ANNEX 3.
A CSO Enabling Environment for Achieving Agenda 2030:
A CSO enabling environment&CSO contributions to achieving the SDGs at the country level

CPDE Working Group on CSO Enabling Environment

The CPDE Working Group on Enabling Environment is proposing a framework for focus on enabling environment issues and advocacy at the country level relating to Agenda 2030. We are encouraging organizations considering proposals relating to **Advocacy on CSO Enabling Environment** (Lot 3)in the**CPDECallfor Proposals on Country-Level Civil Society Initiatives**to take account, if possible, a focus on the linkages between CSO enabling environment issues and maximizing efforts by various CSOs at country level to contribute to Agenda 2030 and the country priorities for SDGs.

A. Context

The Second High Level Meeting Nairobi Outcome Document (NOD) recognized "the importance of civil society in sustainable development and in leaving no one behind; in engaging government to uphold their commitments; and in beingdevelopment actors in their own right". [§18] It committed to "reverse the trend in shrinking of civil society space wherever it is taking place and to build a positive environment … for the achievement of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda."[§18] Recognizing that "civil society organizations are a significant means through whichcitizens can exercise their right to participate in development," all countries in Nairobi agreed to "commit to contribute to the development of policy space and an enabling environment for the formation and operation of civil society organizations." [§66]

Through its Working Group and at the global level, the CPDE has worked closely with its country members to document and address the deteriorating conditions for CSOs as development actors since Busan. CPDE has advanced a framework for understanding the enabling environment for CSOs in relation to

> a) The legal and regulatory context for the formation and operations of CSOs;
>
> b) The access of CSOs to institutionalized spaces for policy and program dialogue with government on country development priorities; and
>
> c) The impact of donor policies on effectiveness of CSOs as development actors.

The Working Group has developed a framework for assess the enabling environment for CSOs and identifying issues for documenting and advocating on specific country contexts by CPDE country member organizations. This framework is available on request (brian.t.tomlinson@gmail.com).

B. CPDE Working Group on Enabling Environment 2017/18 Priorities and the Call for Proposals

Effective avenues for CSOs to address country priorities for Agenda 2030 and implementation of priority SDGs can be a politically effective entry point at the country level not only for documenting the impact of CSO enabling environment conditions on realizing these Goals, but also for advocating in multi-stakeholder dialogues for policy changes that address the enabling policies and practices of government and providers that undermine CSOs roles in Agenda 2030.

The Working Group will be gathering evidence on the impacts of enabling legal and regulatory issues for CSOs, structures for consultation and donor policies in relation to CSO roles for achieving Agenda 2030 as a foundation for

effective advocacy message and actions on this enabling environment / SDG nexus. Country initiative relating to the CPDE call for country level initiatives on enabling environment will be an essential source of both information on conditions facing CSOs, but equally important, CSO initiatives to address this increasingly dis-enabling environment.

The intention of the Working Group is to include these country initiatives in a synthesis of CSO experience with SDG implementation and monitoring to develop a major initiative on these issues for the 2018 UN High Level Political Forum on implementing Agenda 2030 in July 2018.

C. Possible Considerations for Proposals

The intent of the Call for Proposals relating to enabling environment issues is "actions that will advance the calls for an enabling environment for civil society, consistent with the outcomes of the Busan Partnership Document and the Nairobi High Level Meeting,and CPDE's priorities in promoting human rights based approaches. While these proposals should emerge directly from CPDE regional and country priorities for advancing a CSO enabling environment, we would encourage consideration of the following:

1) Seeking out and engaging CSOs directly involved in advocacy, monitoring and implementation of SDG country priorities.

2) Actions that advance CSO enabling environment issues through existing and/or proposed multi-stakeholder initiative relating to Agenda 2030 at the country level.

3) Consideration of CPDE proposals relating to CSO enabling environment issues in country assessment processesfrom countries* that have put themselves forward for voluntary assessment of their implementation of SDGs for the 2018 High Level Political Forum.

The Working Group is open to questions or suggestions as you develop proposals that relate to these Working Group priorities. You can do so by contacting Brian Tomlinson (brian.t.tomlinson@gmail.com) or Meja Vitalice (meja@roaafrica.org).

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* Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Benin, Bhutan, Cabo Verde, Canada, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Greece, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Jamaica, Kiribati, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Namibia, Niger, Paraguay, Poland, Qatar, Republic of the Congo, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sudan, Switzerland, Togo, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, and Vietnam.