

SHIFTING SPACE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY IN MYANMAR

4 April 2019 | Yangon, Myanmar

PARTICIPANTS



QUESTIONS ASKED

- What are the trends impacting civil society in Myanmar?
- What are values that civil society should be defending?
- What next steps can different actors take to promote, protect and expand civic space?



WHAT ARE THE MAIN TRENDS impacting civil society in Myanmar?



- ↑ Role in peace process and constitutional change
- ↑ Capacities and professionalization of CSOs
- ↑ Innovation in advocacy
- ↑ Women and youth involvement
- ↑ Changes in legal framework
- ↑ Government interest in marginalized groups

- ↑ Restrictions on travel and activities
- ↑ Surveillance and pressure on rights-based CSOs
- ↑ Exclusion from policy-making processes
- ↓ Reduced freedom of expression
- ↑ CSOs increasingly donor-driven
- ↑ INGOs taking over capacities, funding and access to communities
- ↑ Overlapping of activities by different organisations
- ↑ Impact of extractive industries and foreign investment

WHAT ARE VALUES & PRINCIPLES that civil society should be defending?



NON-DISCRIMINATION

ACCOUNTABILITY

INNOVATION

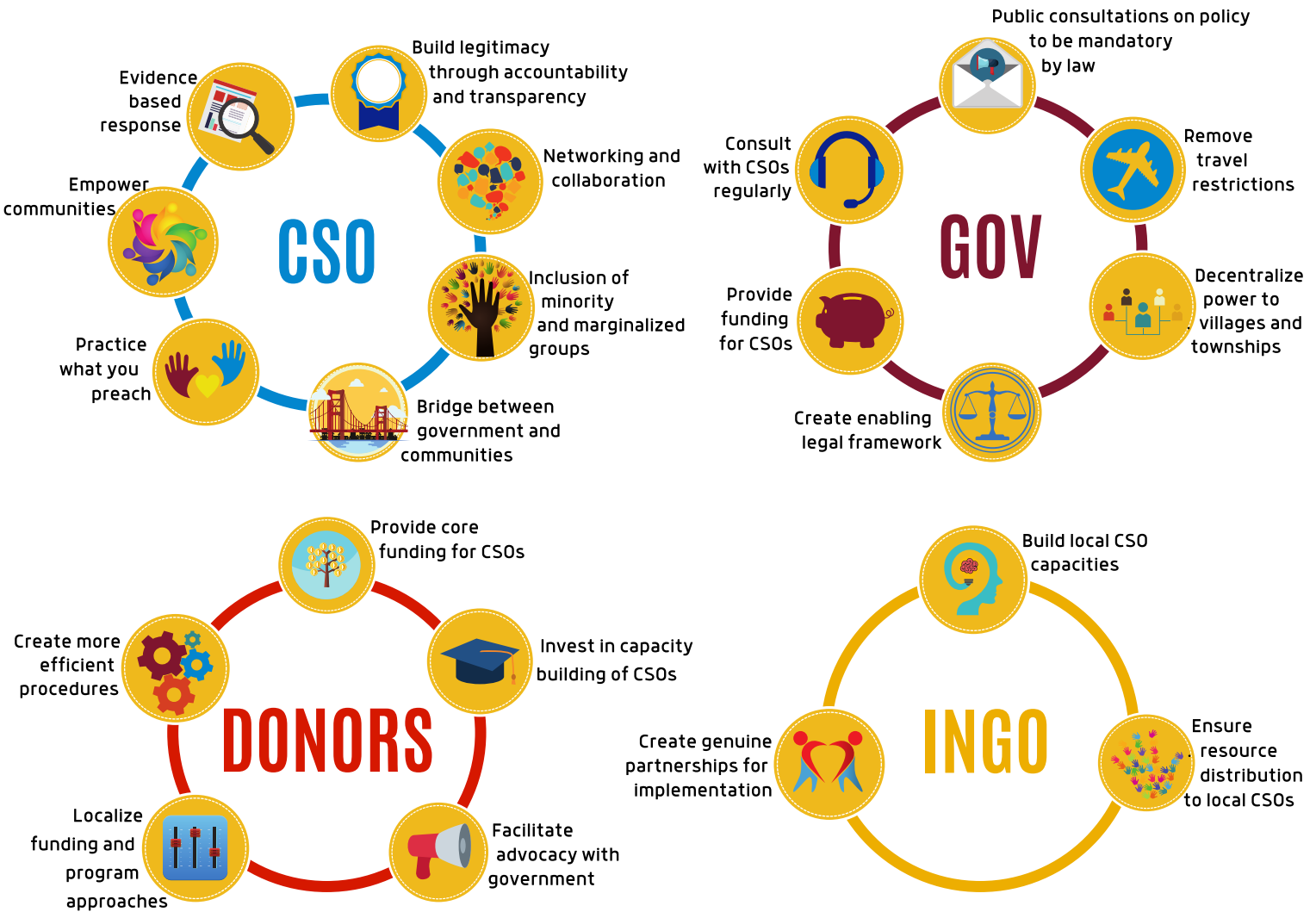
DO NO HARM





WHAT NEXT STEPS

can different actors take to promote, protect and expand civic space?



KEY CONCLUSIONS from the Launch event

Civil society has a key role to play in the democratisation of Myanmar, the peace process and constitutional reform.

Civil society needs to ensure its own accountability & legitimacy, adherence to democratic values and independent vision beyond funded projects.

Challenges to civil society include restrictions on activities and freedom of expression, participation in decision-making and access to resources.

Opportunities for civil society include increased capacities, engagement of women and youth and innovation.

There is a need for government to create a more enabling legal framework, for INGOs to build genuine partnerships and donors to facilitate advocacy with the government.

The EU is committed to supporting civil society in its democratization and peace-building efforts.

Visit <https://bit.ly/2JUG5Bo> [MY] and <https://bit.ly/2VntMjB> [EN] for more information on European Strategy for a Strengthened Partnership with Civil Society in Myanmar.

