

Hearing Civil Society Voices in Treaty Making

People want to influence their futures – including during intergovernmental negotiations of new treaties. Having a say and participating in decisions that impact their lives are fundamental rights protected by international human rights law. Civil society participation also makes for more legitimate and more effective treaties and outcomes.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

- ✓ Civil society brings a variety of voices to the table and contributes different perspectives and sets of expertise, including those usually not heard;
- ✓ Civil society helps shed light on local concerns and priorities and suggests solutions tailored to local needs;
- ✓ Civil society is key to putting people at the centre of the decision-making and ultimately strengthens accountability.

“ Everyone shall have the right to take part in the conduct of public affairs. ”
Article 25, ICCPR



GOOD EXAMPLES



Draft Legally Binding Instrument on Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises

Open ended intergovernmental working group, established under the Human Rights Council, adopted inclusive civil society engagement modalities.

ECOSOC accredited civil society have speaking rights at each session and are allowed to invite partners without ECOSOC status to speak (some organizations accredit 10+ people each per year)

Civil society invited to make written submissions on the process and content of the treaty



Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Inclusion

Inclusion of persons with disabilities and their organizations in the State Party delegations negotiating the text

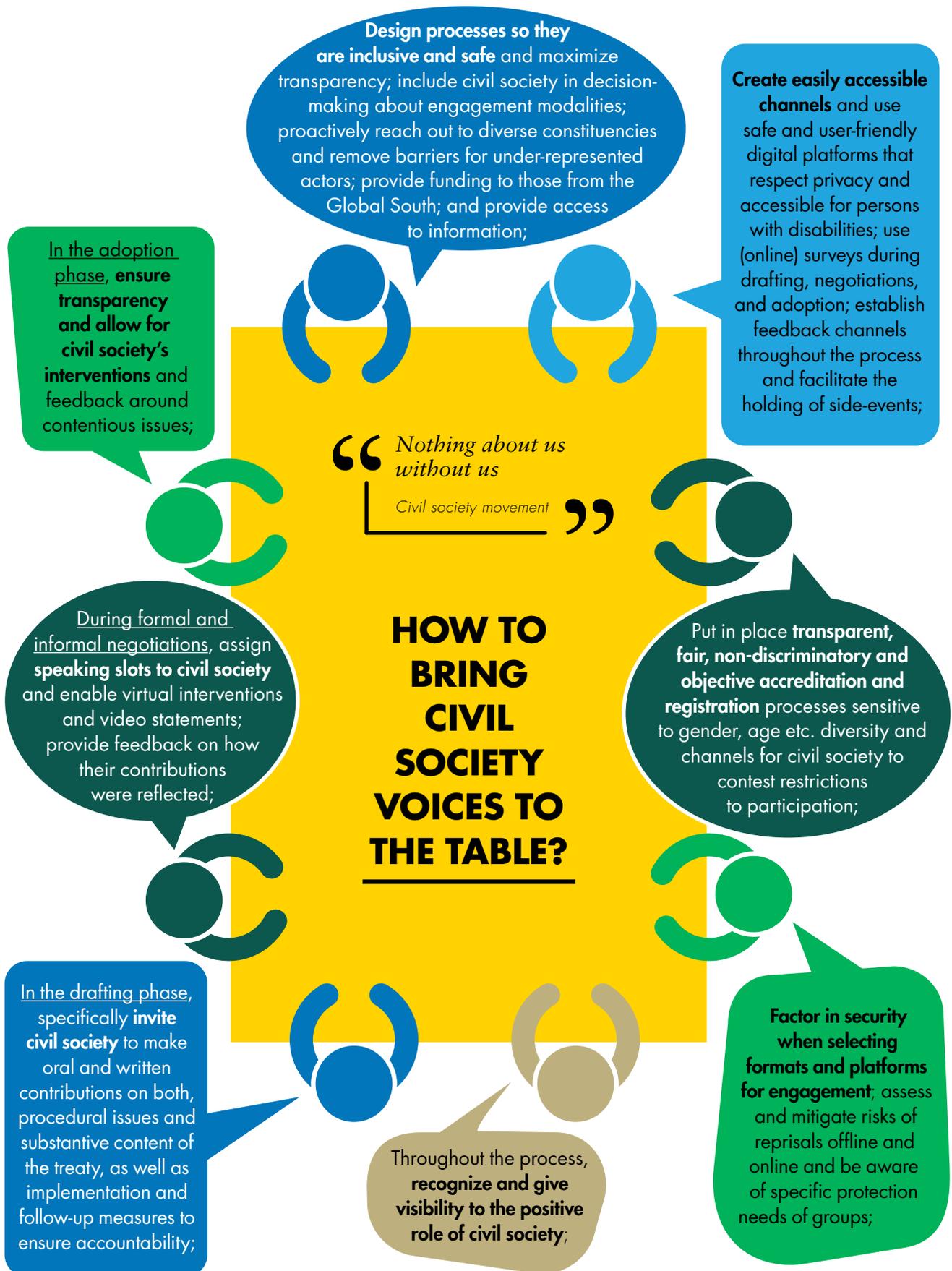
Equal voice

Equal voice and contributions of civil society and persons with disabilities at the negotiating table, including representation in the drafting working group

Trust fund

Trust Fund to specifically support participation from the Global South

75% of the convention text contributed by persons with disabilities for persons with disabilities



Link to web-site on [engagement with international and regional organizations \(A/HRC/44/25\)](#)
Link to web-site on [intimidation and reprisals for cooperation with the UN](#)