

## EU ROADMAP FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY IN SOMALIA FOR THE PERIOD 2021 - 2025

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Status: ~~restricted~~/public

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Approved by (list of MS and possibly other donors endorsing the RM): Belgium, Sweden, Italy, Denmark, Finland, France, Ireland, Germany, Netherlands, Spain

## PART I BRIEF ANALYSIS OF THE CONTEXT AND PAST EU ENGAGEMENT

### A. THE STATE OF CIVIL SOCIETY: BRIEF UPDATE ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

#### Country Context/Background

Following the collapse of the Somalia government in 1991, the country witnessed one of the most violent civil wars in modern history and this resulted in large scale destruction of private and public institutions including governance structures. The state collapse and the attendant lawlessness continued until 2000 when the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) was established following the Arte process in Djibouti. The TFG provided a continued sense of statehood until 2012 when the Provisional Federal Constitution was adopted and the elections held in which clan elders elected 275 members of parliament, who in turn elected the President. Since then, progress has been made in state building with the establishment of federal member states as well as of arms of government including parliament, judiciary, security agencies, accountability and oversight institutions (such as the office of the auditor general). Following the lapsing of the mandates of the federal parliament and president in 2016, a new parliament comprised of 275 members of the House of the People and 54 members of the Upper House was elected in 2016; the members of parliament in turn elected the president of the Federal Republic of Somalia on 8 February 2017. While it had been anticipated that the 2016/17 elections would be through universal suffrage, the conditions necessary for a direct election were not in place with the result that the members of the House of the People were elected by 14,025 clan delegates; these delegates had been elected by 135 recognised clan elders.

One of the mandates of the newly installed administration was to arrange for elections by universal suffrage in 2020. However, as the elections date approached, it became increasingly clear that the necessary preparations for elections by universal suffrage were not in place. In the circumstances, the Somali leadership, in an agreement reached on 17 September 2020, resolved to hold indirect elections <sup>the case in</sup> 2016. Owing to a series of disagreements between the federal government and regional administrations, timely elections did not take place, with the result that the term of parliament lapsed in December 2020 while that of the president lapsed in February 2021. This was followed by attempts by the outgoing president and parliament to unilaterally extend their terms of office for a period of two years, a move that resulted in violent confrontations between security agencies and armed militias loyal to clan leaders and opposition candidates. With a view to avoiding further conflicts, and following sustained pressure from the international community and local actors including civil society organisations, talks between the Somali government and the federal member states resumed and in May 2021, an agreement was reached that provided a timeline for conduct of both parliamentary and presidential elections before end of October 2021.

#### Key trends in civil society landscape

According to the mapping of civil society organisations in Somalia (including Somaliland) that was conducted by the EU Funded Technical Assistance to Civil Society Program, the majority of Somali CSOs are based in major urban centres and implement projects and activities in diverse areas including human rights monitoring, democracy and and peacebuilding, humanitarian assistance and delivery of services, including education and health. The mapping

also established that of the 7,813 staff employed in the 360 CSOs that have been mapped to date, 39% of them are women<sup>1</sup>.

According to the Bertelsmann-Stiftung Transformation Index (BTI) 2020 Somalia Country Report<sup>2</sup>, the power of civil society and its oversight of the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) remains weak. While local civil society organisations, international non-governmental organisations and UN agencies are able to conduct a wide range of activities in most parts of the country, parts of the country remain inaccessible due to insecurity, and non-state actors often face difficult and dangerous conditions. The Freedom in the World Index for 2021 published by Freedom House awarded civil liberties in Somalia a score of 6 out of 60 and categorised Somalia as a 'Not Free' country.<sup>3</sup>

### Situation of the enabling environment for civil society<sup>4</sup>

Article 16, 18, 20 and 22 of the 2012 Constitution of Somalia guarantees freedoms of assembly, speech and association; similar provisions are to be found at article 23<sup>6</sup> of the Somaliland Constitution<sup>7</sup> which guarantees

freedom of press and media freedoms<sup>8</sup>. Despite these provisions, attempts to constrain civil society space abound. Both the Somaliland NGO Act (2010)<sup>9</sup> and the draft Somalia NGO Bill focus more on control of CSOs and contain provisions that would allow the government to interfere in CSO activities; other concerns raised on the draft Somalia NGO Bill include lack of consultations in its development. Establishing and registering a public-benefit, non-profit organisation is lengthy, complex and cumbersome; the registration fee payable is very high and CSOs are required to renew their registration certificates on an annual basis. The requirements for renewal of registration are similar to those of registering the first time, including the fee payable which can range between US\$ 500 - US\$ 1000. CSOs wishing to operate/implement projects in different federal member states are required to register in each of the member states while in some cases, working on certain sectors requires additional registration with the line ministry responsible for that sector.

The Somaliland NGO Act is designed to ensure the activities of all non-governmental associations are in line with the limitations and bars CSOs from engaging in commercial activities; this hinders their ability to diversify income sources and creates dependence on donor funding. Other restrictions include a ban on CSOs from Somalia implementing activities in Somaliland. A review of the law leads to the conclusion that the focus is on control and revenue generation from CSOs rather than on facilitating their activities.

Civil society operations are similarly constrained by, among others, demands placed on local CSOs by authorities to, for example, allocate funding to local governments for monitoring of CSO activities and government officials directing CSOs what type of activities to implement and the geographical locations where these activities should be implemented. Federal and State authorities and security forces have reportedly harassed, extorted, obstructed, and attempted to control CSOs delivering humanitarian aid while the militant group Al-Shabaab generally does not allow such organizations to operate in areas under its control<sup>10</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Comprehensive mapping of civil society in Somalia and Somaliland was conducted by Technical Assistance Programme (Urur Kaab) implemented by FCG Sweden and funded by the European Union

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.bti-project.org/en/reports/country-report-SOM-2020.html>

<sup>3</sup> Overall, Somalia received a total score of 7/100 while Somaliland received a score of 42/100 and categorized as partly free; see <https://freedomhouse.org/country/somalia/freedom-world/2021>

<sup>4</sup> Dimensions of enabling environment including: Access to information and to spaces for dialogue and partnerships with civil society; Funding mechanisms for CSOs that allow them to operate in a way that is responsive to the individuals and communities they serve or represent, and values, norms and attitudes in society that are conducive to civil society. Additionally, CSOs can contribute to an enabling environment by advancing their own accountability and effectiveness as independent development actors.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/51b6d0c94.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Article 23 has limitations which can be abused and imposed to curtail fundamental freedoms

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.somalilandlaw.com/somaliland\\_constitution.htm#Heading](http://www.somalilandlaw.com/somaliland_constitution.htm#Heading)

<sup>8</sup> These freedoms can be limited on national interest

<sup>9</sup> [https://www.icnl.org/research/library/somalia\\_ngolaw/](https://www.icnl.org/research/library/somalia_ngolaw/);

[http://www.somalilandlaw.com/NGO\\_LAW\\_ENGLISH\\_VERSION\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.somalilandlaw.com/NGO_LAW_ENGLISH_VERSION_FINAL.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> <https://freedomhouse.org/country/somalia/freedom-world/2020>

of expression, media and opinion. However, Somali Freedom Day the president promised that the Penal Code will be reformed. In an attempt to better regulate the system a new Media Bill was signed into law by the president in August 2020, which however has been characterised by media organizations as not in line with international standards, with the risk to curb press freedom if arbitrarily implemented. There are notable gaps within the law, including lack of a clear framework on access to information. In September 2020 the Attorney General established a Special Prosecutor to address crimes against journalists.

Critical voices of civil society organizations and the media have often been threatened and silenced<sup>11</sup> and government decision-making is usually not based on broad consultation processes. This finding is corroborated by regular analysis of the socio-political situation in Somalia carried out under the EU funded Urur Kaab programme, which has established that human rights activists, media practitioners and other dissenting voices face numerous challenges including harassment, arrests and murder in extreme cases.

### Key Challenges

Amongst the key challenges to the civil society enabling environment are:

- The Somalia National NGO Bill is yet to be passed at parliament level. This absence of a harmonised and clear legislation remains a barrier to CSO operation. Organisations working in different regions of Somalia have to pay registration fees in each of the different regions. Furthermore, the silent perception of viewing CSOs as opposition critical to government makes their operation more difficult.
- Progressively increasing capacity of public sector institutions has resulted in a shrinking role for CSOs, especially in service delivery and humanitarian aid. This is exacerbated by the failure of CSOs to adapt fast enough to the changing circumstances.
- Societal practices that subordinate women, low literacy levels and dismissal of women empowerment as promoting foreign ideals. The association of some human and women rights organisations with foreign development partners has led to accusations that they are foreign agents or propagating/promoting foreign ideologies.

### Opportunities

Opportunities for improving the operating environment include:

- Closed spaces like clan leadership systems are beginning to open up and discuss hitherto taboo subjects like women and youth in leadership and sexual and gender-based offences, including female genital mutilation (FGM).
- There is need for provision of supporting dialogue between state authorities and CSOs on the approval of the draft NGO Bill and establishment of a harmonised implementation mechanism within the different FMS.
- CSO joint lobby and advocacy for access to public information at local and national levels, promoting and implementing media reforms.
- An early focus on relationship- and trust building among CSOs and to recognise the value of networking is critical in supporting later collective advocacy. Existing networks can speak out as to how they have existed through the years and what are some of the best practices and lessons learnt. An example is the Somali Civil Society Coalition (SCSC) established in 2020 to coordinate the efforts of the civil society in the run-up to the 2020/2021 Federal elections.

### Brief analysis of Civil Society involvement in domestic policies

The scope for civil society participation in the political process is narrow and neither the FGS nor the Federal Member States have established an outreach strategy to include civil society. Despite these challenges, civil society in Somalia continues to play a major role in delivering essential services to the needy, either complementing the efforts of governments, or wholly by themselves, especially in circumstances where the government's presence is nominal. CSO also continue to bring to the attention of policy makers the realities faced by Somali citizens and seek to have these incorporated into policy and other public decisions. Spaces for dialogue, consultation and joint action between state and government bodies and civil society in Somalia are becoming common and the voices of civil

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<sup>11</sup> <https://www.bti-project.org/en/reports/country-report-SOM-2020.html>

society are progressively being represented in dialogue on peace and state building processes.<sup>12</sup>

Key policy and legislative development processes that civil society has been involved in over the past three years include, among others: (a) participation in ongoing **Constitutional Review Process**; (b) advocacy for **enactment of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Bills** (both in Somalia and Somaliland); (c) **reform of the electoral systems** to include **affirmative action provisions for women and minorities** (both Somalia and Somaliland); (d) **monitoring and documenting human rights violations**; (e) advocacy for **increased protection of human rights**; (f) advocacy for **media freedom**, rights of journalists and **access to information**; (g) inputs into **national development plans** and (h) **holding state institutions accountable** for delivery of services. The foregoing is in addition to CSOs leading in mediation/reconciliation efforts as a result of fallouts occasioned by disputes arising from the election process. In Somaliland, CSOs have been actively involved in the **observation** of presidential, parliamentary and local elections.

### Key Challenges

Key challenges encountered by civil society organisations in their participation in domestic policies include:

- Government structures are under constant revision, with rapid turnover of officials, which complicates working relations and continuity of established dialogue channels with civil society.
- Governments are distrustful of CSOs and perceive those calling for increased accountability and participation as being a threat to the sustenance of power.
- Legislative processes and institutions have been captured by political and clan elites hence limiting opportunities for CSO participation.

### Opportunities

Opportunities for civil society participation in domestic policies include:

- Some successes in influencing policy especially by CSOs in the . For example, the electoral model (expanded clan model) adopted by the stakeholders in September 2020 had initially been proposed by the Heritage Institute of Policy Studies (HIPS), a Somali think tank.

### Brief Analysis of Civil Society Capacity

CSOs require capacity support to design and implement sustainable interventions that address the needs of their constituents. Analysis of the comprehensive assessments and consultations carried out indicate that (a) internal governance systems are weak and are characterized by overlaps and lack of clarity between boards and management; (b) internal controls, monitoring and evaluation systems, fundraising and external relations policies and procedures are either weak or altogether absent; (c) organisations are operating without strategic plans, including often poor alignment between human resource capacity and the stated mission/vision of the organisations. While capacity development support has been provided by diverse organisations, a missing link has been the dearth of opportunities to put this learning into practice, a situation that arises primarily from the perception that funding local CSOs is risky and that there is a likelihood of loss of resources or financial mismanagement.

### Key challenges:

Amongst the challenges to civil society capacity are:

- Many CSOs have failed to establish strong connections with their constituencies, and this leads to the perception that these organisations are not representing the needs of any identifiable group. This in turn undermines the ability of the CSOs to engage with governments since the latter perceive the former as not being **legitimate**.
- Poor internal governance and poor accountability to key stakeholders has led to low **credibility** of CSOs amongst the public and government institutions. Amongst the characteristics of poor governance are opaque decision-making processes, limited sharing of information and lack of adequate oversight resulting from blurring of lines of responsibilities between board and management.
- Weak/poor coordination and inability of CSOs to effectively organise among themselves across thematic, strategic and geographical lines. Further, the traditional non- are seen to have reached their peak and lost sense of purpose as they have been competing with their constituent member organisations

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<https://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:TJ9gluHeHDUJ:https://www.nmbu.no/download/file/fid/32791+&cd=1&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=so>

in implementation of projects. This puts the platforms on a collision course with members while undermining coordination efforts and promoting mistrust between the platform secretariat and the members. There is a disconnect between think-tanks/research institutions and CSOs since the research generated by the former is not disseminated to or used by the latter in project and policy work.

- Limited capacity in project design, advocacy and policy influencing, fundraising, monitoring and evaluation, among others. An effect of this has been reliance on project-based funding which in turn makes it difficult for CSOs to maintain their own strategic, long-term plans.
- Women's organisations also face challenges relating to lack of communication between organisations working on similar topics such as FGM and competing with one another for funds, alongside limited active communication with relevant Ministries, such as the Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development.

### Opportunities

Despite the foregoing challenges, there are existing and emerging opportunities to improve the operating environment and increase the effectiveness of CSOs in the programming and policy interventions. These include:

- National civil society is progressively becoming organised as demonstrated by the emergence of transient, theme-based networks such as the civil society coalition on elections.
- Informal grassroots CSOs that have emerged organically with a clear vision are more resilient to shrinking donor funding as their strength derives from the connection to their constituencies.
- International NGOs (including EU NGOs and consortia) should play a key role in strengthening the Somali CSO capacities by accompanying them. Indeed, INGOs have a clear added value to enhance capacity building of local CSOs. A good example is the ongoing result-based Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan (MELP) embedded within the @ O - @ O - ) . MELP services are designed to enable the programme to monitor progress, evaluate results/impact and generate evidence for learning in the delivery of seven individual projects. It is important also to link this possible collaboration to improve Somali CSOs as service providers, especially at local/district level where the collaboration with local authorities could make a difference for improving the effectiveness of local social networks.

### B. LESSONS LEARNT FROM THE PAST ENGAGEMENT WITH CSOs

The European Union has a strong interest in having an **empowered and vibrant civil society** in its partner countries, as it plays a **vital** role in the achievement of **the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. Civil society is particularly relevant for the success of SDG 16 and 17, which call for peaceful and inclusive societies as well as a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development. The EU Delegation has been implementing a three-pronged approach with civil society in Somalia:

- i) facilitation of a systematic dialogue between civil society, the international community and Somalia government stakeholders in different fora including, thematic sector working groups such as the Somali Media Support Group (SMSG);
- ii) systematic involvement and consultation of CSOs in all areas of EU work ranging from human rights-related projects to the elaboration of the EU Territorial Approach;
- iii) CSOs are implementing partners in the Delegation sectorial work, including through dedicated support available through thematic pillars (e.g. on human rights and democracy), allowing for direct support to CSOs in often sensitive issues in a restrictive environment.

Thanks to those different tools, a long-term partnership between the Delegation and CSOs/networks has been established.

Gender mainstreaming and women rights are integrated in the EU assistance as articulated in the **Gender Action Plan - o B d B B B d B** **External Relations 2016-2020 (GAP II)** and delivered through programmes such as: **Accelerating Change to Abandon SGBV and FGM, Somaliland; Termination of Oppression of Women and Girls Programme II (STOP II); Expanding Civic Space: Empowering Women and Youth to Contribute to Governance**. Further, with the active support of EUD, EU Member States and other development partners, issues of gender equality and women empowerment are publicly discussed.

Over the past 3 years coordination has improved between the EU, EU Member States and CSOs. Coordination was strengthened especially in relation to joint efforts undertaken on issues such as elections, human rights and press freedom, which have seen the parties coming together to forge synergies on common focus issues. Several civil society personalities have been invited to the monthly Human Rights Working Group (HRWG) meetings to provide updates on the situation in the country in relation to media freedom and progress on the Somalia and Somaliland Sexual Offences Bills, providing leverage for the international community to demand accountability from the Somali authorities. The EU had been co-chairing the HRWG for many years until 2021.

### **Key lessons learnt**

The EU is engaged in Somalia through a comprehensive approach based on active diplomacy and support to the political process, security support, development assistance and humanitarian aid. The EU supports civil society to engage with the government through supporting development of an enabling environment and supporting their contribution to policy formulation. Regular dialogues are held between the EU Delegation and relevant CSOs to discuss policy and programme strategies. Specific consultations were held exclusively with CSO representatives, including women and youth organisations, to discuss the EU programming priorities for 2021-2027, the Human Rights and Democracy Country Strategy, the Gender Action Plan III 2021-2025 Country Level Implementation Plan (CLIP) and the CSO roadmap for engagement with civil society. The CSOs welcomed the priority sectors (Governance and Peacebuilding, Inclusive and green economic growth and Resilience building and social inclusion). The EU continues to promote gender mainstreaming of all actions, also by addressing structural causes of gender inequality and gender-based discrimination. Ongoing EU support to civil society includes: (1) Technical Assistance for Civil Society Capacity Building (Urur Kaab), (2) Expanding Civic Space Project, Empowering Youth and Women to Contribute to Governance and Development Processes.

From these, and other, engagements, key lessons have emerged. These include:

- **Sustainable state-building processes require particular attention to bottom-up approaches, for example through the fostering of social, economic and political participation from the local level up, and through a focus on institutionalised decision-making processes**, including at local and sub-national levels. The role and participation of women and youth organizations have received particular and dedicated attention.
- Issue-based CSO organizing is complicated and stunted due to rampant reproduction of clan-driven political dynamics within CSOs although there are positive steps with the emergence of strong issue-based networks on SGBV, human rights, regional umbrella networks, youth and women's political participation.
- Political developments in Somalia as well as the COVID-19 pandemic pose particular challenges to the effective exercise and protection of human rights, especially for women and youth.
- Engagement with CSOs requires an integrated approach using different instruments and frameworks in a coordinated manner. Thus, the engagement should not focus solely on a specific sector, on technical capacity of CSOs staff or of organisations but rather a strategic response to the latest development of CSOs within the context of development of the country. In that regard, financial and political support to existing CSO-led networks, consortiums, and platforms advocating for policy changes for a better political, socio-economic development of Somalia should be strengthened. Although the EU-funded technical assistance project has been working on capacity building of CSOs it should however be noted that it cannot reach everyone as there are over 6,000 local CSOs working in Somalia.
  - o There is need to encourage and support coalitions and partnership of CSOs to move away from a culture of competition and encourage knowledge exchange.
  - o Short-term project-based funding has undermined the ability of CSOs to have long-term visions. Focus on sustainability is needed, by moving away from short-term, output-based approaches, including through long-term and/or core-support with donors as an active partner, as well as building the institutional and operational capacity of CSOs.
- Donor funding is irregular and unstable. Currently, only the EU is providing direct support to local CSOs. The administrative, financial and formal requirements requested by international donor agencies including the EU are very restrictive to local and small CSOs to access those funds. There is need to develop the capacity of CSOs to better respond to the EU and other donors calls for proposals.
- Local CSOs play a key role in delivering both development aid and humanitarian assistance as implementers in the field and donors can empower them by making sure that they become equal partners in consortia that are

often led by UN agencies and INGOs. The goal would be to make sure more local CSOs will be awarded contracts as lead implementing partners/contractors.

- Where EU, EUMS or like-minded development partners support development of laws and policies, strong involvement and consultation of civil society should be a standard requirement.
- Effective coordination among donors should be ensured and work on inclusive support models for CSOs through regular consultation mechanisms.
- Development partners can use their political leverage to raise awareness within the FGS and federal member states on the need to protect the space in which civil society operates; further, the development partners can (continue to) bring government and civil society together and engage both to resolve tensions.
- The Nexus efforts are an excellent opportunity to introduce a strong partnership between national and international NGOs and CSOs, particularly focused on capacity building.
- Regular dialogue is also key, considering the rapid evolutions in the context, with periodic interactions, allowing opportunity for the issues of the day to be discussed. In this regard, for instance the ILED programme (Inclusive Local Economic Development) is including some CSOs as participants in the Territorial Coordination Committees (TCC) being subsequently an active part of the governance setup of this programme (funded by EU, Denmark and Sweden).

## PART II EU STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN TO ENGAGE WITH CSOs

### C. THE STRATEGY FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH CSOS AND HOW IT RELATES TO THE EU COUNTRY ENGAGEMENT AND AGENDA 2030/SDG

OBJECTIVES FOR THE EU ENGAGEMENT WITH CSOs	RELATED SECTOR & COMMISSION PRIORITY	RELATED SDG
1. Enhancing efforts to promote an enabling environment for CSOs.	<b>Governance and Peacebuilding:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inclusive Governance</li> <li>- Reconciliation, justice and rule of law</li> <li>- Security</li> <li>- Human rights</li> </ul> <b>Inclusive and Green economic growth</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Economic and financial governance</li> <li>- Education and TVET</li> <li>- Economic development</li> </ul> <b>Resilience building and social inclusion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Climate Change adaptation and migration</li> <li>- Migration, displacement and basic services</li> </ul>	<p>Governance, peace and security: SDG Goals 5,16,17</p> <p>Inclusive and Green economic growth: SDG Goals 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 13, 17</p> <p>Resilience building and social inclusion: SDG Goals 1, 2 5, 6, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15</p>
2. Support enhanced institutional, technical and financial capacities of CSOs in Somalia to increase their credibility as partners in development.	<b>Governance and Peacebuilding:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inclusive Governance</li> <li>- Reconciliation, justice and rule of law</li> <li>- Security</li> <li>- Human rights.</li> </ul> <b>Inclusive and Green economic growth</b>	<p>Governance, peace and security: SDG Goals 5,16,17</p> <p>Inclusive and Green economic growth: SDG Goals 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 13, 17</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Economic and financial governance</li> <li>- Education and TVET</li> <li>- Economic development</li> </ul> <p><b>Resilience building and social inclusion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Climate Change adaptation and migration</li> </ul> <p><b>Migration, displacement and basic services</b></p>	Resilience building and social inclusion: SDG Goals 1, 2 5, 6, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15
3. Promote enhanced CSO participation in dialogue, policy formulation and advocacy through collaboration, partnerships and networking of Somali CSOs across geographical and thematic areas	<p><b>Governance and Peacebuilding:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inclusive Governance</li> <li>- Reconciliation, justice and rule of law</li> <li>- Security</li> <li>- Human rights.</li> </ul> <p><b>Inclusive and Green economic growth</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Economic and financial governance</li> <li>- Education and TVET</li> <li>- Economic development</li> </ul> <p><b>Resilience building and social inclusion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Climate Change adaptation and migration</li> </ul> <p><b>Migration, displacement and basic services</b></p>	<p>Governance, peace and security: SDG Goals 5,16,17</p> <p>Inclusive and Green economic growth: SDG Goals 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 13, 17</p> <p>Resilience building and social inclusion: SDG Goals 1, 2 5, 6, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15</p>

#### D. THE ACTION PLAN

OBJECTIVES FOR THE EU ENGAGEMENT WITH CSOs	ACTIONS (including analysis, policy and political dialogue, operational support)	MEANS (EU programmes / instruments to implement the actions)
<p>1. Enhancing efforts to promote a conducive environment for CSOs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◁ Support dialogue between state authorities and CSOs on the approval of the draft NGO Bill and establishment of a harmonised implementation mechanism within the different FMS.</li> <li>◁ EUD, MS and development partners engage in regular policy dialogue with the Government on enabling environment (harmonisation of CSO operating regulations, approval of Somalia NGO Bill, revision of Somaliland NGO Act, alignment of laws regulating CSOs, the constitutional provisions on freedoms of speech, assembly and association).</li> <li>◁ Support public advocacy initiatives including documentation of human rights violations and legal actions for defending human rights defenders rights activists, media practitioners and government accountability advocates.</li> <li>◁ Support CSO joint lobby and advocacy for access to public information at local and national levels, promoting and implementing media reforms.</li> <li>◁ Regular contacts between EUD, EUMS, like-minded development partners and CS actors on policy-related issues, through initiatives such as the organisation of an annual CS Forum/meeting (that could be organised with all grantees and new CS actors of interest, identified by EUD, EUMS and like-minded development partners ).</li> <li>◁ Provide strategic support and timely responses in the case of worsening conditions for CS (through adapted mechanisms such as the HR defenders Fund, etc).</li> <li>◁ Mainstream civil society engagement in EU intervention sectors by systematically involving and consulting CSOs in all EUD and EUMS priority sectors, including policy dialogue</li> <li>◁ Include requirements for participatory planning and implementation of projects in development assistance to government departments and agencies (including requirements for inclusion of women)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EUD geographic and thematic programmes</li> <li>- EUD and EUMS and like-minded development partners political dialogue with Somali government officials</li> </ul>
<p>2. Support enhanced institutional, technical and financial capacities of CSOs in Somalia to increase their credibility as partners in</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◁ Include provisions for grassroots organisations to be supported and coached through sub-granting in funding/grant agreements with recipients of funding/development support.</li> <li>◁ Support actions (through funding) t and good/accountable governance.</li> <li>◁ Inclusion/development of specialized training components in Call for Proposals and Technical Assistance projects (e.g., adopt training &amp;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EUD (human rights and democracy, and civil society thematic programmes)</li> <li>- Regular EUD-EUMS-CSOs dialogue fora on areas of mutual interest</li> </ul>

development	<p>information sessions prior to the launch of CfP, organisation of mentoring sessions for all CSOs that have submitted successful concept notes etc).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◁ Mainstream, where possible, CSOs in the activities of bilateral programmes of as the integration of CS actors in participatory budgeting, monitoring and evaluation of general development policies, enhancing the diffusion of public budget etc).</li> <li>◁ Promote tripartite dialogue between EU, the Government and CSOs active in social auditing by strengthening the involvement of relevant CS actors.</li> <li>◁ Provision of technical assistance/support (including trainings, coaching and accompaniment) to CSOs engaged in promoting sustainable development, human rights, gender equality, and peace building linked to the Commission related priorities (Governance and Peacebuilding, Inclusive and green economic growth and Resilience building and social inclusion). Include specific quota for women and human rights organisations in technical assistance contracts.</li> <li>◁ During the EU CSO structured dialogues, include a session led by a CSO to present a relevant topic (i.e. research, study, hot topic, assessment) to promote peer-to-peer learning and useful debate.</li> <li>◁ Support CS innovation in partnering with the private sector and/or in developing new sources of funding (income generating activities)/social enterprises.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use EU &amp; MS leverage to include key civil society actors in dialogue between EU and the government on relevant areas</li> </ul>
3. Promote enhanced CSO participation in dialogue, policy formulation and advocacy through collaboration, partnerships and networking of Somalia CSOs across geographical and thematic areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◁ Establish a donor-CSO coordination platform, which meets on a quarterly basis to facilitate information sharing.</li> <li>◁ Research, knowledge production and dissemination of experiences of CSOs engagement in national development and policy processes.</li> <li>◁ Support networks at regional level to increase collaboration, networking, sharing of information, constructive evidence-based advocacy, capacity building and exchange opportunities between CSOs in different parts of the country</li> <li>◁ Support establishment of human rights, gender equality and accountable governance communities of practice and facilitate regular convening to learn new knowledge and share experiences</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regular EUD-EUMS-CSOs dialogue forums on areas of mutual interests</li> <li>- EUD geographic and thematic programmes</li> </ul>

### PART III FOLLOW-UP OF THE RM

OBJECTIVES FOR EU ENGAGEMENT WITH CSOs	OUTCOME INDICATORS	TARGET	BASELINE INFORMATION (If available)	SOURCES OF INFORMATION & MEANS OF VERIFICATION
1. Enhancing efforts to promote a conducive environment for CSOs	1.1 Number of EU-funded interventions (EUD and EUMS) in support of CS-led initiatives that contribute to countering shrinking space	1.1.1 At least 2 EU/MS - CSO dialogue forums per year 1.1.2 At least 3 campaigns / publications/researches issued by CSOs about Civil Society in Somalia and its contributions	1 (Draft Somalia NGO Bill)          0	Laws and other regulations on civil society (i.e. laws, by-laws, decrees, etc.)  EU/CSO consultations agendas and minutes of meetings  Specific studies commissioned by CS and/or other donors
	1.2 Number of joint statements issued by the EU (EUD and MS) and/or CSOs on fundamental rights	1.2.1 Continuation of regular bi-monthly Human Rights Working Group (HRWG) meetings. 1.2.2 At least 4 meetings per year between EU, EUMS, government authorities and parliament to advocate for adoption of Bills and their implementation thereafter.  1.1.1 Proportion of seats held by women in parliament.	Bi-monthly HRWG meetings ongoing          30%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Joint statements issued by the EUD and/or other donors</li> <li>- International conventions on fundamental rights</li> <li>- Reports of Human Rights Commission CSO press releases</li> <li>- Human Rights Watch reports on Somalia and shadow reports issued by independent observers</li> </ul>
	1.3 Number of EUD and/or EUMS	1.3.1 At least 1 CSO	2 CSO projects	- Grant agreements with implementing

	supported actions addressing gender equality, human rights and democratic/accountable governance	<p>project supported by EU (EUD and EUMS) to promote women and youth in entrepreneurship, business development and opportunities for accessing financing</p> <p>1.3.2 At least 5 CSO projects supported by EU (EUD and MS) to support the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, promote and role in decision-making at local and federal level and the rights.</p>	<p>between 2018 - 2020</p> <p>6 CSO projects in 2020</p>	<p>partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CSO progress and monitoring/evaluation reports</li> </ul>
2. <b>Support enhanced institutional, technical and financial capacities of CSOs in Somalia to increase their credibility as partners in development</b>	2.1 Number of CSOs whose institutional capacities on fundraising, PCM, reporting, M&E, research and advocacy, and financial management are supported by the EU (EUD and MS)	2.1.1 At least 50 by 2022	23 in 2020 and 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CSO Financial systems, policies, manuals</li> <li>- Specific studies commissioned by EUD,EUMS and/or other donors</li> </ul>
	2.2 Number of CSOs supported by EUD and/or EUMS demonstrating capacity to implement effective projects in key priority areas (governance and peacebuilding; inclusive and green economic growth; resilience building and social inclusion)	2.2.1 At least 50 by 2022	31 in 2020 and 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CSOs reports (case studies, project evaluations)</li> <li>- Reports of community consultations )</li> <li>- government feedback (from surveys)</li> </ul>

<b>3. Promote enhanced CSO participation in dialogue, policy formulation and advocacy through collaboration, partnerships and networking of Somalia CSOs across geographical and thematic areas</b>	3.1 Number of inclusive social dialogues promoted and facilitated by EU-funded actions	3.1 At least 2 dialogues per year	1 (CSO Coalition on Election)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CSOs/network reports and plans</li> <li>- CSO Thematic Networks MoUs and ToRs</li> <li>- Report of members survey</li> <li>- EU/Government minutes of meetings and agendas</li> <li>-</li> </ul>
	3.2 Evidence of more systematic mainstreaming of CSOs into EU priority areas, related sectors, Team Europe Initiatives.	To be defined		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CSOs/network reports and plans</li> <li>- Policy statements (press releases, communique, etc)</li> </ul>
	3.3 No. of systematic engagements between CSOs, state authorities and/or donors in key national, regional and/or international policy-making mechanisms	At least bi-annually	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CSOs/network reports and plans</li> <li>- Policy statements (press releases, communique, etc)</li> <li>- CSOs thematic network reports and plans</li> </ul>
	3.4 Number of government policies developed or revised with CSO participation through EUD and EUMS support	At least 7	5 (Media Law, Child Rights Law, Sexual Offences Bill, NGO Bill, draft Constitution)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CSOs reports (case studies, project evaluations)</li> <li>- ) surveys)</li> </ul>
	3.5 No. of oversight reports generated by # o \ federal and federal member state governments (such as budget expenditure reports, budget tracking, and NDP implementation status	At least 1 annual report per year starting in 2022.	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Freedom of Information Law</li> <li>- Reports of parliamentary proceedings</li> </ul>

## PART IV - ANNEXES & REFERENCES

### ANNEX 1: THE PROCESS

How were MS/EU+ present in the country involved in the drafting of the RM?	The roadmap was developed through a participatory process that involved contributions of all the stakeholders including EU Member States and representatives of the EU Delegation. Input of member states was solicited through an online survey/questionnaire, and this was complemented by participation of representatives of both the EU Delegation and Member States in the Focus Group Discussions that were held in 5 locations in Somalia. Subsequent to the data collection phase, a debriefing on the findings of the FGDs and online surveys was convened specifically for EUD, EUCAP, EUMS and like-minded donors (Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, UK and USA) during which further input was obtained; this input was incorporated in the roadmap subsequently developed. A draft roadmap was circulated to EUD and member states for their input and approval. The current version/draft of the roadmap incorporates inputs from all the foregoing consultations.
What mechanisms are set up to ensure the involvement of MS/EU+ in the implementation and follow up of the RM?	A reference group comprised of representatives of EUD, MS, like-minded development partners and CSOs will be established to monitor progress in the implementation of the roadmap as well as results achieved. The reference group will convene on a half-yearly basis during which the co-chairs will outline progress made, achievements realised and developments in the operating environment that have either aided or hindered the realisation of the objectives of the roadmap. Where necessary, the reference group will make proposals on corrective action needed and assign amongst its members responsibilities for taking the actions proposed and agreed upon; review of the proposed corrective action will be the first agenda item in the subsequent meeting of the reference group.
What consultations with CSOs were organised? What type of actors were involved? What mechanisms, if any, were used to ensure the inclusiveness of the process?	Consultations with civil society organisations took place through focus group discussions that were convened in 5 locations <sup>13</sup> as well as through an online survey that was administered to CSOs; a total of 73 CSOs contributed to the roadmap with 52 participating in the focus group discussions while another 21 CSOs took part in the online survey. Participating CSOs were drawn from different sectors (good governance and peace building; gender equality and women empowerment; inclusive and green economic growth) and included CSOs working in both rural and urban areas. To ensure inclusiveness, CSOs consulted were selected using purposive sampling methodology from a database of CSOs developed by a consulting firm commissioned by the EUD; CSOs sampled were those implementing interventions focusing on, among others: youth, women, persons with disabilities and ethnic/clan minorities and working on diverse sectors as outlined above).
What mechanisms are set up to continue the dialogue with CSOs? What mechanisms, if any, will be used to ensure the inclusiveness of the dialogue?	A reference group comprising of representatives of EUD, MS, like-minded development partners and CSOs will be established to monitor progress and results and recommend necessary course-correction measures; a full description of the reference group is described above under mechanisms for EUD and EUMS follow up. To ensure inclusiveness, CSOs representatives will be selected from across Somalia; further the selection process will be designed to ensure diversity of CSOs (including those representing women, youth, persons with disabilities, ethnic/clan minorities) and priority focus areas (gender equality and women empowerment; good governance and

<sup>13</sup> Focus Group Discussions were held in Baidoa in the Southwest State (8 CSOs), Mogadishu in Benadir Region (11 CSOs), Garowe in Puntland State (10 CSOs), Kismayo in Jubaland State (10 CSOs) and Hargeisa in Somaliland (13 CSOs).

	peace building; and inclusive and green economic growth)
How is the RM integrated /coordinated with the JP process?	The process of consultation of both the RM, JP and CLIP were conducted together and the objectives of the JP are mainstreamed in the RM.
How does the RM relate to other country processes including human rights and democracy country strategies, the gender action plan, etc.?	The RM is complementary to the CLIP, Gender Action Plan III as well as the Human Rights and Democracy Country Strategy. The RM includes HR and Democracy priorities, including gender-related ones.

## ANNEX 2: RELEVANT REFERENCES AND SOURCES TO DEEPEN THE UNDERSTANDING ON THE STATE OF CS AND EU ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

- ◀ Report on consultations with CSOs to inform the development of the EU Roadmap for engagement with civil society and country level implementation plan for gender