

# CONCEPT NOTE: SPOTLIGHT 2

## What is missing? Building trust to Enable Civil Society 12 December 2022, 10:30 – 11:30 AM CET

### Background:

The Spotlight Session is meant to build on a series of national and regional level multi-stakeholder dialogues focused on enabling civil society through building trust including a Global Conference on Building Trust for an Enabling Environment for Civil Society just days prior to the Summit.

The spotlight session will stimulate a discussion and aim to bring about a clear commitment to country action to bolster CSO effectiveness through CSO enabling environment, with the intention of delivering the 2030 Agenda.

The session will set the foundation, through a multi-stakeholder approach, to come up with concrete means to strengthen country action for CSO enabling environment and partnerships. By drawing on commitments to the CSO enabling environment that guide how stakeholders should partner together better, including the role of trust-building measures, the session will bring about the necessary political buy-in to tackle the important issue of enabling civil society through trust building following the Summit.

### Objectives:

The Spotlight Session will provide a critical political and technical space for GPEDC constituents to agree on common steps for working in partnership at country, regional and global levels and to advance the momentum for country action on CSO enabling environment following the Summit.

The session seeks to achieve the following objectives:

1. Articulate joint actions for addressing CSO enabling environment for their effectiveness, **based on national, regional and global assessments** of the different challenges, including related to building trust, taking into account national trends and evolving and aggravated impacts of COVID-19, authoritarianism and widening conflicts in many countries.
2. Agree to a future multi-stakeholder approach that will establish a concrete set of steps and generate political buy-in for joint actions to strengthen country action for CSO enabling environment and partnerships.

### Session Focal Point:

(Matthew Simonds, Senior Policy Officer, CPDE,  
[msimonds@csopartnership.org](mailto:msimonds@csopartnership.org))

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## Guiding Questions:

- *In your view, what are some major challenges or bottlenecks to securing an enabling environment for civil society at country level?*
- *In contexts where dialogue is possible between civil society, governments and other development actors, can focusing on fostering trust between development actors help to unblock some bottlenecks to enabling civil society?*
- *What types of dialogue and follow-up would be necessary to support trust building and ultimately a more enabling environment for civil society?*
- *Despite robust commitments at global level on enabling environment for civil society, CSOs and civic space at country level remain under threat. How can the GPEDC support grounding the commitments on enabling civil society at country level?*
- *Is global and regional support necessary to implement commitments at national level? How do we ensure adequate support to this agenda and the related commitments?*

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