

To emphasize the importance of simplicity and ease in the application and implementation process for partner organizations within the context of the Civil Society Fund (CSF) reform, you might consider:

A need for a streamlined application process that minimizes bureaucratic hurdles and is straightforward to navigate.

The goal must be to make it easier for partner organizations, especially those in the Global South, to access support without being overwhelmed by complex requirements. For example, To truly empower our partners in the Global South, the application process should be streamlined and designed with their specific contexts in mind, ensuring it's accessible, straightforward, and supportive of their strategic goals.

The implementation guidelines must be flexible and clear, allowing partners to adapt to their unique contexts and challenges without being constrained by overly rigid or complex regulations.

Ensuring all information related to the CSF reform, application processes, and funding opportunities is easily accessible and understandable will be key to empowering our partners and fostering strong, effective partnerships.

Establishing a feedback mechanism from partner organizations to continuously improve the application and implementation processes. This will help identify and address any challenges partners face, making the system more user-friendly over time.

### Reflecting on the proposed key features of the reformed Civil Society Fund (CSF) and its support types

It's crucial to consider how these components can be optimized to better serve partner organizations and enhance the overall effectiveness of the CSF.

#### Project Support

- **Enhance Flexibility:** While project support is essential, increasing its flexibility to accommodate unexpected changes or challenges that projects might face can make a significant difference. Allowing for adaptive project management within the funding framework will enable partners to respond to unforeseen circumstances effectively.
- **Streamline Reporting:** Simplify the reporting requirements for project support to focus on impact and outcomes rather than overly detailed financial tracking. This could reduce the administrative burden on partners and focus efforts on achieving project goals.
- **Clarify Strategic Goals:** Providing clear guidelines on what constitutes strategic goals for the CSF and how they align with broader objectives could help organizations tailor their applications more effectively. This clarity will facilitate a stronger alignment between the fund's strategic priorities and the partners' initiatives.
- **Long-term Partnerships:** Encourage longer-term partnerships by offering extended funding cycles for organizations that demonstrate impact and strategic alignment with CSF goals.

This would provide stability and enable deeper, more meaningful engagement on strategic issues.

#### Funding Diversification Support

- **Broaden Criteria:** Broadening the criteria for funding diversification support to include innovative fundraising strategies, partnerships, and financial sustainability planning can empower organizations to explore new funding models. This could include training and mentorship on developing these strategies.
- **Success Sharing:** Create a platform for sharing success stories and lessons learned from diversification efforts. This can foster a learning community among CSF partners, encouraging peer-to-peer learning and collaboration.

#### Capacity Analyses Funding

- **Streamlined Application:** Simplify the application process for capacity analyses funding, ensuring it's accessible to organizations of all sizes. This might involve a shorter application form or a more guided process with CSF support staff.
- **Integrated Capacity Building:** Link capacity analyses more directly to subsequent funding for implementing capacity-building initiatives. This ensures that insights gained from analyses lead to actionable improvements, with financial support for implementation.

#### General Improvements

- **Competition and Collaboration Balance:** While competition among applicants can drive excellence and innovation, fostering a collaborative environment where organizations can learn from each other and potentially partner on initiatives could enhance the impact of the CSF.
- **Scalability of Requirements:** Ensure that the increase in requirements with larger funding amounts does not disproportionately disadvantage smaller organizations with less capacity to meet these requirements. Implementing a tiered or more nuanced approach to scaling requirements could address this concern.
- **Transparency and Feedback:** Increase transparency in the evaluation process for applications and provide constructive feedback to unsuccessful applicants. This will help organizations understand decision-making criteria better and improve future applications.

Med venlig hilsen / Best regards / Mit freundlichen Grüßen  
**HENRIK HAUBRO**

