

SDG17 seeks to strengthen global partnerships to reach Agenda 2030. A free and open space is crucial for civil society to participate fully as a stakeholder and to ensure that the voices of local communities are also included in cross-sector partnerships.

Tight controls on civil society negatively affects the realisation of **SDG1** by impacting the quality and distribution of services that support livelihoods and social protection, which can strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability.

SDG16 is the goal calling for civic space. Target 16.10 spells out the need for protection of fundamental freedoms and access to information and its indicators measure the numbers of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionist and human rights advocates.

Civic space restrictions directly compromise achievement of **SDG15**, as lands rights defenders, including indigenous groups, are among some of the civil society actors facing most attacks. As these groups work to protect nature through land conservation, forest management and the valuing of ecosystem and biodiversity in development planning processes.

SDG14 focuses on protecting life below water, and fishing communities are essential to achieve this locally. Fishing communities are however among the most marginalised groups in many countries – a marginalisation that can be severely exacerbated through closing civic space.

As we see climate changes worsen across the globe, focus on **SDG13** becomes increasingly pressing. To take the urgent action needed, all actors need civic space to express challenges and put forward local solutions in an open and inclusive environment. Climate change is a matter of justice to which civic space is a crucial prerequisite.

Encouraging responsible consumption and production as laid out in **SDG12** will require fundamental and systemic changes. Involvement and inclusion of civil society will be crucial to strengthen the advocacy and promote the behaviour change needed to achieve this.

Where civil society is too restricted, too weak, or too elite-focused to engage with the concerns of the urban poor, their concerns infrequently filter up to policymakers, hindering inclusiveness and sustainability in human settlements as specified in **SDG11**.

When civil society actors are silenced, it is often the most disempowered groups who lose voice, and the powerful whose voices are amplified as a result. According to **SDG10** inequalities must be reduced, and these twin processes mean that closing civic space is highly likely to lead to growing material inequalities and inequalities of power.

Being connected to rural communities and reaching economic empowerment of excluded groups is key to ensuring **SDG9** on resilient infrastructure, inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and innovation. Civil society is well connected to these groups and have played a leadership role in solutions such as micro loans and connecting communities now compromised by closing civic space.

Achieving **SDG2** can be encumbered by civic space restrictions on local communities fighting against land- and resource grabbing as well as by negatively impacting indigenous people, forest communities and small and subsistence farmers through dispossession and displacement.

Closing civic space jeopardizes civil society's key role in achieving **SDG3**, both as service providers, working to ensure access to health for all especially in rural communities and excluded populations and as information gatherers holding governments accountable to ensure health for all.

Due to civic space restrictions, civil society groups and individuals put their life at risk in some countries to ensure **SDG4** and in particular that education reaches even the most excluded groups in society.

Civil society working to achieve **SDG5**, and gender equality in general, face multiple layers of restrictions being attacked and stigmatised for their work and for who they are. As they challenge systemic patriarchal structures and gender stereotypes attacks against them prevent them from fighting to protect the most excluded and affected by gender discrimination.

Civil society works to ensure clean water and **SDG6** through service delivery, advocacy and emergency assistance. When civil society is facing attacks, it affects the most rural and excluded communities that often lack access to water and those distributing water in emergency situations are facing increased restrictions to delivering humanitarian assistance.

Civil society groups working for **SDG7**, clean energy and climate justice are speaking the voice of excluded groups affected the most by climate change. However, the lack of civic space and non-inclusion of them in finding renewable energy solutions creates a disconnect between those most at risk and decision makers.

Achieving decent work for all, as stated in **SDG8**, is severely compromised, as trade unions experience violations to freedoms of association and assembly, which prevents them from working against exploitation of workers and the associated suppression of labour rights.

