

**The 6<sup>th</sup> session of the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development  
Item 5 (c) of the Provisional Agenda**

**Implementation of the mandate and programme of work**  
Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022, 15h – 17h Central European Time

**Engagement with civil society in support of the right to development  
Concept Note**

## **Introduction**

One of the main principles of the Right to Development is ensuring active, free and meaningful participation in the process of development with individuals and peoples at its centre. In many spaces, this participation is led by civil society organizations (CSOs) through their advocacy in matters concerning development and human rights. CSOs have provided crucial pathways for inclusive decision making and transparent governance for development.

From women's rights to climate change agenda, the civil society has sought to ensure the respect for and promotion of the active, free and meaningful participation of all, even in instances when the right to development (RTD) terminology has not been directly employed. The advocacy of human rights, engagement with Governments, influence over policy making and accountability mechanisms created and practised by CSOs are amongst the best practices for realising the RTD.

Ultimately, engagement with civil society serves as a measure to protect and promote the RTD in local, national and international mechanisms. It is also crucial to learn from the experiences of such major actors working in both grass roots and international platforms to better operationalize the RTD at a decision-making level by making it a human and people centred process.

## **Purpose**

1. Exchange good practices employed by civil society organizations to promote the realization of the right to development.
2. Identify obstacles faced by civil society organizations in efforts to participate in and contribute to the realization of the right to development and exchange experiences with the objective of overcoming them.
3. Promote engagement and cooperation between the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development and Civil Society Organizations for identifying ways for further mobilisation and protection of the Right to Development.

## **Guiding questions**

1. What are the challenges civil society face in advocating for the right to development and how to overcome them?

2. How can civil society leadership better mobilise grass roots as rights holders with better awareness and knowledge of the right to development and its principles?
3. How can the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development better engage and support the work of Civil Society in promoting the operationalization and realization of the right to development?

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