

FACILITATING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW GRN-CSO ENGAGEMENT POLICY

“Enhancing Participatory Democracy in Namibia” (EPDN): A Partnership Programme of
the Government of the Republic of Namibia and the European Union

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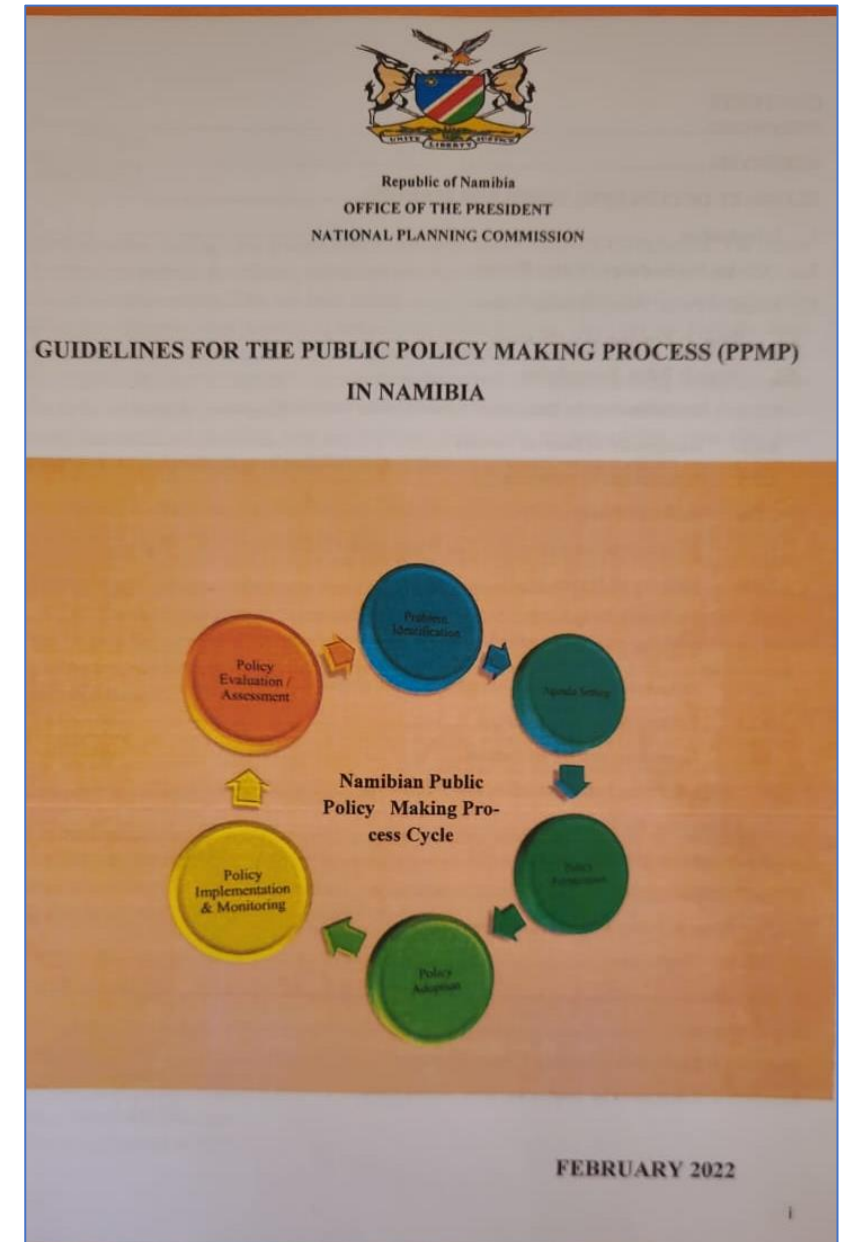


Purpose of the survey

To reach out to as many civil society organizations as possible to get input to the draft policy

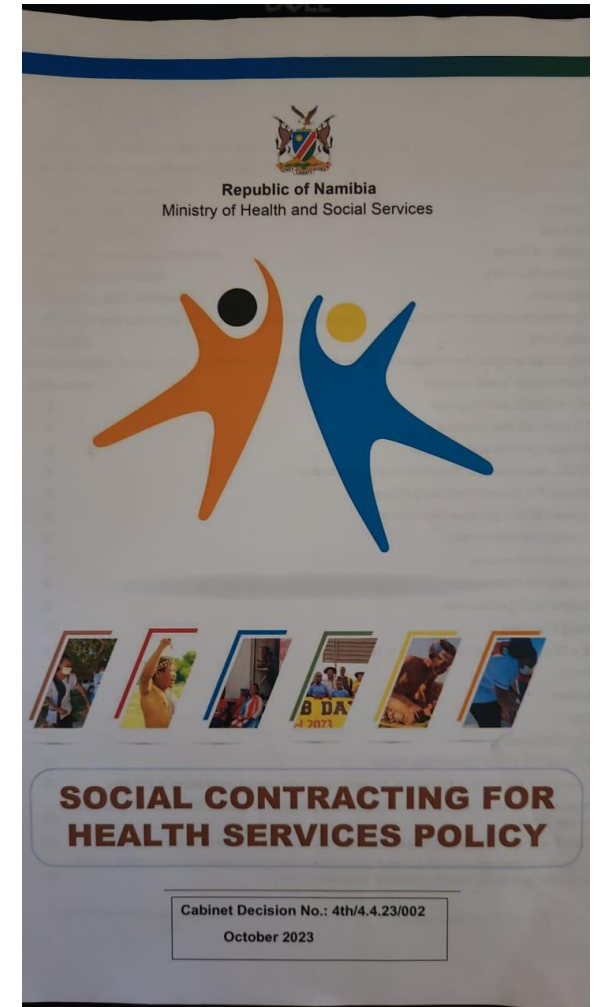
GRN- CSO

Framework of Engagement Policy



This presentation:

- I. Background
- II. Proposed main areas of the new policy
- III. Way Forward
- IV. Contact and information

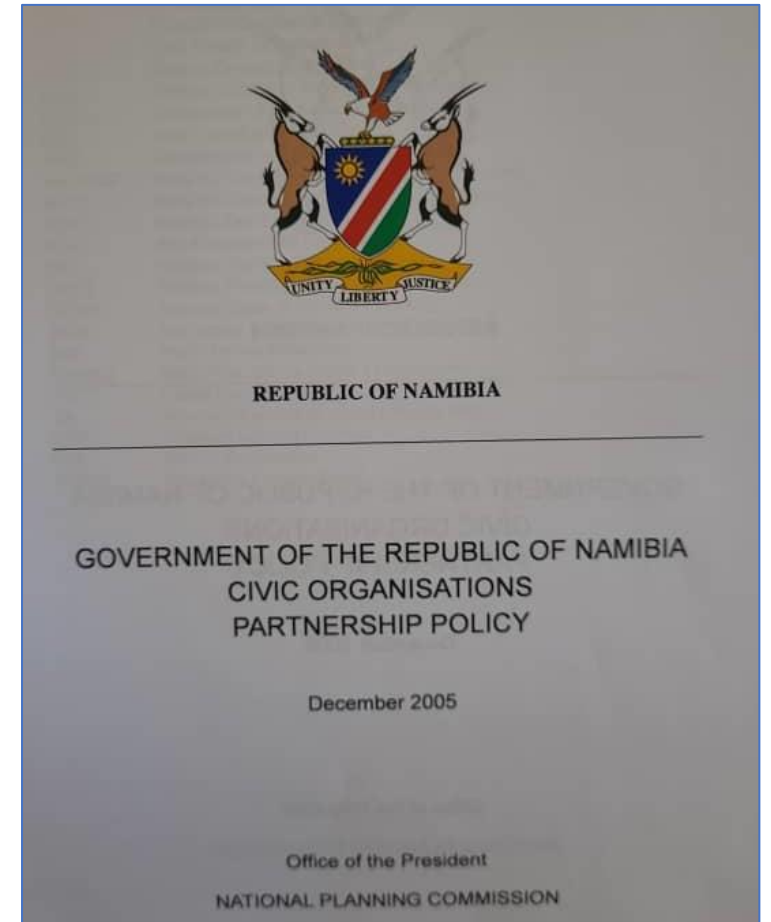


I. Background

In 2005, the Government of the Republic of Namibia (GRN) formulated a Civic Organisations Partnership Policy (COPP). The overall goal of the 2005 GRN-COPP was for the Government, in consultation with civil society, to create a “**Working Partnership**”, a partnership that works for the entire country, its citizens and their civic organisations and for the Government.

This goal was to be achieved through the achievement of four objectives:

1. To create a greater commitment for civic participation through the promotion and encouragement of active citizenship.
2. To enhance the environment for civic participation and partnership.
3. To bring the Government closer to the people and create partnership opportunities that benefit the Government, civic organisations and civil society.
4. To enhance the capacity of partners (Government and civic organisations) to enter into partnerships and jointly respond to development challenges and opportunities in an efficient, effective and sustainable fashion.



I. Background

The 2022 review process was initiated due to the lapse since the 2005 GRN-COPP and subsequent change in the operational environment since the crafting of this policy. The policy was never implemented and not assessable as envisaged by the terms of reference:

- No budget and no implementation plan
- Inadequate investment to translate the policy into an operational framework for government-civil society cooperation.
- Too generic to have any practical meaning.
- Sectoral ministries have their own policies and procedures to secure partnerships with CSOs.
- Deficiencies in the operation of local government structures impede civic organizations' access to local decision-making and curtail their ability to establish partnerships with local authorities.

What happened so far:

- Inclusion of a CSO Reference group in the development of the draft policy
- Workshops with CSOs in Windhoek, Ondangwa, Keetmannshoop, Rundu, Swakopmund
- **Stakeholder meetings**
- Ministry of Health and Social Services
- National Council, UNDP, UNAIDS, World Bank, MAPS, ALAN

Proposed main areas of the new policy

GRN- CSOs Framework of Engagement Policy A house with many rooms

Cross Cutting Issues: Trust, Gender parity, language, communication, innovation

NDPs,
Vision 2030 SDGs,
RISDP 2020 – 2030
African Agenda 2063

Parliament
and local
authorities

Sector Policies
and programmes
involvement in
policy cycle

SOP,
based on Piloting
Social contracting
for Health
Services Policy

STRUCTURED
DIALOGUE ON ALL
LEVELS

COORDINATION
MECHANICS
ON ALL LEVELS

FUNDING OF THE
POLICY

MEAL

CSO expanding enabling environment: Legal, Financial and collaborative with other actors

Bottom Up local innovative initiatives

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III. Way forward

Simplification of the proposed framework of engagement and an orientation toward practical measures to improve trust between stakeholders, notably through:

- A **bottom-up approach** and a **sustained multi-stakeholder dialogue on inclusive development and civic participation**, at local, regional and national levels. **SDGs achievement** as well as all issues relevant to partnerships between GRN and CSOs should be included in the dialogue's agenda;
- The promotion of an **enabling environment** for civic participation and **partnership opportunities**. Funding should always be coupled with capacity development activities, including financial management, 360° accountability measures, and impact monitoring;
- A **social inclusion approach**, supporting CSO employability and youth inclusion and allowing CBOs, women and youth organisations to participate;
- The extension of the **social contracting policy** to relevant sectors;
- A **public information and communication** campaign on the new partnership/framework of engagement.

IV. For more information please visit

EPDN's Facebook page. Enhancing Participatory Democracy in Namibia

You can also visit our website

epdn.org

Look up: Knowledge hub civil society

Or write to us info@epdn.org – we are located in the National Assembly /Parliament