policy changes towards climate neutrality and the EU-Indonesia Green Agenda as well as other priority areas for cooperation with Indonesia (i.e. trade, investment and connectivity, green and inclusive development, good governance including anti-corruption and rule of law, human rights, gender equality, digitalisation, and security in particular preventing and countering violent extremism). <p>Support actions could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Cross-sector alliances and those involving formal and informal actors; traditional and new actors (particularly the youth). » Use of new technologies (i.e. digitalisation) to connect with a wider audience » Coalitions promoting gender equality, youth participation in decision making and the rights of the most vulnerable groups (including religious and ethnic minorities)

4 C20 Indonesia is an official engagement group for the G20 2022 consisting of 25 civil society organisations in Indonesia.

5 Indonesian Youth Diplomacy (IYD) aims to empower Indonesian youths and promote national & international affairs. IYD becomes the official host of Y20 Summit Indonesia 2022.