



EUROPEAN UNION

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

The EU showcases its engagement with Civil Society in Tanzania

Wednesday, 6th April 2016; Dar es Salaam: Today the Head of Delegation of the European Union (EU) in Tanzania, Ambassador Roeland van de Geer, the Head of Unit for Civil Society and Local Authorities at the European Commission, Mrs Rosario Bento Pais, together with the Director of the Foundation for Civil Society in Tanzania, Mr Francis Kiwanga, have launched a new brochure on EU engagement with Civil Society in Tanzania. The occasion was also attended by representatives from EU Member States, civil society organizations as well as public and private stakeholders.

Traditionally, the European Union supports civil society in Europe itself and in many countries throughout the world. Over the period between 2014 and 2020, the EU together with its Member States directly fund civil society initiatives and local authorities with more than EUR 2 billion (about 50 trillion TZS) worldwide.

Civil society has always been a major focus of attention and recipient of EU aid in Tanzania. The EU Delegation and EU Member States interact regularly with civil society actors. Indeed, an active civil society represents and supports pluralism and helps to develop and monitor policies for sustainable development and inclusive growth. With the brochure, which is available in English and Kiswahili, the EU wishes to inform a broader public but specifically CSOs in Tanzania about opportunities available from the EU and its Member States for their engagement.

During the occasion Ambassador Roeland van de Geer reiterated: *“Civil society is a crucial actor that can effectively become even more vocal in terms of democracy and governance, both at national and local level.”*

Support from the EU for these actors encourages them to work towards better governance and more participatory development. To facilitate its relationship with civil society and local authorities, the EU establishes a space for dialogue and tools tailored to their specific requirements.

In her remarks, Mrs Rosario Bento Pais said, *“Civil society and local authorities need to be considered as actors of governance. All development is ultimately local, as underlined by the new sustainable development goals”*

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