ENTRY POINTS FOR CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN THE DEVELOPMENT PLANNING PROCESS

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Historical background of cooperation between GRN and CSOs in Namibia.

- Since and well before the country’s independence
- Guarantee through Constitution
- GRN good intentions through Help Desk
- Cooperation Framework
- Joint Participation at International forums
Overall objectives of the Policy Framework

“is to create a working partnership for the entire country, its citizens and their civic organisations, and for the Government”.

Civil Society
Private Sector

Working together
Benefits of engaging with CSOs

Based on the roles CSOs play in their societies, the reasons to engage with them in SDGs-based planning and policy processes include:

- They are pivotal for mobilizing public opinion and raising public awareness.
- Their work creates bottom-up demand that holds leaders accountable.
- Engaging CSOs is a way to promote the full participation of local actors and the process helps to strengthen local skills.
- Participatory assessment and monitoring processes at the community level can help initiate community-driven action.
Challenges on getting CSOs involved

- **State and civil society relations** –
  - Competition, rivalry and tensions

- **CSO capacity, in terms human and financial capital**
  - Limited capacity for policy research and analysis
  - Limited experience with policy monitoring tools
  - Mismatched technical capacity

- **Obstacles in organizing and networking**

- **Limited representation and inclusiveness**

- **Limited political space to act**

- **Continuous and incremental process of creating partnerships and collaborations**
DETERMINING THE RIGHT COURSE OF ACTION

✓ Government perception towards CSOs
✓ CSOs leveraging and or contributing national strategies
✓ Skills transfer for mutual benefit between GRN and CSOs
✓ CSOs ease of lobbying and raising awareness at grassroots' levels
Why involving CSOs in Development Planning

- Their grassroots level base connectivity
- Continued engagement leaving no one behind
- Contribute bottom up approach to ensure ownership
How are Civil Society involved? The Entry Point

- Assessing the national vision and long-term strategy;
- Aligning sectoral and cross-sectoral strategies; and
- Preparing an interim strategy to achieve progress towards long-term goals. Each of these phases follows the next and provides a general overview of the steps required for a country to prepare and finalize its medium-term development plan.
Conclusions and Recommendations

- GRN effort to cooperate with CSOs highly encouraged to ensure inclusivity and ownership at all levels;
- GRN efforts to support CSOs financial and human resource capacity building highly recommended; and
- GRN CSOs Partnership Policy Review highly encouraged and recommended constructive partnership and sustainable development
- Cooperation and joint participation at national and international forum highly recommended
- GRN CSOs Policy provisions be implemented
I THANK YOU