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This action is funded by the European Union

**ANNEX 2**

of the Commission Decision on the Annual Action Programme 2016 (part 1) for Zimbabwe

**Action Document for Support to Civil Society in Zimbabwe**

**INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL GRANT APPLICANTS**

**WORK PROGRAMME FOR GRANTS**

This document constitutes the work programme for grants in the sense of Article 128(1) of the Financial Regulation (Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012), applicable to the EDF in accordance with Article 37 of Regulation (EU) 2015/323 in the following section concerning calls for proposals: 5.4.1.

<b>1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number</b>	Support to Civil Society in Zimbabwe; CRIS number: ZW/FED/038-600 financed under 11 <sup>th</sup> European Development Fund
<b>2. Zone benefiting from the action/location</b>	Zimbabwe The action shall be carried out at the following location: Zimbabwe
<b>3. Programming document</b>	National Indicative Programme (NIP) 2014-2020 for Zimbabwe
<b>4. Sector of concentration/ thematic area</b>	Governance and Institution Building
<b>5. Amounts concerned</b>	Total estimated cost: EUR 6 555 555 Total amount of EDF contribution EUR 6 000 000 This action is co-financed by potential grant beneficiaries for an indicative amount of EUR 555 555
<b>6. Aid modality and implementa- tion modality</b>	Project Modality Direct management: Grants – Call for Proposals
<b>7a) DAC code(s)</b>	15150 – Democratic Participation and Civil Society
<b>b) Main Delivery Channel</b>	20 000 - Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and civil society

8. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)	General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality (including Women In Development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Biological diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate change mitigation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Climate change adaptation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>9. Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) thematic flagships</b>	N/A			

SUMMARY

The 11<sup>th</sup> EDF National Indicative Programme (NIP) envisages support to civil society in their "participation in public policy formulation, transparency and accountability, service delivery, inclusive and sustainable growth and conflict prevention and peace building within the framework of the Constitution and as contribution to the implementation of the Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation (ZIM ASSET)".

Civil society is recognised in the ACP-EU Partnership (Cotonou) Agreement as having an important role in development and cooperation. Civil society organisations are also recognised as development actors in their own right and in the Zimbabwean context have worked diligently to amplify community voices, ensuring community participation in development processes as well as putting community interests onto the national agenda.

The Government of Zimbabwe and the European Union (EU) have agreed to have joint regular dialogue with civil society and the Parliament on the implementation of the 11<sup>th</sup> NIP.

The EU held extensive consultations with civil society leading to the development of a roadmap for engagement with civil society in May 2014. The roadmap identifies priority areas for engagement regarding an enabling environment, meaningful participation in domestic policy dialogue and programmes and capacity development.

The overall objective of this action is to strengthen participatory and accountable governance in Zimbabwe in order to contribute to economic recovery, inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development, democratisation and peace and stability. This will be achieved through, among other interventions, formalised policy dialogue between the Government at all levels, civil society and the EU, possibly in the form of a common platform.

## **1 CONTEXT**

### **1.1 Country context**

In July 2012, the European Council made a decision to suspend the application of Article 96 appropriate measures, which permitted Zimbabwe and the EU to launch the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF programming exercise in August 2012. A Country Strategy Paper (CSP) 2014-2020 was agreed by the EU and the National Authorising Officer (NAO) and was immediately followed by drafting of the EU's response strategy, the National Indicative Programme which, after the lifting of the Article 96 appropriate measures in November 2014, was then endorsed and signed on 16 February 2015 marking the resumption of full development cooperation between Zimbabwe and the EU.

After a strong rebound since the adoption of multiple currencies in 2009, gross domestic product (GDP) growth in Zimbabwe has slowed down since 2013 and remains below potential. Zimbabwe's economy remains constrained, with an unsustainably high external debt, deindustrialisation and informalisation of the economy. The 2011-2012 Poverty Income Consumption Expenditure Survey (PICES) reveals that 72.3% of Zimbabweans are poor, whilst 16.2 % of the households are in extreme poverty. Poverty is most prevalent in rural areas, where 84.3% of people are deemed poor and 30.4% extremely poor. Although the prevalence of poverty among male and female headed households is almost the same at 62.9 % and 62.0% respectively, female households are worse off on average but with many variations. The 2014 United Nations

Human Development Index (HDI) ranks Zimbabwe among low human development countries, (155 out of 186) countries. The estimated GDP per capita in 2014 was USD 931<sup>1</sup>.

The five-year (2013-2018) economic blueprint, Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation (ZIM ASSET), has four strategic clusters: (1) Food Security and Nutrition; (2) Social Services and Poverty Eradication; (3) Infrastructure and Utilities; (4) Value Addition and Beneficiation, and two sub clusters: (a) Fiscal Reform Measures and Public Administration, (b) Governance and Performance Management. The Government's transformational agenda is anchored on its commitment to implement a wide range of developmental programmes that are targeted at establishing a comprehensive national infrastructure with public enterprises reforms as one of the major focuses.

Civil society in Zimbabwe is diverse, with operations in most sectors and in most geographical areas of the country. Civil society has played an active role in the lives of citizens in Zimbabwe dating to the pre-independence era. The focus of interventions has evolved from welfare provision to developmental and ultimately to the defence of the social, economic and political liberties and rights of the people and increased demands for democratic space and reforms.

The Constitution of 2013 presents a new framework for engagement with a large number of Zimbabwean stakeholders, including the State and its institutions and civil society. The Constitution guarantees gender equality and greater promotion and protection of fundamental human rights and freedoms such as the right to freedom of assembly and association, freedom of expression and access to information. The Constitution also recognises the role of civic and social organisations in raising awareness and knowledge of the Constitution as well as in improving the quality of life of citizens.

The post 2013 elections period saw a shift in civil society-government relations with both sides exhibiting willingness to positively engage for the socio-economic recovery of the country. For example, CSOs were consulted in the process of the preparation of ZIM ASSET and also contributed to the development of the Zimbabwe position on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A number of CSOs are also involved in policy dialogue discussions with different government ministries and Local Authorities, albeit on an ad hoc and informal basis. They also engage with the relevant parliamentary portfolio committees.

### ***1.1.1 Public Policy Assessment and EU Policy Framework***

The new Constitution adopted and signed into law in May 2013 provides the overall legal framework and the starting point for civil society's involvement in transparency, good governance and accountability as these principles and values are mentioned in the preamble and the founding provisions.

CSOs are governed mainly by the Private Voluntary Organisations Act (PVO Act), which is administered by the Ministry of Labour, Public Service and Social Welfare for the registration and deregistration of Private Voluntary Organisations (PVOs). CSOs can also be registered as Trusts in terms of the Deeds Registries Act, which allows the Registrar of Deeds to register notarial deeds in donation or in trust. Trusts are dealt with by the Department of Deeds, Companies and Intellectual Property, which is administered by the Ministry of Justice, Parliamentary and Legal Affairs<sup>2</sup>. CSOs can also operate as unregistered voluntary associations or organisations known as *universitas*, in terms of the common law.

The legal framework applicable to PVOs contains several legal barriers relating to establishment and registration under the PVO Act and is complex and cumbersome. Some organisations opt to

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<sup>1</sup> 2014 World Bank Report

<sup>2</sup> NANGO 'Baseline Assessment of the Current Legal and Regulatory framework regulating the operations of Civil Society Organisations in Zimbabwe' Sept 2013 page 53

register as trusts whose registration takes less time but may result in complications and litigation for the said trust for running an 'unregistered' organisation under the PVO Act.

There is a need therefore for the development of common standards and principles applicable to all CSOs regardless of their registration regimen as a way of promoting an enabling environment for CSO operations. The operating environment for civil society is further restricted by other legislation such as the Public Order and Security Act (POSA), the Unlawful Organisations Act and the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (AIPPA) which, in one way or another, are in contradiction with the Constitution's declaration of rights and need to be repealed or heavily amended. CSO operations are also limited by the requirement to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the local leadership of the community within which they intend to operate at the local authority level.

One of the innovative features of the revised ACP-EU Partnership (Cotonou) Agreement is the emphasis put on the importance of CSOs in the development process as well as their significant role in EU development policy. Civil Society participation in the development process facilitates the overarching poverty reduction objective.

The communication on "Increasing the impact of EU development policy"<sup>3</sup> also calls for a closer cooperation between the EU and organisations such as the private sector, foundations, civil society and local and regional authorities as their role in development and the fights against poverty grows. Likewise the communication on "the roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with Civil Society in external relations"<sup>4</sup> recognises the importance of civil society in a democracy and its contribution to "more effective policies, equitable and sustainable development and inclusive growth". The participation of civil society in policy processes is essential in the development of inclusive and effective policies and in order for policy processes to be credible, CSOs must be independent, representative and competent.

### *1.1.2 Stakeholder analysis*

The main stakeholders are Civil Society Organisations in their diversity, including women's organisations, think tanks, Community-Based Organisations, Faith Based Organisations, Umbrella Organisations, networks and coalitions, stand-alone academic institutions and non-profitmaking private sector organisations working in the NIP focal sectors countrywide.

Also relevant for the programme are:

**Parliament**, as a key accountability institution responsible for enacting legislation, particularly the different portfolio committees, and facilitating engagement between the executive, elected legislators and citizens;

**Line ministries** and the **National Authorising Officer**, responsible for implementing programmes in the NIP as they are also policy makers;

**Independent Constitutional Commissions**, with the role of supporting and entrenching human rights and democracy, protecting the sovereignty and the interest of the people, etc.;

**Local Authorities** (LAs), as they are policy makers at the local level working in complementarity with civil society in the development of communities;

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<sup>3</sup> COM(2011) 637 final – Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions – Increasing the impact of EU Development Policy: an Agenda for Change.

<sup>4</sup> COM(2012)492 final - Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions – The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with Civil Society in external relations.

**Private sector**, as partners in development and potential sources of domestic revenue;

**The international community**, including EU Member States, who provide financial support to civil society;

The **media** in their role of disseminating information to the public; and

**Citizens** are the ultimate beneficiaries of development and good governance and accountability.

### ***1.1.3 Priority areas for support/problem analysis***

Interventions should address the three pillars for engagement identified in "the roadmap for EU engagement with civil society": an enabling environment, capacity development and participation in domestic policies and programmes. There is need to measure the results of interventions to be implemented under the NIP to ensure optimal utilisation of resources. The problems that CSOs face are classed into four areas: internal weakness of CSOs, restrictive legislative framework and negative operating environment, lack of meaningful participation in the policy cycle and policy dialogue, ineffectual monitoring and evaluation of the impact of interventions.

The main capacity problems relate to weak internal governance, weak project cycle management, weak identification of issues, limited ability to perform organisational mandate, weak research and advocacy skills and for some lack of legitimacy and credibility. However, there is still a considerable pool of capable human resources available in the sector as well as a well-educated national human resource base on which CSOs and other actors in Zimbabwe can draw. Moreover, they remain committed to their respective missions and committed to achieving them. This programme will help to address the problem of diminished capacity among civil society organisations to carry out their mandates effectively.

There is need for an enabling environment for CSOs to effectively perform their role. This can be achieved by aligning legislation to the Constitution as well as putting in place appropriate mechanisms for facilitating civil society work. The non-alignment of legislation with the Constitution also hinders the operations of civil society and contributes to the perpetuation of a repressive operating environment.

CSOs do participate in public policy formulation but at times this participation is not meaningful due to the historical relationship of mistrust and suspicion that exists between the state and civil society, lack of requisite skills and capacity to consult its members and constituencies to forge substantive policy positions as well as inadequate access to information. Although there is room for all stakeholders to participate in the policy framework, the participation at times becomes meaningless when the views and submissions of stakeholders are not well articulated and/or not taken into consideration by the policy makers and no feedback on the processes is provided. This problem highlights the need for a more structured and formalised dialogue between state agencies and civil society and for the enhancement of the capacity of civil society to effectively understand and influence policy formulation, so that they can be better involved in public policy processes.<sup>5</sup> A clearly defined mechanism for civil society participation on the one hand and government accountability on the other, also needs to be put in place.

Another problem is the limited access to information from the public sector and the perceived reluctance of the relevant authorities to make information available, thus circumventing public accountability. Access to information on matters of public interest is guaranteed in the Declaration of rights of the Constitution which states in Section 62(1) that "every Zimbabwean citizen or permanent resident, including juristic persons and the Zimbabwean media, has the right

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<sup>5</sup> EU Roadmap for engagement with civil society

of access to any information held by the state or any institution or agency of government at every level, in so far as the information is required in the interests of public accountability".

There is need for government at central as well as local level, CSOs and the EU Delegation to demonstrate the results of development interventions to citizens as a way of enhancing accountability and learning. The interventions need to have clearly defined and measurable objectives and indicators as well as learning outcomes. A mechanism for impact monitoring and learning needs to be developed by civil society in consultation with government and the EU delegation to monitor the impact of development interventions identified in the NIP and their resultant benefits to the population. This will strengthen civil society capacity to collectively monitor development interventions in a systematic and coordinated manner as well as build evidence for improving future interventions

The need to strengthen civil society is in line with the revised Cotonou agreement. In addition to this action, support is provided under actions jointly agreed in the NIP. The contribution of civil society to development requires the strengthening of community based organisations and non-profit non-governmental organisations in all spheres of cooperation.

Deliberate effort will be made to strengthen and support organisations tackling gender equality and women's rights.

## 2 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

<b>Risks</b>	<b>Risk level (H/M/L)</b>	<b>Mitigating measures</b>
Lack of political will of public authorities to engage with civil society	M	Political and policy dialogue with government Promotion of inclusive dialogue on all development areas, starting with the focal sectors: agriculture based economic development and health

Past mistrust and suspicion continues to cloud relations between civil society and the state	M	Regular, open and transparent dialogue to build trust and identify common ground for collaboration
Legislation impinging negatively on the operation of civil society organisation is not reformed/not aligned to the Constitution and, once adopted, not necessarily implemented	M	Make the enabling environment an agenda item in policy dialogue with government
Limited access to information by CSOs	M	Support for the alignment of access to information legislation to the Constitution and policy dialogue between EUD, Government and CSOs on access to information
Participation by organisations which do not have a legitimate mandate and lack credibility	M	Rigorous selection procedure which involves EU, government and in consultation with other development partners
<b>Assumptions</b>		
That there will be political will to engage with civil society		

That credible and legitimate CSOs will be identified to participate in the programme
Political and economic stability will be maintained during the implementation of the programme
The reengagement process between the EU and the Government of Zimbabwe will progress positively resulting in regular policy dialogue allowing for open discussions on issues of good governance, transparency and accountability
Relevant government ministries will make information on progress in implementation of the NIP available to civil society and the public

### **3 LESSONS LEARNT, COMPLEMENTARITY AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES**

#### **3.1 Lessons learnt**

In the past decade, CSOs have received considerable donor support to carry out activities in the different fields of human rights and democracy, conflict prevention and peacebuilding, service delivery, gender equality and food security which enabled them to effectively engage for the benefit of the Zimbabwean population.

However, due to the prevailing socio-political environment, there was little collaboration and cooperation between civil society and government as both sides viewed each other with suspicion and mistrust.

Many lessons have been learned in working with civil society some of which are:

- There is need to work with existing civil society organisations and to respect their internal dynamics and ownership without imposing artificial structures from outside.
- There is a need to work with credible and legitimate organisations and to encourage the development of a spirit of collaboration, partnerships and networking.
- Support to civil society needs to be more predictable with a long term approach in order to allow CSOs to achieve their own strategic direction while at the same time being able to contribute to the achievement of national objectives.
- More funding should be allocated towards capacity building, analysis and information sharing platforms for CSOs.
- Gender mainstreaming needs to be given priority attention. Gender equality should be actively promoted in all interventions.
- CSOs have an important role to play in national development and should continue to be supported to promote a democratic and inclusive society.
- Continued dialogue between CSOs, EU and government is essential in the EU's relations with Zimbabwe.

#### **3.2 Complementarity, synergy and donor coordination**

The main EU complementary actions in support to civil society are the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) and the CSO/LA Thematic programme. Support under the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF is also channelled through CSOs working in the justice sector, Parliament, consolidation of the democratisation process, health, agriculture and resilience.

The CSO thematic programme is targeted at strengthening meaningful participation of civil society in policy dialogue in governance and accountability, social development and sustainable and inclusive growth, with focus on citizen mobilisation and participation on the one hand and demanding accountability and transparency from the state on the other.

A new joint civil society funding mechanism, managed by a private company, has been set up by the Department of International Development UK (DFID), the Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade Australia (DFAT) and the Danish International Development Assistance (DANIDA) which will focus on transparency, responsiveness, accountability, and citizen engagement (TRACE).

United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the Netherlands Embassy also provide support to civil society organisations involved in different thematic areas such human rights and democracy, HIV/AIDS, citizen engagement and women's empowerment.

Donor co-ordination within the sector is strong with meetings held on a regular basis to discuss developments in the sector and share information on specific organisations being supported to avoid double dipping. Where feasible, harmonisation of reporting requirements is practised.

### **3.3 Cross-cutting issues**

As a project supporting CSO participation in the policy cycle and engagement on accountability, transparency and good governance, the project directly addresses the cross-cutting issues of democracy, good governance, human rights and transparency. Gender will be mainstreamed throughout the project with specific activities and indicators addressing gender equality and women's rights. Where possible sex disaggregated statistics will be provided.

## **4 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION**

### **4.1 Objectives/results**

This programme is relevant for the Agenda 2030. It contributes primarily to the progressive achievement of SDG target one to end poverty in all its forms everywhere as it contributes to citizen participation in policy making, but also promotes progress towards Goals five on gender equality and seventeen on partnerships for the goals. This does not imply a commitment by the country benefiting from this programme.

The overall objective of the action is to strengthen participatory and accountable governance in Zimbabwe in order to contribute to economic recovery, democratisation and peace and stability.

Specific objectives and results of the action are as follows:

**Specific objective 1:** to enhance the role of civil society, including those addressing gender equality and the rights of marginalised groups, in the promotion of transparency, good governance and accountability, including internal accountability, enabling them to meaningfully participate in the policy cycle.

**Result 1.1:** Capacity Development Programme developed and implemented resulting in enhanced CSO technical and administrative capacity for effective performance of their organisational mandates and improved internal governance and accountability.

**Result 1.2:** Improved legislative and regulatory framework leading to a conducive and enabling environment for civil society engagement and participation in national development processes.

**Result 1.3:** Strengthened, independent and co-ordinated CSOs and umbrella organisations effectively participating in the policy cycle and able to hold government accountable at all levels.

**Specific objective 2:** to strengthen Civil Society's watchdog role in the implementation of the NIP focal sectors of governance and institution building, health and agriculture-based economic

development for improved, accountable and effective development outcomes as well as sustainability.

**Result 2.1:** NIP implementation monitored and documented and used for holding government and EU accountable.

**Result 2.2:** Civil society capacity to play an effective role as a development actor increased.

## **4.2 Main activities**

Activities will be identified through a call for proposals. This is an indicative non-exhaustive list of possible interventions:

### **Specific Objective 1**

- Support capacity building initiatives targeting single networks and platforms. Gender to be mainstreamed in all capacity building initiatives.
- Initiatives promoting improved governance and accountability at country level and with public authorities such as independent budget analysis (including gender budgeting), expenditure tracking, monitoring and evaluating the implementation of policies and laws, including their impact on gender equality, access to information, capacity building initiatives for policy dialogue targeting CSOs, communities, networks and platforms at the local and national level, advocacy campaigns, research, publication and dissemination of relevant development information.
- Developing position papers, policy documents and briefs.
- Facilitating platforms for dialogue amongst and between CSOs and other stakeholders.
- Support institutional strengthening of networks/platforms/coalitions and the strengthening of their constituencies.

## Specific Objective 2

- Impact oriented research and monitoring on 11<sup>th</sup> EDF programmes for improved development outcomes and sustainability.
- Regular consultative forums between Government, Local Authorities, CSOs and EU Delegation.
- Consultative forums between CSOs and communities for community input into policy development.

## 5 IMPLEMENTATION

### 5.1 Financing agreement

In order to implement this action, it is foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with the partner country, referred to in Article 17 of Annex IV to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement.

### 5.2 Indicative implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 4.12 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is **60 months** from the date of entry into force of the financing agreement.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's authorising officer responsible by amending this decision and the relevant contracts and agreements; such amendments to this decision constitute non-substantial amendment in the sense of Article 9(4) of Regulation (EU) 2015/322.

### 5.3 Implementation of the budget support component

Not applicable under this action.

### 5.4 Implementation modalities

#### 5.4.1 Grants: call for proposals Support to Civil Society in Zimbabwe (direct management)

(a) Objectives of the grants, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

The grants will strengthen participatory and accountable governance in Zimbabwe in order to contribute to economic recovery, democratisation and peace and stability; through achievement of an enhanced role of civil society in the promotion of transparency, good governance and accountability; as well as strengthened capacity to participate meaningfully in the policy cycle and monitor the impact of interventions within the NIP focal sectors, for improved development outcomes and sustainability. Activities will be identified through a call for proposals. A non-exhaustive list of possible eligible actions is indicated under point 4.2 above.

(b) Eligibility conditions

The initiatives to be financed shall be initiated and directly implemented by Civil Society Organisations<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>6</sup> Indicatively, civil society organisations will be defined as: non-state, non-profit making actors operating on an independent and accountable basis which include: non-governmental organisations, organisations representing indigenous peoples, organisations representing national and/or ethnic minorities, diaspora organisations, migrants' organisations in partner countries, local traders' associations and citizens' groups, cooperatives, employers' associations and trade unions (social partners), organisations representing economic and social interests, organisations fighting corruption and fraud and promoting good governance, civil rights organisations and organisations combating discrimination, local organisations (including networks) involved in decentralised regional

Priority will be given to supporting Zimbabwean CSOs in order to strengthen their capacity, in line with the overall objectives of the action and to actions based on local initiatives and genuine involvement of Zimbabwean CSOs should be ensured at all stages.

All actions should include an element of capacity development of local CSOs. Partnerships among CSOs and other stakeholders are encouraged in order for the action to achieve stronger ownership and impact.

**As applicant:** the eligibility of applicants is restricted to all types of CSOs and their associations originating from countries eligible for the European Development Fund.

**Co-applicant and affiliated entities:** the eligibility of co-applicant and affiliated entities is restricted to all types of CSOs and/or their associations and LAs and/or their associations originating from the countries described above under applicant.

Subject to information to be published in the call for proposals, the indicative amount of the EU contribution per grant is minimum EUR 500 000 and maximum EUR 2 500 000 and the grants may be awarded to sole beneficiaries and to consortia of beneficiaries (coordinator and co-beneficiaries).

The indicative duration of the grant (its implementation period) is of **minimum 30 months and maximum 42 months**.

(c) Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

The essential award criteria are relevance of the proposed action to the objectives of the call; design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

(d) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for grants under this call is **90%**.

In accordance with Articles 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out, the maximum possible rate of co-financing may be increased up to 100%. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the Commission's authorising officer responsible in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

(e) Indicative timing to launch the call

1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2017

## **5.5 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants**

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply.

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cooperation and integration, consumer organisations, women's and youth organisations, environmental, teaching, cultural, research and scientific organisations, universities, churches and religious associations and communities, the media and any non-governmental associations and independent foundations, including independent political foundations, likely to contribute to the implementation of the objectives of programme.

The Commission’s authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility in accordance with Article 22(1)(b) of Annex IV to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of products and services in the markets of the countries concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

## 5.6 Indicative budget

	<b>EU contribution (in EUR)</b>	<b>Indicative third party contribution, in currency identified</b>
5.4.1.– Call for proposals Support to Civil Society in Zimbabwe (direct management)	5 000 000	EUR 555 555
5.9 – Evaluation, 5.10 – Audit	450 000	N.A.
5.11 – Communication and visibility	50 000	N.A.
Contingencies	500 000	N.A.
Totals	6 000 000	EUR 555 555

## 5.7 Organisational set-up and responsibilities

A Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be established for the action, with participation by the NAO, EU Delegation and Civil Society (beneficiaries); to provide strategic direction and oversight. The PSC will meet at least biannually and more often if needed.

## 5.8 Performance monitoring and reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of projects resulting from a call for proposals will be a continuous process and part of the implementing partner’s responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (outputs and direct outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix (for project modality). The report shall be laid out in such a way as to allow monitoring of the means envisaged and employed and of the budget details for the action. The final report, narrative and financial, will cover the entire period of the action implementation.

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

## 5.9 Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, a mid-term and final evaluation will be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the Commission.

The mid-term evaluation will be complemented by real-time monitoring exercises to be conducted by CSOs alongside the evaluations contracted under other programmes covered by the

NIP. This monitoring will measure the impact of the interventions under the NIP as a whole. Outcomes will be documented, communicated and used for learning, improving development results and future interventions and sustainability, leading to enhanced discourse on development among the different stakeholders identified in this programme.

The final evaluation will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the fact that this action has as objective to contribute to strengthening participatory and accountable governance in Zimbabwe in order to contribute to economic recovery, democratisation and peace and stability and important lessons could be drawn to feed into development processes in the country.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least one month in advance of the dates foreseen for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

The evaluation reports shall be shared with the partner country and other key stakeholders. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the partner country, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.

Indicatively, two contracts for evaluation services shall be concluded: one during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the project and one during the closure phase.

#### **5.10 Audit**

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audits or expenditure verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

Indicatively one contract for audit services shall be concluded under framework contract during the closure phase.

#### **5.11 Communication and visibility**

Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU.

This action shall contain communication and visibility measures which shall be based on a specific Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action, to be elaborated at the start of implementation and supported with the budget indicated in section 5.6 above.

In terms of legal obligations on communication and visibility, the measures shall be implemented by the Commission, the partner country, contractors, grant beneficiaries and/or entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, the financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.

The implementation modalities for communication and visibility actions will be direct management through procurement of services and/or supplies for a total amount of EUR 50,000 as indicated in section 5.6 above.

Subject in generic terms, if possible	Type (works, supplies, services)	Indicative number of contracts	Indicative trimester of launch of the procedure
Communication and Visibility	Services, Supplies	3	4 <sup>th</sup> Trimester of 2016 4 <sup>th</sup> Trimester of 2017