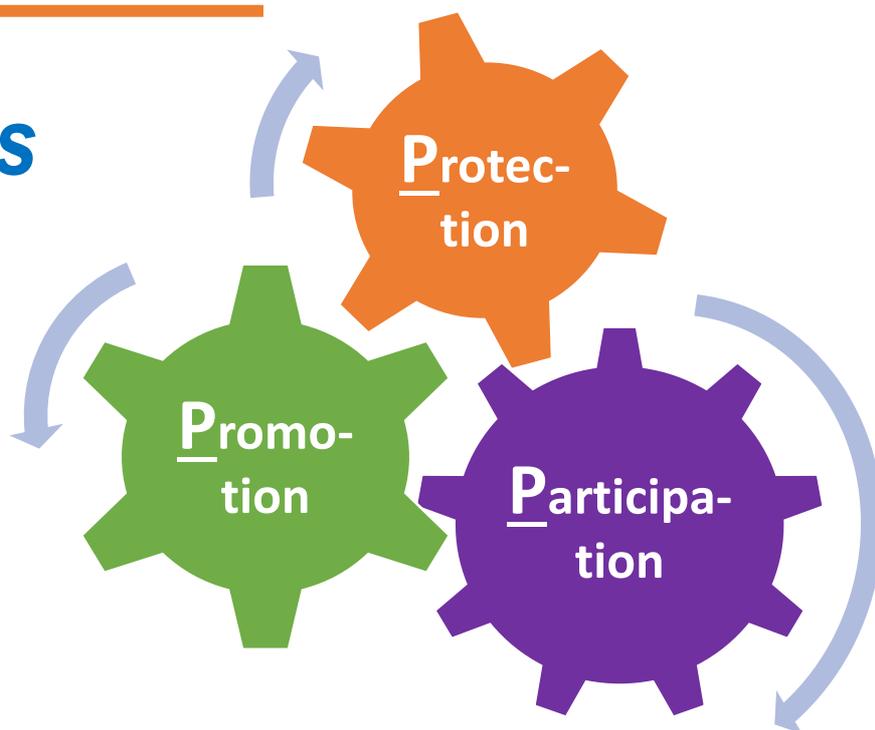


INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT

The 3 Ps



- 1) Ensure equal and inclusive civil society **PARTICIPATION** in the work of the UN and access to information
- 2) **PROMOTE** civic space, including in national decision-making processes
- 3) **PROTECT** civil society actors at risk and from online and offline attacks

The “3 Ps” are **INTERDEPENDENT** and **mutually reinforcing elements for free, safe and enabling civic space**

Decision-making across the board, on development, on security, on social affairs, is more effective and legitimate when people from different backgrounds are able to contribute. Meaningful participation of civil society in international processes and bodies, including in the UN, relies on free and vibrant democratic spaces with effective participation channels for diverse groups at the national level. This, in turn, requires respect for freedom of expression and access to information online and offline, freedom of association and physical security for those who speak up and assemble peacefully.

The UN Secretary-General:
“The Highest Aspiration: A Call to Action for Human Rights” (2020)

“Society is stronger and more resilient when women and men can play a meaningful role in political, economic and social life, contributing to policy-making that affects their lives, including by accessing information, engaging in dialogue, expressing dissent and joining together to express their views. This includes the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.”

HOW TO STRENGTHEN CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT WITH INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Report ([A/HRC/44/25](#))



Ensure inclusive, equal and diverse civil society **PARTICIPATION** in UN processes

- Put in place publicly available **POLICIES** that spell out clear, impartial and non-discriminatory rules for civil society participation and access to information
- Make **INFORMATION WIDELY AVAILABLE** in multiple languages, in accessible formats, and use communication channels that are relevant and convenient for the target audience
- Proactively **REACH OUT** to all civil society actors at risk of exclusion, provide funding, and put in place direct, flexible and localized channels (e.g. digital and online forums)
- Assess **BARRIERS** to civil society participation and adapt operations and practices to strengthen and expand opportunities for partnerships, including the development of common strategies between the UN and different civil society groups and others
- Put in place “**FEEDBACK LOOPS**” for civil society on the implementation of UN programs and activities, and establish avenues for civil society to contest restrictions on participation and access to information



Actively **PROMOTE** civic space, including civil society participation in national decision-making processes

- Advocate for institutionalized **CHANNELS FOR CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION** in national decision-making, including through new technologies
- Identify **OBSTACLES** to civic space online and offline, patterns of discrimination and exclusion, and restrictions to freedoms of expression, assembly and association, access to information and funding sources
- With civil society and other actors, develop **JOINT STRATEGIES** to overcome civic space obstacles
- Highlight the **POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS** of civil society in sustainable development, peace and security, rule of law, by promoting positive narratives and good examples
- Lend political and **FUNDING** support, develop capacities, and facilitate the work of broader civil society coalitions



PROTECT civil society actors at risk, including from intimidation and reprisals for cooperating with the UN

- **PUT VICTIMS AT THE CENTRE:** address urgent protection needs of victims when cases occur, and coordinate with other relevant actors on protection responses
- **BE PREPARED:** analyse legislative, institutional and policy contexts, trends of groups at risk, identify the key protection-actors, and adopt safe communication channels
- Put in place a **PROTECTION RESPONSE** with clear protocols and **FOLLOW-UP** (including documentation) and train staff accordingly
- Responses should be based on informed **CONSENT**, and reflect the principles of **CONFIDENTIALITY** and **DO NO HARM**



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