

Guiding principles:

# Denmark's inclusion of civil society in UN Security Council process

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**Denmark is a candidate to the UN Security Council in 2025-2026. As civil society our expertise is an important resource for Denmark's work towards the UN Security Council (UNSC).** Danish civil society have therefore developed a set of guiding principles to how we as civil society can contribute to Denmark's work towards the UN Security Council.

Denmark's candidacy to the UN Security Council (UNSC) is an incredible opportunity for Denmark to have an impact on the highest level of international cooperation. To create the impact that is meaningful, Denmark will need to play to all its strengths, including its close collaboration with civil society. In a world where democratic values are under attack, in a UN system, where multilateralism is under enormous pressure, and in a time where knowledge, facts, and common understanding can no longer be taken for granted, building the Danish positions on evidence and trustworthy information will be key.

Danish civil society, our partners, and networks from all over the world are a huge resource. Denmark can, as one of the strongest democracies in the world, building on a long history of working together with civil society on international matters, show the advantages and resources by bringing civil society into play at the UN Security Council level:

**Danish civil society with our local partners and networks all over the world can help create the needed foundation of understanding and amplify voices of the most marginalised groups. Together our technical knowledge, country specific context understanding, expertise, and global and local networks are a resource with up-to-date information of the situation on the ground and yearlong analysis of thematic areas that can contribute to Denmark's impact in the UNSC.**

Inclusion of civil society should be based on engaging a broad and diverse civil society. There needs to be an emphasis on how local partners and networks can contribute to the thematic discussions and decisions of the Security Council in a meaningful way. Transparency, accountability, and inclusion of a broad civil society are the core values that should form the foundation for engaging Danish civil society and our networks in the UNSC process.

## How to include civil society in the Danish candidacy and seat at the UN Security Council:

- Establish a structured dialogue between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and civil society
  - Ensure consistent and regular engagement with civil society, e.g. briefings and meetings;
  - Clear and timely communication to civil society, i.e. concretise inputs needed and make sure civil society is informed about meetings and other possibilities for engagement
- Build mechanisms for engagement of civil society in both Ministry of Foreign Affairs HQ and the Mission in New York, at relevant UNSC meetings and arria formula meetings and with groups and alliances such as NGO working groups (e.g., WSP Working Group)
  - Support organisations in attending meetings
  - Develop a framework or reference document on how the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will work with civil society – including the UNMUTE campaign



- When Denmark wins a seat in the Council, ensure that timeframes and deadlines are realistic and sufficient for civil society organisations to include the local partners and specialists
- Plan strategic opportunities to collaborate and showcase work of CSOs in relation to the Danish UNSC campaign, seat, and presidency
  - Showcase best practice on CSO inclusion for the campaign, seat and presidency

## How civil society commits to be a relevant partner to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Danish candidacy and seat at the UN Security Council:

- Danish civil society organisation will be coordinated and inclusive when providing inputs for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
  - Organisations will ensure inclusion of local partners and actors with specific contextual knowledge;
  - Organisations will ensure alliances and working groups are created on relevant agendas in order to give coordinated input;
  - To strengthen coordination of civil society Global Fokus will create a mapping tool to give an overview of Danish cluster system.
- Danish civil society organisations will continue to ensure competencies to understand mechanisms in the UN Security Council
  - Globalt Fokus will continue with capacity building workshops and events for civil society to build capacities and competencies;
  - Organisations will reach out to international alliances and federations to establish relations and capture learnings;
  - Danish civil society will capture and learn from other nations civil society.
- Danish civil society organisations will use its network and connect to other relevant civil society stakeholders
  - We will include local partners in our work towards in UNSC;
  - We will connect to relevant federations, alliances and network that we are part of;
  - We will build a stronger connection to the permanent civil society working groups towards the UNSC in New York.