



A Guide to Civil Society Organizations working on Democratic Governance

Civil Society

United Nations Development Programme

UNDP

UNDP is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and our wide range of partners.

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UNDP's Understanding of Civil Society

UNDP defines civil society as a third sector existing alongside and interacting with the state and private industry¹⁾. UNDP takes a broad view of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) of which non-governmental organizations are an important part, and recognizes that in practice civil society is an arena of both collaboration and contention.

Over the last decade there has been a considerable increase both in the number of CSOs and in the scope of their activities. They are playing an increasingly influential role in setting and implementing development agendas across the globe. Many CSOs have been in the forefront of advocating principles of social justice and equity, but there are also organisations with agendas and values – such as intolerance and exclusion – that do not correspond to those of the United Nations²⁾.

UNDP actively encourages all its offices to engage with a wide range of organisations and associations whose goals, values and development philosophies accord with its own.

1) UNDP and Civil Society Organizations:
A Practice Note on Engagement (2001), p. 1
<http://www.undp.org/cso/resource/policies/UNDPCSPolicy.doc>

2) Ibid

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This document has been developed by Trude Strand, Research Assistant at the UNDP Oslo Governance Centre (OGC), a unit of the Democratic Governance Group (DGG). It builds on initial work carried out by Alexandra Wilde and Ragnhild Loken of the OGC and reflects substantive comments from Pauline Wilson, an independent civil society specialist. The Guide is also informed by considerable input from colleagues within UNDP country offices, DGG and the wider organisation. The work has been supported throughout by Elizabeth McCall, UNDP Civil Society/ Access to Information Adviser.

Further information can be obtained from the Democratic Governance Group of UNDP. Contact Elizabeth McCall at elizabeth.mccall@undp.org

Introduction

The Guide offers a snapshot of more than 300 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) working on democratic governance at the global and regional levels. It provides information on CSOs across UNDP's seven priority democratic governance areas or Service Lines³⁾. These are:

- Policy Support to Democratic Governance
- Parliamentary Development
- Electoral Systems and Processes
- Justice and Human Rights
- E-governance and Access to Information
- Decentralization, Local Governance and Urban/Rural Development
- Public Administration Reform and Anti-corruption

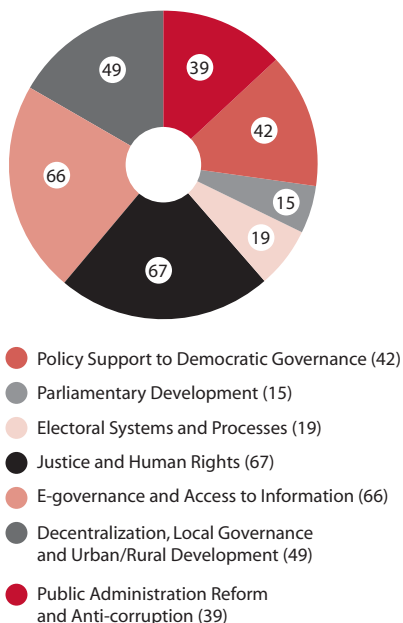
A large number of CSOs are active in the broad arenas of justice and human rights (economic, social, cultural and political rights); decentralization, local governance and rural/urban development; e-governance and Access to Information; and public administration reform and anti-corruption. Currently, fewer organizations work in the very specialized and institutional areas of parliamentary development and electoral systems and processes. CSOs that focus in these latter areas tend to be specialized institutes and interest groups involved in related work with close links to government. The number and types of organizations included under each Service Line of this Guide reflect this reality.

3) For detailed information on UNDP's Service Lines in Democratic Governance visit <http://www.undp.org/governance>.

In many instances, CSOs work in more than one of these governance areas. However, efforts were made to identify the primary area of activity when classifying them in the Guide.

In all, a total of 312 CSOs are profiled. Fifteen CSOs provide funding support for democratic governance work, and these are presented separately in section three of the Guide. The remaining 297 CSOs are classified under one specific Service Line. The number of CSOs featured under each Service Line is shown on the pie chart below.

Number of CSOs profiled according to Service Line



Frequently Used Acronyms

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CEE	Central and Eastern Europe
CO	Country Office
CSO	Civil Society Organization
FOI	Freedom of Information
HQ	Headquarters
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OAS	Organization of American States
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SAI	Supreme Audit Institution
SEE	South Eastern Europe
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

About the Guide

Purpose of the Guide

The Guide is provided primarily as a resource for UNDP offices working on democratic governance and seeking to strengthen engagement and further collaboration with civil society.

The Guide is not intended to be an exhaustive listing of CSOs working on democratic governance. Rather, it is meant to indicate the growing breadth and complexity of CSO activity in this area. The Guide aims to:

- Illustrate the range of democratic governance activities undertaken by CSOs.
- Indicate the different types of organizations within civil society engaged in democratic governance.
- Provide information on a small number of foundations and trusts that fund democratic governance initiatives.

Structure of the Guide

The Guide is divided into three parts: Part One provides an overview of the contents and purpose of the document; Part Two is divided into seven sections corresponding to UNDP's Democratic Governance Service Lines. Under each of these seven sections, relevant CSOs are profiled. The criteria for selection as well as some common characteristics within each Service Line are described at the beginning of each sub-section. Part Three contains basic information on a small number of institutions providing funding to support democratic governance initiatives. It also includes a list of links to other relevant resources such as websites, portals and further reading.

Methodology and Content

The CSOs listed in this Guide were identified primarily through desk research from four main sources: (i) scanning of UNDP intra-net sources and published material; (ii) direct feedback from Country Offices and Regional Bureaux; (iii) general internet and literature searches; and (iv) direct contact with resource persons. The desk study has relied to a great extent on sources in English, although source material in Spanish and French was also consulted. **The inclusion of an organization in this Guide does not constitute an endorsement by UNDP of its work or working approaches.**

Most of the CSOs profiled in the Guide are non-profit organizations, professional associations, alliances, networks, research institutes, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), trusts and foundations. They include CSOs originating from countries and networks in the developed and developing world. Some are older, well established CSOs, while others have formed over the last ten years. CSOs that work solely in one specific country have not been profiled in this Guide. However, there is a growing number of CSOs that work only at national level both within developed and developing countries, that mirror those presented.

For each CSO, the website address and the headquarters location (HQ) are provided. All website URLs are current as of February 2005. Extracts for the profiles have largely been sourced from individual CSO websites using their own words to the greatest degree possible. Content accuracy and appropriateness of profile information cannot be guaranteed over time.

Categorization of CSO Work

The Guide uses the following categories to describe the type of work that CSOs may engage in:

- **Advocacy:** Includes activities such as campaigning, lobbying, direct action, media and awareness-raising work including public education. Advocacy work is often related to policy issues as organizations and individuals strive to change public policy and practice.
- **Funding:** Describes an area of work in which CSOs offer funds to other organizations in support of democratic governance initiatives.
- **Legal assistance:** Includes direct legal assistance to individuals and organizations.
- **Networking:** Includes work related to developing and strengthening communication and exchange systems between organizations and or individuals. Organizations engaged in networking often have a co-ordinating body that seeks to forge ties across organizations that work within a particular sector or on a particular interest area.
- **Research:** Involves in-depth studies on specific issues as well as publications arising from research.
- **Technical assistance:** Encompasses a broad range of CSO activities including consultancy support and hands-on assistance in the field, knowledge transfer and election monitoring. Technical assistance is often provided within the framework of a specific project.
- **Training:** Includes activities designed to strengthen specific skills and knowledge. Training methods used include workshops, conferences and short courses. These are in a wide range of areas such as voter education, methods to encourage greater participation of women in political processes, as well as training in new technologies.

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https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_12736

