



Reporting for the Future

Final Report Ready for Review 2019

A CSPPS project supporting the participation of Civil Society in fragile and conflict affected countries that submit a Voluntary National Review in 2019



**CIVIL SOCIETY
PLATFORM**
FOR PEACEBUILDING
AND STATEBUILDING

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- Asian Development Alliance (ADA)
- Coordination SUD
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- The FORUS Network
- The Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC)
- The Ministry of Economy, Planning and Cooperation of the Central African Republic
- The Transparency, Accountability and Participation Network (TAP Network), and its member and partner organizations in the Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Rwanda and Timor-Leste
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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

ADA	Asia Development Alliance
CAR	Central African Republic
CCM	Council of Minister
CEPSEDA	Centre for Peace, Security and Development Studies in Africa
CSCSD	Civil Society Coalition on Sustainable Development
CSDEA	Sustainable Development and Education in Africa
Cordaid	Catholic Organisation for Relief and Development Aid
CS	Civil Society
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSPPS	Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DEVCO	Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
FfD	Financing for Development
GERDDES	Group for Studies and Research on Democracy and Economic and Social Development in Africa
GPEDC	Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation
GPPAC	Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict
HLPF	High Level Political Forum
HDI	Human Development Index
IDPS	International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding
INCAF	International Network on Conflict and Fragility (OECD)
IPI	International Peace Institute
ISC/SDG-CI	Civil Society Initiative for the SDGs in Côte d'Ivoire
LDP	Local Development Process
MDG	Millenium Development Goal
MEAE	Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs of the French Republic
ND	New Deal
NEA	National Electoral Authority
NGO	Non-gouvernemental organisation
NMMC	National Multisectoral Monitoring Committee
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PSG	Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goal
RCA	Central African Republic
RDC	Democratic Republic of Congo
R4R	Ready for Review
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
TAP	Transparency, Accountability and Participation Network
TFP	Technical and Financial Partners
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNOY	United Network of Young Peacebuilders
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
VNR	Voluntary National Review

Reporting for the Future

AN INTRODUCTION

For the first time since the advent of the 2030 Agenda in 2015, progress towards SDG16 had a detailed review at the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in July 2019. With the support of the French MEAE and EU/DEVCO, this has prompted the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS) to implement its **Ready for Review** project.

The Ready for Review (R4R) is a CSPPS project to support civil society engagement in fragile and conflict-affected (FCAS) countries participating in the 2019 Voluntary National Reviews (VNR). Ready for Review was built around political dialogue processes taking place in context of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS)-partnership in which CSPPS represents civil society.

In embarking on this project, and through utilizing existing engagement in political dialogue processes, CSPPS sought to ensure and foster meaningful inclusion, participation and contribution of national and local civil society organizations in government-led SDG16 consultation, review and validation processes.

In partnership with the TAP Network, local civil society partners and others activities were implemented in a group of selected countries: Côte d'Ivoire, the Central African Republic, Chad, Sierra Leone, Timor-Leste, Rwanda, and Nigeria. This group of targeted countries illustrates CSPPS' willingness to make use of the existing partnership as built up in the context of the IDPS while at the same time opening doors for new connections by also providing support to non-g7+ countries (Rwanda, and Nigeria) in amplifying the voice of civil society in relevant policy processes around the VNR.

The Ready for Review Project was built on those lines. With capacity building training for civil society in selected countries on their strategic and thematic engagement in VNR processes (leading up to the HLPF2019 and beyond). The project supported optimal civil society participation and inclusive governance in the dialogue process to work towards a participatory and inclusive VNR process in those FCAS/g7+ countries that have come forward with a commitment to prepare a VNR in the lead-up to the HLPF2019. The focus of this dialogue process was on SDG16 (peaceful, just and inclusive societies) and SDG17 (partnerships for the goals), both essential pillars upon which national governments and civil society must rely to deal effectively with conflict prevention and vulnerability. The R4R project brought to civil society actors, in countries concerned, up to speed on what was expected from them in terms of contribution to the VNR-process and had them participated and contributed in a meaningful way to relevant processes leading to the review.

The report presented here provides an overview of activities carried out in context of the Ready for Review project, giving background information on the approach taken, detailing objectives and methodology. It subsequently describes in-country project implementation, showing analysis notes and lessons learned deriving from that. Next to this a segment is added where we describe how these lessons have been elevated and shared in the context of the HLPF in 2019. The learnings emanating from the Ready for Review report are hoped to inform subsequent review processes.

The VNR consultation processes as embarked upon clearly have provided a strategic entry point for continuous dialogue and coordination around next steps in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at country level. Broad civil society participation is instrumental to ensure localisation and inclusive implementation of the SDGs. Fostering the meaningful inclusion, participation and contribution of national and local civil society organizations in government-led SDG16 consultation, review and validation processes will ensure reporting for future advancement of the 2030 Agenda.

About CSPPS

WHO WE ARE

- **OUR IDENTITY:** The Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS) is a member-led international network composed of civil society actors, practitioners, experts and academics from the Global South and Global North who work together on conflict and crisis prevention, peacebuilding and statebuilding in over 27 fragile and conflict-affected countries (FCAS).
- **OUR VISION:** At CSPPS, we strive for international collaboration that brings sustainable peace and inclusive development for all.

WHAT WE DO

- **OUR MISSION:** Our mission is to strengthen the voice and capacity of society to effectively engage in, and influence, peacebuilding and statebuilding as a critical contribution to crisis prevention and sustainable peace and development for all.
- **OUR THEORY OF CHANGE:** If we shape and influence global and national structures to address sources of destructive conflict and to build resilience, then countries and their citizens will be less likely to resort to violent conflict because they will have the means to manage their grievances and build the quality of their lives.

OUR OBJECTIVES:

- Strengthen and broaden civil society engagement and inclusion in peacebuilding, statebuilding and crisis prevention
- Influence prevention, peacebuilding, statebuilding and development policies with peacebuilding values
- Shape and infuse the International Dialogue, the SDGs and humanitarian processes with peacebuilding values

OUR STRATEGY

- **NETWORK:** We support local and national CSOs based in fragile settings who wish to work together on a common agenda and form a national team or platform to organise themselves under the CSPPS banner to gain in coordination, coherence, efficiency, and visibility.
- **AMPLIFY:** We work to amplify the voice of civil society – via our members and through CSPPS Country Teams (CT) – by giving them the means and resources necessary to build up their capacities to be able to identify, participate and contribute as fully-fledged actors to national strategic policy-making and implementation arenas.
- **LOBBY:** We provide opportunities for our members to attend key strategic international forums and events to represent the civil society perspective of the Platform and to voice the needs and aspirations of their national constituencies and local populations.

WHY WE STAND OUT

- **A FOCUS ON CIVIL SOCIETY'S:** Over the last few years, peacebuilding and statebuilding initiatives and programmes have increasingly given support to CSOs, thus echoing the growing importance of these groups in development cooperation, as well as recognising their role in both the

domestic and international arenas. This is a trend particularly present in societies transitioning from war to peaceful, just and inclusive societies which we fully support and are part of.

documents (France) or incorporated the principles into their international development aid policy approach (Germany, The Netherlands and Switzerland).

- **LINKING THE SOUTH AND THE NORTH:**
CSPPS is a network made up of civil society organisations (CSO), as well as individual practitioners, experts and academics from the Global South and the Global North, and hence strives to foster an ongoing dialogue between the two spheres on key and emerging trends and policy issues.

- **PART OF THE UNIQUE IDPS**
STRUCTURE: CSPPS is part of a larger architecture called the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS). What is unique about the International Dialogue in today's peacebuilding environment is its exclusive tri-partite structure which gathers around the table government representatives from fragile states, international donors and civil society actors. The International Dialogue provides a formalised space within which civil society can voice its concerns on crucial aspects and burning issues of the peacebuilding agenda.

- **TAKING ACTION ON SDG16+ WORKING WITH NEW DEAL**
PRINCIPLES: CSPPS tackles the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through the prism of SDG16. SDG16 – or Goal 16 – refers to peace, justice and strong institutions. However, Goal 16 is closely interrelated with a number of other Goals, including for instance Goal 5 (gender equality), Goal 10 (reduced inequalities), and Goal 13 (climate action). The interdependence between these Goals and the need to address them together is captured under the overarching term “SDG16+”. The New Deal principles (PSGs, FOCUS and TRUST) guide the actions of CSPPS members on SDG16+. It is worth noting that a number of European Ministries of Foreign Affairs (MFA) have either made reference to the New Deal principles in their guiding national policy

HOW THE PLATFORM WORKS

WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE

The Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS – also referred to in this report as “the Platform”) coordinates and supports civil society participation in the **International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS)**. The IDPS is an inclusive partnership that facilitates joint learning, action and mutual accountability for support to inclusive and effective peacebuilding between donors (INCAF), governments from fragile and conflict-affected countries (g7+), and civil society (CSPPS). The International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF) is a unique network of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) members and key multilateral agencies working in fragile and conflict-affected contexts. The g7+ is a voluntary association of countries that are or have been affected by conflict and are now in transition to the next stage of development.

This inclusive tri-partite partnership brokered the *New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States*. The New Deal (ND) aims to end piecemeal solutions by promoting a comprehensive framework for coherent action to help countries transition out of fragility and conflict. At the heart of the New Deal lie the New Deal principles (PSGs, FOCUS and TRUST) which guide the actions of the three IDPS constituencies to tackle the challenges and deliver on the Goals related to SDG16+.

INTERNAL STRUCTURE

At its core, our network hosts coalitions of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) within (non-) g7+ countries, coordinated at country level by a **Focal**

Point Organization (FPO). As part of CSPPS, FPOs provide analysis, conduct advocacy work, coordinate activities (capacity building, awareness raising and media outreach) in their home countries, and help civil society actors participate in meetings convened by governmental and donor stakeholders.

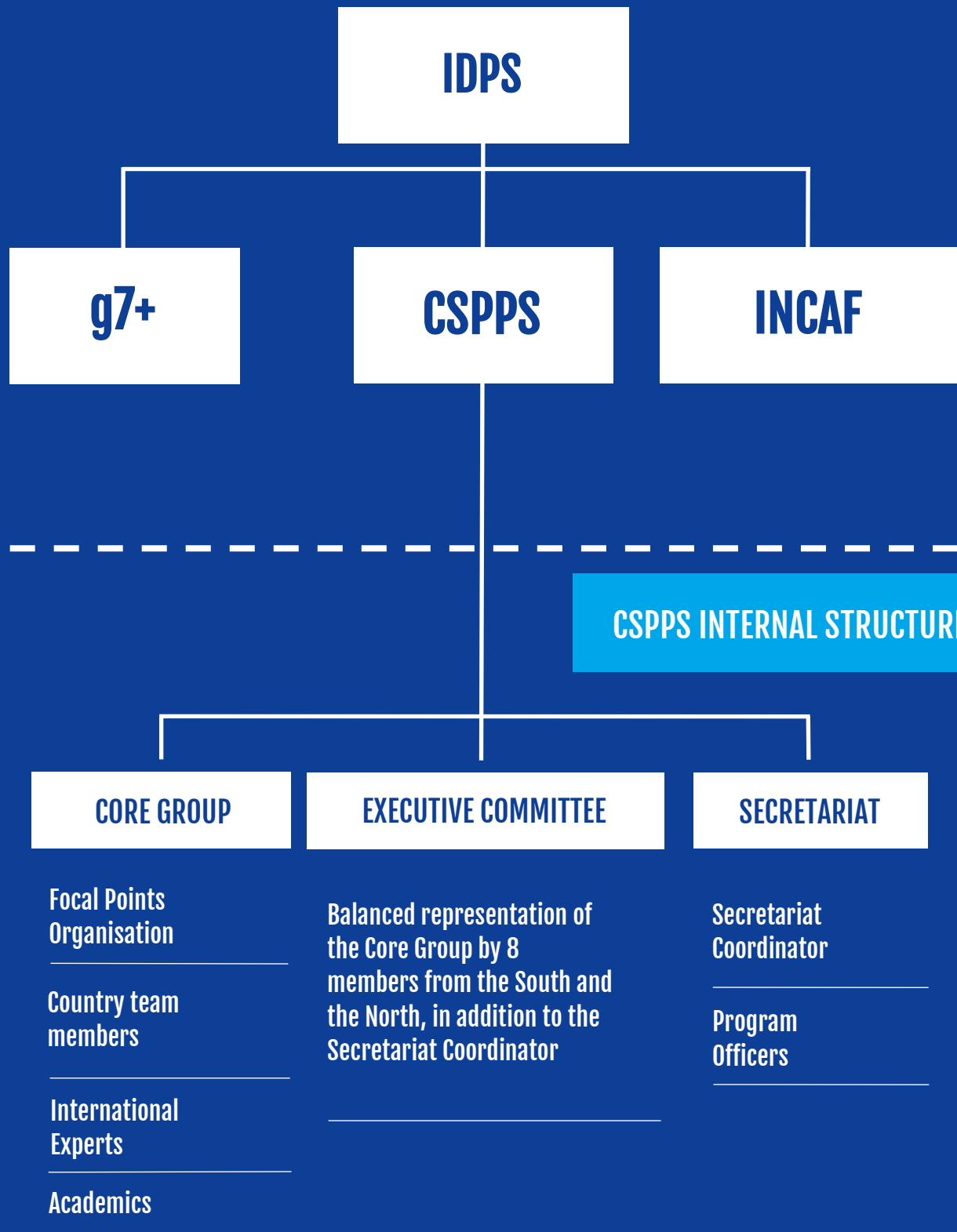
The **Core Group (CG)** is the main forum within CSPPS where engagement and leadership in peacebuilding processes are discussed and decided. The CG is made up of designated representatives from FPOs, CSPPS members and international experts.

Functioning as a subset of the membership, the elected **Executive Committee (EC)**, among other responsibilities, assists the Secretariat in day-to-day decision-making and provides guidance and advice on the platform’s issues and priorities, and reviews the use of the CSPPS budget.

The **Secretariat** facilitates the functioning of the Core Group and the Executive Committee and the participation of civil society participation in IDPS events, and generates and disseminates information about our members’ activities.

Together the Core Group, the Executive Committee and the Secretariat work to amplify the voice of CS, to strengthen the network of CS working on peacebuilding, and to ensure that CS members and representatives are included and participate as actors and agents – rather than recipients or evaluators – within the IDPS and related peacebuilding policy-making arenas, and that civil society is broadly and meaningfully represented in nationally-owned processes.

CSPPS IN THE INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE



CSPPS IN THE WORLD IN 2019

By the end of 2019, CSPPS had established a presence in 19 out of 20 g7+ countries (which are officially recognised as fragile) either in the form of Country Teams (CT), Focal Point Organisations (FPO) or contact persons. These countries are: Afghanistan, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea-Conakry, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Papua New Guinea, Sao Tome & Principe, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, South Sudan, Timor-Leste, Togo, Somalia and Yemen.

In addition, CSPPS is present in eight non-g7+ countries which present similar fragility dimensions: Cameroon, India, Kenia, Libya, Nepal, Nigeria, Senegal and Zimbabwe.

Finally, the Platform comprises INGO members from 11 Northern countries, namely Australia (Peacifica), Belgium (SFCG), Denmark (RIKO, Conductive Space for Peace), Germany (FriEnt and World Vision Intl), the United Kingdom (Integrity Action, Conciliation Resources, Saferworld, International Alert), the United States of America (Alliance for Peacebuilding, CDA, Intl Budget Partnership, SFCG, Interpeace), Switzerland (swisspeace), and the Netherlands (Cordaid, GPPAC, Oxfam Novib, UNOY, SEMA).



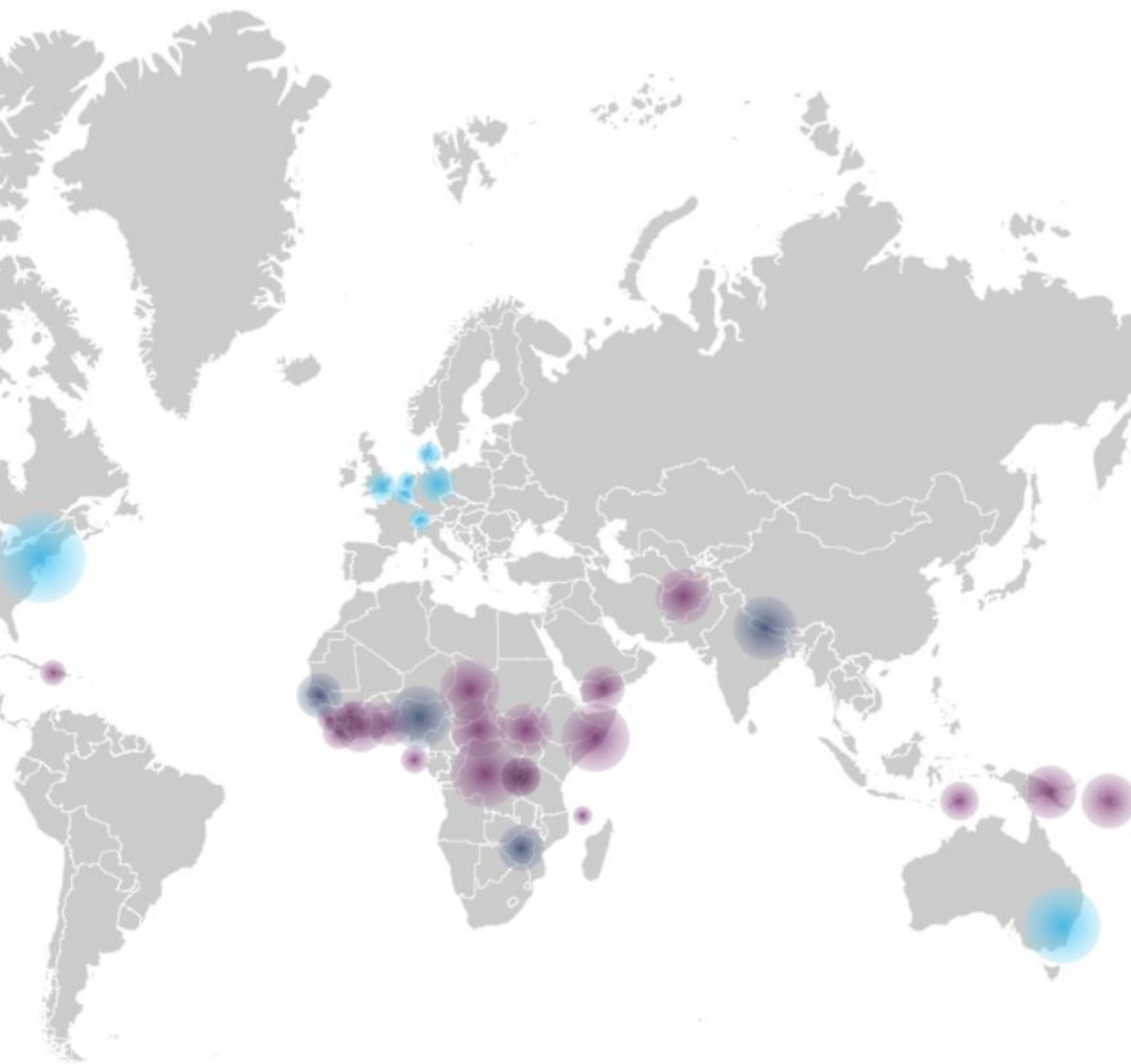
g7+ CSO Country Teams and Individual Contacts



Northern INGO members and partner countries



Non-g7+ CSO Country Teams and Individual Contacts



Ready for Review Project

Background Information

HLPF 2019 – The High Level Policy Forum (HLPF) is the main UN platform on sustainable development. It plays a central role in the follow-up and review of the Sustainable Development Agenda to 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the global level. It takes place every year in New York in July.

VNR Process – The HLPF is an opportunity for Member States to report on a voluntary basis on the progress made in the implementation of the SDGs at national and sub-national levels, through an inclusive government-led review, known as the Voluntary National Review Report (VNR). These regular reviews at the HLPF should be voluntary, state-led, conducted by both developed and developing countries, and involve a wide range of stakeholders, including civil society. The VNR aims to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including

successes, challenges and achievements, with a view to accelerating the implementation of Agenda 2030. The VNRs also aim to strengthen government policies and institutions and mobilize support from a wide range of stakeholders and encourage partnerships for the implementation of the SDGs.

The challenge for 2019 - The theme of the HLPF in 2019 was "Empowering People and Ensuring Equality and Inclusiveness for All". For the first time since the implementation of Agenda 2030 in 2015, SDG 16, among other Goals (i.e. SDGs 4, 8, 10, 13 and 17), was subjected to a detailed review in July 2019. SDG 16 seeks to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, to ensure access to justice for all, and to develop effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.



PROJECT OBJECTIVE AND ACTIVITIES

CSPPS receives financial support from the European Commission's Directorate General for Development and Cooperation (**EU/DEVCO**) to implement its 2018-2020 action plan from January 2019 to December 2020.

Extract from the EU report on EU Country Roadmaps for Engagement with Civil Society : *“Partnering with the EU globally and with EU Delegations in **FCAS-countries going for review contributed to the implementation of the EU Country Roadmaps for Engagement with Civil Society, by liaising and working directly with EU Delegations to safeguard and solidify the role of civil society in conflict prevention and sustaining peace at country level where the project was conducted - and discuss their engagement in the VNR-process at hand.**”*

On January 1, 2019, CSPPS began a one-year collaboration with the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (**MEAE**) to enable CSPPS to continue and expand its activities to amplify the voice of civil society within the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS), and to help implement the Ministry's comprehensive approach to addressing crises and fragile contexts.

Extract from the French report on Prevention, Resilience and Sustainable Peace (2018-2022) A

Comprehensive Approach to the Fragilization of States and Societies: *“The fact that the French MEAE has fully embraced the five peacebuilding and statebuilding **Goals of the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States** and placed them at the very heart of its new 2018 strategy on response to fragile situations is reflective of France's strong commitment to peacebuilding, statebuilding, inclusive and democratic governance, adopting a long-term view to addressing different dimensions of fragility, supporting state and societal resilience, addressing root causes of conflict and instability, and offering opportunities for youth and women, as preconditions to achieve the 2030 Agenda, including SDG16+, in fragile and conflict-affected contexts. More specifically, with the support of the MEAE and EuropeAid, CSPPS, through its Ready for Review Project, seeks to ensure the meaningful inclusion, participation and contribution of civil society in VNR processes - with a focus on SDG 16+ - in the selected countries, namely Côte d'Ivoire, Central African Republic, Chad, Sierra Leone, Timor-Leste and Nigeria.”*

Since the submission of the first project proposal to the MEAE (in December 2018), and in line with the latest developments since January 2019, CSPPS has slightly modified the proposed activities in order to deliver a more relevant, effective and adapted approach to the national contexts in which the CSOs we support operate. The overall objective remains the same: *to strengthen the voice and capacity of civil society to engage and influence peacebuilding and state-building as an essential contribution to the prevention of crisis and conflict, and the maintenance of sustainable peace and development for all.*

At the level of the Secretariat in Europe, the support provided helped the Platform to implement its work plan and to establish contacts with French NGOs (Coordination SUD and FORUS) and relevant sections of the MEAE (AFD, CIV, Expertise France) to explore possibilities for collaboration. Within the selected countries, this enabled CSPPS to ensure, with the help of the TAP Network, and to the extent possible depending on the political context, the inclusion, participation and serious contribution of national and local CSOs (including through targeted sensitization of youth and women's organizations) during the different stages of consultation and validation of the VNR process in Côte d'Ivoire, in the Central African Republic, Chad, Sierra Leone and Timor-Leste through orientation and awareness-raising workshops as a first step, and capacity development workshops as a second step. CSPPS has expanded its collaboration with the TAP Network in Nigeria and Rwanda. Finally, during and after the HLPF, CSPPS organized a peer-to-peer exchange to reflect on the experiences and achievements of CSOs that have been involved in this year's VNR process.



IMPLEMENTATION OF THE READY FOR REVIEW PROJECT IN FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES: CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, CÔTE D'IVOIRE, CHAD

As a key aspect of the Ready for Review project, the CSPPS Secretariat has committed itself to organize, with the financial support of the MEAE, and in coordination with its focal points and local partners, capacity building workshops for local civil society actors in three target countries: Central African Republic, Chad and Côte d'Ivoire.

Objective

The objective behind these workshops is, as far as possible according to the political context, to ensure the relevant inclusion, participation and contribution of local and national CSOs (including through targeted awareness-raising of youth and women's organisations) during the different stages of consultation and validation of the Voluntary National Review Report (VNR) process on the SDGs through orientation, awareness raising and capacity building workshops.

The inclusive participation of civil society in this government-led consultation process is essential not only as an exercise in democracy and good governance in countries with many dimensions of fragility, but also so that civil society can contribute qualitatively to the government's national report on the SDGs, particularly on two specific

objectives: SDG 16 (peaceful, just and inclusive societies) and SDG 17 (partnerships for the achievement of SDGs), both essential pillars on which national governments and civil society efforts to effectively and sustainably address conflict prevention and vulnerabilities are based.

Results

With the methodological support provided by the ADIN consultant expert (see next page), and in coordination with its members and local and international partners, CSPPS was able to successfully conduct the planned workshops, build the capacity of local civil society, capture and compile their recommendations and key messages, and ensure their inclusion and participation in the VNR consultation process in their respective countries.

In addition to the three French-speaking countries originally targeted, CSPPS also contributed, with financial support from the European Commission, to similar workshops conducted by its partner, the TAP Network, in three other countries where the Platform is also present: Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Timor-Leste.

Expert consultant: profile and mission



Recommended by the TAP Network, CSPPS recruited the services of Mr Martin Tsounkeu, General Representative of the Africa Development Interchange Network (ADIN).

ADIN specializes in development, poverty reduction and the protection of human rights in a safe environment. An NGO accredited to the UN in the financing for development (FfD) process, ADIN also holds special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 2011. The NGO works closely with UNDP and the Commonwealth Foundation on issues related to financing for development and assessing Africa's progress towards achieving the SDGs.

From April to June 2019, Mr Tsounkeu's mission, as part of the Ready for Review project, was (a) to support the Secretariat in designing a consultative workshop methodology (data collection tools, programme, etc.), (b) to organize and facilitate consultative workshops on the SDGs as part of the VNR process in three target countries: Côte d'Ivoire, Central African Republic and Chad, and (c) to provide the Secretariat with a comparative report containing its critical analysis of the main challenges, lessons learned and recommendations for CSOs consulted in the first edition of the Ready for Review project.

Workshops Methodology

The consultation methodology developed by the ADIN consultant and the CSPPS programme officer was often described as "unorthodox" by workshop participants. Indeed, the methodology used deliberately sought to ensure that participants took a critical look at the implementation of the SDGs in their national context, rather than attempting a simple restitution exercise.

With this in mind, local CSO representatives were asked to reflect on the challenges of the SDGs in their respective national contexts from three different perspectives, and therefore in three stages:

- (1) First, from an individual point of view: based on their daily work in the field within their organization (with an individual Questionnaire as a supporting working document)
- (2) Secondly, from a collective point of view: within a working group on one of the six SDGs examined in detail this year at HLPF 2019 (with a Collective Sheet as working support);
- (3) Finally, thirdly, from a unified perspective: by drafting, compiling and commenting on recommendations and key messages addressed to a number of specific stakeholders.



Context

The Central African Republic (CAR) entered civil war in 2012. Despite the peace agreement signed in February 2018 between the government and various rebel groups, the country still faces serious security problems. While Bangui is currently relatively unaffected by violent armed clashes, lawlessness, crime and the absence of the rule of law are still widespread in the rest of the country. Outside the capital, its suburbs and some provinces under the authority of the government, it is estimated that armed rebel groups control no less than 70% of the national territory. The National Electoral Authority (NEA) has set the first round of presidential elections for 27 December 2020.

First steps: sensitization and orientation workshop

CSPPS is present in the Central African Republic through its country team based in Bangui, the capital, whose focal point organization is the Group for Studies and Research on Democracy and Economic and Social Development in Africa (GERDDES), represented by Mr Eloi Kouzoundji. CORDAID is also present and works in seven prefectures.

As early as January 2019, CSPPS and CORDAID worked together on a first awareness and orientation workshop on civic space reduction and the Voluntary National Review (VNR), bringing together about 20 local civil society partners from CORDAID and CSPPS. The workshop took place on February 26-27. It provided an opportunity to share information and update knowledge on the VNR consultation process, which is often misunderstood and suffers from a real lack of communication and outreach.

By Prime Minister's Order n°029 of 15 October 2018, a National Committee for the Monitoring of



the Implementation of the SDGs was set up to start the work of contextualizing and domesticating the targets and indicators of the SDGs, which served as the basis for CAR's national report on the SDGs. The Ministry of Planning is in charge of chairing it. This Committee is organized around four pillars - governance, economy, social and environment - and includes representatives of various stakeholders: government, parliament, civil society organizations (CSOs), the private sector, academic institutions and, finally, technical and financial partners (TFPs).

Of the four civil society representatives at the Committee table, three were also members of the CSPPS country team. CSPPS, through its involvement and participation in the work of the Committee, shared its experience and knowledge in this field with other members of civil society present at the workshop on 26-27 February. Through the Integrated Rapid Assessment (RIA) as part of the process of contextualizing and prioritizing the targets and indicators of the SDGs in CAR, the Committee was able to situate the average degree of alignment of the National Peace Recovery and Consolidation Plan (RCPA) with the SDGs at about 50%, and to prioritize 38 SDG targets for peace and development in CAR.

In addition to this introduction to the VNR process, the challenges of the 2019 HLPF, and the work of the SDG Committee chaired by the Ministry of Planning, members of civil society also engaged in an exercise to produce policy recommendations and key messages addressed to public authorities and technical and financial partners (TFPs) on the issue of civic space in CAR. The focus was on reducing civic space in order to draft concrete proposals and contextualize the challenges faced in CAR for SDG 16, peace and justice.

May: Consultation workshop

Following this first awareness and orientation workshop held in February, CSO actors held a workshop on May 7, 2019 in the AGETIP-CAF conference room in Bangui to formulate more elaborate contributions and recommendations to share the civil society perspective as part of the United Nations system's inclusive and participatory consultation process on the Voluntary National Review (VNR) for any country wishing to submit its VNR Report to the HLPF, and this with the support of the Government, through the National Coordination for monitoring the implementation of the SDGs, CSPPS, Cordaid, and World Vision.

More specifically, for CSOs, these were: (i) mobilize and strengthen the capacities of their stakeholders to address the issues and challenges of the HLPF and the VNR process; (ii) formulate relevant contributions by selected sustainable development objective in order to integrate them into the VNR report currently being finalized; and finally (iii)

adopt recommendations by stakeholders for the follow-up of Agenda 2030.

The workshop, facilitated by Martin Tsounkeu, ADIN's general representative and expert facilitator referred by the TAP Network and CSPPS, was held over one day and was attended by 45 people. The process can be divided into two parts: (i) insights into the processes of voluntary national reviews and the High Level Political Forum; (ii) commission work.



Once the work in committee was completed, and the group sheets were presented in plenary, two types of contribution were retained by all the participants in the workshop: contribution formulations by selected SDGs and consolidated recommendations by actor. The formulations and recommendations of Central African CSOs on SDGs are available in the following pages.

Bangui, CAR – Results obtained for SDGs 16 and 17

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 16
Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels



Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Challenges

Increased need for peace, sustainable security and justice for all	Need for access to basic social services and means of production
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Recommendations

- To the Government and Parliament**
 - Involvement of all civil society in the process of promoting sustainable peace and social cohesion
 - Establish a permanent means of collecting reliable data for the SDGs to facilitate a reliable assessment of progress at the national level
 - Implementation of the peace agreement while respecting the principles of justice and national reconciliation
 - Establishment of the institutions provided for in the Constitution, involving all sections of the population (decentralization)
 - Application of good governance in all institutions and the fight against corruption in public services
- To technical and financial partners**
 - Provide regular financial and technical support
- To civil society**
 - Sensitization and advocacy of the general population on the SDGs and attitudinal change

* It should be noted that as part of these consultations, civil society representatives expressed their views on all the six SDGs examined in detail this year: SDGs 4, 8, 10, 13, 16, and 17. All contributions and recommendations by SDG are available in the full workshop report.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development



Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Challenges

Weakness of CSO intervention due to:	The weak decentralization of State structures on the territory
The country's economic and financial fragility	The weak support of partners
The weak structural organization of CSOs	The lack of knowledge of the SDGs17 and Agenda 2030
Permanent insecurity	Poor coordination of CSOs

Recommendations

To the Government and Parliament

- Restoring security throughout the country
- Ensure the effective presence of State services throughout the country
- Provide institutional and financial support to CSOs

To civil society

- Take ownership of SDG17 and Agenda 2030
- Strengthen CSOs organizational capacity
- Strengthen CSOs coordination

To technical and financial partners

- Allocation of significant financial resources to CSOs
- Provide technical support to CSOs

To the private sector

- Taking ownership of the SDGs and Agenda 2030
- Strengthening partnership with CSOs

Expert Consultant Analysis:

What emerges from the consultations in the Central African Republic



Main challenges

- Low awareness of the population on the SDGs.
- Weak involvement of CSOs and grassroots communities in the VNR process.
- Weak collaboration between CSOs.
- Problem with road and school infrastructure.
- Insecurity throughout the country.
- Insufficient quality of teachers.



Recommendations

- Create and harmonize national coordination of CSO platforms.
- Allocate significant financial and technical resources to CSOs.
- Build, rehabilitate and equip appropriate quality school infrastructure, including secondary, technical and literacy education, throughout CAR.
- Ensure continuous financial, technical and material support for the results-based education system and improve the quality of teachers.
- Inform and raise awareness among the general population about the SDGs.
- Involve grassroots communities more in the process of implementing and evaluating the SDGs.
- Create entrepreneurial opportunities for young people to overcome the problem of unemployment.
- Implement the peace agreement by obligatory disarming, in accordance with the principles of justice and national reconciliation.
- Validate the National Action Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change.
- Develop road infrastructure by involving each community through management committees.
- Apply good governance in all institutions and fight corruption in public services.



Lessons learned

Communication between civil society actors and grassroots populations is essential to enable communities to take ownership of the SDGs and become more actively involved.

Highlights of the workshop



Awareness-raising and information sharing: the secret of mobilization

At the programmatic level, it is clear that the first awareness-raising and orientation workshop held in Bangui in February paid off for civil society in terms of raising awareness of the SDGs, but also in terms of raising awareness of the opportunity that the VNR represents for civil society to be heard on national issues related to development, peace and security. The sharing of information and the dissemination of the work of the Committee and the VNR process secured a significant mobilization of civil society for the May consultation workshop.



Coordination of efforts between local CSOs, intl. NGOs and government

The meetings held on the spot by the CSPPS representative and local (CSPPS country team), governmental (Ministry of Planning) and international (CORDAID, UNDP, EU Delegation, and French Embassy) actors allowed for coordination of efforts, information sharing, and demonstrated a clear willingness of national actors to take ownership and work together on this agenda. For example, the exchange with the Ministry of Planning allowed CSPPS to be in contact with World Vision (Central African Republic) to discuss coordination of the type of support to provide the consultation workshop in May.

Areas for improvement



Lack of time to conduct the consultation workshop

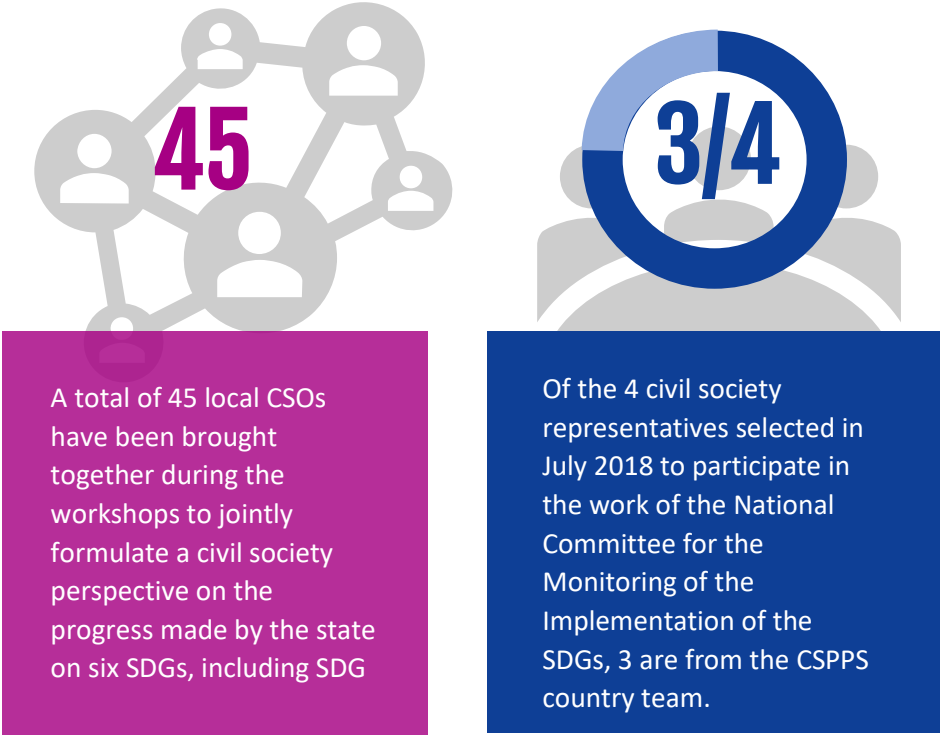
The time allocated for the May consultation workshop was not sufficient. This had an impact on the weak formulation of the results obtained by SDG. As the workshop lasted quite late, the number of participants from 45 people at the beginning gradually decreased to 22 people at the end of the day. It should be noted that the consultation workshop was originally scheduled for April, and that it was to take place over two days, not just one. However, due to problems in obtaining the support of an expert facilitator within a very short period of time, the workshop was postponed to May. In addition, there was the challenge of finding a date to hold this workshop during a particularly busy period for the government as it consolidated its data for the VNR.



No monitoring mechanism in place

This first constraint also did not allow the establishment of a mechanism to monitor the results obtained. It would therefore be desirable for the VNR visibility process to include an activity to consolidate and monitor the results of this workshop. It is also desirable to anticipate the process of popularizing CAR's VNR after July 2019. This activity could be one of the programme components of the monitoring mechanism to be put in place.

Central African Republic: the R4R project at glance



A word from our CSPPS Country Team: Challenges and the work ahead for civil society

The major challenge for CSOs in CAR in the process of ownership of the SDGs and their implementation beyond the HLF will undoubtedly be to strengthen their technical and financial capacity. While it is true that civil society is broadly represented at 30% in the SDG Implementation Coordination Committee, this representativeness will only be sustainable and effective if the technical capacities of CSOs within and outside this committee are significantly strengthened, including at the grassroots community level, to better understand and take ownership of the SDGs and move towards implementation actions.

Moreover, the implementation of the SDGs requires the implementation of concrete actions on the ground and especially at the local level in order to move from theoretical concepts to an effective and visible implementation of the SDGs. This implies that CSOs have significant financial resources to carry out these activities. The mechanism for consolidating achievements, monitoring results and disseminating the VNR process should pay particular attention to this central challenge.

Eloi Kouzoundji
CSPPS Focal Point in CAR | GERDDES

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The major challenge for CSOs in CAR in the process of ownership of SDOs and their implementation beyond the HLPF will undoubtedly be the strengthening of their technical and financial capacity. (...) The mechanism for consolidating achievements, monitoring results and popularizing the VNR process should pay particular attention to this central challenge.

Eloi Kouzoundji -

CSPPS Focal Point in CAR

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

ABIDJAN

CONTEXT

Côte d'Ivoire has a strong economic performance of more than 9% between 2012-2017 but nevertheless faces enormous social needs reflected in high poverty (46.3% in 2015) and a low human development index (HDI). The challenges related to the preservation of its forest cover, climate and living environment remain priority projects for the government. In terms of security, the country, which is emerging from a long crisis (1999-2011), has been able to resolutely restore the authority of the State and republican institutions throughout the country. Yet, as the country prepares for a new round of voting next year, scheduled for October 2020, peace and progress over the past eight years could be compromised. The same failures of governance and reform that caused the first Ivorian electoral crisis could lead to a second crisis. It is in this uncertain pre-electoral climate that Ivorian civil society as part of the Ready for Review project was asked to comment on crucial issues related to SDG 16, such as peace, good governance and social dialogue.

Partnerships and Ivorian civil society proactiveness

CSPPS is present in Côte d'Ivoire through its country team whose focal point organization is the National Forum on Debt and Poverty (FNDP), represented by Mr Diakalia Ouattara, expert in development cooperation.

Following teleconferences with the UNDP Central Office in New York in January, the CSPPS Secretariat was put in contact with Mr El-Alassane Baguia, Programme Specialist of the Economic, Strategic and Political Unit of the UNDP Office in Côte d'Ivoire. Subsequently, Mr Baguia put CSPPS in contact with Ms Rachel Gogoua, President of the Civil Society Initiative for the SDGs in Côte d'Ivoire (ISC/SDG-CI). As a result, from February onwards, after the first exchanges of information presentation and sharing, a partnership was established between the UNDP Office in Côte d'Ivoire, ISC/SDG-CI, FNDP and the CSPPS Secretariat to work in coordination, develop terms

Ivorian civil society, which is not marginal to development processes at the national level, plays a major role in the processes of dialogue, implementation, monitoring and evaluation and accountability of public action. This is reflected in the official establishment in October 2017 of the ISC/SDG-CI platform, so that civil society can support and participate in the activities of the Ministries of Planning and Development; Environment and Sustainable Development. According to the communiqué adopted by the Council of Ministers (CCM) on 6 June 2018, 83% of the SDGs targets are taken into account in national and sectoral policies out of the 105 implementation targets, while after the prioritization work, 40 targets have been selected as priorities for Côte d'Ivoire. The review of the 230 indicators of the SDGs, which covered the period 2014-2017, made it possible to provide

information on 101 indicators, i.e. 44%, from survey and administrative sources.

Awaiting the government's roadmap for national consultations on the SDGs, the partners decided to act proactively and launch consultations with Ivorian civil society.



As the economic backbone of the country, in addition to hosting a large number of national and local CSOs, the city of Abidjan was the first step in the VNR consultation process. The Abidjan workshop, held on 26-27 April, brought together about 50 CSOs. Government observers joined the workshop to represent their respective ministries and occasionally intervene in the exchanges of civil society working groups.

From Abidjan to Bouaké: Bringing the consultations further inland

Partners' efforts focused on two cities in Côte d'Ivoire: Abidjan and Bouaké. After a first CSO information and communication workshop on SDGs organized by ISC/SDG-CI on 8 March, which aimed to call for an active and effective mobilization of all stakeholders for the success of the Côte d'Ivoire review report, the launch of the workshops and their objective was revealed to the general public at a press conference organized by ISC/SDG-CI on 24 April. Courtesy visits were organized to the United Nations system in Côte d'Ivoire, the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, and the Director of Cabinet of the Minister of Planning and Development.

Organizing the second workshop in Bouaké, from April 30 to May 1, was strategic since it brought the consultation process to inland-based CSOs. The symbolic dimension of this choice is also important. Indeed, the city is reborn from the ashes of its rebel stronghold past, which dates back to the Ivorian crisis of 2010-2011. 55 CSOs from 30 different localities were consulted during the Bouaké workshop.

For the two consultation workshops, specifically, it was: sensitize CSOs on SDGs; deepen reflection on the issues and challenges of SDGs and the involvement of civil society actors; assess the level of accountability of different groups of actors and their specificities in the implementation of Agenda 2030; facilitate ownership of the SDGs selected for the HLPF in New York in July 2019; and, finally, collect recommendations for the effective implementation of SDGs by CSOs and government.



Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire – Results obtained for the SDGs 16 and 17

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 16

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels



Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire – Results obtained for the SDGs 16 and 17

Challenges	
Access to justice for all	Social dialogue between the government and other actors (trade unions, opposition parties, etc.)
Strengthening the security of people and property	Social cohesion, as the issue of insecurity is still unresolved

Recommendations
To government and institutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduce all forms of violence and associated mortality rates in the country ▪ Reduce corruption and bribery in all its forms ▪ Establish effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels by promoting institutional reform and access to impartial justice ▪ Promote a gender approach in the implementation of Security Sector Reform programmes (SSR) which is a tool for preventing community tensions and conflicts
To technical and financial partners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide legal and human rights experts to organizations for training and seminars as part of the tools of civil society organizations ▪ Create laws that will encourage the least developed countries
To decentralized local authorities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide training on the right to law enforcement

* It should be noted that in the framework of these consultations, civil society representatives gave their views on all the SDGs examined in detail this year, six in total: SDGs 4, 8, 10, 13, 16 and 17. All the contributions and recommendations by SDGs are available in the full report of the workshop.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development



Strengthen the means to implement the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development and revitalize it.

Challenges

Weakness of CSO intervention due to:

Weak communication around SDGs

Low knowledge on SDGs and mechanisms related to their implementation by civil society

Low synergy of action between CSOs and between CSOs and other actors (government, private sector, and local communities)

Low ownership and implementation of the SDGs despite international commitments ratified by the government

Recommandations

To government and institutions

- Continue to take into account the SDGs and their implementation in the NDP
- Internalizing the global partnership
- Take into account the objectives of peace-building and state-building (PSGs)

To civil society

- Match their activities with the SDGs to better understand them

To technical and financial partners

- Facilitate collaboration between state and non-state actors for the implementation, promotion and extension of the SDGs

To the academic world

- Develop training curricula that integrate SDGs in order to universalize learners' knowledge in the face of global challenges

To the private sector

- Extend their action on the appropriation of all the SDGs and not limit themselves to those that concern them in order to fully integrate the idea of satisfying the economic and social well-being of populations

Bouake, Côte d'Ivoire – Results obtained for the SDGs 16 and 17

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 16

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels



Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Challenges	
Issues related to reconciliation, national cohesion and education for a culture of peace	Good governance, proper allocation of resources and capacity building of judicial personnel

Recommendations
To government and institutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Include the culture of peace in school textbooks, from pre-school to higher education ▪ Allocate State resources in an equitable manner, taking into account the specificities ▪ Strengthen institutions that fight corruption and promote good governance ▪ Strengthen the capacity of judicial and security personnel (magistrates, clerks, prison guards, police officers and gendarmes) on professional ethics ▪ Pass a law on the legal status of CSOs
To technical and financial partners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide financial support for the implementation of the school curriculum and the search for a culture of peace ▪ Provide financial and technical support or support to CSOs and State initiatives aimed at good governance, access to justice ▪ Strengthen CSOs capacity on SDGs for better ownership
To civil society
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure and monitor and evaluate the implementation of peace, justice and good governance policies (citizen control) ▪ Widely disseminate the reports or conclusions of civil society work ▪ Strengthen the capacities of stakeholders on the ownership of the SDGs for better monitoring
To the academic world
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create a research unit in crisisology, conflictology, polemology
To the private sector
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop training and capacity building curricula for private sector workers ▪ Denounce all corruption attempts proposed by state actors

* It should be noted that in the framework of these consultations, civil society representatives gave their views on all the SDGs examined in detail this year, six in total: SDGs 4, 8, 10, 13, 16 and 17. All the contributions and recommendations by SDGs are available in the full report of the workshop

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development



Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Challenges

The average and sectoral knowledge of the SDGs by CSOs, which implies a lack of synergy between CSOs	The failure to link the local context to communal and regional levels
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Recommendations

- To the government**

 - Reduce the cost of obtaining land titles and certificates
 - Establish food, goods and people security throughout the country
 - Invest in the construction and/or reprofiling of rural roads

- To civil society**

 - Take ownership of the global partnership and popularize it among the population
 - That ISC/SDG-CI give special attention to people with disabilities, older people and organisations fighting for women's rights in future workshops

- To local authorities**

 - Invest in the construction and/or reprofiling of rural roads
 - Involve the regions in the VNR process

Recommendations from government observers

As mentioned above, it is worth noting as an interesting fact for the workshops the presence of government observers from the ministries concerned by the SDGs examined (education, women's rights, economic planning, sustainable development, etc.) to attend civil society exchanges. During the workshops, these government observers came together to compare their respective ministries' perspectives on the role of civil society in contributing to the implementation of the SDGs. As an unexpected - but undeniably welcome - contribution, the observations noted and recommendations made by these government observers are as follows:

- ### Recommendations
- Towards CSOs**
 - Invite CSOs working on SDGs to a synergy of action
 - Invite CSOs to make the reports of the workshops in which they participate in the framework of the SDGs accessible to their members
 - Strengthen CSOs capacity on SDGs
 - For technical and financial partners**
 - Invite technical and financial partners to mobilize to support CSOs actions on SDGs
 - With regard to local and decentralized authorities**
 - Intensify partnerships between CSOs and local and regional authorities for the implementation of the SDGs

Photos of the Abidjan and Bouaké workshop



Expert Consultant Analysis:

What emerges from the consultations in Côte d'Ivoire



Main challenges

- Insufficient communication on SDGs.
- Low knowledge of the SDGs and the mechanisms related to their implementation by civil society.
- Low synergy of action between CSOs and between CSOs and other actors (government, private sector).
- Low ownership and implementation of the SDGs despite international commitments ratified by the government.



Recommendations

- Create a structure to coordinate the implementation of the SDGs.
- Strengthen CSO and community capacities on SDGs for their ownership and facilitation of their implementation.
- Mobilize resources for the implementation of the SDGs.
- Translate each SDG into an action plan.
- Develop a national plan for the implementation of the SDGs.
- Strengthen national, regional and international partnerships.
- Adapt communication on the SDGs to local realities and the specificities of the targets (sensory-motor physical disability).
- Strengthen and formalize the framework for collaboration between actors through the development of an inclusive policy.



Lessons learned

Civil society is a force that can, based on its proactivity, positively influence government action in the implementation of the SDGs. The coordination of its actions by pooling resources can improve its initiatives and performance.

Highlights of the workshop



Awareness-raising and information sharing: the secret of mobilization

At the programmatic level, it seems clear that the civil society awareness session in March was an essential first step in popularizing the VNR process, which subsequently generated interest and mobilized a large number of CSOs during the consultations.

Coordination of efforts



The teleconferences between UNDP HQ New York and its national offices in which CSPPS was invited to participate were a considerable asset to ensure optimal coordination of efforts at the national level within the VNR process. Early in the year, contacts between potential partners were established, a roadmap for the workshops was drafted in consultation with partners, and the roles and responsibilities of the partners were distributed to ensure synergy of effort: UNDP provided material support and advanced funds to cover the logistical aspect of the workshops; FNNDP and ISC/SDG were responsible for mobilizing civil society actors, and CSPPS recruited a consultant expert and developed with him the workshop programme in addition to the consultation methodology.



The presence and contribution of government observers

Observers from government ministries played several roles during the Abidjan and Bouaké workshops: first, an observer role; second, a rapporteur role, both with their colleagues from other ministries present at the workshops and with their respective ministries, to inform the latter of the work undertaken by Ivorian civil society. While government observers called for synergy of action towards civil society, they also became aware of the lack of coordination on the issue of SDGs between their respective ministries.



Conduct consultations in several regions of the country

Undeniably, what distinguishes consultation activities in Côte d'Ivoire from those undertaken in CAR and Chad is that they were not limited to one city or region. In addition to enriching civil society's perspective and recommendations on SDGs, bringing the consultation process from Abidjan to Bouaké allowed for the capture and comparison of the different findings and perspectives of the two regions.

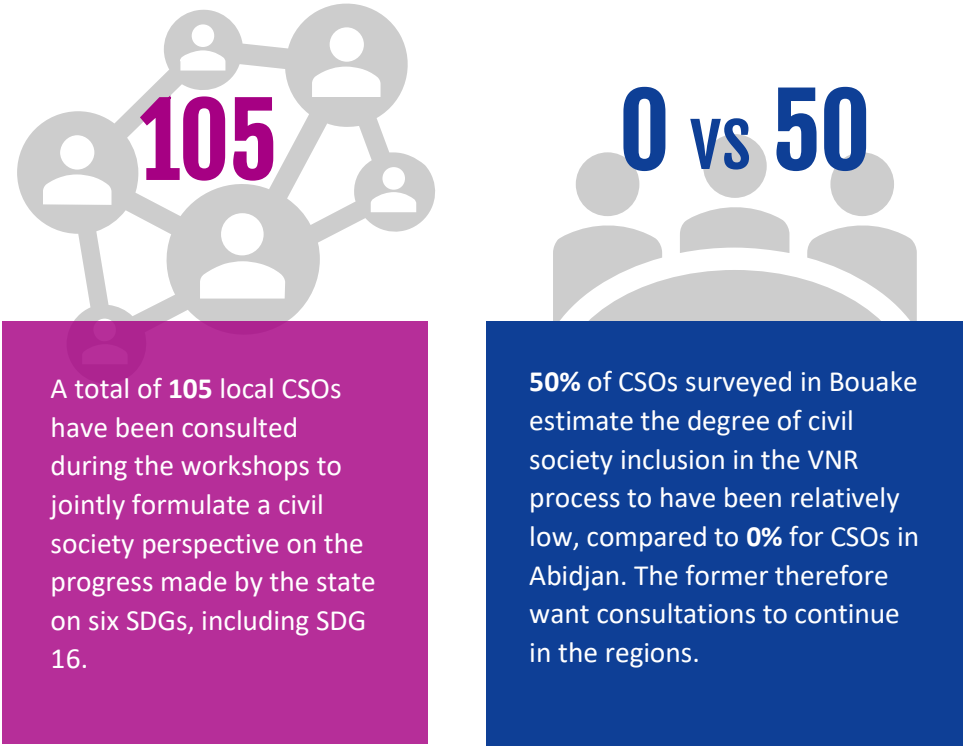
Areas for improvement

Inclusion



At the end of the CSO consultations in Abidjan and Bouaké, there was a strong enthusiasm and motivation among participants and local authorities to contribute to the implementation of the SDGs in Côte d'Ivoire. On the other hand, participants noted the lack of representation of certain segments of the population during the consultations. For example, in Bouaké, although traditional leaders were represented, some noted the under-representation of women and people with physical disabilities.

Côte d'Ivoire: the R4R project at glance



A total of **105** local CSOs have been consulted during the workshops to jointly formulate a civil society perspective on the progress made by the state on six SDGs, including SDG 16.

50% of CSOs surveyed in Bouake estimate the degree of civil society inclusion in the VNR process to have been relatively low, compared to **0%** for CSOs in Abidjan. The former therefore want consultations to continue in the regions.

Challenges and the work ahead for civil society

« La manche est dans la cognée, la cognée est dans la manche » : the interdependence and co-responsibility of the State and stakeholders is the guarantee of progress in the implementation of the SDGs. Multi-stakeholder national coordination is the way to achieve the SDGs.

Rachel Gogoua

President of ISC/SDG-CI

There is an proverb: " When you have a monkey as a friend, the ripe fruit you need can't stay on the tree. ". Indeed, civil society in general, and CSPPS in particular, has demonstrated through the consultations in Abidjan and Bouaké, its know-how, expertise, experience, talent and above all proven that it is a structure that counts and can be counted on.

The first of its kind in Côte d'Ivoire since the advent of SDGs, the consultations within the framework of the VNR of 2019 have been real melting pots in which all stakeholders have come together to share and mutualize knowledge, know-how and experiences, however innovative they may be. Thanks to an original methodology deployed by CSPPS, civil society has not only been able to capture highly enriching experiences but also to identify the challenges and perspectives for reaching the 2030 horizon.

Despite the significant progress made, the SDGs are not sufficiently known to all, which poses the challenge of ownership. The consultations revealed that CSOs work through fragmentation, which makes actions less visible and ineffective. Synergy and complementarity are therefore needed to avoid wastage. Communication remains the Achilles tendon, suggesting that CSOs are not implementing the SDGs. The search for effectiveness and efficiency in actions must guide CSOs in reaching the 2030 horizon. This requires significant accompanying measures in addition to the willingness of CSOs to make SDGs motivate them.

The consolidation of peace and social cohesion are very valuable commodities for Côte d'Ivoire, which has experienced a serious crisis even as it tries to emerge from it. However, the 2020 elections are causing great fear, concern and many questions, hence the need to accelerate vigorous action in the implementation of SDG 16. A swallow alone cannot make spring, which is why, midway to 2030, we call for the mobilization, commitment and determination of all to achieve the SDGs in Côte d'Ivoire.

Diakalia Ouattara

CSPPS Focal Point in Côte d'Ivoire | FNDP



The first of its kind in Côte d'Ivoire since the advent of SDGs, the consultations within the framework of the VNR of 2019 have been real melting pots in which all stakeholders have come together to share and mutualize knowledge, know-how and experiences, however innovative they may be.

- Diakalia Ouattara -

CSPPS Focal Point in Côte d'Ivoire



CHAD

CONTEXT

As a landlocked Sahelian country in Central Africa, Chad faces security challenges related to conflicts in neighbouring countries and the effects of climate change, which are exacerbating desertification and the drying up of Lake Chad. This quasi-permanence of conflicts has destroyed the social fabric but also impacted its development. Chad's economy remains fragile and vulnerable to considerable risks, such as volatile oil prices and regional insecurity. Since 2010, the peace agreement with Sudan has made it possible to restore peace to the east of the country. President Idriss Deby Itno and his party, the Mouvement patriotique du salut, have dominated Chadian politics since coming to power in December 1990. The new constitution, promulgated in 2018, allows the President to run for two additional consecutive six-year terms when his current term expires in 2021. It is in this context that a sample of Chadian civil society working on education, gender, inequality, climate change, and peace met in N'Djamena to share its experience and recommendations for accelerating the implementation of the SDGs in Chad.

Civil society mobilisation

CSPPS is present in Côte d'Ivoire through its country team whose focal point organization is the Centre for Peace, Security and Development Studies in Africa (CEPSEDA), represented by its Director, Mr Mouldjide Ngarygam, expert in culture of peace and development cooperation.

From January to June, the CSPPS Secretariat was in contact with the UNDP National Office in N'Djamena to keep abreast of the progress of UNDP consultants' research and alignment work on the Government of Chad's 2017-2021 NDP and the implementation of the SDGs. Starting in February, the CSPPS Secretariat organised regular exchanges with its focal point, and indeed allowed the latter to meet with the UNDP contact person in advance of the consultation workshop held in June, to discuss the best way forward to ensure coordination of efforts between UNDP data expertise and the qualitative review of civil society.

Civil society organizations play an important role in the peacebuilding process by developing actions to promote human rights and the culture of peace. In addition, civil society participated in the elaboration of the NDP, a programmatic framework for development actions in which the SDGs and the country's vision 2030 are affirmed and taken into account.

This workshop was a doubly important opportunity for Chadian civil society. First, it was to amplify the voice of civil society in the relevant political processes concerning the VNR. Efforts are also aimed at supporting the role of civil society in supporting the implementation of the SDGs and participating in monitoring its progress. Secondly, the workshop provided a forum for orientation and discussion on how Chadian civil society was reflecting on the progress made in the implementation of Agenda 2030 in Chad, and thus

provided an opportunity to take stock of future opportunities and challenges. The workshop brought together a total of 38 representatives of Chadian civil society.

Civil society intervention on the SDG Monitoring Committee

Highlight of the N'Djamena workshop, at the request of the participants, civil society representatives, as well as the representative of the Ministry of Planning, who sit on the National Multisectoral Monitoring Committee (CNMS) of the SDGs, were invited to give an information session on the validation process of Chad's national report on the VNR. In addition to sharing highly relevant information for civil society actors present and not part of this Committee, this also provided an opportunity for an engaged debate on the work of the Committee, including on the issue of communication of information. The highlights of this information session have been transcribed later in this chapter.

Meeting with UNDP and the European Union delegation

In the margins of the workshop, the Secretariat and the CSPPS focal point in Chad had the opportunity to meet and discuss with, on the one hand, the Residents' Representative and the UNDP Economic Affairs Officer in Chad, and on the other hand, the Head of Cooperation and the Heads of Governance and Relations with Civil Society of the European Union delegation.



N'Djamena, Chad – Results obtained for the SDGs 16 and 17

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 16

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels



Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Challenges	
Increasing poverty	Climate change
Security	Living together and good governance

- Recommendations for action**
- To the government :**
 - Do everything possible to ensure that the population has confidence in the justice system, as it is too often complex and biased in its procedures
 - Reduce corruption and bribery by appointing honest and competent persons to head state institutions
 - Valuing CSOs contribution through active partnership
 - To technical and financial partners**
 - Contribute to the strengthening of CSOs institutional and technical capacities
 - Contribute to the establishment of a consultation framework specific to SDG 16
 - To decentralized local authorities**
 - Involving CSOs in the local development process (LDP)
 - Take ownership of the texts on fundamental human rights and decentralized administration
 - To civil society**
 - Promote intra-CSOs dialogue and consultation with state actors
 - Improving internal governance
 - Strengthen legal and judicial assistance to vulnerable populations
 - Establish a consultation framework specific to SDG 16
 - To the academic world**
 - Capitalize on conflict resolution methods and techniques
 - Integrate modules on:
 - (a) Methods and techniques for conflict resolution
 - (b) Principles of good governance

* It should be noted that in the framework of these consultations, civil society representatives gave their views on all the SDGs examined in detail this year, six in total: SDGs 4, 8, 10, 13, 16 and 17. All the contributions and recommendations by SDGs are available in the full report of the workshop.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development



Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Challenges

Weakness of CSO intervention due to:

Lack of funding for TFPs regarding the implementation of SDGs	Lack of communication around SDGs, and therefore lack of ownership by the civil society
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Recommendations for action

To the government

- Strengthen national coordination for the implementation of the SDGs
- Establish and train focal points in all provinces
- Popularize Chad's national report on the SDGs
- Strengthen the capacities of the Inter-ministerial Technical Committee and the National Monitoring Committee for the SDGs by involving civil society
- Develop and disseminate a national gender strategy by 2030

To civil society

- Support the APFAT coordinator as an ambassador for the SDGs
- Extend, advocate and implement SDGs
- Establish a regional committee to monitor the SDGs by IUCN through its ADHET focal point in Chad

To technical and financial partners

- Support civil society in the implementation of the SDGs
- Fund activities related to the SDGs

Expert Consultant Analysis:

What emerges from the consultations in Chad



Main challenges

- Weak civil society involvement in the national SDG process including the preparation of the RNV report.
- The issue of the economic crisis is very often used by the government as a pretext for not taking the necessary action.
- Serious communication problem on SDGs.
- Low awareness of the population on the SDGs.
- Lack of reliable statistics.
- Problem of coordinating the implementation of the SDGs, including within civil society itself.



Recommendations for action

- Apply the provisions of the Constitution relating to free schooling, including for children with disabilities.
- Continue training and recruitment of primary and secondary school teachers.
- Implementation of public policies by the government that create young jobs.
- Involvement of CSOs in the development and monitoring of public policies, including job creation.
- Conduct studies on the impacts of implementing the SDGs.
- Integrated water resources management to ensure equitable access.
- Alleviate court proceedings.
- Establishment of a specific consultation framework on the SDGs, in particular Goal 16.
- Valuing the contribution of CSOs through an active partnership.
- Appoint persons of integrity and competence to head state institutions.
- Strengthen the capacity of the National Monitoring Committee for the SDGs by involving civil society, with better coordination.
- Establishment of regional SDG monitoring committees and formation of Focal Points for this purpose.
- Popularize the National Report on the SDGs.
- Strengthen CSO capacities for the implementation and monitoring of SDGs, including funding.
- Involve the CTDs in the preparation of their communal development plans.
- Organize mass awareness and information campaigns on the SDGs.
- Involve CSOs in the local development process (LDP).
- Participation of economic operators in the modernisation of agriculture and livestock through investment in these sectors
- Take ownership of the texts on fundamental human rights and decentralized administration.
- Coordination and synergy of action between CSOs.
- Communicate with all stakeholders on the implementation of the SDGs and employment opportunities.
- Elaboration of alternative reports to measure the degree of implementation of the SDGs.
- Strengthen legal and judicial assistance to vulnerable populations.
- Support the AFPAT coordinator as an ambassador for the SDGs.
- Apply good governance in all institutions and fight corruption in public services.
- Integrate the SDGs into the curriculum at all levels.



Lessons learned

Better coordination of the actions of a more proactive civil society can make better use of the spaces officially offered, to capitalize on the many achievements and truly influence the implementation of the SDGs.

Photos of the N'Djamena workshop



Highlights of the workshop



The presence at the workshop of the members of the SDG Follow-up Committee

Undoubtedly, the participation of civil society representatives sitting on the National Multisectoral Monitoring Committee (NMMC) of the SDGs was welcomed. As part of an information session organized on an impromptu basis during the workshop to inform participants of the content and results of the work of the members of the Monitoring Committee, the ensuing exchanges between Committee members and participants revealed a number of issues and malfunctions: the lack of feedback to the grassroots, the serious problem of coordination and visibility at the level of Chadian civil society, the problem of capitalizing on the efforts of civil society, the lack of statistical data from reliable national sources, the issue of accountability, etc.

Areas for improvement



Communication and information sharing

At the end of the N'Djamena consultation, there was a strong enthusiasm and motivation among participants and local authorities to contribute to the implementation of the SDGs in Chad. On the other hand, there is a lack of feedback and information sharing between the civil society representatives included in the SDG Monitoring Committee (three people in all) and the overwhelming majority of civil society representatives who are not part of it. It would have been easy to overcome the lack of information that some participants lacked by organizing an awareness session on the issue of the SDGs and the 2019 HLF prior to the consultation workshop.



Lack of coordination compared to other workshops

Teleconferences between UNDP HQ New York and its national offices in which CSPPS was invited to participate were generally an asset in the Ready for Review project to enable coordination of efforts among different stakeholders. However, it must be noted that coordination has not been optimal in the case of Chad, largely because of the difficulties of connection that have prevented regular contact with local stakeholders. As a result, it was revealed too late that the validation workshop for the government's report on the SDGs would be held the same week as the consultation workshop on the SDGs for civil society. This made it difficult to incorporate the company's recommendations into the government's report.

Chad: the R4R project at glance



A word from our CSPPS Country Team: Challenges and the work ahead for civil society

The consultation of civil society on the VNR process in Chad undoubtedly marks an important step in its mobilization for participation in the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs. During the two days of work, the actors of society constantly demonstrated their willingness to play a leading role in monitoring Chad's commitments in terms of sustainable development.

To this end, a roadmap has been developed to structure this commitment but also to ensure a wide dissemination of the process and the SDGs to stakeholders and populations to understand the challenges of the SDGs for ownership and adherence to the actions of the government, TFPs and civil society. As a result, the results of the workshop were widely disseminated in both public and private media. National Radio and private radio stations broadcasted the results of the workshop in their newspapers. As well as two print media outlets have made boxes within their publication. The report was also subsequently posted on the websites of the organizations participating in the workshop.

Several lessons have been learned from the voluntary national assessment process in Chad:

(a) **The VNR process revealed a lack of information within civil society.** While it was acknowledged that the development of the VNR is based on a participatory approach and the involvement of different stakeholders, including civil society, civil society representatives at the workshop stated that they were not informed or consulted to make their contributions.

(b) **The alignment of the SDGs with the "Vision 2030, Chad we want", broken down into three National Development Plans (NDPs), the first of which covers the period 2017-2021, offers opportunities for civil society participation in the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs in Chad.** The "do do " approach developed by the government for the implementation of the NDP opens windows of opportunity for civil society organizations to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs. But this requires a better structuring and the mobilization of the proven expertise of civil society in order to compete with other actors.

(c) **The willingness expressed by civil society to be involved in monitoring the implementation of the SDGs.** As a result of the work and analysis of sustainable development issues, civil society organizations have expressed their interest in mobilizing around the SDGs in order to play a leading role in defending the rights of populations to aspire to their well-being and in monitoring the State's commitments in terms of sustainable development. Indeed, the implementation of the SDGs highlights a number of issues and challenges facing the country that constitute points of focus for civil society that require appropriate action. These are the increase in poverty, financing of the SDGs, security, climate change, social cohesion issues and living together and good governance (election, accountability, decentralization, etc.). Particular attention will have to be paid to youth issues, issues that constitute a time bomb if we are not careful. Youth (i.e. citizens under 25 years of age) represent more than 60% of the population and thus become a structuring factor for any development action. Leaving it aside would be a risk of not achieving the SDGs, since everything is done for it.

(d) **The need to strengthen the establishment of a peaceful, just and inclusive society to ensure the coherent implementation of the SDGs in Chad.** Chad operates in a national and regional security context that impacts on its stability and social cohesion. To this end, it is important to develop initiatives to strengthen links and institutions in order to ensure their sustainability. Civil society organizations propose to build dynamics that would help build the resilience capacity of populations and institutions to withstand shocks. It is important for civil society to engage in dialogue with the authorities and partners to support and/or bring about the reforms needed to preserve peace.

Mouldjide Ngarygam

CSPPS Focal Point in Chad | CEPSEDA



Particular attention should be paid to youth issues, which are a time bomb if not addressed. Youth represent more than 60% of the population and thus become a structuring factor for any development action. Leaving it aside would be a risk of not achieving the SDGs, since everything is done for them.

- Mouldjide Ngarygam -
CSPPS Focal Point in Chad

Analysis of the expert-consultant :

Comparative Perspective – Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire and Chad

Based on the results of the four workshops, a comparison can be made of the situation of the implementation of the SDGs, as perceived by civil society in the three countries, in terms of awareness, level of involvement and community ownership.

Level of awareness of SDGs

The level of awareness of the SDGs and their implementation is relatively low in all three countries, for almost the same reasons, including a lack of communication actions on the SDGs at the national level, coupled with insufficient civil society capacity. This lack of capacity is nuanced from one country to another, in close relation to the socio-political context and the degree of fragility. While in Côte d'Ivoire direct conflict seems distant with a seemingly stable social climate, in the Central African Republic conflict and threats to peace are present, with a visibly tense social climate. In Chad, on the other hand, direct conflict and threats to peace exist, but are under control, without being apparent. These three contextual modalities, indicating different levels of fragility, seem to nuance the challenges facing civil society, especially in terms of the level of space actually granted to civil society and the latitude it gives itself to express itself or ensure its involvement in the implementation of the SDGs.

Enabling environment, civil society involvement and partnerships

In Côte d'Ivoire, a civil society initiative has combined the actions of three CSOs in order to coordinate its contribution to the SDGs and to pool resources so that no one is left behind. The Ivorian Government, without openly closing the space to civil society, remains relatively indifferent, however, as long as civil society does not engage in advocacy on its participation. Formal mechanisms for inclusion are rather rare and a multi-stakeholder platform was only recently proposed as a recommendation during the validation workshop of the VNR report from Côte d'Ivoire.

In the Central African Republic, there is no real official space for civil society inclusion in the implementation of the SDGs, but the authorities at the Ministry in charge of coordinating the SDGs seem very open to receiving input from civil society. However, CSOs have difficulty capitalizing on the advocacy opportunities offered by this approach because of the lack of a proper initiative to mobilize around the SDGs and effective coordination in this area.

As for Chad, the country has official structures for the inclusion of civil society, including an inter-ministerial technical committee for the SDGs, a national coordination of the SDGs with representatives of civil society, a coordination of the SDGs in the National Assembly and a coordination group for the SDGs in the Chamber of Commerce. In addition, a member of civil society has been appointed Ambassador for the SDGs at the United Nations by Secretary General Antonio Gutierrez. Despite the existence of these spaces and assets, Chadian civil society remains reluctant to take action to improve its level of involvement in the implementation of the SDGs.

Community ownership

The level of community ownership of the SDGs in the three countries remains very low. The implementation of the SDGs at the local level does not seem to have been prioritized. No effective community awareness-raising process has been implemented and civil society work in this regard is not sufficiently capitalized, due to the lack of dissemination, exchange of experience and an effective feedback and reporting mechanism between different stakeholders and between CSOs themselves.

Conclusion

Observation of the situation in Côte d'Ivoire, CAR and Chad suggests that the determinants of the level of civil society involvement in the implementation of the SDGs vary according to the degree or type of fragility of the country. But, beyond appearances that can be misleading, this level of involvement depends above all on the capacity of civil society to empower itself to adapt to the national context of public governance. There are three ways in which civil society can be involved: (1) a lack of official space with indifference from the public authorities; (2) a lack of official space with benevolence from the public authorities; and (3) an availability of official space without benevolence from the public authorities.

The challenge for civil society, to be more effective in its contribution to the implementation of the SDGs, is to navigate between these modalities. This challenge should necessarily determine the type of support to be provided to CSOs in fragile countries to achieve better results. A combination of lessons learned in the three countries at the end of the workshops summarizes well the basic consideration that should guide the definition of directions for collaboration with or support to CSOs in fragile countries.

Indeed, civil society is a force that can, by relying on its proactivity, positively influence the

government's action in the implementation of the SDGs. The coordination of its actions by pooling resources can improve its initiatives and performance. To this end, communication between civil society actors and grassroots populations is essential to enable communities to take ownership of the SDGs and become more actively involved. In addition, better coordination of the actions of a proactive civil society can make it possible to make better use of the spaces officially offered, to capitalize on the many achievements and truly influence the implementation of the SDGs.

Recommendation

Following the workshops supported by CSPPS in Côte d'Ivoire, CAR and Chad, it is important to put particular emphasis on strengthening the capacities of civil society in fragile countries to navigate their contextual realities, to be able to take advantage of spaces when they exist or to adjust in proactivity when they do not exist. To do this, it would be interesting to follow up the observation made through these workshops with a real mapping of fragile countries in the light of the three situation modalities identified, in order to have a good reference to develop a strategy for the continuation of CSPPS's intervention in Africa.

Martin Tsounkeu

Development Economist

SDG Expert and Financing for Development

African Development Interchange Network (ADIN)

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE READY FOR REVIEW PROJECT IN THE OTHER MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE PLATFORM



CAR, Côte d'Ivoire and Chad were not the only member countries of the Platform whose governments undertook consultation workshops as part of the 2019 VNR process. Sierra Leone and Timor-Leste also prepared their national reports on the SDGs that year. In addition to these two countries, there is Nigeria, whose government did not conduct an VNR in 2019, but whose civil society considered it relevant and strategic to conduct this evaluation exercise. With additional support from the European Commission, CSPPS was able to contribute financially to the implementation of similar consultation workshops and to involve and contribute members of local civil society from its country teams in Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Timor-Leste.

SIERRA LEONE

Makeni City, 21-22 June 2019

In Sierra Leone, CSPPS partnered with the TAP network to co-finance a workshop on the VNR process and SDG 16 in Makeni in June, jointly organized by ChildHelp Sierra Leone, the Non-State Actors Secretariat and the CSPPS Country Team. The CSPPS Secretariat ensured coordination between the local networks in the field. In addition to producing policy recommendations, the workshop participants established an SDG 16+ Action Group to ensure national monitoring and coordination.

The main objective of the conference was to bring together civil society organizations, in order to strengthen knowledge on SDG 16/VNR in the country, to provide an opportunity and platform for objective and critical review



Sierra Leone's progress in implementing the SDG/VNR process; build consensus on good practices, lessons learned and challenges; and reach consensus on the assistance needed by Sierra Leone's CSOs to accelerate the achievement of sustainable development Goals.

The conference brought together about 100 participants from local civil society, including members of the CSO Coordination Group on SDGs, the CSPPS Country Team and the TAP Network.

TIMOR-LESTE

Dili, 18-19 June 2019

In Timor-Leste, the CSPPS focal point organization is a permanent member of the government's working group on the SDGs, which prepared the national report on the SDGs. In addition, CSPPS, the TAP Network, Asia Development Alliance (ADA) and local partners co-organized a workshop on SDG 16 in Dili on 18-19 June, shortly after the publication of the government's national SDG report. The main key message to be drawn from this VNR consultation process is that “Timor-Leste has moved from the traumatic struggle for independence and a period of civil unrest and conflict to a democratic nation focused on state-building and accelerating progress towards sustainable development. It is essential to make the most of partnerships and to carefully harness national and international resources to finance sustainable development.”

NIGERIA

Lagos, 2-3 July 2019

The follow-up workshop on SDG 16+ was organized by the Civil Society Coalition on Sustainable Development (CSCSD), the TAP Network's focal point organization, and the Centre for Sustainable Development and Education in Africa (CSDEA), the CSPPS focal point organization, in collaboration with the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR), and the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with a total of 42 participants. The project was implemented with the generous support of the TAP Network and CSPPS. The objective of the workshop was to review the activities, successes, challenges and way forward in the implementation of SDG 16 over the past four years in Nigeria. More specifically, it was: (1) Continue to strengthen awareness and understanding of the SDGs with a particular focus on SDG 16 promoting peaceful societies(2) Create an advocacy theme around each of the SDG 16 targets as an additional tool for CSO engagement with governments; (3) To assess Nigeria's track record in implementing sustainable development Goals in relation to the 2019 HLPF; and (4) To identify and develop strategies for Goal 16 advocacy champions for the monitoring and implementation of Goal 16 and alternative reporting.





HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The High Level Policy Forum (HLPF) for Sustainable Development is the UN forum for global monitoring of the implementation of Agenda 2030 and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It meets in New York under the auspices of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) every year and, every four years, under the auspices of the United Nations General Assembly at the level of Heads of State and Government - which was the case for the year 2019. It is organized in two phases: a technical segment of discussions and preparations between experts and a ministerial segment. The "voluntary national reviews", which present the implementation of the SDGs by each State, constitute the highlight of the ministerial segment. "Side events" as well as "special events" are organized throughout the Forum on specific topics related to specific aspects of the implementation of Agenda 2030.

Wednesday 10 July

« Highlighting Best Practices: Civil Society as a Driver for Progress on SDG 16 »

Organizers: TAP Network, CSPPS, Saferworld, GPPAC and Namati. This side event provided an opportunity for civil society working at the national and local levels to present their work to advance SDG 16 in their own context. In addition, participants had the opportunity to

In 2019, the theme of the Forum was "empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equity". A CSPPS delegation - composed of members of the Secretariat and delegates from Côte d'Ivoire, Chad, Central African Republic, Sierra Leone, Afghanistan and Nigeria - was formed to attend and participate in the SDG 16-related side events that take place on the margins of the HLPF and sometimes (co-)organised by CSPPS and/or its partners.

CSPPS has either organized or participated in a significant number of parallel and special events on the margins of voluntary national reviews. The list (not exhaustive) below provides an overview of the key events in which CSPPS was able to participate and contribute during the 2019 HLPF.

share their reflections on gaps in implementation or capacity with regard to SDG 16, and on areas where further support is needed. Participants had the opportunity to meet with a wide range of civil society actors at the national level in working sessions in the World Café format, which allowed for an engaging and interactive dialogue among participants. CSPPS delegates from Côte d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone facilitated one of the World Café tables and shared their respective experiences in organizing VNR consultation workshops.



Thursday 11 July

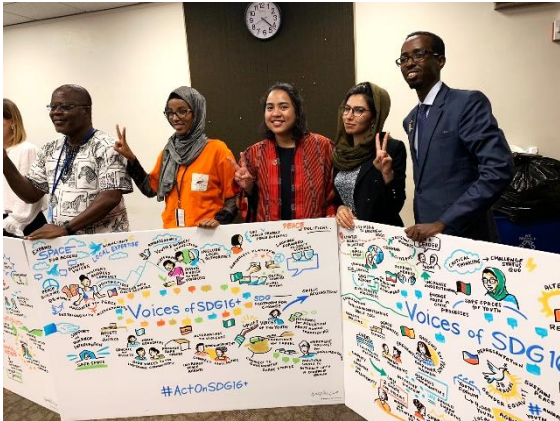
"Voices of SDG 16 Expert Roundtable"

Saferworld, the TAP network and the International International Peace Institute (IPI) together with eight campaign partners have launched *the Voices of SDG 16+: Stories for Global Action* campaign that collects stories of grassroots efforts and initiatives from around the world that implement the Goals of SDG 16+. Civil society participants from Afghanistan, Cameroon, Canada, Guatemala, India, Kenya, Nepal, Philippines, Somaliland, Uganda and Yemen were selected from over 200 videos of local leaders and actors from around the world who are working to implement the 2030 Agenda and its commitment to peace, justice and participation. This expert panel focused on the work that these SDG 16+ change agents are doing to advance SDG 16+ in their communities. They had the opportunity to share their experiences on best practices and

efforts undertaken in support of SDG 16+ at the national and local levels, with an opportunity for all participants to share their own experiences and



to exchange lessons learned in the last years of implementation. The civil society delegate from Afghanistan, sponsored by CSPPS, was one of the 12 selected participants. Despite his presence among the winners of the video campaign, the CSPPS focal point from Yemen was also selected but could not be present due to visa problems.



Friday 12 July

Report Launch “Empowering Civil Society for Reporting and Action on SDG16+”



Held at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations. Published in partnership by the TAP Network, ADA and Forus, with contributions from CIVICUS,

CSPPS, GFMD, GPPAC, Namati, Saferworld and Transparency International, presents a compilation of national civil society case studies and civil society reports on the SDG16. It provides an analysis of a range of approaches and methodologies used by civil society in the implementation and monitoring of SDG 16 by civil society, particularly with regard to the preparation and dissemination of spotlight reports. The report also examines gaps, challenges and opportunities for strong accountability at all levels, and makes key recommendations for improving civil society monitoring and action in the future. CSPPS has written a chapter of the report entitled "Supporting Civil Society in Fragile and Conflict-Affected States with VNRs in 2019: Presentation of SDG 16 Civil Society National Workshops in 2019".

Official Review of SDG 16 in the UN Secretariat

Marina de Paiva, member of the CSPPS Secretariat, delivered a speech on behalf of the NGO Major Group to present the Civil Society Rome Declaration on SDG 16+ and highlight the key recommendations of the document.



Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 July

High Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC)

The Meeting stressed the importance and contribution of effectiveness by presenting tools - from and for countries - to make development cooperation more effective. New approaches to effectiveness in different contexts were presented, and new avenues for advancing effectiveness were identified, taking into account global trends. The Meeting also provided a better understanding of several Goals discussed at the 2019 High-level Policy Forum, including Goals 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), 8 (Decent work) and 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions), as well as new data on Goal 5 (Gender equality). At the second high-level meeting in Nairobi in 2016, stakeholders agreed to extend the cycle of autonomous high-level meetings of the Global Partnership and to hold high-level meetings at

the level immediately below ministerial level. The 2019 High-level Meeting, which links Nairobi to the next High-level Meeting, is the first of its kind and will seek to galvanize Governments, civil society and other actors on the "gear shift" needed to accelerate the implementation of SDGs at the national and global levels. On Saturday afternoon, CSPPS delegates from Côte d'Ivoire and the Central African Republic participated in a panel discussion in a breakout session on "Effective development cooperation in fragile contexts".



Monday 15 July

IDPS Ministerial Meeting

Organized by the IDPS Secretariat at the [Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations](#). The Co-Chairs of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and State Building (IDPS), the Minister of Planning and Economic Development of Sierra Leone, H.E. Francis Kaikai, the Deputy Assistant to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada, Ms. Elissa Goldberg led the ministerial inauguration of the IDPS 2019-21 Peace Vision. The opening remarks

were followed by a high-level panel discussion, representing the three IDPS constituencies, with the participation of G7+ Ministers, high-level INCAF and CSPPS representatives. The CSPPS members present raised questions regarding the follow-up of the VNR process in SL in the context of the IDPS vision, and the inclusion of civil society and youth in government plans.

Key lessons learned

Reflections of the CSPPS Secretariat on the first edition of the Ready for Review Project

VNR consultation activities can be a starting point for initiating and improving dialogue and coordination between government and civil society

It is essential to engage in dialogue early on with a variety of key national and international actors, and to develop a good understanding of what is being prepared, how to better coordinate activities, how to divide tasks among organizations, and how to build coalitions that can cement promising working relationships. For example, in Côte d'Ivoire, the partnership established between CSPPS and its country team with the local civil society platform ISC-SDG/CI and UNDP did not end after the consultative workshops.

Any VNR-report issued should not be seen as an end of a process but actually a means for continued consultation and dialogue. Ideally, a VNR-report should paint a realistic picture; highlighting both achievements to date but also pointing at remaining challenges that require follow-up action. It is suggested that guidance for post-VNR follow-up further builds on consultation processes that ensure inclusivity and multi-stakeholder engagement in both validation of the report, in discussing what needs to happen next, and how VNR-findings can inform National Development Planning processes.

Civil society needs to realize what its added value is and highlight it

Unlike the government or UNDP, civil society enjoys absolute proximity to the concerns, grievances and expectations of the population. The methodology of the workshop

was therefore developed to highlight this qualitative added value of society's contribution to the VNR process in order not to replace but to complement the more technical support provided by the UNDP experts and consultants (quantitative data collection, etc.) in charge of preparing the national report on SDGs.

Lack of VNR experience can be overcome by organizing and preparing in advance

Countries submitting their reviews for the first time but preparing in advance for the VNR process were able to "leap into the unknown" with greater confidence to report for the first time on the status of SDG 16 and to better cope with unexpected challenges that have arisen. For example, in the Central African Republic, the government set up a multi-stakeholder inter-ministerial committee on SDGs shortly after its announcement in July 2018 to present its VNR report in 2019. The establishment of such a committee enabled the government to identify challenges and opportunities early in the process, enabling it to respond appropriately and collaborate with the necessary partners.

Contexts vary, hence their importance

Civic space, or civil society space, determines where and to what extent civil society is actively invited to be part of the consultation process. Success depends to a large extent on the political will at the national level to enable the meaningful inclusion, participation and contribution of civil society during VNR processes.

Communication is as important as the quality of inclusion and participation

Governments must make efforts to include civil society in VNR processes. However, efforts must come from both sides. Once civil society representatives have been included in SDG committees and have access to key information, it is civil society's duty to seize this opportunity to mobilize its entire membership through proactive and coordinated communication and regular consultations. The more a person is involved in an VNR process (e.g. in a national inter-ministerial SDG committee), the more key information they have access to and are in a unique position to influence the content of an VNR report. This ability to influence the content of discussions comes with an even greater responsibility to report on the status of discussions and preliminary findings to all stakeholders through effective communication channels. For example, in Chad, such a feedback system between civil society inside and outside the VNR process did not function optimally, which in retrospect makes it a missed opportunity to have a greater impact and effectively influence the policy debate. In other words, inclusion and participation go hand in hand with responsibility, transparency and accountability to its members.

In addition to obtaining financial support from donors, it is essential to include their local delegations as full stakeholders in the process

The support provided by bilateral and multilateral donors has helped to create an enabling environment for coordinated and concerted dialogue on VNR processes and the content of national reports on SDGs - with the

participation of representatives of these same donors in the process undertaken either in consultation or as actors and participants in the process itself.

Civil society understands the opportunities offered by the VNR process and wants to do more

Civil society does not want to limit itself to the role of qualitative evaluator. It would like to contribute actively to the process and make its voice heard in the strategic review of progress in the implementation of Agenda 2030. Wherever the CSPPS Country Teams have taken the lead in organizing and hosting consultative workshops on SDG16 and VNR, we can testify to the overwhelming willingness of civil society to have the means, capacities and resources to contribute to data collection and analysis in the near future, before their respective governments take the decision to review national progress on Agenda 2030 again.

Wherever possible, the VNR workshop planning process should be opened up to other local organizations in addition to traditional local partners

The good organization and coordination of civil society around key thematic areas is useful and provided an entry point for strategic discussions on how the VNR process could be supported by CSPPS country team colleagues in partnership with local TAP Network partners and other civil society representatives. Examples from our country experiences demonstrate the added value of a multi-stakeholder approach engaged in the context of the SDG review and VNR consultations.

Post-2019 follow-up

AT NATIONAL LEVEL

Follow-up for countries with VNRs in 2019

During the HLPF in New York in July, the CSPPS Secretariat, the CSPPS focal points of the three francophone target countries, Sierra Leone, and the expert/consultant ADIN had the opportunity to discuss the preliminary findings and lessons learned from the process so far, as well as to reflect on a strategy to address the most urgent priorities for society in order to ensure an effective follow-up to the VNR process in 2019. The main idea that emerged from this meeting is that the post-HLPF VNR follow-up for civil society should be divided into three main activities that can be sequenced in different stages:

(1) **capacity building** of civil society to improve and increase its participation in VNR processes, both at the abstract level (e.g. awareness-raising and information session on Agenda 2030, SDGs, etc.) and at the practical level (mapping the national context and the official framework put in place by the government to assess progress on SDGs).

(2) the establishment of a **well-coordinated and responsive communication system and feedback mechanism** between CSOs engaged in the implementation of the SDGs 16+ ;

(3) **to highlight and capitalize on the best practices and successful initiatives** of the

company to raise awareness among government institutions.

It should be noted that at the time of writing this report, project proposals along these lines have been submitted to the Secretariat by the country teams of Côte d'Ivoire, Central African Republic and Chad, and are currently being evaluated by the Platform's Executive Committee.

Preparation of countries that will carry out a VNR in 2020

On the occasion of the CSPPS Annual Meeting in Addis Ababa in December 2019, the Secretariat organized a peer-to-peer exchange of Platform members who have implemented societal consultation workshops to contribute to the national SDG report of their respective countries in 2019. Three aspects were highlighted during this session of the Annual Meeting, particularly with a view to popularizing the process to Platform member countries that will submit their VNR reports in 2020: (1) the national context and challenges, (2) good practices, and (3) lessons learned to feed into future editions. The following Platform member countries will present their VNR reports in 2020 (some for the first time): Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Libya, Nepal, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

The SDG16+ Localisation Consortium

Four years after the advent of Agenda 2030, the Sustainability Goals Report 2019 makes a global call for action on SDG16+ that we cannot ignore. The status quo will not suffice. This has prompted four organizations and platforms working on SDG16+, in particular on elements of peaceful and inclusive societies, to form the SDG16+ Localization Consortium to accelerate and expand the achievement of SDG16+ Goals at the national level.

This consortium - which brings together the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and State Strengthening (CSPPS), the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), and the Transparency, Accountability and Participation Network (TAP Network) - will work to translate the global commitment to peaceful, just and inclusive societies into action in different contexts around the world through the following actions, enabling the realization of SDG16+:

- *Capacity Building and Awareness Raising:* Build capacity and raise awareness among civil society on the use of SDG16+ as a catalyst for change at national and sub-national levels ;
- *Anchoring SDG16+ in local contexts:* organizing meaningful consultations with civil society and local authorities to identify priority areas for action ;
- *Localizing SDG16+ with governments:* catalysing more inclusive national

development processes and programmes in line with the objectives of SDG16+ by enabling an ongoing dialogue.

- with several stakeholders;
- *Leverage and influence policies:* create new innovative spaces at local, regional and national levels to facilitate the sharing of best practices;
- *Accountability* as the spearhead for inclusive reporting by Member States and the facilitation of independent reporting by civil society to achieve this.

The consortium responds to the call made by civil society in *Amplified Commitments and Partnerships for Accelerated Action: Rome Civil Society Declaration on SDG16+*, a declaration developed in May 2019 and supported by more than 130 CSOs, calling for more efforts to localize SDG16+, with civil society and citizens at the heart of these localization efforts.

Overall, the enabling support that the consortium will provide in the context of the localization of SDG16+ will allow progress on specific objectives of SDG16+ on the basis of nationally determined priorities.



Conclusion

CSPPS, in collaboration with its partners in the SDG16+ Localization Consortium, will continue the lessons learned from the process, document the lessons learned and cross-exchange experiences. The presentation of VNRs to the HLPF is an important step, but not the end point of the process. Ideally, the review undertaken should provide a comprehensive and honest report on a country's situation in the process of updating and implementing Agenda 2030 - and should also indicate next steps and recommendations on how to further accelerate the implementation of SDGs in their national context.

These national workshops have enabled CSPPS to help ensure the meaningful inclusion, participation and contribution of national and local CSOs in the consultation and validation stages of VNR processes in the target countries.

As discussed in the section on key lessons learned in this report, there is no single model that is suitable for everyone to organize and initiate a VNR process. Contexts differ widely and determine the parameters of the process

undertaken. The IDPS partnership and existing relationships with other stakeholders involved in the VNR process have provided strategic entry points for constructive engagement and meaningful civil society input into the review processes launched.

The partnership established with the TAP Network in the context of the 2019 consultations enabled the two networks to pool their resources and combine their partner networks. The results of the resulting broader civil society consultation processes have helped to amplify the voice of civil society in VNR processes in some countries.

On behalf of the Platform members, the CSPPS Secretariat hopes that the good practices highlighted and the lessons learned from the first edition of the Ready for Review (R4R) Project will be used to inform subsequent review processes. The VNR consultation processes as undertaken have clearly provided a strategic entry point for continued dialogue and coordination around the next steps in implementing Agenda 2030 for sustainable development at the national level.

CONTACT INFORMATION



**CIVIL SOCIETY
PLATFORM**
FOR PEACEBUILDING
AND STATEBUILDING

Cordaid, as part of its commitment to addressing fragility, hosts the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS). The Secretariat is managed and coordinated by Peter van Sluijs, Senior Strategist at Cordaid.

Please find attached relevant contact information for the Secretariat and please do not hesitate to contact us with any question you might have.

Mailing Address

CSPPS
c/o Cordaid
Grote Marktstraat 45, 2511 BH
The Hague, Netherlands

CSPPS Secretariat Staff

Peter van Sluijs

CSPPS Secretariat Coordinator

E: Peter.van.Sluijs@cordaid.org

Marina de Paiva

Programme Officer

E: Marina.de.Paiva@cordaid.org

Matthew Wojcik

Programme Officer

E: Matthew.Wojcik@cordaid.org

Laure Ruggieri

Intern

E: Laure.Ruggieri@cordaid.org

Website
www.cspps.org

Twitter
[@idps_cspps](https://twitter.com/idps_cspps)

Facebook
[@civilsocietyplatform](https://www.facebook.com/civilsocietyplatform)