



**DECADE OF ACCELERATION: UNLOCKING THE SDGS IN CRISIS SITUATIONS**

**PANEL MAY 12, 2021**

**Thème:**

**"INSTITUTIONALIZE THE FORMAL ENGAGEMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE STATE IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, CAPITALIZING ON COOPERATION UNDER THE VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW (VNR)."**

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## Introduction

- Brief presentation of the Civil Society Initiative for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (CSI-SDG) in Côte d'Ivoire
  - Existence: 2015 after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda;
  - Members: CSOs of youth, women, thematic, etc.;
  - Key activities: awareness raising, advocacy, training, dialogue, communication materials, consultation and production of technical notes;
  - Key partners: CSOs, Government, UN, Bilaterals and Multilaterals.
- Participation in the panel with the gratitudes of Côte d'Ivoire
- In accordance with the guidelines the following achievements

## Question I: Can you tell us about how your organization has worked with the government to formalize civil society's engagement in national development and the implementation of the SDGs?

### Achievements and findings

Long experience of cooperation/collaboration with the Government, notably the Ministry of Planning, in the formulation of public policy frameworks such as the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) since 2000 and the National Development Plan since 2012.

- Participation of civil society alongside several sectoral ministries in regional and international forums for the adoption of resolutions.
- Member of the national delegation during the adoption of the Agenda 2030 and its 17 SDGs in New York in September 2015.
- Weak structuring of the expected role of CSOs in its dialogue with the government to support the SDGs.
- Creation of ISC-ODD to better coordinate CSO engagement in the SDGs and development.

# Workshop between state and non-state actors on the state of play of the implementation of SDG 16 in Côte d'Ivoire

## Recommendations: Key recommendations include

- Strengthening the axis of collaboration between CSOs and Local Governments ;
- Establishment of a working group on SDG16 bringing together all stakeholders in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs.

## Next steps:

- Popularization of the SDGs and in particular SDG 16 through exchange forums for the benefit of communities, local authorities, defense and security forces, etc. 2021;
- Biannual meeting with national actors of the implementation of the SDG16, hence the creation of the WhatsApp group;
- Information and awareness sessions on the various SDGs for the benefit of local authorities;
- Etc.

## Question II: Has everything always gone smoothly, or were there initial challenges and how did you overcome them? What can be done to improve inclusion and participation in national development planning and implementation of the SDGs?

### Difficulties and challenges

Non transmission of policy documents to civil society for their comments before validation by the government => questioning on these situations;

Insufficient ownership of national priorities by rural communities;

Role assigned to society by the government very poorly documented => regulatory framework dating from 1960 and not adapted to changes;

Weak consultation between CSOs prior to dialogues with the government on development;

Technical capacity of CSOs sometimes approximate on the subjects and few technical proposals to respond validly to technical problems;

Last-minute invitation of CSOs by the government to major meetings on development.

## Question II: Has everything always gone smoothly, or were there initial challenges and how did you overcome them? What can be done to improve inclusion and participation in national development planning and implementation of the SDGs?

### Solutions to improve inclusion and participation in development planning and implementation of the SDGs

- Clarification and formalization of the policy dialogue/roles played;
- Level of consideration for CSOs to be raised to the same level as the private sector and international partners because CSOs have a better grasp of community realities;
- Training and permanent information of CSOs on development issues and involvement in the design, implementation and monitoring of national priorities;
- Documentation of lessons learned and CSO know-how;
- Updating of regulatory frameworks for the emergence of CSOs to the standard as is the case for the private sector in the budgets/taxes;
- Consolidation of consultations between CSOs themselves before dialogues with the government on development for greater efficiency and to leave no one out;
- Organization of national, regional and international consultations specifically dedicated to CSOs on experience sharing and lessons learned.

**THANK YOU**

# APPENDICES

# appendices: Examples of activities conducted by ISC-ODD

## ❖ Consultations for the contribution of the Civil Society to the RNV Côte d'Ivoire

During the elaboration of the RNV Côte d'Ivoire for the High Level Political Forum (FPHN), ISCODDCI participated in the work initiated by the governmental actors. However, ISCODDCI carried out consultations with civil society actors in both urban (ABIDJAN) and rural (BOUAKE) areas to contribute to the Côte d'Ivoire NVR. From these consultations, the following results were obtained.

### ❖ Results

- The link between CSO activities and the SDGs in urban and rural areas is strong. However, there is a gap between the targets and indicators of CSOs and those of the SDGs.
- The degree of inclusion of CSOs in the NVR is average in urban areas and low in rural areas.
- The level of progress in achieving the SDGs by CSOs is average in urban areas and below average in rural areas.

### ❖ Challenges

- Weak communication on the SDGs;
- Low knowledge of the SDGs and the mechanisms related to their implementation by civil society;
- Low synergy of action between CSOs and between CSOs and other actors (government, private sector, local communities);
- Weak ownership and implementation of the SDGs despite the international commitments ratified by the Government.
- Linking the local context to communal and regional plans.

# appendices : Examples of activities conducted by ISC-ODD

## ❖ Perspectives

Capacity building of CSOs and communities on the SDGs for their ownership and facilitation of their implementation;  
Mobilization of resources for the implementation of the SDGs;  
Elaboration of a national plan for the implementation of the SDGs;  
Strengthening the synergy of action between the State, local authorities and CSOs.

## ❖ Key messages

"The sleeve is in the axe, the axe is in the sleeve"

The interdependence and co-responsibility of the State and stakeholders is the guarantee of progress in the implementation of the SDGs;

National multi-stakeholder coordination is the way to achieve the SDGs;

According to the principle of "leaving no one behind", regionalize the ownership of sectoral development policies;

Support ISCODD-CI in order to position it as an integrative platform for civil society actions aligned with the 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs and the 2063 Agenda for "the Africa we want".

# appendices : Examples of activities conducted by ISC-ODD

□ Consultation workshop on the engagement of civil society in the process of elaboration and implementation of the National Development Plan (NDP 2021-2025) integrating the 2030 Agenda of sustainable development. The aim was to gather the contribution of Civil Society to the elaboration of the NDP 2021-2025 and to strengthen the framework of permanent dialogue and cooperation between the State and Civil Society.

To this end, face-to-face and online consultations of CSOs on the NDP (next steps in its development and observations on the results and regional consultations related to the NDP 2021-2025), the capacities of CSOs on the NDP processes were strengthened, and the general issues and challenges of the role and involvement of civil society in the development, implementation and monitoring of the NDPs and of public policies in general were identified.

**Results:** Points of view of the Authorities present / UNDP Resident Representative

These two days, devoted to the involvement of civil society in the NDP 2021-2025 process, constitute an innovative approach to the active and technical involvement of citizens in the debates on development priorities for the next five (5) years in Côte d'Ivoire.

The mobilization of non-state actors alongside state actors is an essential element for the respect of the principle of "leaving no one behind".

## appendices : Examples of activities conducted by ISC-ODD

- It is important that beyond the simple participation of citizens in the elaboration of the NDP 2021-2025, that civil society plays its role as a watchdog in the implementation of the NDP 2021-2025, in order to guarantee government accountability in the effective realization of the actions adopted in the NDP.
- It is also important that an evaluation be made of civil society's own capacities in terms of societal monitoring of organizations, which is necessary to better question the Government about possible shortcomings.
- A capacity development plan on the gaps should therefore be supported to enable civil society to play this role more effectively and efficiently.
- To this end, UNDP remains available to accompany this program to increase the human knowledge of civil society.
- Civil society will have to ensure that the Government directs its funding in accordance with objective targeting that takes into account local disparities.

**END**