

**DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE**

Cancels & replaces the same document of 21 June 2021

Draft DAC Recommendation on Enabling Civil Society in Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Assistance

DAC Meeting, 6 July (Session 2/2)
Hybrid meeting, Paris, France

This document is submitted for ~~ADOPTION~~ and ~~DECLASSIFICATION~~ under Item 7 of the Draft Annotated DAC Agenda [DCD/DAC A(2021)10].

At the November 2020 High Level Meeting, the DAC committed to develop a new DAC policy instrument on enabling civil society, which aligned well with the OECD DCD 2021-22 Programme of Work and Budget Expected Output Result 2.8 on civil society. Taking this commitment into account as well as the views expressed by DAC members in several formal and informal meetings and written exchanges, this document presents a draft DAC Recommendation on Enabling Civil Society in Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Assistance ~~FOR ADOPTION~~ and ~~DECLASSIFICATION~~.

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JT03478639

Draft DAC Recommendation on Enabling Civil Society in Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Assistance

1. Introduction

1. The 2030 Agenda calls for civil society engagement in localisation, implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To support the work of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC), the OECD Development Co-operation Directorate (DCD) has been gathering evidence on how to better enable civil society in this regard. Sources of note include the 2018 *Development Co-operation Report* chapter on civil society and leaving no one behind, the 2020 *DAC Members and Civil Society* study, and the 2020 Foresight Policy Paper on *Digital Transformation and the Futures of Civic Space to 2030*. These reports and sources cited in them, including the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC) *2019 Progress Report*, showed that more must be done in this decade of action to enable civil society actors to maximise their contributions to the 2030 Agenda and to inclusive sustainable development more generally, and to help tackle the Covid-19 pandemic and its consequences. Civil society actors are critical contributors to all of the SDGs. They are especially central to the peaceful and inclusive societies and accountable and inclusive institutions of SDG 16 as well as to protecting and strengthening democracy. Civil society actors are also pivotal to the revitalised global partnership of SDG 17. The necessity of enabling civil society was highlighted in the DAC's April 2020 Covid-19 Global Pandemic Joint Statement.

2. Rationale for developing the draft DAC Recommendation

2. As a forum of many of the worlds' largest and most influential development co-operation and humanitarian assistance providers (hereafter "providers") contributing significant funds to civil society actors, the DAC can lead by example by committing to more robust actions to enable civil society. In 2020, DAC members signalled that they were ready to play a leadership role, expressing support for the development of an ambitious DAC policy instrument on enabling civil society. The rationale behind working towards developing such an instrument was to provide a framework to support, guide and incentivise DAC members and others, in their role as development co-operation and humanitarian assistance providers, in advancing their policies and practices in ways that reinforce the impact and roles of DAC members, international, and partner country or territory civil society actors. While a DAC policy instrument would by its nature allow for flexibility, it would nevertheless support DAC members in working towards fostering coherence in their approaches to civil society where appropriate – coherence within their development co-operation and humanitarian assistance institutions, across their governments, and across DAC members. Further, while targeting behaviour change among DAC members and other providers to enhance how they address civic space and work with civil society actors, a DAC policy instrument would also underscore that civil society actors must also take action to enhance their effectiveness and accountability.
3. In terms of form, in the course of discussions DAC members coalesced around embodying the commonly agreed policy approaches and good practices for enabling civil society they had discussed in the form of a DAC Recommendation. CSOs in the DAC-CSO Reference Group also called for a DAC Recommendation. Adopting a DAC Recommendation would capture a strong political commitment to enabling civil society. This commitment and the

status it would give the instrument would provide a solid foundation for a robust international framework to guide current and future DAC members and other providers in their efforts to better enable civil society and maximise its contribution to the 2030 Agenda, inclusive sustainable development, and protecting and strengthening democracy.

4. By adopting a DAC Recommendation, DAC members would send a clear political message and demonstrate DAC leadership on this crucial issue, setting the bar for the wider community of providers, international bodies, and CSOs. In this manner, the embodiment of the policy approaches and good practices for enabling civil society set out in a DAC Recommendation would encourage the contribution of many development actors to better enabling civil society, as well as provide a basis for leveraging stronger and more robust actions to enable civil society on their part.
5. At the same time, it is important to bear in mind the important differences between providers and how these might be relevant to the concrete measures they take to enable civil society in practice in their development co-operation and humanitarian assistance activities. In this regard, it is important to note that the commitment to the policy approaches and good practices that the adoption of a DAC Recommendation would imply is not a legally binding one and the draft DAC Recommendation has been crafted to allow flexibility as to how providers implement the policy approaches and good practices it contains, in particular to account for the important differences that exist across their legal, institutional, and policy frameworks and domestic contexts relevant to their roles in development co-operation and humanitarian assistance. In this manner, DAC members and non-DAC members having adhered to the draft DAC Recommendation (“Adherents”) would have the flexibility to tailor their efforts to their specific circumstances and context.

3. Scope and content of the draft DAC Recommendation

6. The draft DAC Recommendation would be the first international standard focused on the actions of providers, and that is specific to civil society as a contributor to the 2030 Agenda, inclusive sustainable development, and protecting and strengthening democracy. It breaks new ground by addressing together three inter-linked pillars of how development co-operation and humanitarian assistance providers enable civil society by: **1)** respecting, protecting and promoting civic space; **2)** supporting and engaging with civil society; and **3)** incentivising CSO effectiveness, transparency and accountability. DAC members have expressed that the coherence and complementarity between these three pillars is central to the draft DAC Recommendation’s strength and character and that the ability to address the pillars together is a particular value-added of the DAC. DAC members have also indicated that now is an opportune time to move forward on all three pillars, as many DAC members, having made swift adjustments to how they work with civil society in the Covid-19 context, are either reviewing and advancing good policies and practices or considering doing so.
7. In keeping with the DAC’s mandate and DAC member’s flows for civil society actors, the draft DAC Recommendation is framed to address DAC member’s work with civil society in development co-operation and in humanitarian assistance. Addressing both of these areas also aligns with the remit of the many civil society actors that work across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, including civil society actors working on development in partner countries and territories that are often first responders in disasters and crises. Further, the challenges the draft DAC Recommendation would seek to address through its three pillars are common to the development co-operation and humanitarian assistance realms of DAC member’s work with civil society actors. By addressing both development co-operation and humanitarian assistance, the draft DAC Recommendation also applies the spirit of the DAC Recommendation on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus

[[OECD/LEGAL/5019](#)] by promoting complementary and coherence of approaches across development co-operation, humanitarian assistance, and peace-building efforts. The draft DAC Recommendation also provides that, in its implementation, providers should take into account all relevant existing standards and commitments, including the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence.

4. Development process

8. At its 25 June 2020 meeting, the DAC agreed for the DCD to work closely with the DAC Community of Practice (CoP) on Civil Society to begin drafting a document on civil society, and that the November 2020 DAC High Level Meeting (HLM) would consider, based on an initial draft, the form the document should take. In the 2020 HLM Communiqué the DAC committed to developing a new DAC policy instrument on enabling civil society, a commitment that aligned with the OECD DCD 2021-22 Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) Expected Output Result 2.8 on civil society. Expected Output Result 2.8 commits to developing an 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 effectiveness, transparency and accountability.
9. These three pillars, around which the draft DAC Recommendation presented in this document is built, address a constellation of challenges impeding civil society actors from reaching their full potential as revealed by the evidence gathered. Firstly, DAC members have expressed considerable concern that diminishing respect for human rights and democracy in a context of rising autocratisation around the globe is eroding the freedoms of peaceful assembly, association, and expression, posing a real threat to civic space. Secondly, DAC members understand that there is work to be done to strengthen the way they support and engage with civil society actors to ensure the most effective use of the resources DAC members devote to their partnerships with these actors. Thirdly, while civil society actors have been playing critical roles in the Covid-19 response, recovery and resilience building, there are opportunities to enhance their effectiveness and accountability.
10. Preliminary, first, second, third [[DCD/DAC\(2021\)17](#)] and fourth (pre-final) drafts of the policy instrument were circulated in July and October 2020 and February, March, May and June 2021. Inputs were received in writing and discussion, from DAC members through the DAC CoP on Civil Society and formal and informal DAC meetings, and from CSOs in the DAC-CSO Reference Group and beyond. Across the Secretariat, drafts were circulated across the DCD, to the OECD Public Governance Directorate and to the Financial Action Task Force Secretariat. A draft was also shared with the OECD's Working Party on Open Governance. In particular, input to the various iterations of the draft was gathered through:
 - Five meetings of the DAC CoP on Civil Society (November 2019, May and November 2020, February and May 2021)
 - Three meetings of the DAC Informal Group on Engagement (now the External Relations Group) (December 2019, April 2020, September 2020)
 - The DAC Informal Reference Group on Effective Development Co-operation meeting on Civil Society Partnerships (April 2020); the first DAC Effectiveness Sounding Board meeting (April 2021); and GPEDC Action Area 2.4: Civil Society Partnerships (April 2021)

- Three GovNet plenary meetings, a meeting of the GovNet reference group on the draft instrument, and an invitation to reference group members to the May 2021 CoP meeting (October 2019, June 2020, February, April and May 2021)
 - Friends of Foresight meeting launch of the Foresight Policy Paper *on Digital Transformation and the Futures of Civic Space to 2030* (May 2020)
 - DCD and Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency co-launch of the *DAC Members and Civil Society* study (October 2020)
 - Informal DAC meetings (October 2020 and June 2021)
 - Various formal DAC meetings (December 2019, January, May, June, July, September 2020 and April 2021)
 - DAC HLM (November 2020)
 - Discussions with the DAC-CSO Reference Group at the June 2019 and 2020 DAC-CSO Dialogues, a January 2020 webinar, the October 2020 pre-HLM meeting, the November 2020 HLM, a May 2021 online consultation, and the June 2021 DAC-CSO Dialogue; and with the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) for outreach to humanitarian CSOs
11. A pre-final draft DAC Recommendation was discussed by the DAC CoP on Civil Society at its 27 May meeting and by DAC delegates at an informal DAC meeting on 15 June. At both meetings, delegates were invited to indicate if they had any red lines on the text. The draft DAC Recommendation set out in Annex A reflects the outcomes of those discussions as well as of subsequent discussions with delegations, and written feedback that corrects factual errors or provides language clarity. The draft DAC Recommendation, as set out in Annex A, is now submitted to the DAC for adoption and declassification.

5. Implementation, follow-up and adherence

12. In consultations, DAC members called for an iterative approach to implementation in which peer learning and adaptation would be embedded. In line with this, the draft DAC Recommendation provides that the DAC will “Continue to enable Adherents to share policies, best practices, and innovative approaches to enabling civil society in Adherents’ development co-operation and humanitarian assistance through existing fora and processes[...]”. In this regard, it is envisioned that the DAC CoP on Civil Society would act as the primary forum for peer learning, providing a source of mutual, practical support to each other’s implementation efforts, including through existing collaborative efforts such as the European Union’s Country Roadmaps for engagement with civil society. Linkages with the DAC’s work to modernise its narrative on effective development co-operation as relates to civil society partnerships would continue. Further linkages with GovNet, and with the Working Party on Open Government and relevant OECD Secretariat teams would continue to be pursued, especially as relates to protecting and promoting civic space. Engagement with the DCD crisis and fragility and gender equality teams would also continue and outreach to their networks be undertaken. In keeping with the 2018 Framework for Dialogue between the DAC and CSOs [[DCD/DAC\(2018\)28/FINAL](#)], regular dialogue with the DAC-CSO Reference Group and other DAC members, international and partner country or territory CSOs would also inform lessons learning on implementation.

13. The draft DAC Recommendation also provides for the development of tools to support implementation, in which regard the DCD will develop toolkits, in consultation with Adherents and with CSOs under the DAC-CSO Dialogue Framework, to provide practical support for implementation. Implementation support would also involve technical assistance in the form of workshops and/or direct support to Adherents as and if requested, in line with the 2021-22 PWB Output Result 2.8. It is also envisaged that the DCD will support the DAC in working to address OECD DAC reporting terminology and directives that may present obstacles to effective implementation, such as the coding of support *to* and *through* CSOs.
14. The draft DAC Recommendation also provides for review of implementation and the development of a report on implementation within five years of adoption, and at least every ten years thereafter. This report on the implementation, dissemination, and continued relevance of the draft DAC Recommendation would assess the overall state-of-play regarding the draft DAC Recommendation's impact, with particular focus on gathering information on Adherent's experiences and fostering the exchange of best practices. The review would also be designed to inform consideration of the draft DAC Recommendation's continued relevance and to gauge whether other actions may be useful to help support Adherents in its implementation and in enabling civil society more generally.
15. It is proposed that the five year report will leverage, as much as possible, existing processes and data gathering within and outside of the DAC that are already ongoing and will continue throughout the five years between the draft DAC Recommendation's adoption and the reporting in particular:
 - DAC peer reviews where, in keeping with the revised (2021) DAC Peer Review Methodology, DAC members may choose elements of their work to enable civil society as an area of concentration. Peer reviews look at members' partnerships with CSOs, including at country level, and consult their partner country or territory, DAC member, and international civil society partners on members' policies and practices;
 - Data on financial flows to and through CSOs in DAC member annual Development Co-operation Report profiles;
 - GPEDC monitoring and its learning and follow-up processes; and
 - Learning exchanges as part of the annual DAC-CSO Dialogue with the DAC-CSO Reference Group and/or at biennial OECD International Civil Society Days.

In order to fill any remaining information gaps, the information gathered through these existing sources may be supplemented with a short survey shortly in advance of the five year reporting, based on the [DAC Members and Civil Society](#) study survey.

16. Beyond the above, DAC members would of course be invited to consider whether any other activities may be useful to support them in their implementation of the draft DAC Recommendation. In this regard, it is envisioned that the DAC CoP on Civil Society would play a key role in identifying any such practical and useful means of further following-up on the draft DAC Recommendation's implementation, and would report to the DAC in this regard.

17. The draft DAC Recommendation invites the Secretary-General and Adherents to disseminate it. It would be made available on the online [Compendium of OECD Legal Instruments](#), along with all other DAC Recommendations. A booklet containing background information would be made accessible in PDF format to facilitate dissemination. To support dissemination, the Secretariat would share the draft DAC Recommendation through its networks as well as during technical activities and events.
18. The draft DAC Recommendation would be open to adherence by non-DAC members active in development co-operation and humanitarian assistance. Such adherence would illustrate support for enabling civil society and the policy recommendations set out in the draft DAC Recommendation. Any non-DAC member Adherents would be included in follow-up activities and the report on implementation.

Annex A. Draft DAC Recommendation on Enabling Civil Society in Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Assistance

THE OECD DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE (DAC),

HAVING REGARD to the Recommendation of the Council on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development [[OECD/LEGAL/0381](#)]; the Recommendation of the Council for Development Co-operation Actors on Managing the Risk of Corruption [[OECD/LEGAL/0431](#)]; the Recommendation of the Council on Open Government [[OECD/LEGAL/0438](#)]; the DAC Recommendation on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus [[OECD/LEGAL/5019](#)]; and, the DAC Recommendation on Ending Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment in Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Assistance: Key Pillars of Prevention and Response [[OECD/LEGAL/5020](#)];

HAVING REGARD to the Framework for Dialogue between the DAC and Civil Society Organisations [[DCD/DAC\(2018\)28/FINAL](#)];

HAVING REGARD to the foundation provided by international standards and documents on various aspects of enabling civil society, notably the Universal Declaration of Human Rights [[United Nations General Assembly \(UNGA\) Resolution 217 A](#)]; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights [[General Assembly Resolution 2200A \(XXI\)](#)]; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights [[General Assembly Resolution 2200A \(XXI\)](#)]; the Declaration on the Right to Development [[General Assembly Resolution 41/128](#)]; the [Humanitarian Principles](#); the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms [UNGA Resolution [A/RES/53/144](#)]; the International Labour Organisation Convention No. 87 on the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise [[CO87](#)]; Convention on the Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining [[CO98](#)]; Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work [[2019](#)]; core international human rights treaties protecting and promoting the rights of individuals and groups that civil society actors serve or represent, such as women, children, persons with disabilities, racialized groups, migrants and Indigenous Peoples; the UN Human Rights Council Resolutions on Civil society space: creating and maintaining, in law and in practice, a safe and enabling environment [[A/HRC/RES/24/21](#)] and Civil society space: engagement with international and regional organisations [[A/HRC/RES/38/12](#)]; and, relevant regional human rights standards;

HAVING REGARD to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals [UNGA Resolution [A/RES/70/1](#)] (hereafter the “2030 Agenda”); the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation effectiveness principles [Indicator 2: Enabling environments for civil society](#), and outcome documents endorsed in 2016 in [Nairobi](#), in 2014 in [Mexico](#), in 2011 in [Busan](#), in 2008 in [Accra](#) and in 2005 in [Paris](#); the [DAC Guidelines for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in Development Co-operation](#) (1999); the [Good Humanitarian Donorship Principles](#) (2003); the [New Way of Working](#) (2017); the [Grand Bargain](#) (2016); the Financial Action Task Force Best Practices on Combating the Abuse of Non-profit Organizations ([Recommendation 8](#)); and CSO standards including the 2010 [Istanbul Principles for CSO Development Effectiveness](#) and the [Global Standard for CSO Accountability](#);

RECOGNISING civil society actors are independent development and humanitarian actors in their own right as well as development co-operation and humanitarian assistance providers’ (hereafter “providers”) implementing partners;

RECOGNISING civil society actors, in their diversity, are critical contributors to the 2030 Agenda, the pledge to leave no one behind, inclusive sustainable development, effective humanitarian assistance, peacebuilding, and protecting and strengthening democracy;

RECOGNISING that civil society’s ability to exercise the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly, association, and expression, in-person and online, is in jeopardy in many places and closing civic space is part of a broader concern of diminishing respect for human rights, democracy, and international humanitarian law, in a context of rising autocratisation that has been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic;

RECOGNISING that the rise of undemocratic actors and actions undermines fundamental freedoms and human rights and diminishes the enabling environment for civil society;

RECOGNISING that closing civic space poses real danger to civil society actors in many countries, increases the vulnerability of civil society, and affects the quality and effectiveness of development co-operation, humanitarian assistance and peacebuilding;

RECOGNISING that providers’ support and engagement with civil society should be tailored to respect civil society actors’ diverse range of constituents, including to people on the frontlines of poverty, inequality, conflict, vulnerability and marginalisation in partner countries or territories, in order to strengthen local ownership and sustainability;

RECOGNISING different partner country or territory contexts, the potential positive or negative impacts of providers’ approaches on the civil society sector and civic space, and the need for providers to do no harm;

RECOGNISING that the effectiveness, transparency and accountability of civil society actors enables civil society to maximise its contribution, can bolster perceptions of civil society’s legitimacy and, in turn, provide a counterweight to inappropriate civic space restrictions;

RECOGNISING that providers’ policies and practices related to how they respect, protect and promote civic space, support and engage with civil society, and incentivise CSO effectiveness, transparency and accountability, are interlinked and all contribute to an enabling environment for civil society, with efforts to address any one of them potentially affecting the others;

RECOGNISING that DAC members and non-DAC members having adhered to this DAC Recommendation (hereafter the “Adherents”) have differing legal, institutional, and policy frameworks and domestic contexts relevant to their roles in development co-operation and humanitarian assistance that may shape their implementation of this DAC Recommendation.

I. AGREES that for the purpose of the present DAC Recommendation, the following definitions are used:

- **Civil society** refers to uncoerced human association or interaction by which individuals implement individual or collective action to address shared needs, ideas, interests, values, faith, and beliefs that they have identified in common, as well as the formal, semi- or non-formal forms of associations and the individuals involved in them. Civil society is distinct from states, private for profit enterprises, and the family.
- **Civil society organisations (CSOs)** are an organisational representation of civil society and include all not-for-profit, non-state, non-partisan, non-violent, and self-governing organisations outside of the family in which people come together to pursue shared needs, ideas, interests, values, faith and beliefs, including formal,

legally registered organisations as well as informal associations without legal status but with a structure and activities.

- **Civic space** is the physical, virtual, legal, regulatory, and policy space where people can, among other things, securely exercise their rights to the freedoms of peaceful assembly, association, and expression, in keeping with human rights.

PILLAR ONE: RESPECTING, PROTECTING AND PROMOTING CIVIC SPACE

II. RECOMMENDS that Adherents, when acting in their roles as development co-operation and humanitarian assistance providers, respect, protect and promote civic space and to such end:

1. Develop clear policy positions on the value of an inclusive and independent civil society and on the importance of respecting, protecting, and promoting civic space in line with rights to the freedoms of peaceful assembly, association, and expression.
2. Seek to engage in dialogue with partner country or territory governments and raise public awareness on the value of an inclusive and independent civil society and civil society participation and on respecting, protecting, and promoting civic space.
3. Co-ordinate among providers and with international, regional and national bodies to monitor openings and restrictions of civic space, enhance access to and sharing of information, and foster stronger, more coherent proactive and preventive actions.
4. Take reasonable steps to do no harm to civic space in partner countries or territories.
5. Support and engage with international, regional, and national bodies and initiatives that work to respect, protect, and promote civic space.
6. Support, as appropriate, partner country or territory government institutions of accountability and oversight, legal, and regulatory frameworks, and capacities to enable civil society in line with human rights, as well as to prevent unintended consequences due to misinterpretation or misapplication of anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing standards.
7. Work with the private sector and independent media, where appropriate, to respect, protect and promote open civic space and promote social dialogue as a prerequisite for conducive business and media environments.
8. Explore and share strategies among providers and with civil society actors to counter mis- and disinformation, harassment, discrimination and anti-democratic narratives targeting civil society.
9. Support greater and more inclusive civil society participation in public policy at all levels of partner country or territory governments and with other institutions, including through the use of digital technologies.
10. Explore and address challenges, risks, and systematic inequalities associated with digital technologies that restrict or lead to digital disenfranchisement of civil society actors in partner countries or territories.

PILLAR TWO: SUPPORTING AND ENGAGING WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

III. RECOMMENDS that Adherents, when acting in their roles as development co-operation and humanitarian assistance providers, support and engage with civil society and to such end:

1. Establish, in consultation with civil society, policies or strategies for working with civil society in both partner countries or territories and provider countries that:
 - a articulate objectives for working with a diverse range of civil society actors both as independent development and humanitarian actors in their own right and as implementing partners;
 - b aim to strengthen local ownership and an inclusive and independent civil society in partner countries or territories;
 - c take into account contextual risks or opportunities for civil society and civic spaces; and
 - d integrate these policy or strategy positions into wider development co-operation, humanitarian assistance and peacebuilding policies or strategies.
2. Pursue civil society actors' participation, especially in partner countries or territories where appropriate and feasible, in Adherents' policy and programme priority-setting, design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation through more structured, institutionalised, inclusive, and accessible dialogue, including with parliaments, the private sector, and the public.
3. Provide financial support to diverse civil society actors as independent development and humanitarian actors in their own right as well as to civil society actors as implementing partners, particularly those representing persons in the most vulnerable or marginalised positions, by, where appropriate and feasible, increasing the availability of flexible and predictable support, core support, and/or programme-based support.
4. Promote and invest in the leadership of local civil society actors in partner countries or territories by, where appropriate and feasible:
 - a increasing the availability and accessibility of direct, flexible, and predictable support including core and/or programme-based support, to enhance their financial independence, sustainability, and local ownership;
 - b supporting civil society strategic alliances, networks, platforms and resource centres at regional, national, and sub-national levels, that can:
 - i. work to strengthen civil society actors, including their ability to develop local financial resource streams and to protect and promote civic space; and
 - ii. represent civil society voices to international and regional institutions and fora, partner and provider country governments and other stakeholders; and
 - c ensuring local civil society actors are involved in decision-making based on equal power relations with supported civil society strategic alliances, networks, platforms and resource centres, in the design, budgets, and implementation of their programming.
5. Explore and share lessons on how to best support a broad range of formal and informal, traditional, and new types of civil society actors and actions at regional, national, and sub-national levels in partner countries or territories, such as social movements, social economy actors, trade unions, and faith-based organisations.

6. Streamline administrative requirements for civil society support to lower transaction costs for civil society and providers, and incorporate adaptive and flexible processes into results management of civil society funding.
7. Enhance transparency and accessibility of information in partner countries or territories on provider funding for civil society, balancing transparency with potential security and political risks for funded civil society actors in sensitive environments.
8. Support and work with civil society actors to advance global citizenship education for inclusive sustainable development and facilitate people's and civil society's engagement to contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.
9. Work with civil society actors to respect DAC and other international standards related to the humanitarian-development-peace nexus and to ending sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment in development co-operation and humanitarian assistance.
10. Pursue internal co-ordination and dialogue across their government, as well as consultation with related institutions as appropriate, with a view to:
 - a. advancing respect for international humanitarian law and the principle of non-discrimination; and
 - b. addressing obstacles to supporting civil society working with persons in the most vulnerable and marginalised positions that may arise from unintended consequences due to misinterpretation or misapplication of anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing standards.

**PILLAR THREE: INCENTIVISING CSO EFFECTIVENESS,
TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

IV. RECOMMENDS that Adherents, when acting in their roles as development co-operation and humanitarian assistance providers, incentivise CSO effectiveness, transparency, and accountability and to such end:

1. Call on and support voluntary CSO efforts to build on existing good practice and standards in CSO-led self-regulation, transparency and accountability mechanisms to broaden CSO participation in such mechanisms.
2. Call on and support CSOs to develop or build on existing internal systems to meet relevant human rights standards to prevent and respond to the root causes of discrimination, exploitation, abuse, or harassment in their activities and organisations.
3. Work with and support CSOs to implement mutual capacity strengthening to address CSOs' vulnerabilities and bolster their resilience, accountability, and effectiveness, especially at partner country or territory level.
4. Support more equitable partnerships between provider country and/or international CSOs, and the partner country or territory CSOs they work with in which the comparative advantages of each type of CSO are appropriately drawn from.
5. Promote participatory and rights-based approaches for local ownership and accountability of CSOs and their activities throughout programme design, implementation, and monitoring, while helping ensure that programmes do not exacerbate existing forms of discrimination or inequalities.

6. Foster CSO leadership and innovation in identifying and adapting new approaches to solving development and humanitarian challenges, including through partnerships and co-creation with a range of actors.
7. Encourage, and support as appropriate, CSOs' voluntary initiatives to collaborate and co-ordinate among themselves and with all levels of partner country or territory governments, to avoid duplication and competition, and build mutual respect, trust, and accountability.
8. Require, as appropriate, CSO partners to respect relevant international standards and adhere to relevant legal and regulatory requirements in the partner countries or territories they work in, where such requirements respect human rights and open civic space.

V. INVITES the Secretary-General to disseminate this DAC Recommendation;

VI. INVITES Adherents to disseminate this DAC Recommendation, particularly throughout their development, humanitarian, and peacebuilding agencies and partners, and across government;

VII. INVITES non-Adherents to take account of and adhere to this DAC Recommendation;

VIII. ENCOURAGES relevant non-governmental partners to disseminate and follow this DAC Recommendation;

IX. AGREES that the DAC will, in line with its programme of work and budget:

- a Continue to enable Adherents to share policies, best practices, and innovative approaches to enabling civil society in Adherents' development co-operation and humanitarian assistance through existing fora and processes, consulting with civil society actors throughout, in order to support mutual learning and adaptation, and develop tools to support the implementation of this DAC Recommendation;
- b Review the implementation of this DAC Recommendation, including through the existing DAC peer review mechanism, and support lesson learning, adaptation, and sharing of best practices to build understanding and capability; and
- c Develop a report on implementation of these measures no later than five years following the adoption of this DAC Recommendation and at least every ten years thereafter.