



THE EUROPEAN UNION CSO-LA PROGRAMME FOR THAILAND

SUPPORT CSOS IN THEIR ENGAGEMENT IN THE SDG AGENDA: THAILAND

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BRIEF ACTIVITY REPORT 2/2020 ON CIVIL SOCIETY ACTION
PLAN IN DRIVING THE AGENDA OF THE SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS BETWEEN 2020-2022

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
EUD	European Union Delegation
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals

1 BACKGROUND

According to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal, Thailand, as well as other countries has driven the SDGs agenda since September 2015. *Delegation of the European Union to Thailand* recognizes the importance of civil society role and implemented the EU Facility under the *Support Measures in Strengthening Capacity of CSOs* in 2018-2019. The meeting on *Strengthening the EU engagement with CSOs in Thailand EU post 2020 Programming: Dialogue with Civil Society and Review of CSOs SDGs Facility*, on 26th June 2019 pointed out that past operations have limitations in systematic coordination between various sectors to form a common strategic plan and integrate both policy and practice in driving the SDGs. In addition, the Facility has not yet covered in some groups, certain issues and areas, such as local governments, religious groups, LGBT groups, social enterprise group, new generation and media, cross border issues, border towns, Eastern Economic Corridor areas, long-term development policy issues and linking the SDGs with integrated approach such as the Education Goal (SDG4) the Gender Equality Goal (SDG5). Recommendations include capacity building for civil society sector to be able to use various tools including support systems to monitor, review and evaluate the SDGs, such as systems, databases, and resources.

Delegation of the European Union to Thailand is organizing **CSOs Engagement in SDGs Forum No. 2/2020 on Civil Society Action Plan in Driving the Agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals between 2020-2022** to serve as a platform for civil society actions from 2020-2023 that will lead to the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Development.

1.1 Objectives

- (i) To be a platform to provide an overview of civil society movements on sustainable development goals,
- (ii) To mobilize opinions on the draft civil society action plan to drive the agenda on sustainable development goals between 2020-2022
- (iii) To formulate guidelines for coordinating joint operations among civil society strategically

1.2 Timing

The event was a one-day workshop on 19th August 2020 in Bangkok. Tentative agenda is attached in Annex.

2 LINK TO EU- ROADMAP ON CSO-SDG

The facility organized the Workshop to mobilize opinions on the draft civil society action plan to drive the agenda on sustainable development goals between 2020-2022 and to formulate guidelines for coordinating joint operations among civil society strategically at both levels, EU funded project implementers and CSOs working related to SDGs monitoring and implementation. Thus, the Facility supported civil society in the framework of **the 2nd PRIORITY of the Road Map of EU, in LOCALISING SDGs** and integrating them in the design, implementation and monitoring of local development plans and policies, including the following actions. In addition, the event was related to SDGs in line of **PRIORITY 4 of the EU Roadmap to promote** civil society COLLABORATIVE WORK towards contributing to SDGs, enhancing coordination among CSO platforms and networks, in order to develop a common voice on policies related to SDGs.

3 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The draft action plan well reflected CSOs' lessons from the previous project of the EU Facility under the *Support Measures in Strengthening Capacity of CSOs*. Participating CSOs accepted it and they are ready to upscale the movement with the current Facility. Core value of participating CSOs, learning, and resilience to uncertainty will be key driving forces of the movement to play these roles on SDGs. Under this Facility, participating CSOs agreed that they will not cover the entire 17 target SDG goals, but they will come up with some critical SDG target goals for Thailand and synergize each CSOs.

Participating CSOs agreed to form operation guidelines in 2020 according to the above CSOs action plan and detailed 4 activity clusters, namely (i) Activity cluster on Evidence-based information/data for monitoring by CSOs and Preparation of an Independent Report on SDGs, (ii) Activity cluster on Monitoring Government Implementation on SDGs, (iii) Activity Cluster on Building Alliances on SDGs, and (iv) Activity Cluster on Public Communications on SDGs by CSOs. They are willing to start working with the Facility based on their own resources and on-going work.

In 2020, the Facility will fully support a core team, composed by CSOs representatives to play its role and review this mechanism next year. The Facility will optimise time, resources and effort of a core team members by maximizing online communications. Due to overloading work and activities after COVID-19 recovery, the Facility may not be able to organize many events within the few last months of 2020 year. In 2021, the Facility will increase the number of events to match planned events. Inputs/contributions generated by the meeting will be fed into the draft workplan/action plan following the 4 approaches as proposed.

4 PARTICIPANTS

57 participants attended the event. 21 participants were CSOs based in Bangkok and 16 participants were CSOs outside of Bangkok. 8 participants were scholars based in Bangkok and 5 participants were scholars outside of Bangkok. They are working in various thematic areas such as environmental protection, climate change resilience, human and child rights, community-based development, migration, sustainable agriculture, alternative education, peace and justice, and others. The rest were 3 resource persons and 4 event organizers team. Registration form is attached in Annex.



