



# 2022 AFRICAN - EUROPEAN CIVIL SOCIETY DAYS

FOR THE MEANINGFUL AND INCLUSIVE  
PARTICIPATION OF CSOs  
IN THE AU-EU PARTNERSHIP

January 2023

## Coordination SUD is the national coordinating body of French NGOs working for international solidarity

Coordination SUD was founded in 1994 and currently comprises 182 NGOs, either as direct members or through six networks of associations (CLONG-Volontariat, Cnajep, Coordination Humanitaire et Développement, CRID, FORIM and Groupe initiatives). These organisations work in the fields of emergency humanitarian and development aid, environmental protection, human rights, advocacy and global citizenship education for international solidarity – with a special focus on helping the most disadvantaged groups of people.

Coordination SUD and its member organisations in the French international NGO sector work in four key areas: promoting and defending an enabling environment for Civil Society Organisations' (CSO); supporting and strengthening CSOs; defining and advocating joint positions on international solidarity policies vis-a-vis public and private institutions in France, Europe and around the world; and finally, monitoring and analysing developments and challenges in the international solidarity space.



### The project "Towards an open, fair and sustainable Europe in the world - Third Trio Project of the EU Council Presidency

During the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union (January to July 2022), Coordination SUD and its partners: CONCORD Sweden, FoRS and CONCORD Europe, received financial support from the European Commission to enhance the capacity of international solidarity CSOs to work on European issues and contribute to an EU that is open to the world, through fair and inclusive international partnerships. Coordination SUD's involvement, together with its partners, is continuing under the subsequent Council Presidencies.

## SUMMARY

The African and European Civil Society Days were held to support the international solidarity work of African and European CSOs by providing a better international framework for the effective and inclusive cooperation and association of CSOs in political decision-making debates. The aim was to improve the effectiveness of public development policies and official development assistance and to ensure that they better meet the needs of the beneficiaries.

The Civil Society Days concluded that effective development policies depend on policy coherence and the involvement of dynamic civil society. Experience has shown that public authorities need to work actively on guaranteeing an enabling environment for CSOs. To be effective, this work must protect rights and freedoms as well as ensure that CSOs have the necessary resources to fully play their role in promoting solidarity, both in the field and in political debates. CSOs must therefore be guaranteed access to adequate funding in line with their needs and the necessary space and freedoms to undertake their own activities.

To this end, CSOs are committed to maintaining an inclusive dialogue between African and European CSOs on the one hand, and policy makers on the other, particularly within the framework of the AU-EU partnership. This dialogue should enable CSOs to meet and discuss their priorities, develop common knowledge and critical thinking on development issues and coordinate their participation in consultation mechanisms. Their meetings must be organised by CSOs themselves, in a spirit of mutual political support and recognition, to ensure that the partnership is fair, just and inclusive.

For the inclusion of CSOs to be effective in the AU-EU partnership – and this has been championed by several political communications and summits – CSOs must be involved in every stage of the policy process, from design and programming to implementation and monitoring, through formal and informal exchanges and consultation mechanisms. CSOs must be able to share their analyses, assessments and own needs, and evidence from the field, including contributions from the beneficiaries concerned. In this regard, the Civil Society Days highlighted the importance of improving the mechanisms to include CSOs in the various political processes (framework, public, agenda, deadlines, follow-up, results, accessibility, transparency) to enable their full and effective participation.



*Andressa Barp Seufert, Policy Advisor on Global Justice and Sustainable Development, and Nadine Mezger, student of Global Justice and Sustainable Development, VENRO (Germany)*

## THOUGHTS FROM THE CIVIL SOCIETY DAYS

### LET'S CHANGE THE PARADIGM

"Many initiatives are being carried out in the field, involving (but not only) civil society organisations and which aim at repositioning France and Europe in Africa, now considered as a potential global geopolitical actor. This suggests that we are not starting from scratch and that, if we want to build something new, we will have to use what we already have. However, despite these initiatives, there is still a tremendous amount to do. And this can only be done if, **together, African and European civil societies commit to a new perception of reality that we might describe as transforming the way people think (a "mutation of the imaginary")**. This is of utmost importance because the operating system, the paradigm of aid, will not be changed unless we change the way we think about it, from the technocratic structure to the diplomatic apparatus, as well as in civil society and among the people, in particular the younger generations. We will only succeed if we find a way to raise awareness and a desire to reinvent ourselves through a new generation of tools and appropriate language.

I believe that it is urgent to rebuild our diplomatic apparatus and instruments. In this respect, the main strategic choice would be to move away from a diplomacy of influence, that is a diplomacy of economic conquest or projections of military power, because such diplomacy is perceived in Africa as a zero-sum game in which the winners and losers are not only known in advance but also always the same. It cannot be denied that Europe pursues interests but it is necessary to understand them and how they would better be safeguarded. Replacing asymmetry by a mutualist approach would allow objective gains on both sides, in the cultural, scientific, economic, technological and military spheres.

In both discourse and practice, this "diplomacy of living beings" cannot be conducted by states alone. It would be the primary vocation of our civil societies, of the organisations of our civil societies. A **"diplomacy of living beings" should prioritise a patient co-construction of concrete solutions to global issues, while ensuring the equality of the positions of each and every one**. This should be the case in all actions related to the climate, forests, oceans, protection of biodiversity, global health system, food security, digital technology, governance of international financial institutions, current and future responses to pandemics, transformation of the international mobility regime, or cooperation on vaccines. There is a whole field of possible actions requiring, for us to succeed, a paradigm shift, moving away from the diplomacy of influence or the conquest of market share."

**Achille Mbembe**, philosopher and historian,  
Professor at the Witwatersrand University (South Africa)  
and Duke University (USA).



## CONTEXT

### THE SIXTH AFRICAN UNION - EUROPEAN UNION SUMMIT

Since the European Union and the former Organisation of African Unity in Cairo in 2000, the partnership between the African Union (AU) and the European Union (EU) has been governed by a political agreement setting out the framework for their cooperation to bring their respective Member States closer together by strengthening economic cooperation and promoting sustainable development. Non-state actors – the private sector, local authorities, youth and civil society organisations (CSOs) – have been progressively integrated into this framework through dedicated forums enabling CSOs to contribute to developing the partnership. Such forums have regularly been side-events of AU-EU summits, such as the Africa-Europe Week held in February 2022, during which the Fifth Youth Forum and the Fourth CSO Forum were held. These forums represented another opportunity for youth groups and CSOs to present recommendations to AU and EU states on the eve of their sixth Summit and resulted in the adoption of a declaration for a joint 2030 vision renewing the AU-EU partnership. Although CSOs and youth representatives welcomed these opportunities to contribute to the partnership, they also deplored the lack of preparation, transparency and inclusivity of the process, which are prerequisites for their contributions to be effective.

### THE AFRICAN AND EUROPEAN CIVIL SOCIETY DAYS, PARIS, MAY 2022

Following on from the CSO and Youth Forums and the AU-EU Summit, over one hundred African and European CSOs and platforms identified the need for a new forum to discuss the Africa-EU partnership's ways of working and define how they could be effectively involved in its governance, implementation and monitoring. During the 2022 French presidency of the Council of the European Union, Coordination SUD – the platform of French international solidarity NGOs – with the contributions of NGO networks and platforms including FORUS and CONCORD Europe, and with financial support from the European Commission, held the African and European Civil Society Days on 6-7 May, 2022 in Paris.

The African and European Civil Society Days brought together 147 people representing 92 CSOs from 17 African and 14 European countries and hosted several round tables, discussion groups and open forums led by CSO representatives, international cooperation experts and researchers.

On the basis of their analysis of the AU-EU partnership, African and European CSOs made recommendations to:

- devise concrete mechanisms to ensure the effective involvement of CSOs in the governance of the AU-EU partnership, its definition, implementation, and monitoring;
- further develop African and European CSOs' joint position on the strategic relationship between the different stakeholders of the partnership;
- speak with one voice about the "renewed" AU-EU partnership and its implications for civil societies (governance, funding, civil society environment);
- share and address concerns about enabling the environment for civil society action and expression, especially with regard to human rights.

The Civil Society Days also heard statements from several civil society representatives, as well as journalists and decision-makers (OECD, AU, EU, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, AFD - French Development Agency).

Outputs of the various contributions and exchanges are presented below, including recommendations intended to enable a genuinely renewed AU-EU partnership, such as increased participation of CSOs in the decision-making, implementing, and monitoring processes through dialogue, consultations and knowledge sharing mechanisms, in which CSOs would effectively contribute on an equal footing with decision-makers and other stakeholders. These recommendations, addressed to AU and EU institutions, their Member States, as well as civil societies, are intended to outline the real conditions and framework needed for the effective, inclusive participation of CSOs in the AU-EU partnership.

## THOUGHTS FROM THE CIVIL SOCIETY DAYS

### CIVIL SOCIETY AND POLICY-MAKING

"These societies, in the various languages and translations that have characterised them, have affirmed the centrality of the adjective "civil" or "madani" in Arabic. It is important to remind ourselves why we emphasise "civil" and how this relates to questions of power. For example, the notion of "civil" was adopted in the second Tunisian constitution as one of the characteristics of the Tunisian state which is therefore understood to be a civil state. **When we think of civil society we think of "peace", we think it is beyond the scope of the military, and beyond the military's hold on politics.** We understand that civil power is not a religious but a secular power. Of course, one could say that it contrasts with other things, but in the situations I am talking about, it is very important to understand why civil power is a non-military power. This seems pretty obvious if one thinks of regimes that were, or unfortunately still are, ruled by military powers, like the Egyptian regime.

The notion of "civil society" or "civil power" became commonplace in the 2000s, especially among NGOs and their use of it. And from the 2010s onwards this notion entered politics in a much stronger way in response to democratic aspirations and makes sense to all of us today. At the heart of this meaning there is for example the struggle to defend a civil state against confessional systems, women's or feminist movements, as well as the struggles for a family policy and intimate personal issues which impact the choices we make in everyday life. Civil society is also at the heart of the criticism of partisan systems, which is perhaps a more delicate matter to understand and to implement, unless we tend towards something that would be populism. Within our societies, it seems important to reflect on the links which are made and unmade between parties - or at least political organisations - and civil societies. If "civil" has been described in opposition to the party system, it is also because this notion of "civil" or "madani", has often been manipulated by authoritarian powers. **It is also a notion in opposition to social violence, in the sense that it is not simply in the form or incarnation of the military, but in the form of a pacification of the links between different communities."**

**Leyla Dakhli.** Historian and  
researcher at the March Bloch Center of the  
French National Center of Scientific Research (CNRS)



## TAKEAWAYS FROM THE CIVIL SOCIETY DAYS



### PROPOSALS FOR A RENEWED AND STRENGTHENED ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR CSOs

*« To think of a new relationship between African and European societies is also to consider places of knowledge and to try to put them on an equal footing. Practical, physical knowledge that comes from experience. This implies recognising the translations between knowledge, languages and practices. »*

Leyla Dakhli, researcher on social movements and cultural history of the Arabic worlds at the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS).

- **AU and EU institutions and Member States should strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights**, as enshrined in the European Convention of Human Rights, the African Charter on Human and People's rights, and other relevant international standards, according to their commitments and as specified in the AU-EU's declaration of February 2022<sup>1</sup>. Freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly are essential conditions for the rule of law, for the existence of an active and dynamic civil society, and therefore for an enabling environment for CSOs actions and expression. Public information and awareness of such rights, and their violations, as well as the accountability of public authorities, must be provided to protect people and CSOs. Violations of rights, given their severity, require authorities to be made accountable and perpetrators to be sanctioned. The AU and the EU should use their diplomatic influence to call for sanctions against perpetrators of human rights violations when the severity of a situation requires it.



Joyce Maria Muvunyi, Head of office, MEP Dr. Pierrette Herzberger-Fofana (Germany) and Joyce Soares, Capacity development & membership coordinator, Forus international

- **EU institutions and other public and private donors should support CSOs' right of initiative<sup>2</sup>** moving beyond the 'service provision' framework, enhancing the effectiveness of CSOs' actions and development assistance, recognising CSOs' expertise and role and acknowledging CSOs as real partners of public authorities. This implies for public agencies to strengthen their mechanisms of dialogue with African and European CSOs, and to create funds or programmes dedicated to finance CSO activities and projects for meeting the needs of beneficiaries.

<sup>1</sup> [AU-EU Summit. Declaration for a joint 2030 Vision](#). "This renewed partnership [...] aims to be the driving force in promoting our common priorities, shared values, international law, and preserving together our interests and common public goods. This includes inter alia: the security and prosperity of our citizens, the protection of human rights for all, gender equality and women's empowerment in all spheres of life, respect for democratic principles, good governance, and the rule of law [...]."

<sup>2</sup> For more details, see Glossary page 14.

- **EU institutions and other public and private donors should adapt funding programmes and mechanisms to ensure they meet the needs of the real diversity of CSOs.** Funding should be more accessible to CSOs of different shapes and sizes, including informal organisations. This should be done through direct funding and consortia, and the creation of dedicated funds to support specific categories of organisations, such as those representing minorities and marginalised groups<sup>3</sup>, youth, feminist, women and girls-led organisations and, more generally, African CSOs. They should promote complementarity of action and expression between African and European CSOs, thus moving away from a competitive approach. These mechanisms should be adapted to the different types of CSOs in order to avoid unnecessary administrative burden and reporting, and by setting up clear procedures for gender- and intersectionality-sensitive budgeting. At the same time, public and private donors should help build the management capacities of CSOs and their access to a wider range of funding sources.



## PROPOSALS FOR A RENEWED DIALOGUE BETWEEN AFRICAN AND EUROPEAN CSOs AND PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

- **African and European CSOs should develop dialogue on common issues and priorities**, either by creating a new forum or by strengthening and reforming existing ones. A new forum should be managed jointly and independently by African and European CSOs, based on the principles of transparency, participation, inclusiveness, and equity. It should complement and rely on the actions of national, regional, and international coordination of CSOs. This forum should be used by CSOs to organise future civil society meetings and consultations ahead of the various AU and EU inter-ministerial meetings or summits of heads of state and government authorities. It should also enable CSOs to structure themselves at the AU-EU level, share knowledge and resources, co-construct joint positions, develop mobility exchanges, and coordinate their actions in the context of the AU-EU partnership. This forum should also facilitate CSOs' participation in the partnership's monitoring mechanisms by appointing representatives and contributing to the consultation processes within this framework.



*Grace Ananda, Policy and Advocacy Manager Africa, Habitat for Humanity (Kenya)*

- **AU and EU institutions should guarantee long-term financial, logistical and political support for CSO dialogue** including, but not limited to, supporting the CSO forum, through multi-year funding – the arrangements for which would be defined with CSOs. The AU and EU should commit to recognising this space as a privileged stakeholder in their dialogue with African and European CSOs, and to ensure CSOs participation in the AU-EU partnership.

<sup>3</sup>For more detail, see Glossary page 14.

→ **AU and EU institutions and their Member States should systematise civil society consultation mechanisms** and ensure that they are fully integrated into the public policy processes, including through appropriate support to the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (AU) and the European Economic and Social Committee (EU). As AU-EU partnership stakeholders, CSOs should be systematically consulted ahead of any change or revision of the partnership framework and resulting policies. Consultations cannot be limited to the framework of general policies, but should also relate to the concrete implementation of these policies, as well as their monitoring and evaluation. The processes used to consult civil society should comply with the principles of clarity and transparency (framework, audience, agenda, objectives, monitoring, format) and be organised early enough in advance to ensure that the outcomes of these consultations can be considered when decisions are made-. Consulted persons or CSOs should be representative of the diversity of the people concerned by the policy in question, with a particular attention paid to including actors from minority and marginalised groups. Public authorities should consult CSOs to identify relevant actors to be consulted. Consultations cannot be one-off or happen in a vacuum – their results should be systematically made public to allow CSOs to follow-up on them. Finally, feedback should be provided to consultation participants on whether their proposals have been taken forward or not, and the reasons why.

→ **African and European CSOs should lead discussions on the narratives of international development cooperation and all related concepts** along with academics and decision-makers. These discussions should involve CSOs of different shapes and sizes from Africa and Europe, paying particular attention to the inclusion of minority and marginalised groups. In line with current initiatives led by CSOs and public institutions, these discussions should promote new narratives, respectful of non-European actors, going beyond the traditional vision of "aid", and driving a "profound transformation of development assistance policies and the semantics associated with it"<sup>4</sup>. While acknowledging the different aspects of the colonial history between Africa and Europe, new narratives should promote a fair, inclusive, and sustainable partnership between the two continents, consistent with local realities and the needs and aspirations of their peoples. This work should review all sides of the narratives on international cooperation, including gender, migration and climate change.



*Andressa Barp Seufert, VENRO (Germany) et Eyachew Tefera, Director of the Institute for African Studies (Slovenia)*

→ **African and European CSOs should work on a shared definition of “civil society organisations” to be adopted by the AU, the EU, and their Member States.** To clarify the meaning and limits of this definition a list of principles should be drafted to outline and promote an enabling environment for CSOs. These principles should be implemented by public institutions in their dialogue with civil society organisations to ensure that their place and roles are fully recognised and effective.

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<sup>4</sup> Achille Mbembe (Dir). [Les nouvelles relations Afrique-France. Relever ensemble les défis de demain](#). (p122), Paris, Elysée, October 2021.

## THOUGHTS FROM THE CIVIL SOCIETY DAYS

### QUESTIONING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH DECISION-MAKERS

"As civil societies, we need to think about our willingness to engage with governments and how we do so. It is important to understand that the relationship between civil society and governments entails investments: there are assets, liabilities, and a "profit". We have then to think about whether the relationship we cultivate with governments is coherent with our actions and our objectives. Engaging and developing a relationship with public authorities takes time and requires significant investment. It also requires a great deal of agility and institutional memory from civil society. This shows that such a relationship is not based on projects or programmes, but rather constitutes a long-term strategy.

Two trends characterise the relationship between civil society and governments. It can be either conflictual or collaborative. Both forms impact the organisations involved. What we might call the "collaborative" NGOs are easily labelled as "sell-outs" to the authorities, while those considered "confrontational" have difficulty negotiating with governments and accessing public funding. Therefore, we need to **find a balance and allow civil society to choose its own most suitable strategy, whether confrontational or collaborative** and this depends on our ability to define the terms of such a relationship. A relationship cannot be only confrontational; it would lead to divorce. It must be collaborative and it must be participatory. So I ask the following question: are we all truly ready? Is our donor community ready to support meaningful engagement with government?

Then, **we need to talk with governments about privacy and how to balance it with oversight and respect for civil society organisations, human rights defenders and citizens.** As civil society we enjoy the confidence of the public. So how can we ensure that our relationship with governments continues to inspire that trust in our work, in our role as civil society advocates? To achieve this, when we talk about civic space, we need to ask ourselves whether CSOs are the only organisations concerned. We need to think about the different typologies of civic space and how they impact civil society, the political class, the private sector. We need to question civil society's perception of regulations. These questions are essential to promote an enabling environment, fostering CSOs' activities rather than hindering them. And this is only possible within a culture of mutual respect, where each of us understands the dynamics of the other, and where we strive to address common concerns. This demonstrates that we must have the ability to co-create."

**Oluseyi Oyebisi.**  
Executive director of the  
Nigeria Network of NGOs (NNGO).





## PROPOSALS FOR THE MEANINGFUL AND INCLUSIVE PARTICIPATION OF CSOs IN THE AU-EU PARTNERSHIP

*« There is still a tremendous amount to do. And this can only be done if, together, African and European civil societies commit to a new perception of reality that we might describe as transforming the way people think. This is of utmost importance because the operating system, the paradigm of aid, will not be changed unless we change the way we think about it. »*

Achille Mbembe, Professor and historian and author of a report on the future of the relationship between France and Africa, delivered to the French president Emmanuel Macron.

- **AU and EU institutions should involve African and European CSOs in the AU-EU Summit follow-up by establishing mechanisms for CSO consultation and participation** in the monitoring committee and other follow-up bodies that would be set up. This could take the form of open monthly or quarterly meetings with CSOs depending on the relevance of the political and policy agendas. CSO representatives should be designated by their peers, in an independent manner, to ensure equal representation of African, European, and diaspora organisations and a fair participation of minority and marginalised groups. These monitoring mechanisms should be provided with sufficient financial and human resources to effectively function and engage with CSOs.
- **AU and EU institutions and their Member States should ensure that both formal and informal meetings with CSOs – in particular forums – are accessible** to the diverse range of civil society actors, including minority and marginalised groups. Organisers of forums and other official meetings between the AU, the EU, and CSOs should take all necessary measures to ensure geographical and language accessibility (venue, internet connectivity, translation of documents, simultaneous interpretation, etc.). For face-to-face meetings, the AU and the EU should, in conjunction with the host state, ensure access to the territory for participating CSOs by facilitating the issue of visas when necessary.
- **AU and EU institutions and their Member States should support a fair, sustainable, and safe access for CSOs to digital technologies and tools** to improve their access to online discussions, consultations and other forums. This support should be given through increased funding, to provide CSOs with the necessary skills and resources and thus strengthen their inclusion in online meetings. Digital transformation is a major challenge for CSOs, as many of them cannot access digital spaces due to lack of electricity, sufficient connectivity, equipment or training. Supporting CSOs' digital presence, while considering the needs for a green transition, cannot be done without raising awareness and providing support for CSO's data protection – particularly personal or sensitive data (human rights activists, whistle-blowers, etc.) and is directly conditional on access to an open and free internet.



Moses Isooba, Board Secretary,  
Uganda National Ngo Forum

- **African and European CSOs should produce studies and analysis**, including joint work involving academics, to strengthen their legitimacy with respect to public authorities and to contribute to the evaluation of public policies and other stakeholder actions. This work should also support joint advocacy actions among CSOs by adopting a constructive approach highlighting shortcomings of and progress made by public authorities. In this regard, African and European CSOs could develop a common forum where they could produce joint studies and develop cooperation with students and academics from both continents including calls for expressions of interest and sharing analyses, testimonies and data.
  
- **AU and EU institutions should strengthen the participation of youth, feminist, women, and girls-led organisations in the monitoring of the AU-EU partnership.** Women and girls, who represent half of society, and young people who are the majority of the African countries' population, should play a much greater role in the dialogue and consultation processes between CSOs and public authorities. This should be done through the creation of specific programmes and mechanisms dedicated to funding youth, feminist, women, and girls-led organisations, whether formal or not. These funds should be flexible and adapted to their specific constraints while strengthening their autonomy and capacities and supporting their advocacy activities to enable them to fully play their roles as change makers. To ensure the full participation of women and youth, in all their diversity (age, sexual orientation, social or ethnic background, etc.) in the dialogue and consultation processes, it may be necessary to put in place quotas so that each of them represent at least half of the participants involved.
  
- **AU and EU institutions should increase the involvement of African and European CSOs in joint programmes and initiatives** by recognising CSOs as qualified actors, not just as external or technical partners, by including them in decision-making and monitoring bodies. CSO representatives in these programmes should be clearly identified to ensure the inclusion and representation of the CSOs in question, and their coordination with other organisations working on the same issues. In this regard, a mapping of joint initiatives and involvement of CSOs could be carried out by CSOs and public institutions.



*Riccardo Roba, Senior Policy and Advocacy Adviser, CONCORD Europe*

## THOUGHTS FROM THE CIVIL SOCIETY DAYS

### ADAPTING FUNDING TO OUR DIVERSITY

“As we reach mid-term of the 2030 Agenda, eight years ahead of the deadline for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a central question arises: how can we, civil society, gain better access to funding, so that we can fully play our role and contribute to achieving the SDGs? This question of access to funding necessarily implies competition, competition between CSOs at the regional, national and international levels. Yet, we must overcome it, it is now time for collaboration and not competition. **A collaboration inviting CSOs to recognise their differences and comparative advantages, their geographical diversity, their capacities, and resources, to ensure that civil society diversity is supported by a diversity of resources.**

Funding needs to adapt and respond to diversity. This will not be possible without an overhaul of funding mechanisms, especially at the European level, nor without the development of new tools to meet the needs of grassroots organisations. The issues of accessing and increasing resources to finance CSO activities cannot, however, be reduced to adaptability. While European CSOs benefit from EU grants, it would be beneficial if the African Union was also able to support civil society. Before we (African CSOs) travel far from home, we must work to mobilise other resources, African resources. Therefore, the issue of financing requires that we look at other types of funding such as innovative funding, tax incentive mechanisms, crowdfunding, etc.

We must not forget that supporting civil society organisations and their activities means developing partnerships with financial support. The preference of many donor agencies for project-based funding does not meet the needs of organisational support, core funding, and longer-term investment in longer-term partnerships with civil society. **These partnerships are essential for CSOs as they constitute our social capital.** It is useful to belong to a network because you can interact with other civil society actors, and share your experiences and your work. It is a cross-learning opportunity for each member organisation of a network. It is a form of trust that develops within these networks and is necessary for civil society work and resource mobilisation.”

**Leah Diane Mitaba**  
Executive Director of Zambia Council  
for Social Development (ZCSD).



## ANNEX

| LIST OF PARTICIPANT CSOs IN THE CIVIL SOCIETY DAYS <sup>5</sup>  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>ALGERIA</b><br>Association féministe Tharwa Nfadhma Nsoumer<br>Ligue Algérienne de défense des droits humains   | <b>BELGIUM</b><br>Caritas International Belgium<br>Centre national de coopération au développement (CNCD.11.11.11)<br>Search for Common Ground<br>Youth-IDEA  |
| <b>BENIN</b><br>Association Kisal Bénin<br>Plateforme des Acteurs de la Société Civile au Bénin  | <b>BURKINA FASO</b><br>Walde fulbe Burkina<br>Association pour le Développement des Communautés Villageoises<br>Association Tin Tua<br>Collectif contre l'impunité et la stigmatisation des Communautés (CISC)  |
| <b>CONGO</b><br>Forum des Jeunes Entreprises du Congo  | <b>CROATIA</b><br>Croatian Platform for International Citizen Solidarity (CROSOL)   |
| <b>CZECH REPUBLIC</b><br>CARE Czech<br>Caritas Czech Republic<br>People in Need  | <b>DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO</b><br>ActionAid International DRC<br>Réseau des Plateformes Nationales d'ONG d'Afrique centrale (REPOGAC)  |
| <b>ETHIOPIA</b><br>GIMAC Young Women Network   | <b>FINLAND</b><br>FINGO   |
| <b>FRANCE</b><br>1001 Savoirs<br>Action Contre la Faim France<br>Agronomes et Vétérinaires Sans Frontières<br>Batik International<br>CCFD-Terre Solidaire<br>Collectif des Associations Ghanéennes de France<br>Comité Français pour la Solidarité Internationale<br>Coordination des Associations Guinéennes de France<br>Coordination SUD<br>Electriciens Sans Frontières<br>Empow'Her<br>Forum des Organisations de Solidarité Internationale issues des Migrations (FORIM)<br>France Volontaires<br>Grdr Migration-Citoyenneté-Développement | <b>FRANCE</b><br>Groupe de recherche et d'échange technologique (GRET)<br>Groupe Initiatives<br>Médecins du Monde<br>ONE<br>Organisation des Jeunes pour l'Union Européenne et Africaine<br>Plateforme d'Associations Franco-Haïtiennes<br>Secours Catholique Caritas France<br>Secours Populaire Français<br>SOS Villages d'Enfants France<br>Tournons La Page France<br>Global Citizen<br>Initiative Développement<br>Inter-réseaux développement rural |
| <b>GAMBIA</b><br>African Artist Peace Initiative   | <b>GERMANY</b><br>German foundation for World Population (DSW)  |
| <b>HUNGARY</b><br>Hungarian platform of non-governmental organisations (HAND)  | <b>COTE D'IVOIRE</b><br>Convention de la Société Civile Ivoirienne (CSCI)   |
| <b>KENYA</b><br>ActionAid International Kenya<br>Habitat For Humanity International Kenya  | <b>LUXEMBOURG</b><br>Cercle des ONGD Luxembourg   |
| <b>MALI</b><br>Association femmes pour la dignité du Sahel<br>DONI BLOG  | <b>NIGERIA</b><br>Nigeria Network of NGOs<br>Women Environment Platform   |

<sup>5</sup> Only CSOs that have given their consent are listed here.

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| <b>PORTUGAL</b><br>Plataforma Portuguesa das ONGD  | <b>SENEGAL</b><br>Caritas Sénégal<br>Conseil des Organisations Non-Gouvernementales d'Appui au Développement (CONGAD)<br>Diaspora Development Education Migration (DIADEM)<br>Enda ECOPOP  |
| <b>SLOVENIA</b><br>Slovenian platform of non-governmental organisations (SLOGA)<br>The Institute for African studies | <b>SOUTH AFRICA</b><br>Southern Africa Council of Non-Governmental Organisations   |
| <b>SPAIN</b><br>La Coordinadora ONGD España  | <b>SWEDEN</b><br>CONCORD Sverige   |
| <b>TOGO</b><br>Fédération des ONG au Togo<br>Tournons La Page Togo<br>Entreprises Territoires et Développement       | <b>UGANDA</b><br>Uganda National NGO Forum   |
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| <b>AFRICA</b><br>Caritas Africa<br>Nala Feminist Collective  | <b>EUROPE</b><br>ACT Alliance<br>Africa-Europe Diaspora Development Platform (ADEPT)<br>Caritas Europa<br>Climate Action Network Europe<br>CONCORD Europe<br>Oxfam International<br>Plan International Europe<br>Red Cross EU Office<br>SOS Children Villages International – Brussels<br>Fédération Internationale de la Diaspora Africaine |

## GLOSSARY

### MINORITY AND OTHER MARGINALISED GROUPS

Minority and marginalised groups include, but are not limited to: women, youth, LGBTQI+ persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, nomadic populations, migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons, etc. These are people who are considered different from the majority by virtue of real or supposed personal characteristics (physical, cultural, religion, language, sexual orientation, gender, etc.), and who can be distinguished from other people in the society in which they live, which can lead to differential and unequal treatment. These groups of people can therefore be considered as minorities even if they do not form a numerical minority group<sup>6</sup>. Finally, these people may be marginalised, i.e. they may face inequalities or barriers in their access to rights, decent employment, protection, and basic services, and in their ability to participate in social, economic and political life on equal terms with other members<sup>7</sup> of the society.

### CSOs' RIGHT OF INITIATIVE<sup>8</sup>

Coordination SUD and its member organisations consider that the right of initiative is a form of engagement that recognises CSOs' freedom of action and which stems directly from the nature of CSOs as international solidarity organisations, as opposed to state operators or service providers. This right covers actions, projects, programmes and strategies initiated by civil society organisations and which take into account the different stakeholders, first and foremost of whom are the beneficiaries. However, the right of initiative does not include actions, projects or programmes undertaken by CSOs at the sole request of public authorities via calls for tender or service provision. The "CSO right of initiative" emerged in the 1990s, as part of a new paradigm of official international development assistance, which had identified a lack of effectiveness of traditional aid practices and which recognised that the aid system itself was in part responsible for the failure of development policies. This new paradigm was endorsed in March 2005 by the Paris Declaration. At the Third High Level Forum in Accra in 2008, donor agencies and recipient governments agreed to engage with CSOs to promote an enabling environment in "countries of operation," including through models of financial support to CSOs that strengthen their contributions to development.

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<sup>6</sup> Laplanche-Servigne, Soline (2017). Les mobilisations collectives des minorisés ethniques et raciaux. In: Olivier Fillieule éd., *Sociologie plurielle des comportements politiques: Je vote, tu contestes, elle cherche...* Paris, Presses de Sciences Po.

<sup>7</sup> Definition from UNHCR, (2021). : [Findings from the Humanitarian Response Plan \(HRP\) Partner Questionnaire: Inclusion of Marginalized Groups in Humanitarian Programs](#), Geneva, Protection Cluster Somalia.

<sup>8</sup> Coordination SUD (2023). [Soutenir le droit d'initiative des OSC](#). Paris. Coordination SUD (to be published 2023). *Comparative study on CSOs' rights of initiative in Six European Countries*.

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