



# Civic Space in Brazil

## Share your views!

Across the world, citizens are calling for more openness, transparency, integrity, accountability and participation at all levels of government. They want their governments to be more responsive and are increasingly working with public sector institutions to achieve these aims. Robust civic space facilitates this collaboration.

Beginning in December 2020, the OECD is carrying out an "Open Government Review of Brazil" (OGR) to assess how the government is adopting the principles and practices of open government. As part of this review, the OECD Observatory of Civic Space will be assessing civic space and citizen engagement practices in public life in Brazil and making a series of concrete recommendations on strengthening them.

### WHAT IS CIVIC SPACE?

Civic space is the set of legal, policy, institutional, and practical conditions necessary for non-governmental actors to access information, speak, associate, organise and participate in public life. It comes in many different shapes and forms, such as laws protecting freedom of speech, policies to promote civil society organisations, independent offices overseeing government decisions, portals responding to freedom of information requests, and rights and protections for journalists and human rights defenders.



### WHAT AREAS OF CIVIC SPACE WILL THE OPEN GOVERNMENT REVIEW COVER?

OECD studies and assessments of civic space focus on four key areas:

- Civic rights and freedoms e.g. access to information; freedoms of expression, assembly, and association; the right to privacy; the state's duty to protect its citizens;
- Media and digital rights and freedoms;
- The enabling operational environment for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs);
- Citizen/CSO participation in public decision-making.

The OGR will link the protection of civic space to public sector reforms and cover key cross-cutting issues, such as inclusion, non-discrimination, civic literacy, and the impact of Covid-19.

### SHARE YOUR VIEWS WITH THE OECD!



To inform the assessment of civic space in Brazil, the Observatory is collecting information through surveys, desk research and interviews and we want to hear from you!

We are committed to engaging with a diverse range of non-governmental actors representing the widest possible mix of sectors, sizes, areas of expertise and regions of Brazil. We hope to speak with a range of citizens and civil society organisations including from associations, NGOs, foundations, trade unions, the non-profit business sector, academia and media organisations.



## HOW AND WHY SHOULD YOU GET INVOLVED?

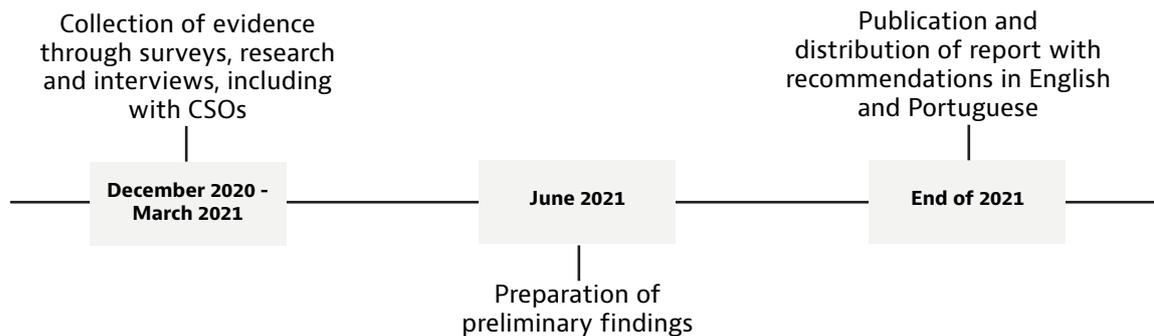
This is your chance to influence the OECD's recommendations for the Government of Brazil on protecting and promoting civic space.

There are several ways to get involved: through interviews, round table discussions, a public consultation and by sending us research and data. If you are interested in participating in the OGR, please write to us at [CivicSpace@oecd.org](mailto:CivicSpace@oecd.org) or [Craig.MATASICK@oecd.org](mailto:Craig.MATASICK@oecd.org) and we will share more details. Participation can be in Portuguese or in English.

You can also help us by spreading the word among your CSO colleagues and partners.

We are committed to ensuring that the OGR reflects views and experiences of CSO members and we need your help to do this. We also commit to responding individually to you to answer any questions and to let you know how we are using any information you send us. Information may be included anonymously, if requested.

## TIMELINE FOR THE OPEN GOVERNMENT REVIEW OF BRAZIL



## THE OECD OBSERVATORY OF CIVIC SPACE

The **OECD Observatory of Civic Space** was launched in late 2019 to:

- Monitor the legal, institutional, and policy framework in which civil society organisations operate in OECD member and partner countries;
- Promote and protect civic space and citizen engagement and support countries in this endeavour;
- Act as a platform for dialogue.

[oe.cd/civic-space](https://oe.cd/civic-space)



The **OECD**  
**Observatory**  
of **Civic Space**

*The **OECD** is an international organisation that works with governments and citizens around the world to establish standards to tackle social, economic, governance and environmental challenges. The OECD provides a unique forum to collect data and analysis, exchange experiences, and develop evidence-based advice on public policies.*