Terms of reference
Study: Contributions of civil society organizations to democracy, development and human rights in Latin America and the Caribbean

Description	Terms of reference for hiring researchers/teams of researchers to carry out a study on the contributions of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to democracy, development and human rights in sub-regions of Latin America and the Caribbean
Duration of contract	7 months (May – November 2018)
Full amount (taxes included)	9.000 USD for each sub - regional study 4 sub – regional studies
Type of contract	Profesional services

1. Introduction

The Innovation for Change Initiative, recognizing the decisive role of the civil society sector in finding high-impact solutions for global, regional and local problems, seeks to support, strengthen and increase the sustainability of this sector. As part of this effort, and seeking to articulate and position civil society in Latin America and the Caribbean, will be coordinating the development of a research study on the role and contribution of civil society organizations (CSOs) to democracy, development and human rights in the region.

Grupo FARO will coordinate research efforts, monitor sub-regional studies, produce a regional report based on inputs from sub-regional studies and disseminate regional results.

Four sub-regional studies will be commissioned to researchers, universities and /or think tanks in the region (Southern Cone, Andean Region, Caribbean, Central America and Mexico[1]). The studies will reflect the diversity of Latin America and the Caribbean, both at the level of regions, and at the level of consolidation of CSOs. This will generate a regional vision, identifying CSO´s contributions to development, democracy and human rights in Latin America and the Caribbean as well as detect and prioritize challenges.

2. Objective

To position the contribution of CSOs to the progress of the sub-regions of Latin America and the Caribbean, specifically with regard to their role and contribution to development, democracy and human rights, while identifying and prioritizing key challenges to this sector and generate recommendations to overcome these challenges.

3. Methodology

For purposes of this study, CSOs are understood as the set of non-profit organizations and institutions, independent of the State and the business sector, that originate in citizen groups and seek the promotion of the general welfare by strengthening democracy, governability and the development of society, working in a wide range of topics: environment, gender, education, health, citizen participation, among others.

Sub-regional studies are expected to include the following elements:

1. Analysis of at least three sub-regional countries (prioritizing the diversity between countries included).
2. Literature review, reports and other relevant publications.

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[1] Fort the purpose of this study subregions will be formed by the following countries: South Cone (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Uruguay and Paraguay), Andean Region (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela), Central America and Mexico (Belice, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama and Mexico), Caribbean (Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haití, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago and Surinam).

3. Use of quantitative[2] (relevant indicators) and qualitative[3] data (surveys of CSO, focal groups and/or interviews with key actors) methodologies.
4. Analysis on the evolution of the CSO (last ten year period).
5. Analysis on the context and history of the CSOs; for the selected countries.
6. Analysis of CSOs contributions to development, democracy and human rights in each country selected in the sub-region.
7. Analysis on the challenges and difficulties faced by the CSO; for the selected countries.
8. Systematization of CSOs contributions to the development of the region (for example: contributions to the integration agenda and collaboration between countries).
9. Generation of recommendations for:
   o The visibility of their role and contribution to the analyzed country.
   o The strengthening of CSOs.
   o Overcoming barriers and challenges to CSOs work.

The regional study will draw on the inputs generated by sub-region to highlight the role and contribution of CSOs to the region to position their role in development, democracy and human rights and propose recommendations for strengthening the sector and overcoming key barriers and challenges.

4. Activities

1. Participate in videoconferences for methodological alignment (at least two videoconferences).
2. Interact with the communication team of the project to provide inputs to disseminate the study's efforts (virtual interviews, mini-videos, texts or briefs).
3. Comply with the schedule and deliver products in time.
4. Participate in a peer review process receiving feedback and giving feedback to other studies.
5. Adjust research documents according to comments.
6. Develop and implement a plan to disseminate the sub-regional report.
7. Present a publication report which, after being approved by Grupo FARO LAC, will be published in a compendium of the regional studies.

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[2] The quantitative analysis should at least include basic indicators of areas such as: number of CSOs, type of CSOs and work areas of CSOs, as well as other relevant indicators (available for example in reports by country generated by organizations such as CIVICUS: https://www.civicus.org/index.php/media-center/reports-publications/csi-reports/americas o en reportes colectivos de rendición de cuentas, si existieran).

[3] The cualittive analysis should include case studies highlighting experiences that show the contributions of CSO analyzing the sub región, and the Latin American and Caribean region.

8. Carry out a local event to disseminate the sub-regional report (with at least 30 participants).
9. Present a report about the local event.

5. Expected products

1. Research proposal (chronogram, methodology, criteria for the selection of informants, etc.).
2. Research document 1 (first draft).
3. Research document 2 (second draft)
4. Comments to other studies (peer review).
5. Final research document (including adjustments required by peer reviewers).
6. An article for a blog. The subject of the post will be previously agreed with the research and communication team, who will edit the final material.
7. A synthesis report (brief) of the study that communicates the main findings through infographics / key results.
8. Agreed communication inputs (could be: virtual interviews, mini-videos or others).
9. Report on the execution of a local dissemination event (including list of participants, photographs and media coverage).

6. Timeline

The estimated timeline is presented below:

	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
Call for proposals	■						
Researcher selection		■					
Meeting in first webinar		■					
Research process		■	■	■			
Meeting in second webinar			■				
Delivery of first draft			■				
Feedback					■		
Delivery of second draft				■	■		
Peer review						■	
Development of final draft						■	
Development of communication products (post, brief, videos, other)						■	
Organization of local events							■
Result dissemination in regional event							■

7. Deadlines

The deadline for the proposal presentation is **May15.** The study must be carried out from May 30th to November 30th, 2018.

8. Fees and payment method (products)

Sub-region studies and dissemination of sub-regional findings will be remunerated with USD 9,000$ (nine thousand US dollars). Tax withholdings will be made according to the law.

Payments will be made in accordance to the following schedule:
- Payment 1:
  30% with the approval of the research proposal
- Payment 2:
  70% after the delivery and approval of the products d); e); f); g); and h).

9. Qualifications of the researcher/team of researchers

- Knowledge and experience around civil society and CSOs in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Excellent research skills (information gathering and analysis, compilation, reporting and communication skills).
- Master's or doctorate degree in social sciences, public policies, development, or other relevant fields.
- Experience of at least five years in research.
- Relevant publications as author or co-author.

10. Coordination
The consultant will coordinate directly with Grupo FARO.

11. Documents
Interested candidates must send a proposal to agalarza@grupofaro.org and apmunoz@grupofaro.org including:

- Methodological proposal (proposed methodology, preliminary relevant literature, selected countries within the sub-region, quantitative indicators identified, timeline, criteria for selecting informants, allies and strategies to achieve data collection in various countries, among others) maximum 8 pages.

- Professional CV (researcher / team of researchers) detailing previous experience in similar projects and at least three references (including links to relevant publications).

- A sample document (a publication or research paper of its authorship, preferably in related areas).

ANNEX

Defining Civil Society Organizations

Civil society organizations (CSOs) are a set of organizations and institutions that function as mediating entities between citizens and the State[4]. CSOs balance the power of the State and protect the citizens of this power[5], while strengthening democracy, governability and the development of society[6]. In addition, these organizations seek to intervene in the public agenda and in the decision-making process working around a wide range of topics, including environment, gender, education, health, civic participation and others.

CSOs have shaped a new relationship between the State and society, redefining inclusion criteria, expanding the public space and generating a new understanding of the concept of citizenship[7]. Furthermore, "civil societies are created in the same process in which the historical subjects themselves are constructed, in their diversity of identities, interests, proposals and autonomies, in oppositions and differences, through movements, struggles and organizations"[8].

In a classic vision, civil society organizations are conceived as non-profit entities, of a social nature, with their origin in citizen groups, formed to benefit a social group or society in general (non-profit organizations, foundations, NGOs, trade unions, among others are an example of organizations considered under this vision). Although these are the most outstanding CSOs, since the 1980s a new category of organization has been born: the social enterprise.

Social enterprises[9] are distinguished from "classic" CSOs in that they have generating a profit as a central goal, although subject to limits and focused on the benefit to society. This material or capital element allows them to solve the financing problem and consolidate their autonomy. Social enterprises do not represent a break from traditional CSOs, instead they show new dynamics in this category, in which social focus prevails with fewer limitations in terms of financing.

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[4] Cecilia Bobes. (2002). *Movimientos sociales y sociedad civil: una mirada desde América Latina.*
[5] Fukuyama (2001). *Social Capital, Civil Society and Development.*
[6] Programa de Desarrollo de las Naciones Unidas.
[7] Bobes, 2002.
[8] Grzybowski (2004). *Democracia, sociedad civil y política en América Latina: notas para un debate.*
[9] Jaques Defourny and Marthe Nyssens (2006), *Defining Social Enterprise.*

The following table[10] shows a broad classification of different CSOs, considering the variables: type of benefit and profit purpose.

	Mutual benefit	Public benefit
Non profit	Unions	Non-profit organizations
		Public interest corporations
	Consumer cooperatives	Foundations
		Social enterprises
For profit	Cooperatives	

Under this scheme, CSO categories would be:

1) Unions: organizations that promote the economic, social and cultural interests of workers who form it (non-profit and mutually beneficial).

2) Non-Profit Organizations: organizations that do not pursue lucrative purposes and focus on generating positive impact on society and maximizing the public benefit (non-profit and public benefit).

3) Consumer Cooperatives: they are a type of association that seeks to benefit and satisfy its members, facilitating consumer activities when acquiring joint assets (non-profit and mutual benefit).

4) Corporations of Public Interest: they are considered associations or organizations with public benefit but whose administration is independent of the state administration (non-profit and public benefit).

5) Foundations: are societies or organizations whose members are dedicated to generating social or humanitarian impact. They are usually financed by donations (non-profit and public benefit).

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[10] Based on *Charitable and Non –profit Organizations in Japan* (s.f), published by The Japan Association of Charitable Organization (JACO).

6) Social Enterprises: are organizations with a social objective, in which the material interest of capital investors is limited (for profit and public benefit purposes).

7) Cooperatives: are companies formed with the purpose of generating an economic or financial activity in a way that is more advantageous for those who are part of the cooperative. These organizations have a lucrative purpose and concentrate the benefits on their members (for profit and public benefit).

CSOs in Latin America

CSOs in Latin America and the Caribbean, in general, emerge after military dictatorships, in a context of re-democratization and with a focus on human rights. "The authoritarian and military processes in Latin America involved a limitation of public spaces and the prohibition and proscription of traditional forms of association: political parties, unions, committees"[11]. In this context, social and cultural manifestations that origin in citizens are politicized, generating new individual and collective actors[12].

These new actors are then those who played a crucial role in the re-democratization processes of the eighties. In this period, associative non-governmental activities, which are not profit-oriented and which seek the common good, are consolidated, allowing the aforementioned actors to focus on denouncing abuses committed under military regimes[13]. The role of citizens was of great importance in this process, since it was in this group where democratic and ethical values were safeguarded.

In addition, in the eighties emerged two phenomena that helped expanding civil networks. On the one hand, human rights and the International Law are globalized, which led to the linking of Latin American associations with international networks[14]. Under the discourse of universal values, this linkage allowed citizen associations to expand and receive international support to make their claims.

On the other hand, the Washington Consensus promoted the development of non-governmental sectors in Latin America, in an attempt to compensate for the inefficiency of States. These factors helped civil society, and the organizations and groups formed by citizens, position themselves as a relevant actor in LAC. The factors mentioned above allowed a kind of a boom of organizations and civil society groups in the region.

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[11] Cruz y Schall (2001), en un reporte sobre el Índice de la Sociedad Civil de CIVICUS.

[12] Ibidem.

[13] Serbin (2007) en ICS, balance de resultados para América Latina.

[14] Ibidem

Despite the similar context in which these organizations emerged, the development and consolidation of CSOs in the region has been uneven. In some countries, such as Chile, CSOs have established strong roots in society and have generated productive relationships with the State[15] that support these organizations and allow them to develop autonomously. On the other hand, there are countries in which this autonomy has not been respected by the States, which have not cooperated with CSOs, keeping them excluded from political processes and under constant suspicion[16]. This is usually the situation for CSOs, which by their nature, advocate for the rights of historically marginalized groups and prioritize in their agendas themes critical to the States, especially when States have repressive tendencies (focuses on civil rights, human rights, environmental protection and others).

Additionally, in general terms the CSOs in Latin America and the Caribbean must be developed in a context "where patrimonial political culture, transgressive individualism and a salvationist vision through the State predominate"[17]. This factor, accompanied by extreme poverty, large social gaps and inequality - characteristics that continue to be latent in the region-, as well as the abuse of power and corruption, have prevented CSOs from consolidating and carrying out their purposes with fullness. Other detractors for CSOs in the region are abuse of power and corruption

The contributions of the CSOs to Latin American society

Despite the challenges and obstacles that CSOs face in LAC and, in general, in the world, CSOs have allowed citizens to participate actively in political processes, giving voice and representation to sectors that used to be marginalized, which has in turn strengthened the social fabric. Citizen representation has allowed CSOs to acquire the ability to influence the public agenda and the debate on a series of topics. In particular, these organizations have been important for the development of democracy and democratic governance, accountability and human rights[18]:

Contributions to democracy

Citizen groups and social organizations have played a very important role in the democratizing processes of Latin America and the Caribbean after the decades of military dictatorships. The role of civil society in the construction of the democratic apparatus has been visible in different contexts and under diverse political, economic and social circumstances.

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[15] FOCAL (2006), en Reporte de Conferencia.
[16] Ibidem.
[17] Sorj (2015), en Ocho tesis sobre la Sociedad Civil en América Latina.
[18] Reporte de la FOCAL (2006).

In the words of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia: "An organized civil society is an imperative condition and an expression of democracy, it is an intermediary between the State and society and a key element of good governance. It is not an alternative to the State but complements its activities"[19]. The contributions of CSOs to democracy include:

• By working with different social groups, CSOs have a strategic position to identify relevant and vulnerable sectors, as well as to demand and monitor governmental actions, both locally and nationally. CSOs can monitor that governments comply with and follow the guidelines of their national and international commitments, which in turn increases the accountability mechanisms of the central government.

• Given the nature of CSOs, these organizations can encourage dialogue between different social groups. Democracies in LAC have shown an absence of consensus, as well as high degrees of polarization and marginalization. These elements are considered democratic detractors and dialogue is a way to reduce them and eliminate them. This has allowed CSOs to play an important role in reducing conflict through the generation of tools focused on dialogue and consensus.

• CSOs contribute to increasing awareness and respect for individual rights that allow the exercise of freedom of expression, association and assembly, crucial elements for a participatory democracy.

• By monitoring political processes, making sure that the regulations are met at the time of the elections, CSOs have an influence on assuring that processes are free and fair. Furthermore, by increasing capacities for government institutions to be receptive, accountable and protect the rights of all citizens, they build and strengthen the rule of law[20].

• The work on monitoring the public budget and government spending affects the improvement of budget policies and the information available on public spending, which has increased transparency[21].

• By granting representation to marginalized groups, CSOs have closely monitored government actions related to social protection, ensuring that public policies and programs related to this issue are carried out with rigor, according to international parameters[22]. This strengthens democracy, making it more inclusive and participatory.

• Focusing on issues such as participation, transparency and governance has allowed CSOs to generate pressure on the States to constantly implement accountability mechanisms.

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[19] CESPAO citada en Mpedi (2014), The role of civil society in keeping vigil over the human rights.

[20] Lowenkron (2006), The Essential Role of Non-Governmental Organizations in the Development of Democracy

[21] (IBP, s.f)

[22] Mpedi, 2014.

• CSOs have the capacities, connections and the potential to educate citizens about their rights and responsibilities, how government works, the decision-making process and how this has a direct impact on their lives.

Contributions to the Human Rights

CSOs, especially those that advocate for human rights and democratic principles, have helped to shape international agreements, instruments, institutions and mechanisms for the fulfillment of human rights. At the same time, CSOs have been essential for shaping the language around human rights and fundamental freedoms established in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations[23]. In addition, CSOs position, channel, propose, execute and monitor projects and mechanisms for the government to comply with the aforementioned.

Currently, thanks to new technologies and access to information, the violation of the rights of different groups, including those that have decided to remain isolated, is made visible and protected with the participation of CSOs, who identify and disseminate information and reach relevant audiences[24]. Civil and political rights, rights of ethnic, cultural and religious minorities, the protection and respect of sexual diversity, the protection of the environment and animal rights are just some of the issues that CSOs have been involved in, generating progress in the promotion of Human Rights.

Contribution to Development

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP)[25] explains that collaborating with CSOs has improved the efficiency of developmental interventions and participatory governance, strengthening government institutions and practices such as accountability, good governance, democratization of development cooperation, and the quality and effectiveness of official development programs. In addition, civil society actors at national and global levels have developed a great capacity and influence on a wide range of developmental issues, so collaborating with CSOs helps to improve the effectiveness of developmental interventions, especially in programs with marginal and vulnerable groups. In particular, the contributions of CSOs cover the following areas:

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[23] Lowenkron, 2006.
[24] Castells, 2000.
[25] PNUD sobre las OSC en su página oficial.

• Support to civil society can facilitate the participation of poor and vulnerable populations in the design and implementation of development policies and programs. This, in turn, can improve the provision of basic social services, such as health and education[26].

• The diversity of CSOs (in themes, actors, interest groups, structures and activities) translates into the generation of solutions and diverse projects.

• Thanks to their structure, the nature of their work and their autonomous nature, CSOs have been innovative in offering solutions, generating mechanisms and connecting with international actors to share their ideas and best practices[27].

• CSOs have allowed the visualization of problems and their introduction into the public agenda, generating specialized knowledge and collecting information to design public policies. This is why CSOs have identified themselves as crucial actors to locate resources, ideas, experiences, and transform them into proposals for public policies that come from technical knowledge, but also include the knowledge of society and the population.

• CSOs have been crucial actors in the implementation of public policies, developing processes and influencing them directly so that they are carried out with rigor.

• Given their nature and their social fabric, CSOs have worked directly with people to implement strategies that respond to their specificities. In this process, CSOs have facilitated the translation of problems in public policies and the implementation of public policies into concrete actions that can be understood and accepted by the general public.

• CSOs have generated surveillance and monitoring strategies to detect the sustainability of public policies, contributing to their improvement by participating in impact evaluation processes.

• When CSOs are involved in the generation of public policies, social and thematic sectors are included in the agenda, which are often excluded from the political processes, thus allowing important advances in terms of individual and collective rights and development.

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[26] Ibidem
[27] Ibidem

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