

5 STEPPING STONES FOR BETTER CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT

**FAIR RULES ON ACCESS
TO INFORMATION
AND PARTICIPATION
MODALITIES**

**TRANSPARENT AND
FAIR ACCREDITATION
AND REGISTRATION
PROCESSES**

**DIVERSITY OF CIVIL
SOCIETY, INCLUDING
TRADITIONALLY
UNDERREPRESENTED
POPULATIONS**

**SAFETY OF PERSONS
WHO ENGAGE
WITH INTERNATIONAL
ORGANISATIONS**

**MECHANISMS THROUGH
WHICH CIVIL SOCIETY CAN
CONTEST RESTRICTIONS
TO PARTICIPATION**

CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

HIGH COMMISSIONER REPORT A / HRC / 38 / 18

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 ORGANIZA- TIONS' 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.