



**KEY PRINCIPLES
AND IMPLEMENTATION
CHECKLIST FOR
THE PROTECTION
OF FREEDOMS OF
PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY
AND ASSOCIATION
DURING COVID-19**

Key Principles and Checklist Implementation

Key principles to ensure protection of civic space during the COVID-19 pandemic with a companion step-by-step guide for monitoring its implementation.

Published in April 2020 by the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, Clément N. Voule.

Graphic Design by Mariana Avellaneda.



Clément Nyaletsossi VOULE

Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association

Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association- Win Clément Nyaletsossi VOULE, a national of Togo, was appointed as United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association and took up his functions in April 2018.

Prior to his appointment, he led the International Service for Human Rights (ISHR) to support human rights defenders from States in transition and coordinated the organization's work in Africa as the Advocacy Director.

Mr. Voule also worked as Secretary-General of the Togolese Coalition of Human Rights Defenders, as a campaigner for the Togolese Coalition for the International Criminal Court and as Secretary-General of the Amnesty International section in Togo.

Since 2011, he has been an Expert Member of the Working Group on Extractive Industries, Environment and Human Rights Violations of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

As a founding member and Vice-Chair of the West African Human Rights Defenders Network, he has coordinated and participated in the elaboration of several studies and guidelines, including two studies on freedom of association and the situation of women Human Rights Defenders in Africa and the guidelines on the rights of Freedom of Association and Assembly of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

A long-time activist and jurist, Mr. Voule has supported State and civil society efforts to develop and adopt specific laws for the protection of human right defenders and contributed to the publication of the Model law for the recognition and protection of human rights defenders and a human rights defenders guide to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

Mr. Voule has a degree in Fundamental Rights from Nantes University and a Masters Diploma in International Law in Armed Conflict from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, University of Geneva.

Currently, he holds positions in Geneva in the field of human rights. Follow him on Twitter at @cvoule.

□ Contents

5 Introduction

6 10 Principles

- 6 **First:** ensuring that new legal measures respect human rights
- 6 **Second:** ensuring that the public health emergency is not used as a pretext for rights infringements
- 7 **Third:** democracy cannot be postponed
- 7 **Fourth:** ensuring inclusive participation. Active citizenship is key in times of crisis
- 7 **Fifth:** guaranteeing freedom of association and assembly online
- 8 **Sixth:** protecting workplace rights to freedom of association and assembly
- 8 **Seventh:** freedom of expression must be ensured
- 8 **Eighth:** civil society's participation in multilateral institutions must be secured
- 8 **Ninth:** international solidarity is needed more than ever
- 9 **Tenth:** future implications of covid-19 and responding to popular calls for reform

10 Implementation checklist

□ Introduction

The Covid-19 pandemic has posed unprecedented challenges to human rights around the world. UN Special Rapporteur, Clément Voule, has welcomed the efforts of governments, international organizations and civil society working together to protect the public from this health hazard. “Where human rights are the compass, we will be better placed to overcome this pandemic and build resilience for the future”, he stressed.

Yet, the Special Rapporteur has also expressed deep concern regarding several worrying trends and limitations to the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, including on civil society’s ability to support an effective response to the pandemic.

In these difficult times, it is crucial that civil society remain closely engaged in ensuring that our most basic human rights are safeguarded. To this end, Special Rapporteur Voule published a list of 10 principles and recommendations, - based on consultations with civil society around the world- for the protection of civic space restriction of civic space and the rights to peaceful assembly and association in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The principles seek to provide better guidance to States and other key stakeholders on how to ensure these fundamental rights are respected and protected during these times and prevent disproportionate impact on civil society by State Covid-19 response measures. The 10 Key Principles are accompanied by an implementation checklist tool, which will help assess the principle’s domestic and local implementation by States and other duty bearers. This is an important preliminary step for actors wishing to promote the operationalization of these recommendations.

“No country or government can solve the crisis alone; civil society organizations should be seen as strategic partners in the fight against the pandemic.”

— Clément N. Voule.

□ 10 Principles

FIRST: ENSURING THAT NEW LEGAL MEASURES RESPECT HUMAN RIGHTS

It is vital that both **the process and the substance of any new measures passed be in compliance with human rights obligations**. Consultations with civil society should take place, if possible, before new measures are adopted. Where new laws or regulations are adopted, any limitations on rights imposed must be in accordance with the **principles of legality, necessity and proportionality**. It is inadmissible to declare blanket restrictions on human rights and fundamental freedoms. **Exemptions should be foreseen for civil society actors, particularly those monitoring human rights, trade unions, social services providing humanitarian assistance, and journalists** covering the management of the crisis. Information on any new measures adopted must be widely disseminated and translated into local and indigenous languages, and appropriate time must be given for the public to familiarize themselves with these laws before criminal penalties are imposed. **In no cases may laws or regulations be applied in a discriminatory manner**, and information explaining how new measures are being put into effect should be made publicly available and easily consultable by all. Independent oversight and review of measures taken during the crisis should be guaranteed, in order to ensure the rights-compliant, non-discriminatory application of the law throughout the crisis. In all cases, moreover, it is vital that any penalties applied are not disproportionate, that they do not themselves contribute to the further spread of infections, and that they take account of the contingencies of the moment, including the reduced functioning of judicial systems and the financial hardship faced by many.



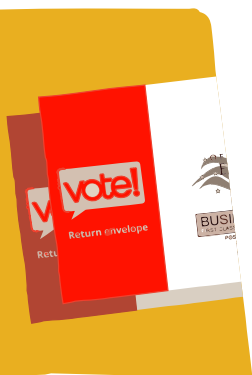
SECOND: ENSURING THAT THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY IS NOT USED AS A PRETEXT FOR RIGHTS INFRINGEMENTS

It is imperative **the crisis is not used as a pretext to suppress rights** in general or the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association in particular. The **crisis is no justification for excessive force** to be used when dispersing assemblies, as the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions has emphasized, nor for disproportionate penalties to be imposed. States have an obligation to inform the Secretary General of the United Nations if and when a state of emergency has been declared and of any resulting derogation of rights, which must themselves be in compliance with the Siracusa Principles. It is vital that any limitations imposed be removed and that full enjoyment of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association be restored when the public health emergency caused by Covid-19 ends. In this regard, States should incorporate sunset clauses into any states of emergency or laws passed in relationship to the current crisis, guaranteeing their automatic expiry when the public health emergency has ended. It is particularly important in the context of a crisis moreover that judicial and parliamentary checks and balances be strengthened, in order to **avoid excessive and broad power in the executive branch, and to ensure a check on the arbitrary exercise of executive authority**.



THIRD: DEMOCRACY CANNOT BE POSTPONED

The Special Rapporteur recognizes that **designing appropriate electoral approaches in the context of the current global pandemic is complex**, and that there are no easy solutions. Limitations on assemblies in many countries impair individuals' ability to campaign and participate in rallies, to conduct voter outreach and to monitor election processes. Civil society's ability to engage with candidates, or with the broader public in the context of elections, is also constrained. In light of these challenging circumstances, it is all the more important, as highlighted below, that freedom of expression is respected and that the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association online are fully ensured. States should provide **transparency as to their decision-making processes in the context of elections**, moreover, and should **consult with civil society in determining appropriate approaches**. While limitations on in-person voting may be necessary in some cases, States should take all measures possible to **ensure the timely carrying out of elections**, including through the utilization of alternative voting procedures such as mail-in ballots. In all cases, the integrity of electoral processes must be ensured.



FOURTH: ENSURING INCLUSIVE PARTICIPATION

Civil society must be regarded as an essential partner of governments in responding to the present crisis, in terms of helping to frame inclusive policies, disseminating information, building shared and cooperative approaches, and providing social support to vulnerable communities. States must ensure the right to **freedom of association is fully respected**, including by registering associations without constraint and by ensuring that civil society organizations are able to conduct advocacy freely, including on the international level. States should also support **civil society organizations' participation in the design and implementation of effective public health strategies**. States should provide **financial support to civil society organizations delivering vital social support**, including in particular organizations which support and advocate for persons with disabilities and vulnerable communities. States must ensure that the ability of such organizations to access the communities they serve is not inappropriately limited. In addition, the crisis must not be used to prevent civil society organizations, defense lawyers, and journalists from undertaking vital work monitoring the police, prisons, migrant detention centers and other components of State legal processes.



FIFTH: GUARANTEEING FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND ASSEMBLY ONLINE

The rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association apply online just as they do offline. In this time when physical assemblies are restricted, it is all the more necessary that **access to and use of the internet be ensured**. In addition to **refraining from restrictions such as internet shutdowns or online censorship**, States should take measures to **ensure access to the internet extends to the entirety of the global population, and that it is affordable**. In the context of civil society organizations specifically, States should ensure that they may complete their registrations online, and should provide opportunities for them to participate, via online fora, in policy development. In all cases, ensuring the rights to peaceful assembly and association online requires that **individuals' rights to privacy are fully respected and protected**.



SIXTH: PROTECTING WORKPLACE RIGHTS TO FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND ASSEMBLY

The right to freedom of association extends to the right to form labor unions and other forms of association within the workplace, and the right to freedom of peaceful assembly extends to the right to strike. The **crisis underscores the need for workplace protections** and measures that ensure the right to health of all employees. In **no cases may employees be fired for organizing, nor for speaking up** as to the need for enhanced protection and safety at their workplaces.



SEVENTH: FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION MUST BE ENSURED

The right of civil society actors, including journalists and human rights defenders, to **freely seek, receive and impart ideas and information, whether concerning the crisis and its management or other subjects, must be ensured**. Laws criminalizing ‘false news’ as such, which have a long history of abuse, including through being deployed to target human rights defenders, must be avoided in particular.

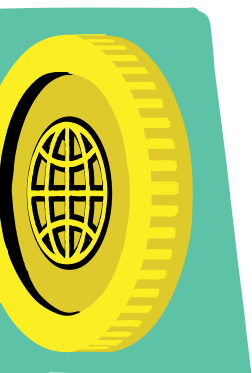
EIGHTH: CIVIL SOCIETY'S PARTICIPATION IN MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS MUST BE SECURED

The **UN and other multilateral institutions should take steps to ensure civil society organizations can continue to participate in all policy decisions**, including those related to the Covid-19 response, especially in the case of public-private partnerships. It should also continue to **make available broadcasts and archival footage of open sessions of UN human rights bodies** and other meetings, and where feasible, should facilitate civil society's participation via video link. UN Agencies and bodies should undertake **proactive outreach to civil society organizations in the absence of in-person meetings**, with due consideration to adapting online meetings and consultations to the security needs of human rights defenders and the challenges in exercising freedom of association online. **UN Country Teams are particularly important** at this moment, and their engagement with civil society around Covid-19 responses and human rights should be strengthened, both to ensure the effectiveness of UN/government partnerships and interventions, and to monitor potential restrictions on civil society in the context of Covid-19.



NINTH: INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY IS NEEDED MORE THAN EVER

Financial limitations are sharply constraining civil society's ability to contribute to the response to the Covid-19 crisis. Even prior to the crisis, civil society's access to funding was limited by laws restricting cross-border support. States should **repeal laws that unduly constrict civil society's ability to access funding, including international funding** in particular. Where possible, moreover, **states should provide both financial and other forms of support to civil society organizations** and should recognize the key role many civil society organizations play in ensuring public health broadly.



TENTH: FUTURE IMPLICATIONS OF COVID-19 AND RESPONDING TO POPULAR CALLS FOR REFORM

Finally, the Special Rapporteur would like to observe that the **year prior to the current crisis was marked by an unprecedented wave of protests** around the world. While the demands and concerns of the protesters differed from context to context, protesters consistently called for more democratic governance, greater respect for human rights, increased equality, an end to austerity, and meaningful steps to combat climate change and widespread corruption. **The current crisis is unlikely to alleviate these demands;** if anything, the economic downturn caused by the crisis, combined with financial measures that enhance inequality, will only serve to exacerbate underlying causes. It is vital in this context that **States' responses to the crisis take citizens' demands fully into account,** and that States take measures to adopt more democratic governance structures, to enhance rights protection and fulfillment, to reduce inequality, and to ensure that the transition to greener and more sustainable energy sources receives increased support and attention.



Implementation Checklist



COVID-19 emergency measures restricting human rights and freedoms, such as prohibitions of public gatherings and stay-at-home orders, must comply with international human rights norms and standards, including those related to the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association.

Covid-19 measures are provided in law in accordance with constitutional procedures and requirements, are drafted unambiguously, are accessible and publicly available to consult.

Yes No Not applicable

Covid-19 legal measures clearly articulate the specific COVID-19 threats that they are seeking to address.

Yes No Not applicable

Emergency measures are necessary and proportionate to address those specific Covid-19 threats, meaning the restrictions imposed are the least intrusive available, are appropriate and narrowly tailored to achieve their protective function and are strictly limited in scope to respond to the situation in a non-discriminatory manner.

Yes No Not applicable

Restrictions of movement and gatherings have exemptions to ensure civil society actors, particularly journalists, trade unions, legal professionals, human rights defenders, and organizations providing humanitarian assistance and social services, can continue to operate during the emergency, consistent with health protocols and guidelines. These exemptions are clearly communicated to the police and security services in order to ensure that they are adhered to and respected.

Yes No Not applicable



As governments step up to respond to the public health emergency, they must ensure that measures adopted aim to protect public health without targeting other rights, and ensure that they are not geared at cementing control and cracking down on oppositional figures and human rights defenders.

The State has officially notified derogations of the rights to peaceful assembly and association to international and regional organizations, according to relevant treaty provisions.

Yes No Not applicable

Judicial and parliamentary checks and balances to the Executive branch are in place and continue to operate to ensure accountability and transparency of measures imposed. In particular, judicial review and access to a legal remedy in case of human rights violations is guaranteed during the emergency.

Yes No Not applicable

Covid-19 emergency measures affecting the right to peaceful assembly have a limited time frame and are renewed only when strictly necessary to address relevant public health threats.

Yes No Not applicable

When authorities object to requests to hold an assembly during the emergency, they notify organizers in a timely manner, in writing, of the justification for the restriction. Organizers can appeal such decisions through judicial or administrative proceedings.

Yes No Not applicable

When dispersing public gatherings deemed in breach of restrictions refrain from the excessive use of force and mass detentions. Emphasis is placed on de-escalation, communication and negotiation. All those detained without appropriate grounds have access to effective judicial remedies.

Yes No Not applicable

The use of less lethal weapons, which specifically effect the respiratory system, including for instance tear gas, is avoided as much as possible in accordance with the increased risks posed in the context of Covid-19.

Yes **No** **Not applicable**

Any police officers facilitating public assemblies have adequate personal protective equipment, for their own protection and that of assembly participants.

Yes **No** **Not applicable**

Any action directed at exploiting Covid-19 measures to attack, harass and persecute civil society actors, political opponents and journalists is prohibited by law and fully investigated by competent authorities.

Yes **No** **Not applicable**



While the priority in times of health emergency is protecting public health, participation in the conduct of public affairs remains a guiding principle for governments. Temporary suspension of elections in the face of the crisis may be an option; however, States must examine all alternatives to ensure continued citizen’s participation in the conduct of public life throughout the crisis.

Government decision-making regarding whether to hold elections in the context of the Covid-19 emergency, and all stages of the elections process, is transparent and is in consultation with all stakeholders. Any decision to postpone or to hold an election can be challenged and is subject to review by an independent judiciary.

Yes No Not applicable

States genuinely engage in consultation and dialogue with civil society actors, political parties and election officials in all decision-making regarding elections, especially decisions to postpone or carry out elections as a result of the Covid-19 emergency.

Yes No Not applicable

Postponement of an election is only undertaken when there is publicly provided evidence of its necessity when appropriate and in consultation with political parties and civil society.

Yes No Not applicable

States strive to ensure the timely and safely carrying out of elections, including using alternative voting procedures such as mail-in ballots where there is capacity to do so in an effective and safe manner.

Yes No Not applicable

States adopt measures to ensure that any alternative voting procedures do not have the effect of disenfranchising any voter or call into question the integrity or outcome of the vote.

Yes No Not applicable

State provides relevant information, including about election preparations, new voting methods, health precautions that will be taken, changes in polling locations, vote counting procedures and changes in elections date to the public, through multiple modes of communication and in collaboration with civil society.

Yes **No** **Not applicable**

Civil society, political parties and election authorities are not prevented from designing and carrying out alternative methods of political campaigning, voter outreach and monitor election processes, consistent with health protocols and recommendations.

Yes **No** **Not applicable**

All the guarantees for fair, equitable, transparent and credible election are publicly put in place before the vote happens.

Yes **No** **Not applicable**



Active citizenship is key in times of crisis. Civil society must be regarded as an essential partner of governments in responding to the present crisis, in terms of helping to frame inclusive policies, disseminating information, building shared and cooperative approaches, and providing social support to vulnerable communities.

<p>State authorities publicly recognize the role of civil society, including human rights defenders and trade unions, as an essential partner in responding to and recovering from the Covid-19 emergency crisis.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable</p>
<p>States do not impose, in law or practice, undue restrictions for individuals to form associations even during Covid-19.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable</p>
<p>Civil society enjoys an enabling environment to participate in the design and implementation of effective public health strategies, disseminating information, building shared and cooperative approaches, and providing social support to vulnerable communities amid Covid-19 emergency.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable</p>
<p>Civil society is free to seek, receive and use resources from national, foreign and international sources. The criminalization or delegitimization of the activities by civil society on account of the origin of their funding is prohibited.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable</p>
<p>Civil society organizations delivering vital social services and humanitarian assistance have access to emergency public funding while preserving their independence. These funding programs should be transparent, fair and accessible on equal basis to civil society organizations.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable</p>
<p>States adopt measures to ensure participation of women and women’s organizations in covid-19 response and recovery decision making these measures recognize and accommodate for women’s special circumstances and care work.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable</p>



**5 GUARANTEEING
FREEDOM
OF ASSOCIATION
AND ASSEMBLY ONLINE**

The rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association apply online just as they do offline. Digital spaces indispensable for individuals to exercise their rights to freedom of assembly and of association during Covid-19. Ensuring an open, free and accessible internet free should be a priority, including refraining from restrictions such as internet shutdowns or online censorship.

Universal access to the internet, including social media platforms, to exercise their rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association is guaranteed in law and practice.

Yes No Not applicable

The internet and mobile phone connection are constantly available, and States refrain from undue restrictions such as internet shutdowns.

Yes No Not applicable

States put in place measures to increase access to internet and mobile technologies among the entirety of the population and ensure that it is affordable during the Covid-19 crisis.

Yes No Not applicable

Specific measures or programs are adopted to ensure low-income and marginalized communities and groups, including women and girls, can remain connected.

Yes No Not applicable

Taxes on social media are repealed or at least suspended during the pandemic.

Yes No Not applicable

The State works with private Telecommunication companies to reduce fees and waive all fees related to an inability to pay and device use and lift limits around data, voice and text allowances, for at least the duration of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Yes No Not applicable

The right to privacy is respected and protected and access to private communications and data are only applied when provided by law and demonstrated to be necessary and proportionate to a specific Covid-19 related threat defined in the law.

Yes No Not applicable

Specific measures or programs are adopted to ensure low-income and marginalized communities and groups, including women and girls, can remain connected.

Yes No Not applicable



The crisis underscores the need for workplace protections and measures that ensure the right to health of all employees. In no cases may employees be fired for organizing, nor for speaking up as to the need for enhanced protection and safety at their workplaces. Where particular companies are unable to provide these benefits, the State must step in to ensure workers’ rights are protected.

<p>States and employers recognize the vital role of trade unions and other workers’ organizations in crisis response and in planning, implementing and monitoring measures for recovery and resilience.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable</p>
<p>States inform and consult with representative organizations of employers and workers to the laws, regulations and policies to address and mitigate the impact of Covid-19 on workers and the workplace, and to ensure their effective implementation. This includes the designation of any category of worker as “essential”.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable</p>
<p>Covid-19 is designated as an occupational disease and States adopt occupational safety and health regulations accordingly. States and employers respect the right of workers to remove themselves from a work situation that they have reasonable justification to believe presents an imminent and serious danger to their life or health, without fear of discipline or dismissal.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable</p>
<p>States ensure that all workers are freely able to organize and form trade unions, without retaliation, as collective agency is even more important in such a crisis. This includes migrant workers and workers in the informal economy and under non-standard/precarious forms of employment.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable</p>
<p>Workers and trade unions are able to hold meetings, issue publications and conduct activities around Covid-19. They are also able to criticize government or employer responses to Covid-19 without fear of reprisals of any kind, including civil or criminal charges.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable</p>

State ensures that the right to strike can be exercised without fear of reprisals. While the right to strike may be restricted during an acute national emergency, such restrictions should only be for a limited period and to the extent strictly necessary to meet the requirements of the situation.

Yes **No** **Not applicable**

Employers do not refuse to bargain or abrogate agreements currently in force as a result of COVID-19. In the case of a full or partial shutdown as the result (in whole or in part) of Covid-19, employers consult with the union on measures to avert or minimize any terminations and measures to mitigate the adverse effects of any terminations on the workers concerned.

Yes **No** **Not applicable**



The public health emergency underscores the need for full respect for the right of access to information; the need to protect and ensure the vital work of journalists; the necessity of ensuring that any deployments of surveillance technology comply with State’s human rights obligations. There is no justification to restrict freedom of expression in times of a public health emergency.

Access to public information is guaranteed by law, according to international human rights norms and standards.

Yes No Not applicable

State proactively provides to the general public reliable and accessible information related to the health crisis, including information regarding the impact of the pandemic and laws and policies being adopted to counter it.

Yes No Not applicable

The rights of civil society actors, journalists and human rights defenders, to freely seek, receive and impart ideas and information on all aspects related to the health crisis are ensured.

Yes No Not applicable

State adopts measures to counter disinformation online around health emergencies. These measures are respectful to the rights to freedom of opinion and expression and are not used as excuse to criminalize dissent and criticism or to suppress the ability of activists, journalists, and citizens to freely express their views on topics related to the health crisis.

Yes No Not applicable

State refrains from taking any measures to limit or sanction expression, including any protest or petition, critical of government responses to Covid-19.

Yes No Not applicable

Social media and telecommunication companies do not limit or deny access to any user at the request of a government on the basis of the user’s legitimate criticism of the government’s response to Covid-19.

Yes No Not applicable



Multilateral institutions remain a key space in which civil society actors can advocate and bring human rights situations needing international community’s attention during Covid-19. The United Nations and multilateral organisations must ensure civil society can continue to participate, through different means, in all policy decisions, including those related to the Covid-19 response.

Civil society organizations can participate in all policy decisions related to the Covid-19 response at the UN and multilateral organizations.

Yes No Not applicable

The UN continues to make available broadcasts and archival footage of open sessions of UN human rights bodies and other meetings, and where feasible, facilitates civil society’s participation via video link.

Yes No Not applicable

UN Agencies and bodies undertake proactive outreach to civil society organizations, with due consideration to adapting online meetings and consultations to the security needs of human rights defenders and the challenges in exercising freedom of association online.

Yes No Not applicable

UN Country Teams expand their engagement with civil society around Covid-19 responses and human rights, both to ensure the effectiveness of UN/government partnerships and interventions, and to monitor potential restrictions on civil society in the context of Covid-19.

Yes No Not applicable



Covid-19 health crisis cannot be overcome by governments alone, and societies need strong civil networks to act alongside governments to address the common challenge. National and international funding should be strengthened to enhance our collective capacity to address the impacts of Covid-19.

States in the international community recognize the key role many civil society organizations play in addressing covid-19 challenges and commit to defend civic space in the context covid-19 emergency.

Yes No Not applicable

Foreign and international funding is accessible to civil society organizations, including to informal associations and civil society groups that serve the most marginalized and at-risk populations. States refrain from any arbitrary or unlawful acts that deprive civil society organizations of those resources.

Yes No Not applicable

Laws that unduly constrict civil society’s ability to access to foreign and international funding are repealed.

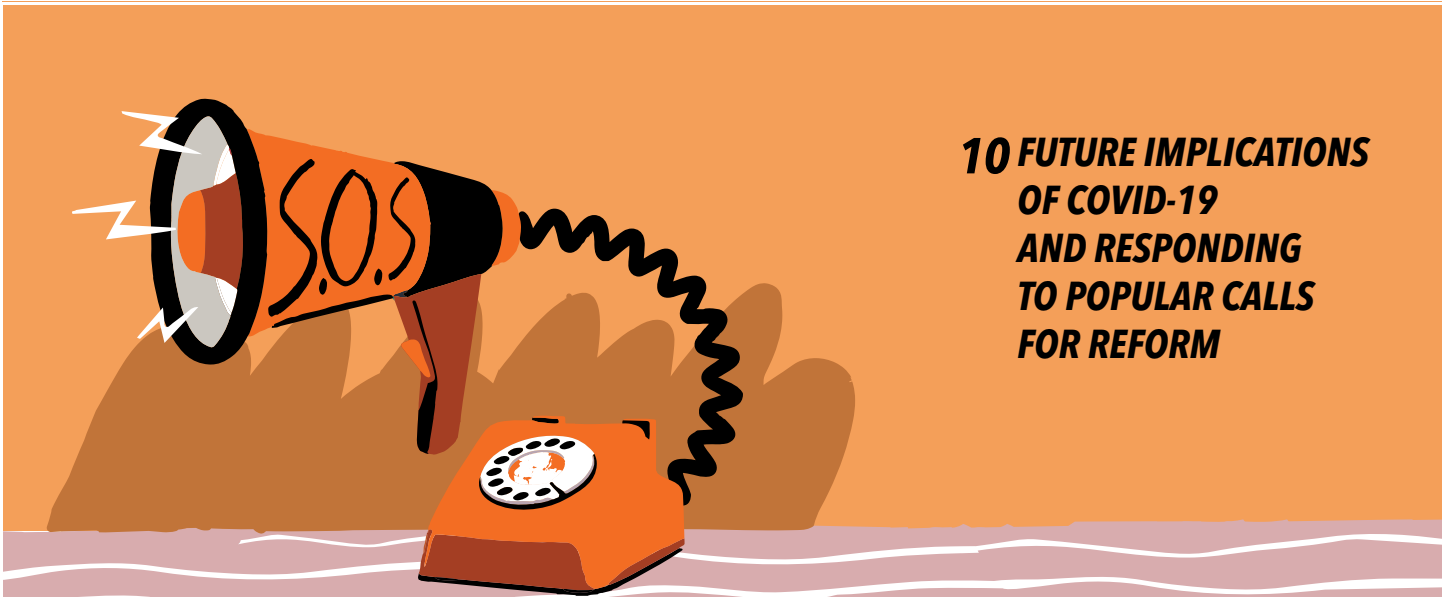
Yes No Not applicable

The international donor community offers flexible financing arrangements, long term support or core funding directed towards ensuring civil society organizations can effectively address covid-19 challenges.

Yes No Not applicable

International Financial Institutions mobilize resources to support immediate unemployment benefits and income support to the millions of workers who have lost employment, as well as to support governments, in consultation with trade union organizations, in the establishment of robust social protection schemes to cushion the blow of future crises.

Yes No Not applicable



The year 2019 was marked by unprecedented wave of protests around the world, with demonstrators demanding more justice, equality, human rights and steps to protect the environment. The Covid-19 pandemic is expected to exacerbate the already fragile order in some countries. It is vital in this context that States' responses to the crisis take citizens' demands fully into account, and that States take measures to enhance rights protection and fulfillment.

State's covid-19 response and recovery plans address popular calls for democratic governance, respect for human rights, equality, an end to austerity, and meaningful steps to combat climate change and widespread corruption.

Yes No Not applicable

Public authorities specifically address the needs and rights of populations whose situation has deteriorated due to the crisis.

Yes No Not applicable

Covid-19 recovery and prevention measures are designed, developed and implemented with the participation of civil society, including youth groups and women-led civil society organizations, women's rights movements, minority and indigenous communities.

Yes No Not applicable

