



South Sudan Civil Society Forum on the High-Level Revitalization Forum (SSCSF)

A Framework for Civil Society Participation in the Revitalization Forum 7 December 2017

Introduction

This paper provides a framework for citizen participation in the High-Level Revitalization Forum (HLRF). Civil society participation in this process is only relevant to the extent that it serves to guide the outcomes of the political process towards the aspirations of the people of South Sudan. We, as South Sudanese civil society organizations in South Sudan and in the diaspora, conceive our role as the bridge between the political and military actors that are waging war with one another and the people who bear the cost of that struggle for power.

The framework focuses on civil society engagement through a track II process in which civil society is formally recognized as a critical participant in the peace process. This track II framework of civil society participation is discussed in turn below.

Rationale

The primary goal of civil society participation in the HLRF is to serve as a bridge between the process and the people of South Sudan. If citizens do not understand the commitments that have been made in the context of the HLRF and the reasoning that went into them, they will not be in a position to own the outcome and hold their leaders accountable to their promises for peace in our country. This Civil Society Forum will inform people about the HLRF and key issues that are being discussed and capture their views, provide context and analysis, and present them to mediators and the warring parties so as to inform their decisions at the HLRF.

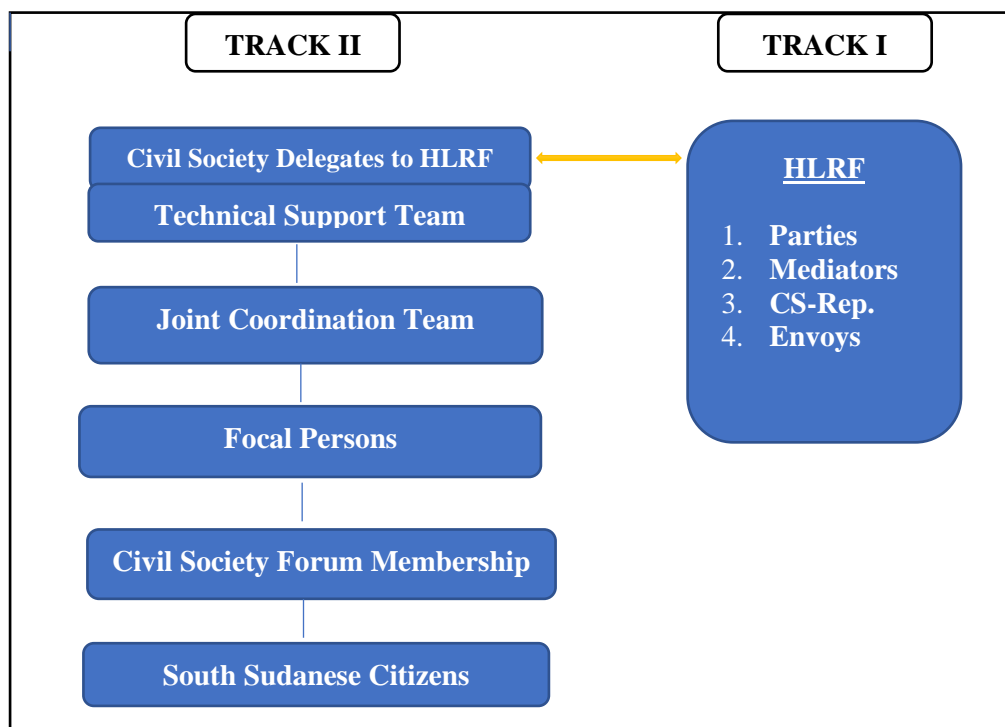
Given the suffering our people have endured for the last four years, they are understandably pessimistic about the prospects for success in the HLRF. This makes it all the more important that we engage with

them from the outset and help to generate a sense of ownership over the process. We will encourage citizens' participation in the (HLRF) – taking into account high level of illiteracy and trauma effect the conflict has had on them already, limiting their interest to participate in political processes.

We agreed to constitute ourselves into a Form on the HLRF. This Forum is a loose coalition of civil society organizations comprised of about 20 organisations.

Track II Framework for participation of citizens

Figure 1: Track II Framework for Participation of Citizens in HLRF



Description of Track II:

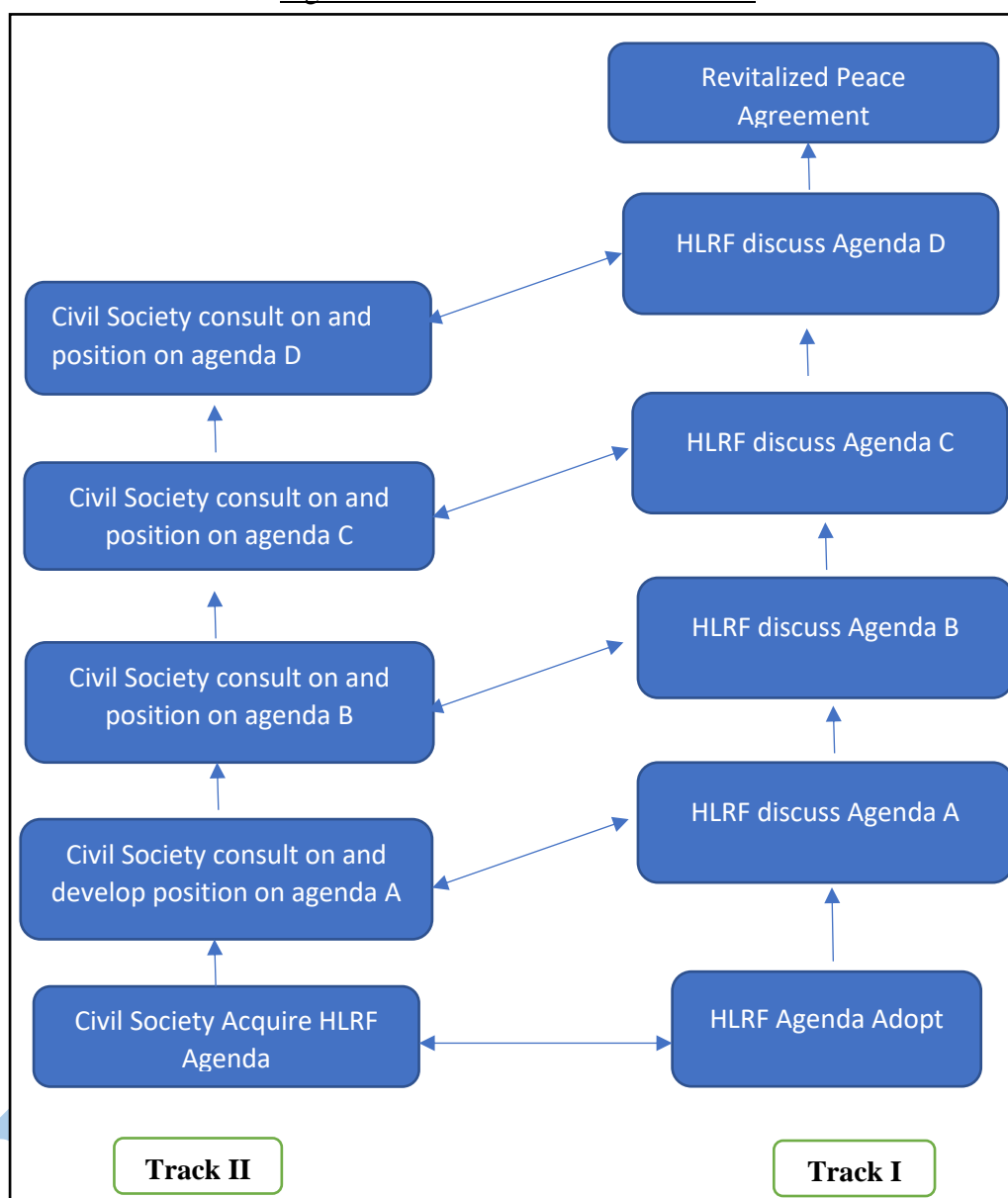
1. **The Track II Process:** Figure 1 describes the framework for civil society participation (Track II) and how it relates to HLRF (Track I). This Track II process involves five stages of citizen engagement connecting South Sudanese public in the country and outside the country to civil society delegates directly participating in the HLRF. It is a two way communication process designed to reliably share information with the South Sudanese public in their various locations and capture and channel their contributions to the HLRF in Addis Ababa.
2. **Delegates and Technical Support Team:** These two constitute civil society team to Addis Ababa and will serve as the primary interface between civil society and the HLRF. The delegates participate directly in the HLRF, in line with rules and procedures of the process and lead civil society engagement and advocacy with parties to the process, envoys, mediators etc. The Technical Support Team serves as a backstop secretariat, providing vital technical support to the delegates and the entire Track II process. For more constructive contributions to the HLRF, this Technical Support Team will consist of civil society actors with expertise in areas such as media, law, governance, security, economy etc. Both the Delegates and Technical Support Team will be present in Addis Ababa whenever HLRF convenes.

3. **Joint Coordination Team (JCT):** This consists of a small group of about 15 – 20 civil society representatives drawn from different locations and constituencies. This Team takes decisions on behalf of the wider Civil Society Forum Membership, advises the Delegates and Technical Support Team and holds them accountable. This Joint Coordination Team coordinates between the Delegates in Addis Ababa and civil society Focal Persons in various locations including the ten former states in South Sudan, South Sudanese diaspora and camps of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Refugees. They will communicate to them, progress of HLRF, based on information that is made available, collect, compile and share their views with the Delegates and Technical Support Team.
4. **Focal Persons (FPs):** These Focal Persons represent locations with significant South Sudanese populations e.g. states in the country, IDP camps, refugee camps and diaspora communities in different countries especially those neighbouring South Sudan. Each location will have a Focal Person that carry out consultations and coordinates flow of information between civil society members in their respective locations and the Joint Coordination Team.
5. **Civil Society Forum Membership:** This consists of South Sudanese civil society organizations committed to engage in the HLRF through this Forum (coalition). They are based in the former ten states in the country, IDP and refugee camps, and other countries and will lead local level information dissemination and consultations on the HLRF, compile and share citizens' views with their respective focal persons.
6. **South Sudanese Citizens:** These are the ordinary citizens both within and outside South Sudan; in diaspora, IDP and refugee camps. They are anxious about progress of the HLRF and need reliable information about process. Their voices matter in the peace process and this civil society Forum intends to promote their engagement with the process.

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Relationship between Track I and Track II

Figure 2: How Track I relates to Track II



Commitments of the Civil Society Forum on the HLRF

We commit to do the following in the HLRF process:

1. Inform South Sudanese and interested stakeholders about the HLRF and key issues that are being discussed. We will work with our colleagues in the media sector to ensure that developments in the HLRF are reported accurately and responsibly to South Sudanese audiences around the world.
2. Capture the views of our constituencies, provide context and analysis, and present them to mediators and the warring parties so as to inform their positions at the HLRF.
3. Coordinate efforts with communities' local structures (where situation allows) to get out communications and messages on the political process (HLRF) to solicit key views which could inform the process.

4. Invest efforts in coordinating our positions and activities. Towards this end, we established the Track II Framework (Figure 1) as a mechanism for coordination with representation of CSOs in South Sudan and the diaspora.
5. Participate in Track II and the HLF in accordance with the terms of reference in Annex 1 and Annex 2, we set for ourselves and in line with procedures and regulations of IGAD on the process, including signing agreements pledging not to disclose confidential information without prior approval from mediators.
6. Represent the interests and aspirations of the ordinary South Sudanese citizens who bear the cost of violent struggles for power in our country.
7. Make a special effort to expand our networks to include unnetworked community based organizations. These groups are particularly relevant for outreach among IDP and refugee communities, and at the state and local level, where national organizations often have less of a presence.
8. Liaise with United Nations High Commission for Refugees in countries hosting South Sudanese refugees and the United Nations Mission in South Sudan to ensure refugees and IDPs effectively participate in the HLF.
9. Meet with the political and military actors involved with the Track I mediation so as to learn more about their positions, try to understand where compromises can result in outcomes that are better for the people of South Sudan, and lobby them accordingly.
10. Meet with mediators to share a unique vantage point or to speak to a specific area of interest.
11. Develop position papers on topics of discussion and submit them to mediators and negotiating parties in Track I.

Expected Outcome of Track II

Using this Track II Framework for participation of citizens, SSCSF expects the following:

1. South Sudanese citizens are informed about the HLF
2. Increased coordination ability of civil society to provide substantive and unified contribution to the HLF process
3. Revitalized ARCSS that reflects the aspiration of ordinary citizens
4. Increased preparedness of civil society to support implementation of revitalized ARCSS

Annex 1: Criteria for Selection civil society representatives for different sections of Track II

The following criteria shall inform selection of civil society representatives for participation as delegates, members of Joint Coordination Team, Focal Persons in Track II:

1. Be a member of independent civil society organization
2. Be impartial and non-partisan, not representing any political or military actor in the conflict
3. Have experience working with civil society, communities, national authorities and the international community
4. Able to work in teams and civil society coalitions
5. Professionally capable to analyze and summarize large policy documents
6. Willingness to volunteer

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Annex 2: Terms of Reference

A. Civil Society Delegates to HLRF

1. The delegates participate directly in the HLRF
2. Strictly abide by rules and procedures of the process
3. Brings citizen voices to the table
4. Undertake shuttle diplomacy with parties to the process, envoys, mediators etc.
5. Coordinates information with the Technical Support Team and the Joint Coordination Team
6. Analyze documents and develop policy positions in situations of urgent need
7. Hold regular media briefings
8. Advise Technical Support Team and Joint Coordination Team on subjects of consultations
9. Serve as the primary interface between civil society and the HLRF
10. Report to Joint Coordination Team
11. Be present in Addis Ababa whenever HLRF convenes

B. Civil Society (High-Level) Technical Support Team to HLRF

1. Serves as the central secretariat, providing vital technical support to the delegates and the entire Track II process.
2. Continuously analyse HLRF discussions and documents, submissions of different stakeholders and use such analysis to develop civil society position on the process
3. Provide technical advice to civil society in Track II process
4. For more constructive contributions to the HLRF, this Technical Support Team will consist of civil society actors with expertise in areas such as media, law, governance, security, economy etc
5. Conducts research and analyzes information trickling from all locations of SSCSF membership
6. Brief and advise CSO delegate to the HLRF on their participation, safety issues, media briefing, and different subjects of discussion at the HLRF.
7. Coordinate media engagements for CSO Delegates
8. Analyze media information
9. Organize for lobby meetings for CSO Delegates
10. Be present in Addis Ababa whenever HLRF convenes

C. Members of Joint Coordination Team

1. Take decisions on behalf of the wider SSCSF Membership,
2. Advise Delegates and Technical Support Team and holds them accountable.
3. Coordinate information between CSO Delegates in Addis Ababa and CSO Focal Persons in various locations including the ten former states in South Sudan, South Sudanese diaspora and camps of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Refugees. They will communicate to them progress of HLRF based on information that is made available, collect, compile and share their views with the Delegates and Technical Support Team.
4. Maintain contact with one another and share information on email, Skype, telephone and such other means of communication
5. Meet at suitable locations to deliberate on progress of HLRF, citizens' contributions and provide way forward
6. Maintain active communication lines – email, mobile, Skype, Whatsapp etc for effective consultations and coordination.
7. Have a physical presence at a central local for better coordination and engagement with partners.

D. Focal Persons

1. Represent civil society organizations in their respective constituencies including states in the country, IDP camps, refugee camps and diaspora communities.
2. Coordinate flow of information between civil society members in their respective locations and the Joint Coordination Team.
3. Maintain active communication lines – email, mobile, Skype, Whatsapp etc for effective consultations and coordination.

E. Civil Society Organizations in this Forum

1. Lead local level information dissemination and consultations on the HLRF
2. Compile and share citizens' views with their respective Focal Persons
3. Maintain active communication lines – email, mobile, Skype, Whatsapp etc for effective consultations and coordination.

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