MECHANISMS THROUGH WHICH CIVIL SOCIETY CAN CONTEST RESTRICTIONS TO PARTICIPATION

SAFETY OF PERSONS WHO ENGAGE WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

DIVERSITY OF CIVIL SOCIETY, INCLUDING TRADITIONALLY UNDERREPRESENTED POPULATIONS

TRANSPARENT AND FAIR ACCREDITATION AND REGISTRATION PROCESSES

FAIR RULES ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND PARTICIPATION MODALITIES

STEPPING STONES FOR BETTER CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT
WHY CIVIL SOCIETY MATTERS?

• Civil society brings a variety of voices from the ground to the table, including those usually not heard;
• Civil society helps shed light on local concerns;
• Civil society can suggest solutions tailored to local needs, thus increasing the credibility of policy responses and the effectiveness of UN interventions;
• Civil society contributes different perspectives and sets of expertise to discussions;
• Civil society helps put people at the centre of the development agenda and include those at risk of being left behind.

HOW TO STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS’ ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY?

• Adopt robust policies for participation and engagement, and on access to information which allow civil society to share their experiences, expertise, needs, and views;
• Put in place transparent, fair and gender-sensitive accreditation and registration processes that deliver prompt decisions;
• Ensure the safety and security of persons seeking to engage, off line and on line, with regional and international organizations. Prevent and condemn acts of reprisals against them;
• Be inclusive and reach out to underrepresented parts of civil society such as those promoting the rights of women, children, young people, older persons, persons with disabilities, minorities, migrants and indigenous peoples;
• Enable the prompt and objective review by independent accountability mechanisms of restrictions imposed on civil society engagement;
• Give civil society an active role at all stages of the implementation of the SDGs and the High-level Political Forum reviews, with a view to ensuring that no one is left behind.