



DAC CIVIL SOCIETY DAYS

‘Towards building forward better together: finding solutions to enable civil society’

Virtual Technical Workshop
Wednesday, 02 June | 14:00 – 16:00 CEST

[REGISTRATION LINK](#)

Overview of the workshop

On the occasion of the OECD DAC Civil Society Days, the Development Co-operation Directorate is organizing a technical virtual workshop *‘Towards building forward better together: finding solutions to enable civil society’* on **2 June 2021, from 2 to 4 PM CEST**.

The workshop will contribute to facilitating **knowledge exchange** and fostering **mutual learning** among development co-operation stakeholders (i.e. donors, partner country governments, CSOs, international organizations, the private sector, philanthropy and think tanks) as well as actors who indirectly engage in development such as local knowledge systems, around the key ingredients to successfully enable CSOs. The workshop will contribute to collective learning by providing an opportunity to share experiences as well as showcase and discuss initiatives, reports and other relevant pieces of work reflecting good practices and policies for enabling civil society to maximise their contribution to the Covid-19 recovery and achievement of the SDGs. The workshop will seek to unpack and hone in on **common operational challenges** that development co-operation actors face, from engaging with more diverse civil society actors and localizing support, to navigating CSO risk management, with the aim to learn how others have addressed issues and explore possible solutions.

Knowledge shared in the workshop will be captured in an ‘Insights Brief’ which will be disseminated following the workshop. It will also inform the potential development of practical toolkits to support the implementation of the OECD DAC’s forthcoming policy instrument that addresses three pillars of enabling civil society, specifically how DAC members: 1) respect, protect and promote civic space; 2) support and engage with civil society; and 3) incentivise CSO legitimacy, effectiveness, transparency and accountability.

The workshop will consist of **2 rounds of 2 parallel, virtual, interactive sessions**. Each session will consist of a focused presentation (15 min.) and an interactive discussion (30 min.) between presenters and participants. Participants will have the possibility to choose one out of two topics they wish to follow in each round.

Agenda

14:00 - 14:10	Welcome and setting the scene <ul style="list-style-type: none">Jorge Moreira da Silva, Director, Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD Overview of program & guidelines for break-out sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none">Marilyn Cham, Civil Society Policy Analyst, Foresight Outreach and Policy Reform Unit, Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD
Round 1 14:10 – 14:55	Round 1 - Session A Shifting power to civil society at the local level and building resilience from the bottom-up <i>The covid-19 response has once again brought forward that local and grassroots organisations efficiently, flexibly and innovatively act and create impact. Their experience and connections on the ground allow for greater legitimacy, insights and skills to do so. Strengthening local ownership and promoting the leadership of civil society actors in partner countries is generally considered as a good</i>

development co-operation practice. Despite this recognition, donors, partner country governments and CSOs face barriers to shifting decision-making power and resources to partner country civil society. A discussion among different development co-operation stakeholders will be encouraged with a view to learn from different experiences and lessons, explore opportunities and exchange views on how to make support to local CSOs and the promotion of local leadership effectively work in practice.

Speakers (15 min.)

- Jeroen Kelderhuis, Head Civil Society and Education Division, Department for Social Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands
- Ghida Anani, Founder & Director, ABAAD (Resource Centre for Gender Equality), Lebanon. ABAAD aims to achieve gender equality as an essential condition to sustainable social and economic development in the MENA region. In 2019, ABAAD's Undress 522 Campaign was awarded the UN SDG Action Award for the most impactful campaign globally
- Oluwaseun Ayodeji Osowobi, Executive Director, Stand To End Rape Initiative; 2020 Global Citizen Country Hero; #TIME100 NEXT 2019; 2019 Commonwealth Young Person of the Year
- Monica Asuna, Director of Planning, Resource Mobilization Department, Public Debt Management Office, The National Treasury and Planning, Government of the Republic of Kenya

Discussion (30 min.)

Moderator:

- Ana Fernandes, Head of Foresight, Outreach and Policy Reform Unit, Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD

Round 1 - Session B

Spotlight on country initiatives: France's efforts to enable civil society

This session will provide an opportunity to present the conclusions of a report on creating an enabling environment for civil society produced by the French National Council for Development and International Solidarity (NCDIS). The NCDIS is France's forum for dialogue and regular consultation with development and international solidarity stakeholders that addresses the objectives and efficiency of France's development policy. The NCDIS focused its work on identifying ways to support civil society and human rights defenders in the face of tightening legislative frameworks and diversification of tools used to limit the expression of civil society. The conclusions of the NCDIS work includes a series of recommendations aimed at responding to key challenges such as strengthening the independence of CSOs, improving the situation of human rights defenders and addressing digital issues.

Speakers (15 min.)

- Anne-Charlotte Dommartin, Head of Partnerships and Civil Society, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, France
- Raphaël Chenuil Hazan, Co-Chair of the NCDIS Working Group on civil society and President of the Human Rights NGO Platform (Plateforme des ONG Droits de l'Homme)
- Kalthoum Hamzaoui, Director-General of Multilateral Co-operation, Ministry of Economy, Finance and Investment Support, Tunisia
- María Elena Alcaraz, Coordinator, International fora for development co-operation, Mexican Agency for International Co-operation for Development (AMEXCID)

Discussion (30 min.)

Moderator:

- Claire Mc Evoy, Policy Analyst, Open and Innovative Governance Division, Public Governance Directorate, OECD

14:55 - 15:05

Break

Round 2

Round 2 - Session C

Unlocking partnership potentials with more diverse civil society actors

<p>15:05 - 15:50</p>	<p><i>Civil society is not a homogenous group. On the contrary, civil society is diverse, and includes informal forms such as social movements, newer forms such as social enterprises, and traditional forms such as faith-based organisations. Despite this, development co-operation actors tend to work with the ‘usual suspects’ of development and humanitarian CSOs. This session will explore what prevents development co-operation actors from engaging with a broader range of civil society actors, and how they can adapt their engagement strategies to better reflect the reality of this diversity, beyond the typically urban, often international or donor country-based CSOs.</i></p> <p>Speakers (15 min.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vanessa de Oliveira, Senior Policy Officer, Secretariat of the Task Team on CSO Development Effectiveness and Enabling Environment. Ms. Vanessa de Oliveira’s intervention will draw from findings from a recent Task Team report ‘<i>Helping and Hindering factors for Effective CSO Engagement in the SDGs</i>’ • Viveka Carlestam, Senior Policy Advisor for Civil Society, Civil Society Unit, Department for Partnership and Innovation, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) • Juliana Uribe Villegas, CEO and Founder of Movilizadorio, a civil society network in Latin America which mobilizes millions of people in Mexico, Argentina and Colombia around climate change action, participation, peacebuilding, and education by building bridges between citizens, decision makers and institutions through digital citizen action and crowdsourcing platform El Avispero. Movilizadorio is a 2020 finalist of the UN SDG Action Awards • Bruno Sotomayor, International Co-operation Specialist, Peruvian International Co-operation Agency (APCI) <p>Discussion (30 min.)</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carol Guthrie, Head of Public Affairs and Media, Public Affairs and Communications Directorate, OECD
	<p>Round 2 - Session D</p> <p>Navigating risk management: making CSO effectiveness and accountability work in times of crisis and beyond</p> <p><i>The session will explore how CSOs can strengthen their resilience, accountability and effectiveness especially in times of crisis to: help counteract negative civil society narratives fuelled by actors who question CSOs legitimacy; as well as reduce risk aversion of development cooperation providers so that their engagement with civil society lives up to the scale of the challenges and support needed by CSOs.</i></p> <p>Speakers (15 min.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iliina Neshikj, Interim Executive Director, Accountable Now, a global membership platform that supports civil society organisations in being transparent, responsive to stakeholders and focused on delivering impact • Orla Mc Breen, Director, Civil Society Unit, Development Cooperation and Africa Division, Department of Foreign Affairs, Ireland • Eugenio Possel, Chief of the Multi-stakeholder Office and Former South-South Chief, Chilean International Co-operation Agency for Development (AGCID) <p>Discussion (30 min.)</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jacqueline Wood, Team Leader – Senior Civil Society Specialist, Foresight, Outreach and Policy Reform Unit, DCD, OECD
<p>15:50 - 16:00</p>	<p>Wrap-up and next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ana Fernandes, Head of Foresight, Outreach and Policy Reform Unit, Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD