



GENERAL INFORMATION

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Approved by (list of MS and possibly other donors endorsing the RM): EU Delegation, Germany, France, Netherlands, United Kingdom and Spain

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

- THE STATE OF CS: BRIEF UPDATE ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS (i.e. the enabling environment, Civil Society involvement in domestic policies and Capacity Development)

CSOs constitute an important sector in Trinidad and Tobago and there is evidence to suggest that they are engaging in service delivery, the provision of support to communities and in governance mechanism. According to informal sources, it's estimated that there are approximately five thousand civil society organisations operating in Trinidad and Tobago.¹ However, an up-to date comprehensive CSO database is lacking and there is no framework in place to foster transparency and accountability within the civil society 'sector'. The available information is mainly on NGOs and other kinds of support organisations, the majority of which don't have adequate capacities for participating in policy dialogue and governance processes. Areas of common capacity building needs identified within the sector include governance, financial management, human resource management, funding development and project management. In addition, there are challenges related to the institutional framework necessary for their effective operationalization. Specifically, these include the registration process², acquiring legal entity status, fiscal obligations of legally registered non-profit organisations, access to government subsidies and grant programmes.³

There is a general perception among CSOs that space for expression, participation and policy dialogue is shrinking. In reality, these spaces seldom allow for inclusion of citizens and their organisations in the full policy cycle: dialogue, decision, conception/design, implementation and audit monitoring as well as budget cycle. In most cases, CSOs are involved mainly in one aspect of the cycle. Funds are available through governmental and private sources mainly for those organisations that primarily engage in service delivery and much less for those focusing on policies and governance.

¹ These include registered organisations, grassroots groups involved in community actions and other types of NGOs

² The current 'registration process' simply includes sending information about the organisation to the Ministry with responsibility for the main mandate of the organisation, for e.g. Social Services, Health or Sports. However, it is believed that a number of groups 'register' with a number of these Ministries, therefore making it difficult to have an accurate picture of actual the numbers.

³ One of the main components of an existing CSO project is that of strengthening of the legal, fiscal and funding framework for CSOs in T&T (FEDCSO-LA/2016382815

EU Country Roadmaps for Engagement with Civil Society – Template (Trinidad and Tobago 2018 2020)



The relationship between the Government and the Civil Society is outlined in the National Development Strategy, Vision 2030, which constitutes the country's National Development Planning Framework. At present, no formal policy dialogue mechanism exists between CSOs and the authorities. Dialogue takes place between the Government and civil society in the form of frequent, albeit ad hoc, consultations. CSOs voice frustration at limited outcomes and a general perception that the Government involves them less to guide policy than to appear to be engaged in dialogue. This is not for lack of enthusiasm on the part of civil society many of them are driven by the enthusiasm of individual members with strong professional backgrounds. Yet the majority lack the institutional capacity to strategically plan ahead or manage large projects. Weak advocacy is another issue, with few CSOs able to gain traction on their particular objectives.

The National Development Strategy identified the lack of involvement of civil society organisations in project implementation and implementation in the previous development frameworks, as one of the reasons for the compromised effectiveness of the development policies. It therefore envisions the participation of civil society organisations as central to the development of sound policies; good governance based on principles of participation and inclusion; structured consultation mechanism to sustain strategic focus; coordination and improved efficiency in the execution of development interventions; and provision of advice on implementation of the development agenda.

-LESSONS LEARNT FROM THE EU ENGAGEMENT SO FAR (i.e. dialogue, operational support, EU coordination and division of labour)

Direct support to CSOs has been curtailed by donors due to Trinidad and Tobago's classification as a high income country and its removal, from the OECD list of developing countries. The few donors that remain focus their support on democratic governance and on the development of mechanisms for making the rule of law more effective. Therefore, funding is the major perceived challenge identified by most CSOs. During various fora civil society organisations have reported that as a result of this challenge, important work is left undone, since the time needed to obtain financing curtails the pursuit of the organization's mission. The best-known and larger CSOs obtain support from a wide range of national and international sources, but only a minority of organizations can say that they are really engaged satisfactorily with the donor community. Government and corporate financial support is limited and mainly directed towards those organisations that are involved in service delivery⁴.

In this framework, the EU represents an exception. While EU support to Trinidad and Tobago mainly comprised "budget support", some resources were designated to support CSOs and their engagement in areas complementary to budget support programmes, human rights, governance and policy dialogue. The Delegation also maintains non-financial relations with a variety of civil society actors – particularly on human rights, trade, environment and social developments of the country.

⁴ There are however a number of larger CSOs (such as the Chambers) who receive financial support from their membership

EU Country Roadmaps for Engagement with Civil Society – Template (Trinidad and Tobago 2018 2020)



The majority of the Member States with presence in Trinidad and Tobago (France, Germany, Spain and The Netherlands), have reduced or no budget lines for support to civil society organisations. The limited bilateral allocations, which are mainly sustained by the UK, are geared towards corruption, climate change, environmental and human rights initiatives. It therefore means that, there is an increased requirement for the EU Delegation to maintain a leading role.

The focus of the EU action and roadmap is mainly on intermediary size organisations that are interested in scaling up their activities to engage in policy and governance, in areas of business and the economy, environment and climate change and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Since it is our proposal that by strengthening these organisations it would also increase their capacity to engage with grassroots organisations, which are currently not well known and that are often too small to be directly targeted by EU and other donor actions.

In addition to policy engagement with Civil Society Organisations, which included discussions on thematic issues such as environment, climate change and innovation, as well as cross cutting issues including human rights and governance, the Delegation has provided grant funds and technical assistance through the EIDHR and CSO-LA thematic budget lines, as well as the 11th EDF National Indicative allocation. A joint EU Human Rights Strategy which was developed and approved by all Member States present in Trinidad and Tobago for the period 2017-2020 provides an analysis of the priority issues, and opportunities to partner with, civil society in Trinidad and Tobago. The Delegation's commitment to ramp up its engagement with civil society organisations since 2015 has revealed a number of lessons thus far:

- Most civil society organisations are indeed enthusiastic about collaborating with the development partners and are interested in exploring opportunities for scaling up their activities and capacity. The underlying capacity issues of civil society meant that intermediary sized groups were targeted and encouraged to form consortiums to secure funds for project implementation, as part of the guidelines for the Calls. This resulted in projects managed by consortiums which incorporated groups that work across sectors and also allowed for enhancing the capacity of smaller organisations.
- The priority areas identified in the 2012 Human Rights and Democracy Country Strategy remain the same. As such, the EU Delegation and Member States will continue to prioritise: promoting and safeguarding women's and children's rights and tackling gender-based violence; campaigning for the abolition of the death penalty; improving prison conditions and respect for prisoners' rights; and combatting discrimination against LGBTI persons.
- Financial support and engagement with CSOs has provided opportunities for groups to function as advocates for monitoring, revision and development of policies. Specifically, groups' involvement in human rights advocacy has resulted in successful changes for a number of human rights issues such as child marriage, buggery laws, and prioritisation of issues for revision under the Equal Opportunities Commission and approval of the Gender Policy. CSOs have also formed themselves into an SDG Catalyst Network to coordinate, promote and monitor government's implementation of the SDGs.
- There are a number of collaboration challenges faced by the CSOs. They include: different agendas and understanding of key issues; capacity issues – strengths/interests; equal access to funding; unwillingness/inability to be open about their weaknesses; different values driving behaviour; varying



communication ground rules among groups; lack of engagement on clarification of structure and roles; and the process for seeking agreement or handling conflict.

- Initial attempts by Government to establish a Civil Society Board to strengthen the voice and influence of CSOs did not succeed. A new CSO led initiative which includes the development of a framework for civil society –government engagement is currently being implemented as part of a CSO-LA funded project. This is driven by their recognition that CSOs governance initiatives are taking place in an institutional and policy vacuum, which ultimately reduces the impact and sustainability of their interventions.
- Informal engagement among agencies such as the UNDP, IADB and the EU, have resulted in some streamlining of areas of support in order to avoid duplication and overlapping of efforts. However, the need for long term sustainable partnerships to create social capital and fully take advantage of the opportunities within the CSOs is still being explored. This must include strategies to reinforce CSO ownership and financial sustainability.

- RELEVANT REFERENCES AND SOURCES TO DEEPEN THE UNDERSTANDING ON THE STATE OF CS AND EU ENGAGEMENT WITH CS

Since the Mapping Study of Civil Society, which was conducted on selected sectors in 2012, there has been no other formal research on civil society, in general. However, the information for this roadmap was based on the integration of several information sources. These included: consultations with Human Rights Defenders; information generated from CSO project monitoring meetings; Government led policy based consultations (climate change, local government reform) ; Government/UN SDG Mainstreaming Acceleration and Policy Support Stakeholder Consultation and consultations on the National Development Strategy, (Vision 2030). The use of such sources contributed both to the identification and analysis of different perspectives related to civil society in Trinidad and Tobago.



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

KEY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES	PRIORITIES FOR EU ENGAGEMENT	ACTIONS (analysis, policy dialogue, operational support)	MEANS (Programmes/instruments, etc.)
Reduced role played by CSOs in the national development processes	Strengthen the capacity of civil society organisations in policy analysis & dialogue and in advocacy	Operational support, including the award of grants to CSOs to implement their respective project activities as well as to and technical assistance to facilitate strengthening their capacity in areas such as communication, cross sector collaboration and advocacy	<u>EUD</u> Use of 11 th EDF bilateral funds and thematic budget lines (EIDHR and CSO-LA). Ongoing
CSOs suffer from a lack of structural capacity and formal mechanisms for fruitful discussion with the Government and development partners	Enhance the engagement of civil society organisations with Government and development partners in policy dialogue and oversight in the EU budget support programmes and thematic areas	<u>Political and policy dialogue</u> Include mechanisms for CSO participation in budget support Increase the EUD /MS dialogue with CSOs on human rights, governance and in the focal sector Facilitate information sharing and coordination between CSOs and development partners (IADB, UN, others)	<u>EUD</u> 11 th EDF Measures to Support CSO and Innovation Programmes (including budget support programmes). Ongoing
Absence of a legal, fiscal and regulatory framework which is conducive for CSOs operations	Facilitate development of legal, fiscal and regulatory framework	Operational support, including the award of through grants and technical assistance to CSOs to implement their respective project activities as well as to and technical assistance to facilitate strengthening their capacity in areas such as communication, cross sector collaboration and advocacy	<u>EUD</u> Use of 11th EDF bilateral funds and thematic budget lines (EIDHR and CSO-LA). Ongoing GoRTT Use of research to review legislative, regulatory and fiscal framework
CSO exerting pressure on the Government on human rights issues such as safeguarding rights of women and children, gender based violence, LGBTI issues, abolition of death penalty and prisoner rights	Bolster the capacity of Civil Society to effectively promote the human rights agenda and enhance political dialogue between donors and CSOs on relevant issues related to HR	<u>Engagement with partners/stakeholders</u> - Article 8 Political Dialogue <u>Monitoring & Evaluation</u> Public Diplomacy Observance of International Days Preparation of Human Rights implementation report	EUD and Member States



		<p>Structured dialogue with Human rights defenders</p> <p>Reinforce relationship with relevant state authorities e.g. the Judiciary, Prison Service, Gender Division, Children's Authority, Attorney General</p>	
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PART III – FOLLOW-UP ON THE PROCESS AND STRATEGY

Process indicators		
INDICATOR	TARGET	BASE LINE INFORMATION AND FURTHER COMMENTS
Involvement of Member States in the RM	Member States present in the country are actively involved in the RM process.	Draft roadmap was shared with member states for input and comments– France, Germany, Netherlands, Spain, UK
Level of consultations held with CSOs regarding the RM	The RM entails consultations with a broad range of local CSOs. Ultimately it leads to more permanent and structured dialogue.	<p>Three consultation sessions were conducted with CSOs. Two in 2015 which informed the 11th EDF CSO technical assistance and support areas (environment/climate change and business and the economy) and one in February 2018 for preparation of the EIDHR Strategy</p> <p>The drafting of the HRDCS was made a highly public process, not only through extensive consultations with the state and civil society, but also through an online questionnaire that was uploaded to the EU Delegation's Facebook page and circulated via email to more than 30 CSOs.</p>
Complementarity of RM vis-à-vis related EU and other Donor partners' processes	RMs are complementary to related processes including human rights and democracy country strategies, the rights-based approach to development, gender action plans, etc.	The Roadmap complements the Human Rights and Democracy Country Strategy 2017-2020 priorities and 11 th EDF bilateral programme focal areas.



Outcome indicators				
PRIORITIES	INDICATORS	TARGET	BASELINE INFORMATION (if available)	SOURCES OF INFORMATION & MEANS OF VERIFICATION
Strengthen CSOs participation in policy formulation and monitoring	<p>Number of CSOs involved as governance actors engaging with government within initiatives funded by the EU</p> <p>Number of projects supported by EU and other donors which include participatory methodologies</p>	At least 50 organisations ⁵	Data to be collected	<p>11th EDF NIP and CSO-LA narrative reports</p> <p>National SDG reports</p>
Enhance collective CSO through coordination, networking and communication	<p>Number of CSOs staff involved in training related to coordination, within initiatives funded by the EU</p> <p>Number of CSOs provided with support to facilitate their coordination and collaboration</p>	Targets to be established	Data to be collected	EU TA projects reports
Facilitate development of regulatory framework	Support provided to develop regulatory framework	Targets to be established		<p>Terms of reference for legal, Fiscal Framework for non-profit working groups</p> <p>Terms of reference for non-profit consultant</p> <p>Minutes of meetings and Reports</p>
Facilitate information sharing and coordination among development	Existence of a donor coordination mechanism among EU, UNDP and IADB	<p>The mechanism is created</p> <p>Minimum of 1 CSO donor meeting per</p>	<p>Lack of CSO donor coordination mechanism</p> <p>Absence of updated information on CSO engagement</p>	<p>Minutes of meetings</p> <p>Project and TA reports</p>

⁵ Based on estimates included in ongoing grant contracts



Outcome indicators				
PRIORITIES	INDICATORS	TARGET	BASELINE INFORMATION (if available)	SOURCES OF INFORMATION & MEANS OF VERIFICATION
partners	Number of CSO donor coordination meetings	year		
Contribute to the promotion of Human Rights – LGBTI, abolition of death penalty, women and children, prisoner reform	Level of CSOs participation in preparation, revision and implementation of Trinidad and Tobago human rights policies Number of CSO-led initiatives in HR priority areas supported by EU	Pilot participation of CSOs in preparation and implementation of HR-related policies and legislation. CSOs involved in HR regularly consulted by Government and other stakeholders	Perceived lack of capacity of CSOs to effectively advocate for HR issues Ad hoc consultations	EIDHR project reports Annual HRDSC reports UPR Government and CSO shadow reports