# Strengthening the GRN–Civil Society Partnership and Engagement in Namibia

## National Validation Workshop

Location: NIPAM

Dates : 29–30 May 2024

Republic of Namibia
Office of the President
National Planning Commission

GRN - Civil society partnership and engagement policy

DRAFT
May 2024

Implementation Period: 2024 –2027



GRN-Civil Society Partnership and Engagement Policy

| NORMS | Awareness Structured dialogue CSO structuration | Capacity development Community of Practices M&E multi-stakeholder capacity | CSO as implementing partners e.g. Social contracting Civil Society trust fund | PRINCIPLES |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| | CSO enabling environment expands: Legal recognition, funding and policy engagement | MEAL baseline and system Annual GRN-CS conferences | NPC, Line Ministries, Regional councils and local authorities pivotal role | |
| | Objective 1 Participation | Objective 2 Expertise | Objective 3 Accountability | Objective 4 Effectiveness |

Innovative grassroot initiatives

Cabinet Decision n°

# Introduction to the GRN-COPP Policy

## Ms. Ester /Nanus

*National Development Advisor National Planning Commission*

# A Shared Vision for Namibia's Future

The rationale behind the 2024 GRN-Civil Society Partnership and Engagement Policy is to enhance governance systems, empower citizens, and foster a more transparent and accountable society in Namibia. The policy recognises that civil society organisations (CSOs) play a crucial role in advancing these objectives by providing independent expertise, resources, innovation, outreach, and networks that can contribute to national development.

By formalizing and strengthening the partnership between the government and civil society, the policy seeks to address existing challenges and capitalise on the potential of collaboration. It aims to enhance citizen participation in decision-making processes, from grassroots to national levels, ensuring that all voices are heard and considered.

# A Shared Vision for Namibia's Future

Moreover, the policy seeks to leverage the diverse skills and perspectives of civil society to improve the effectiveness of government policies and programs. By promoting transparency, accountability, and inclusivity in governance processes, the policy aims to build trust between the government and citizens, ultimately leading to more responsive and sustainable development outcomes.

The 2024 GRN-CSO partnership and engagement policy could draw insights from service level agreements between GRN and civil society

# A Shared Vision for Namibia's Future

Overall, the rationale behind the policy is to create a conducive environment for meaningful engagement between the government and civil society, recognizing that collaboration between these sectors is essential for achieving shared goals and advancing the well-being of all Namibians.

# Introduction to the GRN-COPP Policy

The Government of the Republic (GRN) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have long recognized the importance of a strong and collaborative partnership to address the country's development challenges.

In 2005, the GRN-COPP framework was established to guide this partnership, but it had become outdated and lacked an implementation plan.

In 2022, a call was made to review and revitalize this framework, setting the stage for a comprehensive evaluation and the development of a new, robust partnership approach.

# The 2022 Review Process: engaging stakeholders

## Stakeholder Mapping

The review process began with a comprehensive stakeholder mapping exercise to identify key GRN and CSO actors (96for a inclusive ), striving and representative consultation process. (96 CSOs),

## Validation and Feedback

The findings from the consultations were presented at a validation workshop with the National Planning Commission (NPC) and the 5th EPDN Steering Committee, where CSO representatives were tasked with seeking further input from their constituents.

**1**　　　**2**　　　**3**

## Regional Consultations
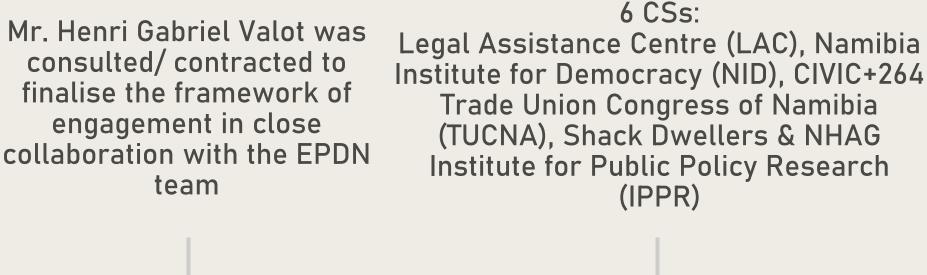
The country was divided into four clusters (Northern, Southern, Western, and Eastern) to conduct in-depth consultations with GRN and CSO representatives, gathering valuable insights and perspectives from diverse regions.

# The 2024 Drafting Process

## EPDN role

Mr. Henri Gabriel Valot was consulted/ contracted to finalise the framework of engagement in close collaboration with the EPDN team

## CSO Reference Group

6 CSs:
Legal Assistance Centre (LAC), Namibia Institute for Democracy (NID), CIVIC+264 Trade Union Congress of Namibia (TUCNA), Shack Dwellers & NHAG Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR)

**1**     **2**     **3**

## Stakeholders Consultations

In-depth consultations with GRN, development partners and CSO representatives, gathering valuable insights and perspectives from diverse regions.

# Consultations April/May 2024

**1** **Workshops**
Workshops with CSOs in Ondangwa, Keetmanshoop, Rundu, Swakopmund and Windhoek (64 CSOs participated)

**2** **Key stakeholders**
Meeting key stakeholders (Ministries/OMAs, National Council, ALAN), development partners

**3** **CSO Reference Group**
Work with the CSO Reference Group

**4** **Online surveys**
Online survey to CSOs and ALAN

**5** **Validation workshop**
Presentation of the 0 draft to stakeholders on 29–30 May

**6** **Comments and feed-back**
The 0 draft remains open for comments until 21 June 2024

# Policy adoption



**1** Drafting period: March – May 2024

Present the draft policy and a costed Implementation Action Plan to the EPDN PSC and craft way forward (PSC stands in as an inter-agency technical committee)

**2** National validation process: May–June 2024

National Stakeholder Validation Meeting on 29–30 May 2024 and feed–back mechanism until 21 June.



**3** Cabinet submission: July 2024

The successful implementation of the GRN–CSO Framework will depend on the continued collaboration and commitment of both government and civil society actors, working together to address Namibia's development priorities.

# Refining the Framework: Collaborative Efforts

### NPC's role

NPC and its CSO Helpdesk is the driving force for process finalization of the new GRN–CSO Policy of Engagement and is the custodian of the new policy and its implementation

### CSO Reference Group

A EPDN consultant with the support of the Reference Group, created detailed, costed Implementation Action Plan for the new policy, ensuring a clear roadmap for its effective execution and popularization

### EPDN

EPDN team's role is to facilitate the whole process by supporting NPC, the Reference group and consultant in their work. EPDN is funded by the European Union

# Background and Context
*Section VIII of the policy*

## Dr. Antony Tsekpo

Key Expert EPDN

Collaboration between the government and civil society is essential for addressing a wide range of societal issues and achieving sustainable development goals. While the government plays a central role in policy formulation and implementation, civil society brings unique perspectives, expertise, and grassroots insights that complement governmental efforts and ensure the inclusivity and effectiveness of interventions.

Even though limited in numbers and lacking overarching structures, Namibia has a vibrant, civil society sector comprising a diverse range of Non-State Actors and Organisations, including Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), CSOs' networks and umbrellas, Community-Based Organisations (CBOs), Charitable organisations, Faith based organisations, churches, private foundations, trade unions, advocacy groups, and professional associations. These CSOs play a crucial role in advocating for social justice, human rights, environmental protection, and good governance and more.

# Civil Society functions (services), roles and added values

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Service providers | Trust and Nation binding | Social protection |
| Expertise and Education | Watch-dog – Social and financial accountability | Skills development |
| HRBA: inclusivity and gender equality | Efficiency | Peoples advocates |
| Innovation | International relations | Outreach: IEC |

In the 2005 COPP policy, "Civic Organisations" refers to all civil society organisations, including CBOs, NGOs and trade unions, which have the following characteristics in common :

❖ They are non-profit distributing;

❖ They operate in the public interest or in the interest of their members and/or sponsors;

❖ They adhere to democratic structures; involvement is voluntary;

❖ They portray high levels of participation;

❖ They emphasise empowerment of beneficiaries;

❖ They operate independently (both financially and administratively) from the state and donors.

# Challenges in Government-CS Partnerships

**1** **Limited Resources**

Constraints on funding and capacity hinder effective collaboration.

**2** **Communication Gaps**

Between the GRN and cs, leading to misunderstandings and delays in decision-making processes

**3** **Legal Restrictions**

Regulatory frameworks may limit CSO participation.

**4** **Trust Issues**

Building trust between government and civil society is challenging.

**5** **Inclusivity and Representation**

Inclusive decision-making processes can be challenging, for marginalised groups

**6** **Capacity Constraints**

CSOs may lack the capacity to effectively engage with the government on policy issues.

# The 2005 GRN-COPP



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
CIVIC ORGANISATIONS
PARTNERSHIP POLICY

December 2005

Office of the President

NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

The overall goal of the 2005 GRN-COPP was for the Government, in consultation with civil society, to create a "Working Partnership. This goal was to be realised 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.

A review process was initiated in October due to the lapse since the 2005 GRN–COPP and subsequent change in the operational environment since the crafting of this policy. The 2022 review concluded that the policy was never implemented and not assessable as initially envisaged for the following reasons.

**REVIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA CIVIC ORGANISATIONS PARTNERSHIP POLICY (GRN-COPP)**

**Final Report**

- ❖ The policy had no budget and no implementation plan.

- ❖ There was an inadequate investment to translate the policy into an operational framework for government-civil society cooperation.

- ❖ Its objectives were too generic to have any practical meaning.

- ❖ Ministries have their own sectoral policies and procedures to secure partnerships with CSOs.

- ❖ Well-known deficiencies in the operation of local government structures impede civic organisations' access to local decision-making and curtail their ability to establish partnerships with local authorities.

# REVIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA CIVIC ORGANISATIONS PARTNERSHIP POLICY (GRN-COPP)

## Final Report

# A framework of practical engagement

The review also pointed out that while the "spirit" of the policy remains relevant, the modality of government–civil society cooperation, and the role played by NPC in this relationship, should focus on a framework of practical engagement.

The background of the partnership policy between the government and civil society in Namibia is multifaceted, reflecting the country's history, legal framework, socioeconomic context, international commitments, and policy priorities.

# A framework of practical engagement

Addressing existing challenges requires a concerted effort from both the government and civil society to foster a more enabling environment for partnership and collaboration.

The 2024 GRN–CS partnership and engagement policy ambition is to improve communication and coordination, build trust, address capacity constraints, and ensure that legal and regulatory frameworks support rather than hinder partnership initiatives.

# Rationale  and overall content
# of the GRN-CSPE policy
## *Section IV*

## Ms. Christine Leiser

### Team Leader EPDN

# The GRN-CSPE policy

❖ Recognises CS crucial role in advancing the country's development goals by providing independent expertise, resources, innovation, outreach, and networks that can contribute to national development.

❖ Will formalize and strengthen the partnership between the government and civil society, while addressing existing challenges and capitalising on the potential of collaboration.

❖ Aims to enhance citizen participation in decision-making processes, from grassroots to national levels, ensuring that all voices are heard and considered.

# The GRN-CSPE policy

❖ Leverage of diverse skills and perspectives of civil society to improve the effectiveness of government policies and programs.

❖ Promotes, accountability, and inclusivity in governance processes, aims to build trust between the government and citizens, ultimately leading to more responsive and sustainable development outcomes.

# Policy's Main Chapters

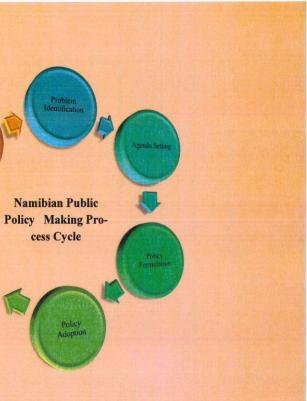XII.  Policy direction
XII.I Vision
XII.II Mission
XII.III Goal
XIII. Objectives
XIV. Strategies
XV.  Implementation arrangements/framework
XV.I Institutional arrangements/framework
XV.II Legal and Regulatory Arrangements
XV.III Resource Mobilisation
XV.IV Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability & Learning framework
XV.VI Advocacy and Dissemination (Communication Strategy)
XVI. Implementation Action Plan
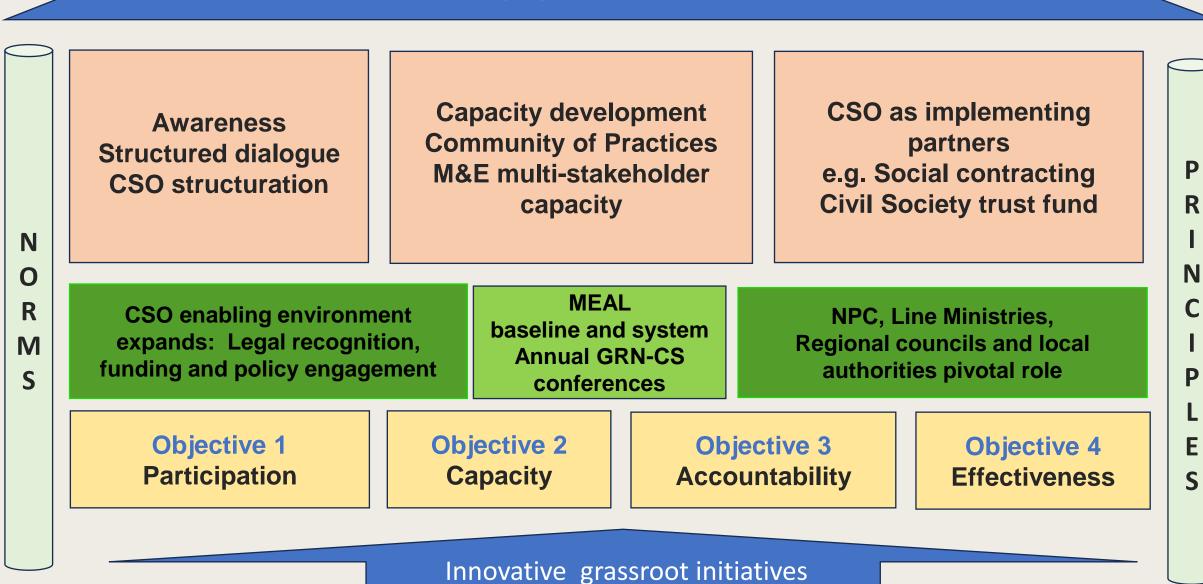


Republic of Namibia
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

GUIDELINES FOR THE PUBLIC POLICY MAKING PROCESS (PPMP)
IN NAMIBIA

FEBRUARY 2022

i

**GRN-Civil Society Partnership and Engagement Policy**

**NORMS**

**PRINCIPLES**

Awareness
Structured dialogue
CSO structuration

Capacity development
Community of Practices
M&E multi-stakeholder
capacity

CSO as implementing
partners
e.g. Social contracting
Civil Society trust fund

CSO enabling environment
expands: Legal recognition,
funding and policy engagement

MEAL
baseline and system
Annual GRN-CS
conferences

NPC, Line Ministries,
Regional councils and local
authorities pivotal role

**Objective 1**
Participation

**Objective 2**
Capacity

**Objective 3**
Accountability

**Objective 4**
Effectiveness

Innovative grassroot initiatives

# Mechanisms for Partnership and Engagement

**1** Establishment and/or enhancement of formal platforms for dialogue and coordination

**2** Development of MoUs outlining specific areas of collaboration, roles, and responsibilities

**3** Enhancement of service efficiency, effectiveness and inclusivity in areas like healthcare , education, legal services, community development and youth inclusion through Social contracting

**4** Regular consultations, joint planning exercises, and review meetings to assess progress and challenges

# Alignment with Legislative Framework
*Section X of the policy*

## Ms. Ivy Muituti

Policy Advisor NPC

The alignment of the Government–CS partnership and engagement policy with international, regional, sub regional agreements, and national legislation is crucial for ensuring coherence, consistency, and effectiveness in its implementation

International Agreements:

*I. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)*

Participation (Article 21): Capacity (Article 22): Accountability (Article 8), Effectiveness (Article 29):

*II. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), 1966:*

Participation (Article 25): Capacity (Article 1), Accountability (Article 2): Effectiveness (Article 25):

*II The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*

Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being: Goal 5: Gender Equality, Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities Goal 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals

The GRN-CSPE policy is aligned with regional and continental agreements vision and aspirations, particularly in promoting democratic governance, citizen participation, partnerships, accountable institutions, and inclusive development across the African continent.

Regional Agreements include:

I.   African Agenda 2063,

II.  2015 Addis Ababa Action Agenda,

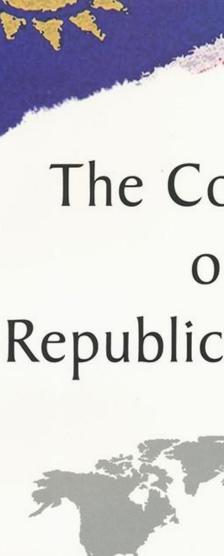III.  Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP 2020 – 2030) for SADC.

The GRN-CSPE policy is aligned with the principles and values enshrined in the Constitution, and should uphold constitutional rights and freedoms, such as the freedom of association, expression, and assembly, as well as principles of equality and non-discrimination. It ensures that government-CSO partnerships respect and protect these fundamental rights.

❑ *Democracy (Article 1)*: The policy's objective to strengthen inclusive democracy and citizen participation aligns with Article 1 of the Namibian Constitution, which establishes Namibia as a democratic and secular state.

❑ *Fundamental Freedoms (Article 8)*: The policy's emphasis on promoting transparency, accountability, and inclusivity in governance processes aligns with Article 8 of the Namibian Constitution, which guarantees fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of expression, assembly, and association.

❑ *Participation (Article 18)*: By strengthening citizen participation in decision-making processes, the policy aligns with Article 18 of the Namibian Constitution, which guarantees the right of every Namibian to take part in the conduct of public affairs.

This policy is aligned with several key principles and provisions of the Namibian Constitution:

❑ *Accountability (Article 43)*: The policy's goal to promote transparency and accountability in governance processes aligns with Article 43, which requires public officials to be accountable to the public for their decisions and actions.

❑ *Development (Article 95)*: The policy's aim to leverage the expertise, resources, innovation, outreach, and networks of civil society for national development aligns with Article 95 which sets out principles for national development, including the promotion of social justice and the eradication of poverty.

❑ *Equality and Non-Discrimination (Article 10)*: By ensuring that decision-making processes are inclusive and responsive to the needs of all stakeholders, the policy aligns with Article 10, which prohibits discrimination on various grounds, including race, gender, and religion.

The Constitution
of the
Republic of Namibia

Konrad Adenauer Foundation and Namibia Scientific Society
Windhoek, October 2015

# Legal framework

The policy is aligned with relevant provisions of the legal framework governing non–profit activities and organisations in Namibia, and with some specific areas of national legislation.

- Public Private Partnership (PPP) Act of 2017, Public Procurement Act 3 of 2022, Public Service Act 13 of 1995:

- Local Authorities Act 23 of 1992; Access to Information Act of 2022;  Labour Act 11 of 2007;

    - Friendly Societies Act 25 of 1956.

- Customary Law: Depending on the nature of the partnerships and engagements with traditional authorities and communities, customary law may need to be considered or amended to accommodate these arrangements.

For details please consult :
Channels for change: A Guide to Setting Up Civil Society Organisations in Namibia, 2023
Civil Society Information Centre Namibia, (CIVIC+264)

# Legal framework

The policy also lists a rage of Civil society duties relating to employment, taxes and customs duties as well as other relevant legislation and policies, such as:

✓ *Social Protection Policy 2021-2030,*

✓ *the National Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan 2021-2025*

as well as sector policies:

✓ *National Housing Policy (Second Revision) 2023*

✓ *Social contracting policy, 2023*

✓ *Decentralisation policy, 1998*

✓ *Water and Sanitation policy, 2008*

✓ *Food and Nutrition policy, revised version 2021*

✓ *National Rural Development policy, 2012*

✓ *Gender policy, 2010*

✓ *Basic Education Act no.3 of 2020*

✓ *Sector Policy on Inclusive Education, 2013*

✓ *National Environmental Education and Education for Sustainable Development: Strategy & Action Plan (2022-2026)*

# Exploration of the Guiding Principles and related values/ norms
## *Section XI of the policy*

## Christine Leiser

*Team Leader EPDN*

# Five guiding principles underpinned by 15 related values/norms

**Principle I**

I. Respect for the autonomy and independence of civil society

1. Non-interference
2. Legal recognition by Government

**Related Norms**

3. Access to resources

**Principle II**

II. Continuous structured dialogue and goal-oriented public consultation between Government and civil society

4. Regular goal-oriented engagement
5. Responsive communication

**Related Norms**

6. Conflict resolution

# Five guiding principles underpinned by 15 related values/norms

**Principle III**

III. Transparency, reliability and openness in communication and decision-making

7. Information sharing

**Related Norms**

8. Consultation mechanisms
9. Public disclosure and access to information

**Principle IV**

IV. Equity and inclusivity in partnership arrangements, ensuring a bottom up representation

**Related Norms**

10. Representation and participation
11. Diversity and inclusion
12. Equitable resource allocation

# Five guiding principles underpinned by 15 related values/norms

**Principle V**

V. Shared responsibility and accountability to constituents for achieving common goals

**Related Norms**

13. Clear roles and responsibilities
14. Mutual accountability mechanisms

15. Learning and adaptation

# Policy Directions
*Section XII of the policy*

## Ms. Anna Amoomo-David

Communications EPDN

## Our Vision

A participatory democracy characterised by a vibrant, prosperous, inclusive and resilient society where strong voluntary partnerships and constructive collaboration between the Government and Civil Society forms an integral part of the country's governance systems.

# Mission

Our mission is to foster and enhance participatory democracy by promoting vibrant, prosperous, inclusive, and resilient communities. We aim to achieve this by facilitating strong partnerships built on trust, and constructive collaboration between government entities and civil society.

# Goal

To lay foundations of transparent collaboration mechanisms between the Government and civil society organisations at all levels of the country to improve trust and jointly achieve the country's development goals and adhere to the international conventions and laws.

# This goal is to be accomplished through the achievement of four objectives:

**Objective 1**
**Participation**

To strengthen inclusive democracy and citizen participation in decision-making processes from the bottom to the top

**Objective 2**
Capacity

To leverage the independent expertise, resources, innovation, outreach and networks of civil society for national development

**Objective 3**
Accountability

To promote transparency, accountability, and inclusivity in governance processes

**Objective 4**
Effectiveness

To enhance the effectiveness of government policies and programs through transparent, structured and coordinated engagement with civil society

# The following nine strategies support the realisation of this policy:

Strategies related to Objective 1: Participation

## Strategy 1 Guarantee clear communication and follow a shared vision

✓ Ensure that all stakeholders have a clear understanding of the partnership policy's objectives, principles, and expected outcomes.

✓ Work towards the shared vision, objectives and activities outlined in the partnership.

## Strategy 2 Ensure stakeholder engagement and participation

✓ To achieve broad outreach and ensure the inclusion of the whole of civil society.

✓ The NPC and Civic +264 should collaborate to establish a joint Civil society information portal, building upon the existing digital CIVIC+264 data base. Hereby close collaborate with regional and local authorities as well as CSOs and international organisations to collect bottom-up data is pivotal.

# Nine strategies

Strategies related to Objective 1: Participation

## Strategy 2 Ensure stakeholder engagement and participation

✓ Structured and transparent engagement with a diverse range of stakeholders, including government agencies, civil society, private sector entities, academia, and communities, to solicit input, feedback, and buy-in for the partnership policy.

✓ Facilitate and fund meaningful participation and collaboration through regular consultations, structured dialogue forums, and digital communication platforms that guarantees stakeholders to contribute to decision-making processes and co-create solutions.

# Nine strategies

## Strategies related to Objective 2: Capacity

**Strategy 3 Capacity building and training**

✓ Identify capacity-building support, mentoring and training programs, and technical assistance to enhance the organisational capacities of civil society, government officials on all levels, and other stakeholders involved in partnership initiatives. GRN-CS pilot projects will also offer mutual learning processes.

✓ Offer and fund workshops, webinars, mentorship programs, and knowledge-sharing sessions on topics such as conflict management/ trust building, policy engagement, participatory budgeting, Leave no one behind / Human Rights based Approaches, Resource mobilisation strategies, Citizens' surveillance of public action, social contracting, project design and management, advocacy skills, resource mobilisation, governance, and monitoring, evaluation accountability and learning (MEAL)

# Nine strategies

Strategies related to Objective 2: Capacity

**Strategy 4 Community Empowerment**

✓ Foster grassroots initiatives and community-led projects aimed at tackling local needs, fostering social cohesion and social innovation, promoting economic development, and enhancing environmental sustainability. This involves ensuring sufficient funding and providing necessary methodologies where needed.

**Strategy 5 Resource mobilisation and funding mechanisms**

✓ Establish mechanisms for resource mobilisation, including government allocations, development partner funding, grants, public-private partnerships, innovative funding sources, to support partnership activities, projects, and capacity-building initiatives.

✓ Develop transparent and accountable processes for accessing and managing funds, ensuring equitable distribution and effective utilisation of resources based on identified priorities, pilots and needs.

# Nine strategies

Strategies related to Objective 3: Accountability

Strategy 6 Policy alignment and institutional support

✓ Adjust and calibrate policy implementation regularly, based on agreed priority areas, NDP and SDG goals.

✓ Provide institutional support, guidance, and coordination mechanisms within government agencies responsible for overseeing partnership initiatives, including focal points, inter-ministerial committees, and advisory bodies.

✓ Ensure that both Houses of Parliament are thoroughly briefed and educated about this policy, enabling them to endorse and supervise its implementation. MPs have a duty to their constituencies, general public and civil society to facilitate more public participation and assist with policy implementation.

# Nine strategies

Strategies related to Objective 3: Accountability

**Strategy 7 Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning**

✓ Guarantee robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to track progress, assess impact, and identify lessons learned from partnership activities.

✓ Develop indicators, benchmarks, and evaluation criteria to measure the effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of partnership initiatives in achieving their intended outcomes.

✓ Foster a culture of public accountability, learning and continuous improvement by sharing best practices, success stories, and challenges encountered, and using feedback to adapt strategies and approaches as needed.

# Nine strategies

## Strategies related to Objective 4: Effectiveness

**Strategy 8 Advocacy and policy dialogue**

✓ Advocate for supportive policies, legal frameworks, and institutional reforms that promote an enabling environment for civil society, citizen participation, and partnership between government and civil society.

✓ Ensure that Civil Servants are well trained in understanding the role and function of the diverse sector of Civil Society and actively encourage an open-door approach in all OMA's for civil society to foster effective collaboration for local and national problem solving. Introducing indicators that demonstrate constructive collaboration between civil servants and civil society within the performance-oriented feedback system of the public service could aid as a method to enhance this cooperation.

✓ Facilitate policy dialogue, advocacy campaigns, and public awareness-raising initiatives to promote the importance of partnership in advancing democratic governance, human rights, and the goals set out in the NDP6.

# Key stakeholders

- ✓ Government (National, Regional, local),
- ✓ Civil Society,
- ✓ Parliamentarians,
- ✓ Private Sector, Academic and Research Institutions,
- ✓ International Cooperation Partners,
- ✓ Media and Communication Platforms,
- ✓ Donor and Philanthropic Foundations, Traditional and Religious Leaders.

# Implementation Action Plan
## *Section XIV of the policy*

## Mr. Henri Gabriel Valot

Consultant EPDN

# GRN-CSPE indicative activities

## Participation

1

- CSPE and NDP6 dissemination;
- Establish the CSEP website and data
- base
- CSO "mapping" (joint NPC/Civic 264)
- CSO structural framework
- CS Partnership desk in OMAs
- National dialogue

## Capacity

2

- Develop the capacity dev. curricula
- Establish community of practices
- Establish the M&E multi-stakeholder
- network and capacity
- Enable multi-stakeholder representation in regional and international fora

## Accountability

3

- Establish the CSPE MEAL
- Hold yearly GRN-CS conferences
- Technical Working Group on legal recognition

## Effectiveness

4

- Social contracting pilot projects
- Resource mobilisation strategy
- Establish the CS trust fund

# Funding sources

Funding sources for the Government-CSO partnership and engagement policy in Namibia should be diverse, sustainable, and aligned with the principles of transparency, accountability, and mutual benefit.

Potential sources include government budget allocations, international development partners, public-private partnerships, CSO contributions, social impact investment, revenue generation, and innovative financing mechanisms.

By leveraging these sources, the policy can access the resources needed to implement collaborative initiatives effectively and achieve sustainable development outcomes.

# Implementation Arrangements/Framework

Introduction by NPC

# Implementation Arrangements/Framework

## Ms. Christine Leiser

*Team Leader EPDN*

# Implementation arrangements



Aims:  to leverage and to utilize existing structures within Namibia's  governance system.

### Regional authorities

Their role in collaborating with civil society involves fostering partnerships, facilitating dialogue, providing resources, and ensuring effective local engagement.

To ensure the active participation of civil society in identifying priorities and needs of the regions, and to enable their meaningful engagement in regional decision-making processes, several steps must be taken such as:

- ✓ Mapping out regional civil society organisations
- ✓ Fostering structured dialogue,
- ✓ Appointing civil society focal points/ partnership desks within regional authorities.

# Implementation arrangements

### Local authorities

To ensure the active participation of civil society in identifying priorities and needs of local communities and to enable their meaningful engagement in local decision-making processes, several steps must be taken such as:

✓ Mapping out local civil society organisations,
✓ Fostering structured dialogue,
✓ Appointing civil society focal points/ partnership desks within local authorities.

# A GRN-CSPE Steering Committee

A GRN-CSPE Steering Committee, led by the NPC, will be composed of

✓ Senior government leadership of all involved line Ministries and management of the NPC,

✓ MOF, representatives of regional and local authorities and

✓ CS representatives of all sectors.

The SC is responsible for guiding the development, implementation, and evaluation of the CSPE policy.

The SC is able to create
Technical Working Groups, to tackle specific issues of the policy, when the need arises.

# A GRN-CSPE Coordination Secretariat

A GRN-CSPE Coordination Secretariat (CS) hosted by the NPC will be established.

It should be equipped with sufficient human and other resources to effectively promote and advance this policy, guided by the CSPE committee.

The CS should be allocated an annual operating budget to cover essential operational expenses.

It is also important that the CS closely collaborates with designated CS structures such as e.g.
the existing nationwide sectoral network/umbrellas,

# Monitoring and Evaluation
## *Section XIV of the policy*

## Mr. Henri Gabriel Valot

*Consultant EPDN*

## MEAL

A simple M&E digital tool will be developed by the CS/NPC, under the supervision of the Steering Committee, to measure progress.

### Measuring Partnership Effectiveness

**1**

**Benchmarks**: Establishing targets to gauge partnership performance over time.
**Performance Indicators**: Developing metrics aligning with partnership goals

### Monitoring for Impact

**2**

**Regular Monitoring**: Tracking progress against objectives, collecting data, and identifying emerging issues.
**Outcome-Focuse**d: Prioritizing assessment of outcomes and societal impacts

### Learning for Improvement

**3**

**Periodic Reviews**: Assessing the overall CSPE performance
**Evaluations**: Conducting formal assessments of outcomes, impacts, and sustainability

### Ensuring Accountability

**4**

**Accountability Mechanisms**: promoting transparency and integrity.
**Transparency and Integrity**: Holding stakeholders accountable

# Advocacy and Dissemination Cornerstones of the Communication strategy of the policy

## Ms. Christine Leiser

*Team Leader EPDN*

The GRN-CSPE communication and visibility strategy aims
to bridge the information and collaboration gap between the NPC, involved Ministries, Civil Society, and the public at large through targeted and clear communication messages

To help fostering awareness and understanding,

To facilitate engagement with stakeholders,

To solicit their input, address concerns

# Advocacy and Dissemination

It enhances the legitimacy of the policy  by demonstrating that it is based on sound evidence, democratic processes, and public participation. It will help to build:

## Clarity

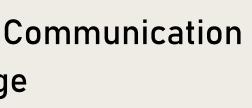Ensuring clarity by explaining the policy's objectives

## Acceptance

Addressing resistance or misconceptions to foster acceptance and success in implementing the policy

## Participation

Encouraging engagement and feedback from stakeholders

SHARE INFORMATION TO EMPOWER OUR COMMUNITIES WITH KNOWLEDGE

The NPC will launch the policy at the national level.

➢ Development of: Advocacy and customised Information, Education and Communication material relevant to diverse groups to remove barriers such as language

➢ The launch will be supplemented by broader distribution across multiple media, including television, radio, and government websites.

➢ Copies will be distributed to all key national , regional and local stakeholders.

➢ A simplified and user-friendly version of the policy will be created to enhance understanding and use of the policy

The communication strategy defines

1. Target audiences
2. Key Messages per objective and corresponding messaging tools/ channels
3. Main responsibilities and collaborators
4. Monitoring, Evaluation Accountability and Learning (MEAL)
5. Implementation Plan and Timeline

## Target audiences of the communication strategy

**Government**

GRN at national level (Ministries and Agencies) Regional Councils Local authorities Traditional authorities

**Civil Society**

Umbrella bodies ,Regional and local Networks where applicable , CSOs, CBOs Faith based organisations, Research institutes, Charities, Trade Unions etc.

**Others**

Both Houses of the Parliament  Media: Traditional (such as newspapers, television, and radio) and digital media outlets (such as websites, social media, and online publications), newsletters of CS, International development partners, Business community, Foundations

**Some examples of target messages and communication tools per Objective of the policy**

## Objective I. Participation:

Message: *From Dialogue to Decision: We are partnering for Inclusive Governance!*

Tools: Website and Facebook page for the policy hosted by NPC, Government and civil society joint press releases, Social media campaigns highlighting collaborative decision-making processes, Public forums and town/community hall meetings organised by both government and civil society organisations, Collaborative publications, video clips and short reports showcasing successful partnerships in governance, Info desks at conferences, promotion videos, Online Surveys and Polls

Message: *From informal settlements to Cities: Empowering Every Voice, Every Choice!"*

Tools:  Community outreach workshops: in informal settlements, conservancies and urban areas for CSOs/CBOs and their constituency (Community) Radio programmes
Collaboration with existing Mobile information units

# Objective II. Capacity

**Message:** *Policy Partnerships: Bring Civil Society expertise to "the Table"*
**Tools:**

**Message:** *From informal settlements to Cities: Empowering Every Voice, Every Choice!"*

**Tools:**
Tradition and Social Media Campaigns, Awareness raising workshops about CS role by NPC help/ partnership desk, CSPE Steering Committee and Coordination Secretariat for civil servants at all levels; Info desks at government conferences, promotion clips. Policy briefs and reports showcasing CS expertise and contributions across policy domains to be shared with policymakers, government agencies and parliament to inform decision-making

## Objective III. Accountability

**Message:** *Give account, take account, hold to account*

**Tools:** Advocacy campaigns focused on promoting transparency, accountability, and good governance practices; Partnership Agreements and MOUs; Online Platforms and Portals.

**Message:** *Transparency Builds Trust: Civil Society & Government Accountable Together*

**Tools:** Traditional and Social Media Campaigns, Awareness raising workshops about CS role by NPC help/ partnership desk.
Info desks at government conferences, promotion clips
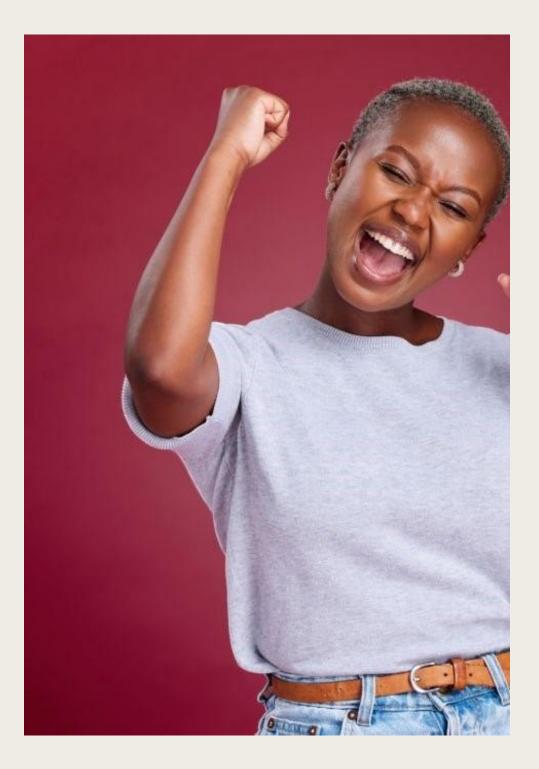Policy briefs and reports showcasing civil society's expertise and contributions across policy domains.

## Objective IV. Effectiveness



Message: *Innovation through Partnership and Engagement: Civil Society & Government Driving Effective Solutions*

✓ Tools: Grassroots community engagement events and citizens' forums where local residents can provide knowledge about and input on innovative solutions being developed by civil society and government

✓ Policy Briefs and Infographics: Produce concise policy briefs, infographics, and fact sheets summarizing innovative solutions and their impact on various sectors, and distribute them to policymakers, media outlets, and the public

✓ Open space conferences or co-design workshops to encourage collaboration and generate new ideas for solving complex problems

A



# THE END

Thank you so much for your time and inputs.

Reach out to enquiries@npc.gov.na if you have any comments on the draft policy presented today

By 21. 06.2024