

Civil Society in OIC Member Countries: Challenges and Opportunities



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ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION

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CIVIL SOCIETY

IN

OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES:

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES



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1. Introduction

Civil Society (CS) refers to the voluntary formations of individuals that work for a common purpose. It is an area outside of the public and private sector. Civil society institutionalizes itself by forming civil society organizations such as charities, environmental organizations, human rights groups to trade unions, chambers and on a larger scale, international organizations. In a tolerant country each citizen has the right to form his or her choice of organization freely as a member of the civil society. Citizens also have the right to engage into any existing civil society organizations. They are also free to decide on to what extent they are going to be active in civil society organizations.

With the rise of globalization, the impact of civil society organizations on governments and citizens has become more significant in many open economies (Anherier, et al. 2001). Well-structured civil society organizations provide benefit to societies in different ways such as providing constructive criticisms to governments in reshaping their policies or being a platform for delivering the message of underrepresented citizens (such as women, elder people) on different issues. Also in developing countries that are receiving international development aid, civil society organizations play another important role by being an agent between donor (aid sending) countries/institutions and aid receiving countries/institutions (such as the positive role of civil society institutions on aid effectiveness) (IOB, 2012). Therefore, the increasing interest of international institutions on civil society organizations has helped them in their growth in terms of numbers and effectiveness level on the society (Kaldor, 2003). From a political perspective, in our globalized world today both in developed and developing countries gaining the support of the civil society has become critical for governments to ensure their legitimacy. Therefore both at national and international level the overall environment for civil society organizations are more favourable compared with the 1980s and 1990s. Despite positive developments on the status and working programs, civil society organizations are also not free from flaws and weaknesses such as some of these groups do not often consult to their members and are isolated from their audience (Mendelson and Glenn, 2002). Many civil society organizations also suffer from the lack of transparency especially in their financial issues (Clark, et al. 2003).

In an ideal case, governments have the power to monitor activities of civil society organizations and audit their accounts but not much more that. Civil society organizations are supposed to be less influenced by governments and therefore they are sometimes labelled as the “third sector”. One of the main goals of these organizations is to deliver views of citizens on different issues such as from trade protection to global warming to policy-makers.

In reality, at varying degrees, governments and governmental organizations have an influence power on civil society organizations both in developed and developing countries from their formation phase to their activity lists. However, there is a wide disparity between developed and developing countries in terms of the relationship between governmental organizations and civil society organizations.

In developed countries, the influence of governments is limited on civil society organizations and their activities. In these countries, governments often have the responsibility to provide an enabling environment for civil society organizations through legislation, monitoring and financing mechanisms. This is mainly stemming from the ‘complementarity relationship’ between governmental and civil society organizations, which means that governments in developed countries see the existence of strong civil society organizations as an opportunity. Governments or governmental organizations believe that civil society institutions can provide necessary input to governments that will help them to correct flaws in their policies. It is also evident that through civil society organizations, policy-makers can hear voices of its citizens on any kind of issue that is considered as ‘important’ by civil society.

In contrast, in developing countries, including OIC member countries, there is often an ‘adversary’ relationship between governmental organizations and civil society organizations. These two sides sometimes treat each other even as a rival in several issues. In other words, policy makers think that civil society organizations can substitute governmental ones in several policy areas, which is seen as a ‘loss of power’ from the governmental side. Additionally, in developing countries policy-makers attach relatively less importance to different views on their particular policy fields or they are not tolerant enough for different views. Therefore in such developing countries policy makers tend to have less willingness to have strong platforms that can reflect views of civil society. To this end, they do not work for to create an environment that enables strong civil society organizations. In some developing countries, bureaucrats abuse their power (e.g. bribery) and work on how to restrict civil society activities or limit their capacities such as through taxation, auditing or delaying the issuance of permit documents. Therefore the environment for civil society organizations in developing countries is far from being ‘enabling’ in several respects.

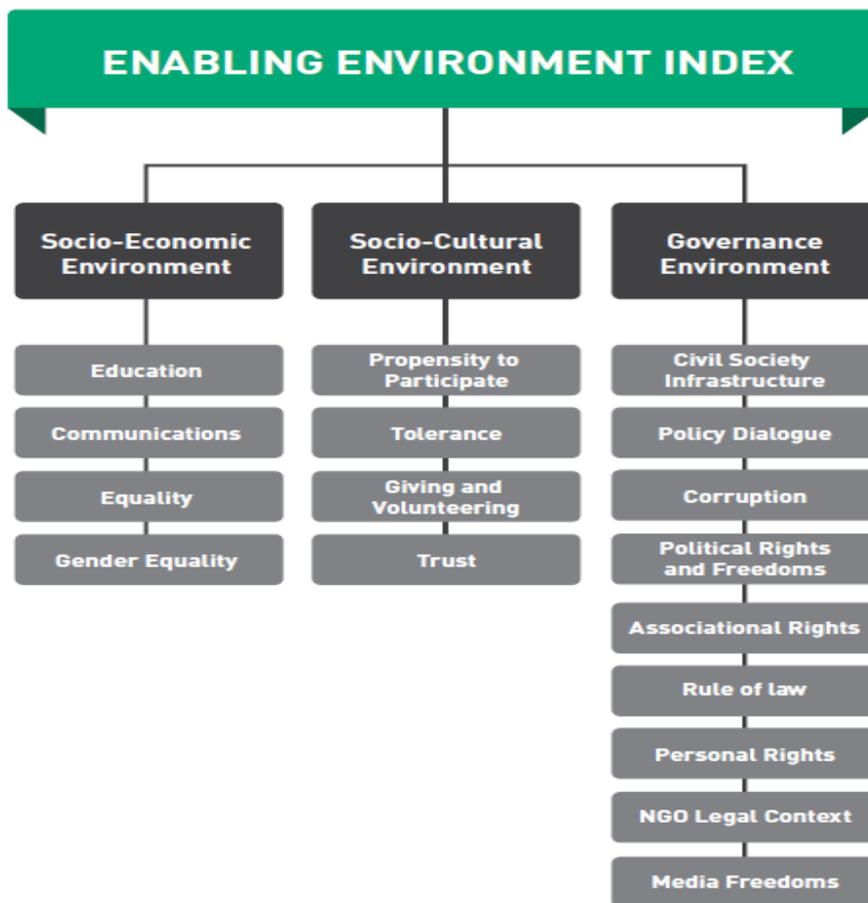
Against this background, this outlook report examines the stance of civil society in OIC member countries in comparison with other developing, developed and the world by using the Enabling Environment Index (EEI) that is prepared by CIVICUS in 2013. The fundamental building block for CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation was the 1991 decision of a group of civil society leaders from across the world to reinforce and support the virtual expansion of citizen participation in every region of the globe. By mid-1993, the formative work was completed at Barcelona, marked by the first meeting of the founding Board of Directors of CIVICUS, which was composed of distinguished figures in civil society drawn from 18 countries on six continents. Since 1993, CIVICUS has built successively on important achievements. These include the preparation of regional reports on the status of civil society (1994); publication and global distribution of *Citizens -Strengthening Global Civil Society* (1995), the organization's first world report on the state of civil society.¹

¹ CIVICUS established its global headquarters in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2002.

2. The Enabling Environment Index (EEI)

The Enabling Environment Index (EEI) prepared by CIVICUS in 2013 defines the enabling environment as “a set of conditions that impact on the capacity of citizens (whether individually or in an organised fashion) to participate and engage in the civil society arena in a sustained and voluntary manner.” The EEI measures the stance of the civil society in a country by taking into account three dimensions: socio-economic, socio-cultural and governance. It is the first index that attempts to measure long-term conditions that affect the potential of citizens to participate in civil society. Some previous projects of the CIVICUS (e.g. New Civic Atlas Project in 1997) attempted to measure the environment for civil society. However, these projects were subject to limitations both in terms of the number of countries covered in the index and the number of indicators included into the analysis.

Figure 1: Dimensions of the Enabling Environment Index (EEI)



Source: Adapted from the CIVICUS 2013 Enabling Environment Index Report.

In the EEI, which was developed in 2013, each of the dimensions encompasses a set of sub-dimensions that are constructed upon several selected indicators (Figure 1). CIVICUS developed these sub-dimensions by looking at the key academic literature on civil society and capabilities for civic action. In total the EEI is made of 3 main dimensions, 17 sub-dimensions and 53 indicators. The EEI is calculated by taking the weighted average of three dimensions. The weight of the governance environment is 50% where socio-economic and socio-cultural environment equally

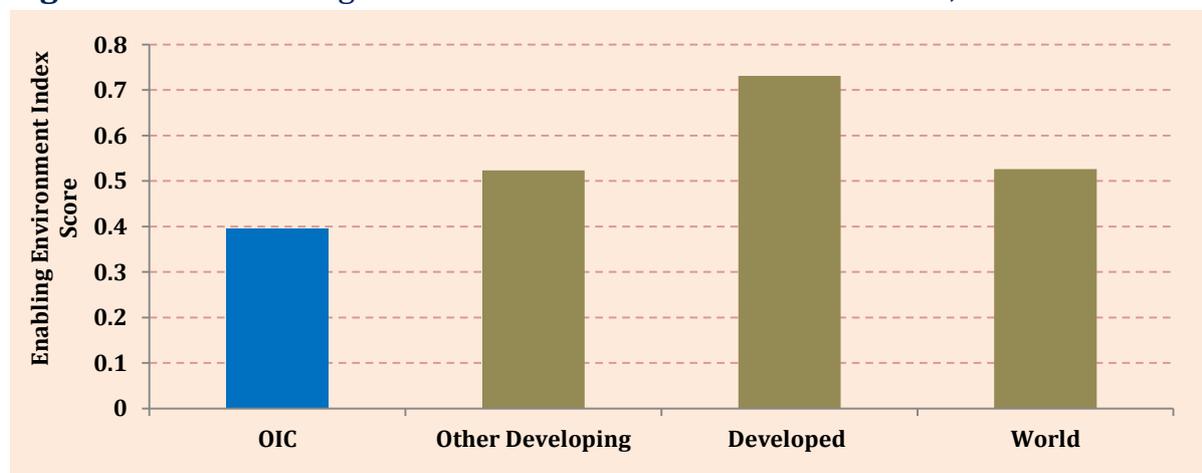
get a weight of 25%. The socio-economic environment dimension covers four sub-dimensions: education, communications, equality and gender equality. The socio-cultural environment dimension is composed of four sub-dimensions: propensity to participate, tolerance, giving and volunteering, and trust. The governance environment dimension is composed of four sub-dimensions: propensity to participate, tolerance, giving and volunteering, and trust. A detailed overview on the sub-dimensions and the coverage of indicators are presented in **Annex**.

The number of countries in the expanded version of the index is 223, of which 57 are OIC member countries. The EEI was published in 2013 and made up of 71 secondary statistical data sources. For more than 70% of data sources cover the 2010-2011 period. In particular, for the socio-cultural dimension data from 2005 to 2011 are used due to slowly evolving trend in the data. Overall the index takes values between 0 and 1. A score of 1 represents a country that has a perfect environment that enables civil society from socio-economic, socio-cultural and governance aspects.

3. The Stance of Civil Society in OIC Member Countries

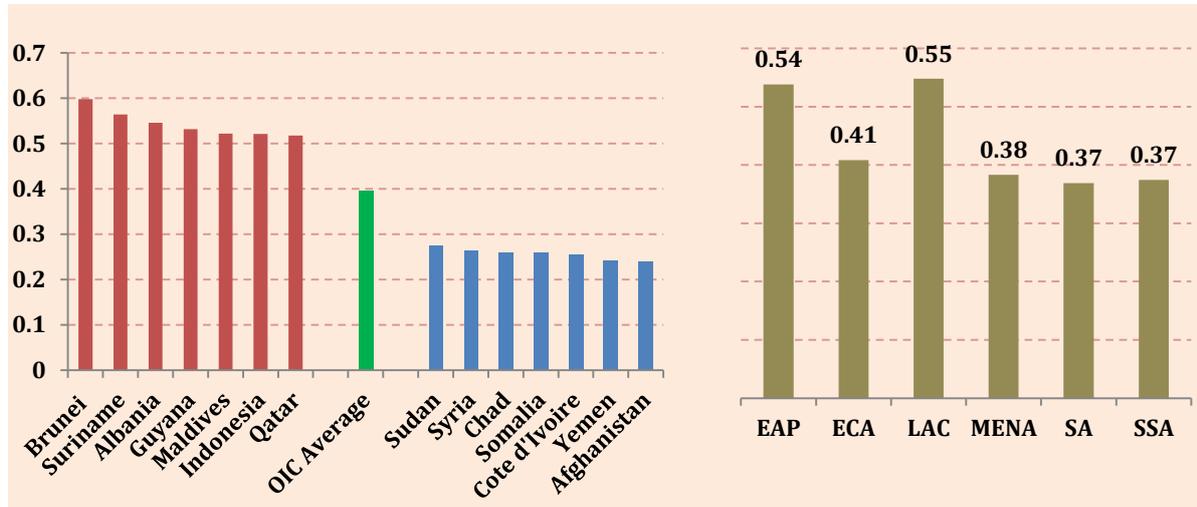
This section provides an in depth analysis on the stance of civil society in OIC member countries in comparative perspective by examining the Enabling Environment Index (EEI) and its sub-dimensions. In 2013, the average EEI score of 223 countries is measured as 0.52 across the globe. New Zealand and Canada took the first two rows with scores of 0.87 and 0.85, respectively. Two OIC member countries, Yemen and Afghanistan were ranked at the bottom among 223 countries with the average EEI scores of 0.24 and 0.23, respectively. The average of 57 OIC member countries was calculated as 0.39 that is far below the world average (0.52) and the average of other developing countries (0.52) (Figure 2). On the other hand, developed countries obtained very high scores in several sub-dimensions of the EEI. As a result, the average EEI score of developed countries was measured as 0.73, which is 0.21 points higher than the world average. These figures indicate that the environment in developing countries, including OIC member countries, is not enabling the civil society to emerge. In contrast, developed countries provide a levelled-field for their citizens that enable them to participate and engage civil society activities to a higher extent.

Figure 2: The Enabling Environment Index Scores in the World, 2013



Source: SESRIC Staff Calculations based on the CIVICUS 2013 Enabling Environment Index Dataset.

Figure 3: The Highest and Lowest Enabling Environment Index Scores in OIC Member Countries (left), and Averages of OIC Sub-Regions (right), 2013



Source: SESRIC Staff Calculations based on the CIVICUS 2013 Enabling Environment Index Dataset.

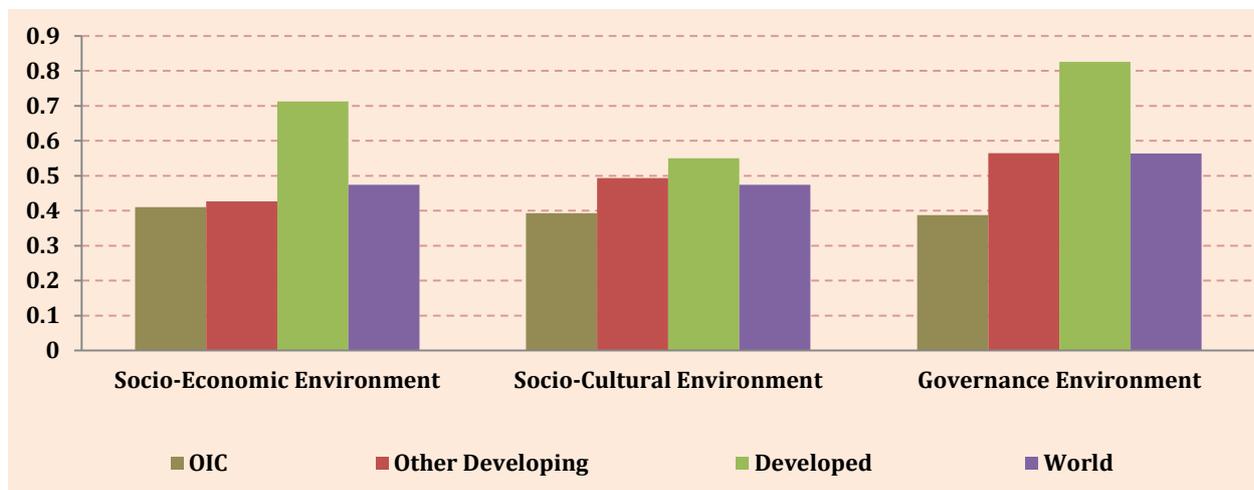
A more detailed look at the OIC member countries' performance in terms of their EEI scores in 2013 reveals that there are remarkable disparities across OIC member countries. For example, Brunei (0.59), Suriname (0.56) and Albania (0.54) obtained the highest EEI scores, whereas Cote d'Ivoire (0.25), Yemen (0.24), and Afghanistan (0.23) ranked at the bottom among OIC member countries according to their EEI scores (Figure 3, left). Overall, only four OIC member countries (Brunei, Suriname, Albania and Guyana) had an average EEI score that was above the world average of 0.52. Among 57 OIC member countries, 31 countries surpassed the OIC average of 0.39. In terms of the regional disparities among OIC sub-regions, the most favourable environment for the civil society is provided in OIC member countries that are situated in LAC (Latin America and Caribbean) and EAP (East Asia and Pacific) regions. In LAC and EAP regions, EEI scores were calculated as 0.55 and 0.54, respectively. ECA (Europe and Central Asia) and MENA (Middle East and North Africa) regions follow LAC and EAP with EEI scores of 0.41 and 0.38. Among six sub-regions of OIC, on average SA (South Asia) and SSA (Sub-Saharan Africa) regions host member countries with the least-favourable environment for the civil society and NGOs that the average EEI scores were measured as 0.37 in these two sub-regions (Figure 3, right).

An in-depth analysis on the EEI dimensions also shows that, on average, OIC member countries obtained lower scores in all three dimensions of the EEI compared to the averages of the world and other developing countries. In terms of the socio-economic environment, OIC member countries got an average score of 0.40 that is slightly lower than the average of other developing countries (0.42) and the world average (0.47). The socio-cultural environment that OIC member countries provide for the civil society is far from being perfect that is reflected by an index score of 0.39, which is 0.10 points lower than the average of other developing countries (Figure 4). In the third dimension of the EEI (i.e. governance environment), OIC member countries, on average, performed poorly both relative to other developing countries and the world average. As a reflection of this fact, the average governance environment score in OIC member countries was measured as 0.38, whereas it was calculated for other developing countries as 0.56. Also, the world average of the governance environment is 0.18 points higher than the OIC average

(Figure 5). Compared with the other two dimensions (socio-economic and socio-cultural environment), the governance environment seems to be most problematic or less-favourable one for the civil society in OIC member countries. Therefore, the highest gap between the world and OIC averages (0.18) is measured in this dimension.

Overall, the analysis reveals that in all three dimensions, OIC member countries, on average, are lagging behind other developing countries and developed countries as well as the world average. Such an unfavourable environment in terms of socio-economic, socio-cultural and governance quality is one of the main explanations why civil society organizations are underdeveloped and citizens are less willing to engage into such organizations in OIC member countries.

Figure 4: The Performance of OIC Member Countries in the Main Dimensions of EEI in Comparative Perspective, 2013



Source: SESRIC Staff Calculations based on the CIVICUS 2013 Enabling Environment Index Dataset.

Figure 5: The Value of the Gap between the World and OIC Averages in Three Dimensions of the EEI



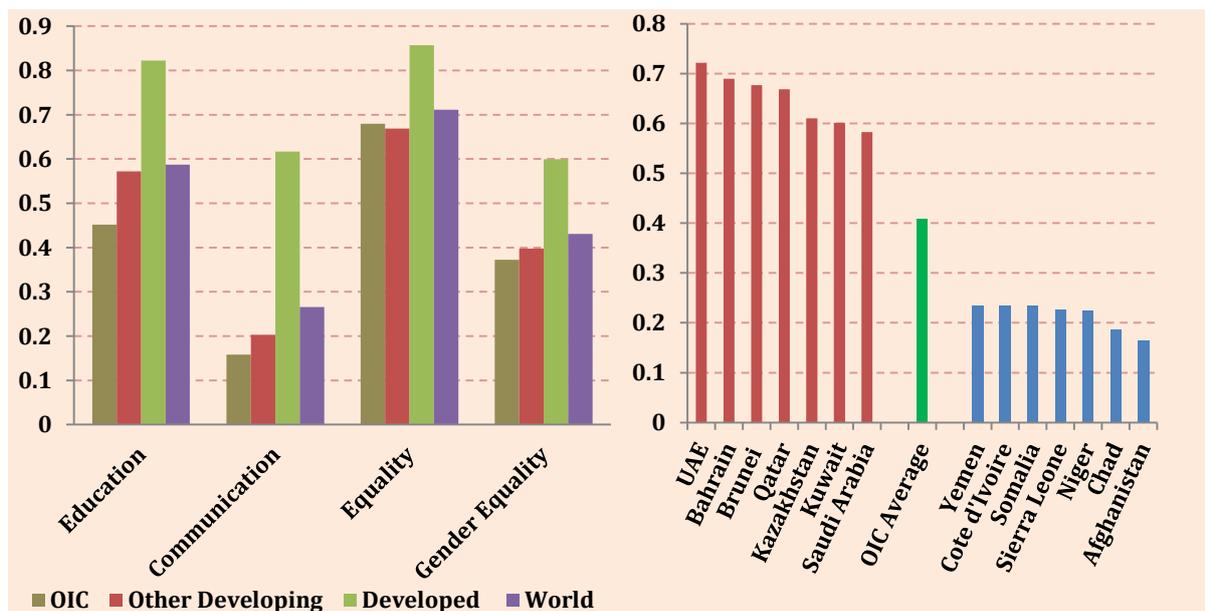
Source: SESRIC Staff Calculations based on the CIVICUS 2013 Enabling Environment Index Dataset.

Socio-Economic Environment

A comparative analysis on the sub-dimensions of the socio-economic environment indicates that OIC member countries, on average, have lower scores than other developing countries in three sub-dimensions out of four. Overall, OIC countries obtained the following scores: 0.45 in

education, 0.15 in communication, 0.67 in equality, and 0.37 in gender equality (Figure 6, left). Only in the equality dimension the OIC group got an average score of (0.67) that is 0.01 points higher than the average of other developing countries. In particular, countries like United Arab Emirates (0.72), Bahrain (0.68) and Brunei (0.67) placed at the first three rows among OIC members in terms of their socio-economic environment scores, whereas Niger (0.22), Chad (0.18), and Afghanistan (0.16) ranked at the bottom (Figure 6, right).

Figure 6: The Sub-Dimensions of the Socio-Economic Environment in OIC Member Countries (*left*), and the Best Performer vs. the Worst Performer OIC Member Countries in terms of the Socio-Economic Environment (*right*)



Source: SESRIC Staff Calculations based on the CIVICUS 2013 Enabling Environment Index Dataset.

It becomes evident in Figure 6 (left) that communications and gender equality sub-dimensions are more problematic areas compared to education and equality in the OIC group. To give an insight on the gender equality issue and to provide a closer look to the relative performance of OIC member countries, Figure 7 examines the gender equality sub-dimension.

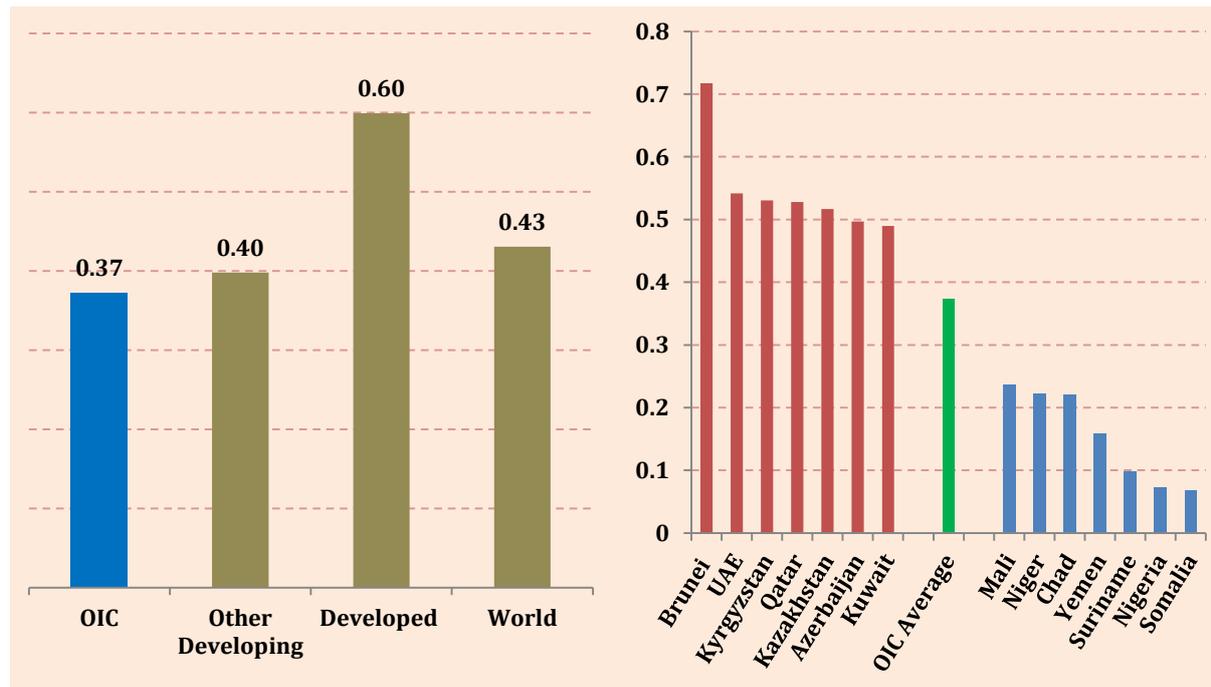
The gender equality is calculated by CIVICUS by using three indicators:

1. Seats in national parliament (% female) of United Nations Human Development Index.
2. Gender inequality index [0-1] of United Nations Human Development Index.
3. Gender equity index [1-0] of Social Watch.

The scores shown in Figure 7 (left) imply that the OIC group has an unsatisfactory performance on the gender equality sub-dimension compared with all three country groups (other developing, developed and world). On average, OIC member countries could only get 0.37 points, whereas other developing countries obtained 0.40 points. Another fact about the gender equality issue can be revealed by looking at the performance of individual member countries of the OIC group. For instance, Brunei (0.71), United Arab Emirates (0.54) and Kyrgyzstan (0.53) have the highest gender equality scores in the OIC group. However, countries like Yemen (0.15), Suriname (0.09), Nigeria (0.07), and Somalia (0.06) are the OIC member countries with the

lowest scores on gender equality (Figure 7, right). In such poor performer OIC member countries, practicing positive discrimination towards women and designing gender equality sensitive policies (e.g. in education and politics) would build a society where men and women are treated more equally.

Figure 7: The Stance of the Gender Equality in the World (*left*), and the Best Performer vs. the Worst Performer OIC Member Countries in terms of the Gender Equality Score (*right*)



Source: SESRIC Staff Calculations based on the CIVICUS 2013 Enabling Environment Index Dataset.

Finally, under the socio-economic dimension, the education sub-dimension is analysed in a detailed manner (Figure 8). A higher degree of education level tends to increase the level of awareness in the society. Moreover, educated people have a better knowledge on how to represent civil society in a more organized fashion. The education sub-dimension covers five indicators that are drawn from the United Nations and the World Bank. These are:

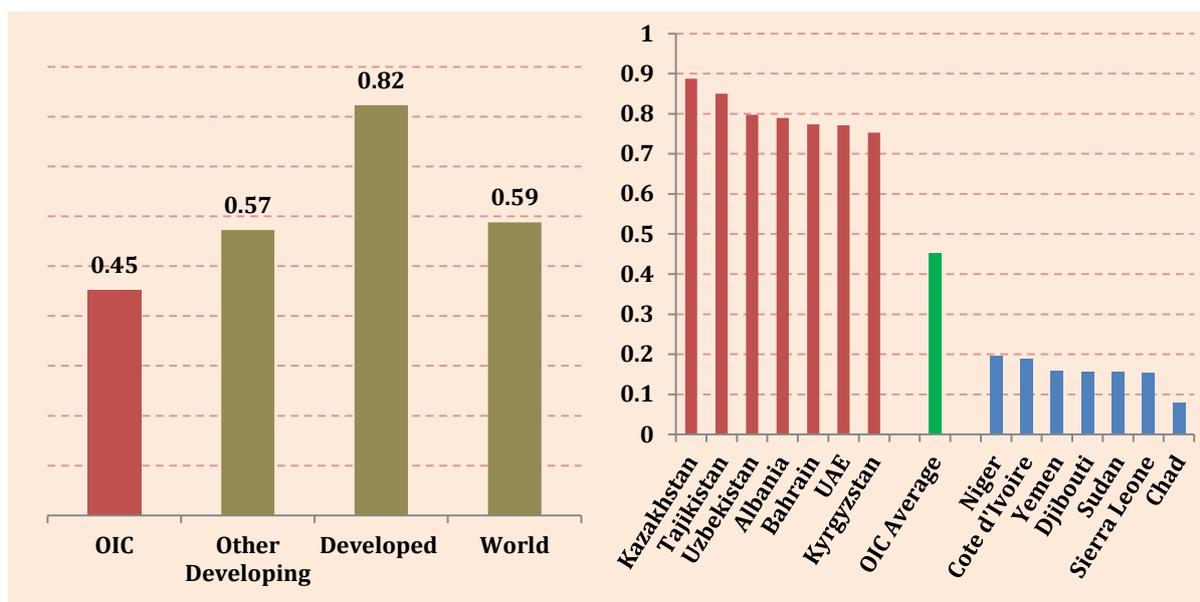
1. Inequality adjusted education index [1-0] of United Nations Human Development Index.
2. Population with at least secondary education at 25 and older [%] (females) of United Nations Human Development Index.
3. Population with at least secondary education at 25 and older [%] (males) of United Nations Human Development Index.
4. School enrolment, primary [% net] of the World Bank World Development Indicators.
5. School enrolment, secondary [% net] of the World Bank World Development Indicators.

Compared with the communication and gender equality sub-dimensions, OIC member countries obtained a relatively higher score (0.45) in the education sub-dimension as a result of positive developments and actions taken in the education area in OIC member

countries (Figure 8, left). Despite the positive developments in education related indicators, the average of the OIC group still lags behind the average of other developing countries (0.57) and the world average (0.59).

In terms of the individual country performance in the education dimension, OIC member countries in the Central Asia such as Kazakhstan (0.88) and Tajikistan (0.85) obtained very high scores that are comparable with the average of developed countries (0.82). In contrast, OIC member countries in Sub-Saharan Africa such as Sudan (0.16), Sierra-Leone (0.15) and Chad (0.08) had very low scores in the education dimension that put them to the bottom (Figure 8, right). Increasing the share of education in public budget and investing into educational infrastructure can be part of education policies in such poor performer countries. Other part of policies related to education would include awareness-raising programs on the importance of education that can help to change mind-sets of people.

Figure 8: The Stance of the Education in the World (*left*), and the Best Performer vs. the Worst Performer OIC Member Countries in terms of the Education Score (*right*)



Source: SESRIC Staff Calculations based on the CIVICUS 2013 Enabling Environment Index Dataset.

Socio-Cultural Environment

A comparative analysis on the sub-dimensions of the socio-cultural environment shows that OIC member countries, on average, surpass the average of other developing countries in three sub-dimensions out of four, which can be seen as an opportunity for OIC member countries. The average of OIC member countries was measured as 0.60 in participation, 0.40 in trust, and 0.31 points in giving and volunteering (Figure 9, left).

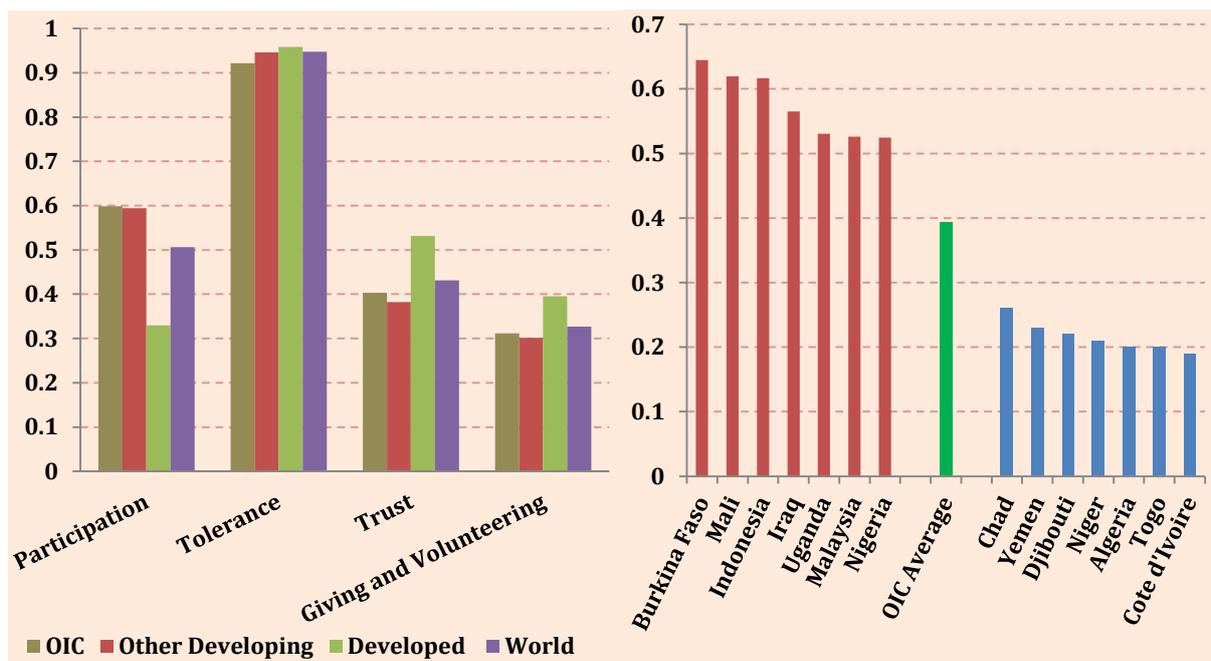
Citizens in OIC member countries have high willingness to participate into civic actions such as signing petitions, joining boycotts, and attending peaceful demonstrations. It indicates that citizens in OIC member countries do not tend to stay inactive for the events or decisions that affect them. The average of the OIC group is slightly higher both than the average of other developing countries (0.59) and the world average (0.50) in this dimension.

Research has shown that social capital is an important enabler for participation into civil society organizations. Citizens feel confident to join forces with other fellow citizens as the level of trust increases in the society. The level of trust in OIC member countries, on average, is found (0.40) to be higher compared with the average of other developing countries (0.38). However, the OIC group has a slightly lower trust level than the world average (0.43).

In a society with high degree of giving and volunteering motives, civil society organizations and citizens can relatively easily find financial and human resources, and support mechanisms for their activities. This indicator also measures citizens' level of involvement to formal charitable activities. In this dimension, it is found that the OIC group obtained a slightly higher score (0.31) than the average other developing countries (0.30) and a very close score to the world average (0.32). This implies that in the OIC group, on average, giving and volunteering motives are slightly higher than the average of other developing countries.

The existence of tolerance is important to provide an enabling environment for civil society organizations and activities since the civil society term covers all layers of a society (e.g. different minorities). Compared with all three sub-dimensions (participation, trust, and giving and volunteering), all country groups, including the OIC group, obtained very high average scores in the tolerance sub-dimension. Nevertheless, in the tolerance sub-dimension the OIC group got a slightly lower score (0.92) than the other developing countries group (0.94). In terms of the socio-cultural environment score, the first three best performer countries became Burkina Faso (0.64), Mali (0.62) and Indonesia (0.61). On the other side of the spectrum, among OIC member countries Algeria (0.20), Togo (0.20), and Cote d'Ivoire (0.19) obtained the lowest scores in this dimension (Figure 9, right).

Figure 9: The Sub-Dimensions of the Socio-Cultural Environment in OIC Member Countries (left), and the Best Performer vs. the Worst Performer OIC Member Countries in terms of the Socio-Cultural Environment (right)



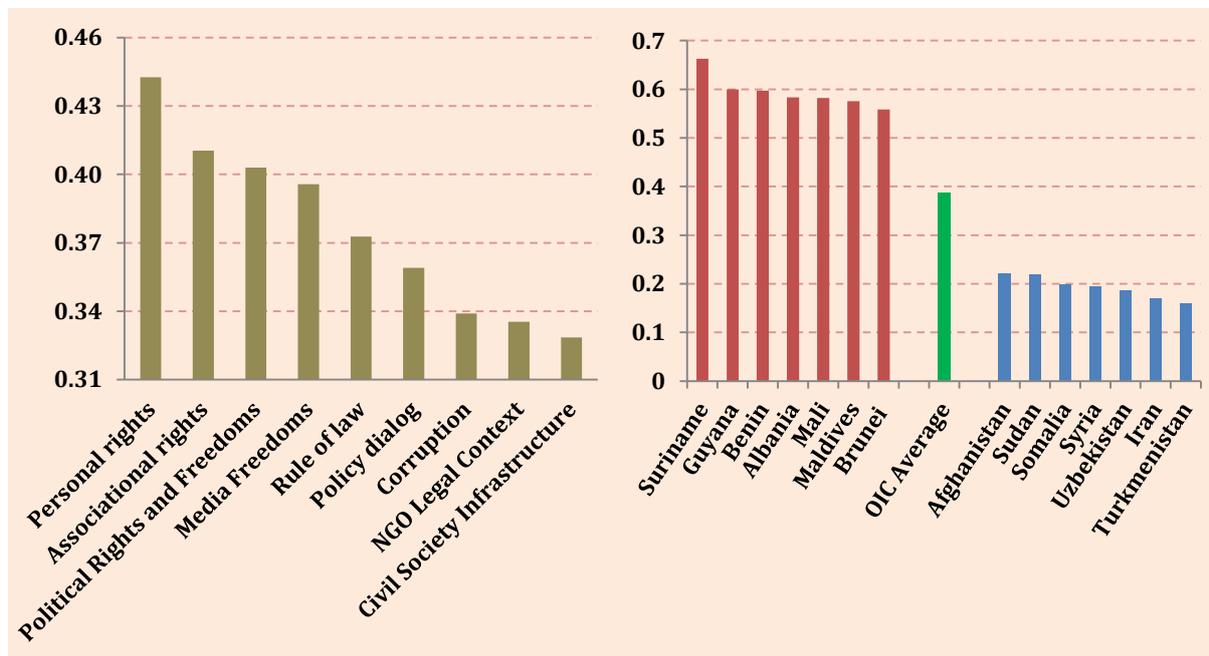
Source: SESRIC Staff Calculations based on the CIVICUS 2013 Enabling Environment Index Dataset.

Governance Environment

The governance environment of the EEI covers nine sub-dimensions: civil society infrastructure, policy dialogue, corruption, political rights and freedoms, associational rights, rule of law, personal rights, NGO legal context, and media freedoms. Among these nine sub-dimensions, the highest scores are observed on the sub-dimensions of personal rights (0.44) and associational rights (0.41) for OIC member countries (Figure 10, left). This result implies that OIC member countries, on average, performed relatively better in these areas compared with the remaining seven sub-dimensions of the governance environment. On the other hand, the three most problematic areas under the governance dimension are identified as the corruption (0.34), NGO legal context (0.34) and civil society infrastructure (0.33) for the OIC group.

Under the governance environment, it is found that there is wide disparity among OIC member countries, as observed in other dimensions of the EEI. OIC member countries like Suriname (0.66), Guyana (0.60) and Benin (0.59) provide a well-functioning governance environment that enables civil society (Figure 10, right). Nevertheless, the governance dimension scores of OIC member countries are found to be very low such as Uzbekistan (0.18), Iran (0.17) and Turkmenistan (0.15) that indicates the existence of important problems related to the governance quality.

Figure 10: The Sub-Dimensions of the Governance Environment in OIC Member Countries (*left*), and The Best Performer vs. the Worst Performer OIC Member Countries in terms of the Governance Environment (*right*)

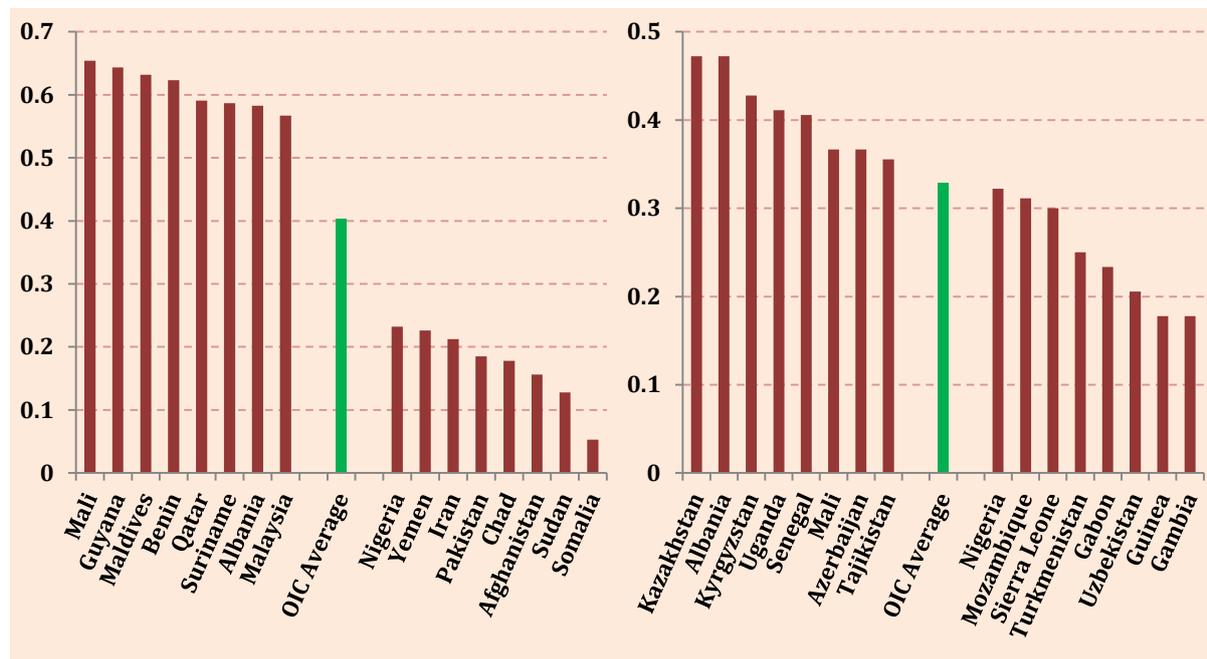


Source: SESRIC Staff Calculations based on the CIVICUS 2013 Enabling Environment Index Dataset.

Figure 11 presents the stance of the best and worst performer OIC member countries in two selected sub-dimensions of the governance environment: political rights and freedoms (which is a sub-dimension that OIC member countries perform relatively better) and civil society infrastructure (which is a sub-dimension that OIC member countries perform relatively poorer). By doing this, it is aimed to provide a glimpse on the disparity among OIC member countries in these dimensions. Mali (0.65), Guyana (0.64) and Maldives (0.63) have the highest level of political rights and freedoms among OIC member countries. Nevertheless, OIC member countries like Afghanistan (0.15), Sudan (0.12) and Somalia (0.05) provide relatively limited political rights and freedoms to their citizens, which constitute barrier for entrance into civil society activities (Figure 11, left).

The civil society infrastructure dimension assesses the strength of organization capacity, financial resources and support mechanisms for civil society organizations. Many OIC member countries could not provide reliable data on this dimension. For the data available 16 OIC member countries, the average score is calculated as 0.32 (Figure 11, right). Kazakhstan (0.47), Albania (0.47) and Kyrgyzstan (0.42) placed at the first three rows among OIC member countries. Guinea (0.18) and Gambia (0.18) seem to provide a relatively less-developed civil society infrastructure in the OIC group.

Figure 11: The Stance of Political Rights and Freedoms in OIC Member Countries (*left*), and the Civil Society Infrastructure in OIC Member Countries (*right*)



Source: SESRIC Staff Calculations based on the CIVICUS 2013 Enabling Environment Index Dataset.

It is important to note that, as two graphs in Figure 11 have shown, an OIC member country would be one of the top performer countries in a sub-dimension, whereas the same country would show a relatively weaker performance in another sub-dimension at the same time. For instance, Albania is an OIC member country with a strong civil society infrastructure that obtained a score of 0.47 that puts Albania to the second row in the OIC group. However, in the political rights and freedoms sub-dimension, Albania only became the 7th best-performer OIC

member country with a score of 0.58. In the final analysis, by taking all nine sub-dimensions of the governance environment into account, Albania could get an average governance score of 0.58 that put it into the 4th place among OIC member countries. This analysis has shown that even OIC member countries that have a relatively more developed civil society infrastructure (e.g. Albania) need to identify their weaknesses related to governance quality that affect the environment for civil society. The identification of such poorly functioning areas under the governance sub-dimension would help policy-makers to design and implement reform packages in order to generate a more enabling environment for civil society.

4. Conclusion

This outlook report analysed the stance of the civil society in 57 OIC member countries by using the 2013 version of the Enabling Environment Index (EEI) of CIVICUS. According to the EEI, three main factors affect citizens' engagement on civil society activities and organizations: socio-economic environment, socio-cultural environment and governance environment.

A detailed analysis on each of these three main dimensions revealed that OIC member countries, on average, lag behind the average of other developing countries and the world average. Therefore, the EEI score (which is calculated by taking into account all three aspects) of the OIC group was measured at 0.39, which is an overall score far below the average of other developing countries and the world average. This implies that OIC member countries need to put an effort to improve their socio-economic, socio-cultural and governance environment.

The analysis also confirmed the existence of important disparities within the OIC group, both at the individual country and sub-regional levels. There are remarkable differences between the best and worst performer OIC member countries and regions in terms of the socio-economic, socio-cultural and governance environments that are provided to civil society. These disparities among member countries and sub-OIC regions also continue as the analysis go into more sub-dimensional level.

Under the socio-economic environment, relatively lower scores that OIC member countries obtained especially concentrated on the communication and gender equality sub-dimensions. To this end, it is evident that reforms in these sub-dimensions need to be prioritized while improving the socio-economic environment in OIC member countries. Such policies would help to create a more enabling environment for the civil society. For instance, in OIC member countries women are usually underrepresented in politics that is one of the reasons behind low gender equality scores (under the socio-economic environment). Therefore policy-makers need to generate an enabling environment to encourage women to participate in political activities. Also political parties in OIC member countries should take this issue into their agenda. Higher representation of women in politics not only would lead to an increase in the number of women in the parliaments of OIC member countries but also would build an interest group that is defending women's rights more effectively and actively.

Under the socio-cultural environment, the most problematic part seems to be the existence of lower level of tolerance in OIC member countries compared with other developing countries. Therefore policy makers need to work for building up more tolerant societies in OIC member countries. In particular, Islam suggests Muslims to be tolerant persons. However, citizens live in OIC member countries suffer from intolerance at varying degrees in their respective societies due to education gaps and internal conflicts (stemming from differences in local cultures,

development levels and languages spoken etc.). Therefore social and education policies aiming to increase social coherence must be implemented.

The EEI indicated that citizens in OIC member countries suffer from the poor quality of governance extensively, which generates an unfavourable environment for the civil society and NGOs. Problems associated with the governance also slow down the overall development process of societies (Grindle, 2007). In particular, three sub-dimensions under the governance area need to be highlighted for OIC member countries: civil society infrastructure, NGO legal context and corruption. Among nine sub-dimensions, these three areas are the ones in which OIC member countries get the lowest scores. This indicates the necessity of urgent and effective reforms to improve the stance of OIC member countries in these specific areas.

For OIC member countries, one of the most problematic areas under the governance environment is the underdeveloped infrastructure for civil society organizations. According to the CIVICUS three factors constitute the infrastructure for the civil society organizations: organizational capacity, financial viability and support organizations. In all these areas OIC member countries perform poorly. Only in existence of strong organizational capacity and financial means along with support organizations, citizens would tend to go into activities related with civil society. Therefore providing the infrastructure for civil society only would be an initial step for building an enabling environment for the civil society. This step can also be labelled as “levelling the field”.

A second problematic area under the governance dimension is the NGO legal context for OIC member countries. This indicator measures the legal conditions allowing NGOs to operate. Many OIC member countries do not have a specific legislation on this item. The lack of legal context generates a remarkable hardship for the citizens who are willing to make a contribution to the society through NGOs. Also, the lack of required legislation on civil society organizations allows public officials to abuse their authority on the civil society and NGOs related issues (e.g. bribery). Therefore, OIC member countries need to give priority to enact a legislation that allows their citizens to exercise the right of forming civil society organizations without any cost, hardship and in a transparent way.

A third problematic dimension under the governance environment in OIC member countries is corruption. Highly corrupt societies do not allow their citizens to benefit or exercise their rights fully and freely. In a society with a high level corruption level, informal and personal ties gain importance at the expense of collective action. Therefore, in such a society citizens have less willingness to be active in civil society activities and organizations. Moreover, in a highly corrupt economy there is little room for the existing NGOs and civil society organizations to stay far away from the corruption. Therefore, OIC member countries need to find ways to free their economies from corruption that negatively affects their civil society to reach their potential. Improvement in legislations and widening control mechanisms (i.e. monitoring) would be some important steps to achieve this objective. In a fully upgraded governmental institutional context, corrupt authorities and parties would not survive. Therefore, policies to reduce corruption can also be seen as an integral part of the overall institutional reforms in OIC member countries.

According to the Future Role of Civil Society Report (2013), civil society has a brilliant and promising future both in developed and developing countries that will have a higher impact than today on all stakeholders in the society. However, the same report claims that the way how

civil society organizations influence society and governments will also not stay intact in the upcoming decades. Over time, civil society will no longer be viewed as a “third sector” rather it will be glue between society and government that works for the overall benefit of the society. Therefore both policy makers in OIC member countries and their civil society institutions need to prepare their selves for such a future by adopting a strategic reform agenda on the status of the civil society. The result of a collective and coordinated understanding along with well-designed governance reform packages would encourage citizens to engage into civil society activities and help them to find their unique ways to influence politicians and decision-makers through civil society organizations.

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Annex: Detailed View of Enabling Environment Index			
Dimension	Sub-dimension	Indicators [score range]	Source
Socio-economic environment	<u>Education</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inequality adjusted education index [1-0] 2011, 2. Population with at least secondary education at 25 and older [%] – females, 2010, 3. Population with at least secondary education at 25 and older [%] – males, 2010, 4. School enrolment, primary [% net] – 2010 5. School enrolment, secondary [% net] – 2010 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. UN Human Development Index (2011) 2. UN Human Development Index (2011) 3. UN Human Development Index (2011) 4. The World Bank World Development Indicators (2010) 5. The World Bank World Development Indicators (2010)
	<u>Communications</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Internet users [per 100 people] – 2010 2. Fixed broadband Internet subscribers [per 100 people] – 2010 3. % of people who have access to the internet from home [%] 4. % of people who use the internet [%] 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The World Bank World Development Indicators (2010) 2. The World Bank World Development Indicators (2010) 3. Gallup World Poll (2009, 2010) 4. International Telecommunication Union (2011)
	<u>Equality</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inequality adjusted HDI [1-0] 2. Gini coefficient (reversed) [0-100], 2000-2011 3. Basic capabilities index [100-0], 2011 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. UN Human Development Index (2011) 2. UN Human Development Index (2011) 3. Social Watch (2012)
	<u>Gender equality</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seats in national parliament (% female) 2. Gender inequality index [0-1] 3. Gender equity index [1-0] 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. UN Human Development Index (2011) 2. UN Human Development Index (2011) 3. Social Watch (2012)
Socio-cultural environment	<u>Propensity to participate</u>	<p>% of people who said they would do (either “have done” or “might do”) any of the three of the suggested actions (signing petitions, joining boycotts, attending peaceful demonstrations) [%]</p> <p>* When more than two data sources are available, a more recent one is used.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Values Survey (2005-2007) • Latinobarometer (2008) • European Values Survey (2008) • Afrobarometer (2005) <p>* No question about participation in Afrobarometer 2008 or Asian barometer 2010</p>

Annex: Detailed View of Enabling Environment Index			
Dimension	Sub-dimension	Indicators [score range]	Source
Socio-cultural environment	<u>Tolerance</u>	<p>% of people who said they would not refuse having as neighbours any of the following types (immigrants, different religion, different race, homosexuals – see right for precise categories in each surveys) [%]</p> <p>* When more than two data sources are available, a more recent one is used.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Values Survey (2005-2007) - different race, different religion, homosexuals, foreign workers Latinobarometer (2008) - homosexuals, immigrants, Africans, indigenous people European Values Survey (2008) - different race, muslims, homosexuals, immigrants <p>* No question about tolerance in Afrobarometer 2008 or Asian barometer 2010</p>
	<u>Trust</u>	<p>1. “Most people can be trusted.” (% who responded “yes”) [%]</p> <p>2. % of people who trust (“a great deal of,” “quite a lot”) at least one of the following intuitions (The Environmental Protection Movement, The Women’s Movement, Charitable or humanitarian organizations) [%]</p> <p>* When more than two data sources are available, a more recent one is used.</p> <p>3. Public Image: [Scores of 7 (Sustainability Enhanced) to 1 (Sustainability Impeded), rescaled as $1 - ((i-1)/6)$].</p>	<p>1. World Values Survey (2005-2007); Latinobarometer (2008); European Values Survey (2008); Afrobarometer (2005); Asian barometer (2010)</p> <p>2. World Values Survey (2005-2007); Latinobarometer (2008); European Values Survey (2008); Afrobarometer (2005); Asian barometer (2010)</p> <p>* EVS only asks questions on the environmental protection only</p> <p>3. USAID CSO Sustainability Index (2011)</p>
	<u>Giving and volunteering</u>	<p>1. % of people making donations [%]</p> <p>2. % of people helping strangers [%]</p> <p>3. % of people volunteering [%]</p>	<p>1. World Giving Index (2011)</p> <p>2. World Giving Index (2011)</p> <p>3. World Giving Index (2011)</p>
Governance Environment	<u>Civil society infrastructure</u>	<p>1. Organisational capacity dimension</p> <p>2. Financial viability dimension</p> <p>3. Support organisations</p> <p>[Scores of 7 (Sustainability Enhanced) to 1 (Sustainability Impeded), rescaled as $1 - ((i-1)/6)$]</p>	<p>1-3. USAID CSO Sustainability Index (2011)</p>

Annex: Detailed View of Enabling Environment Index			
Dimension	Sub-dimension	Indicators [score range]	Source
Governance Environment	<u>Policy dialogue</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advocacy [Scores of 7 (Sustainability Enhanced) to 1 (Sustainability Impeded), rescaled as $1 - ((i-1)/6)$] 2. Open budget survey [100-0] 3. Interest groups – “To what extent is there a network of cooperative associations or interest groups to mediate between society and the political system?” [10-1] 4. Participation in policy (part of political participation dimension: “To what extent does the political leadership enable the participation of civil society in the political process?”) [10-1] 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. USAID CSO Sustainability Index (2011) 2. IBP Open Budget Survey (2010) 3. Bertelsmann Transformation Index (2011) 4. Bertelsmann Transformation Index (2011)
	<u>Corruption</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Control of corruption, [Score of 2.5 (strong governance) to -2.5 (weak governance)], 2010 2. Corruption Perception Index [100-0] 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Worldwide Governance Indicators (2011) 2. Transparency International Corruption Perception Index (2011)
	<u>Political rights and freedoms</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Political stability and absence of violence [Score of 2.5 (strong governance) to -2.5 (weak governance)], 2010 2. Political participation [10-0] 3. Political culture [10-0] 4. Political rights [Scores of 7 (Free) to 1 (Not Free), rescaled as $1 - ((i-1)/6)$] 5. Human rights (measures access to information, civil rights, political rights protection, freedom of speech, labour rights, freedom of movement, freedom of speech) [0-10] 6. Political terror scale [1-5, rescaled as $1 - ((i-1)/4)$], 2010 7. Political terror scale [1-5, rescaled as $1 - ((i-1)/4)$], 2010 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Worldwide Governance Indicators (2011) 2. Democracy index (2011), Economist Intelligence Unit 3. Democracy index (2011) 4. Freedom House Freedom in the World (2011) 5. Failed States Index (2011), published by Fund for Peace and Foreign Policy 6. Amnesty International (2010) 7. US State Department (2010)
	<u>Associational rights</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Freedom of assembly and association [2-0] (an internationally recognized right of citizens to assemble freely and to associate with other persons in political parties, trade unions, cultural organisations, or other special-interest groups.) 2. Association/assembly rights (part of political participation dimension) – “To what extent can individuals form and join independent political or civic groups? To what extent can these groups operate and assemble freely?” [10-1] 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Cingranelli-Richards (CIRI) Human Rights dataset (2010) 2. Bertelsmann Transformation Index 2011

Annex: Detailed View of Enabling Environment Index			
Dimension	Sub-dimension	Indicators [score range]	Source
Governance Environment	<u>Rule of law</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rule of law [Score of 2.5 (strong governance) to -2.5 (weak governance)] 2. Legal framework [100-0] 3. Electoral process and pluralism [10-0] 4. Confidence in honesty of elections [1-0] 5. Independence of the judiciary [2-0] (This variable indicates the extent to which the judiciary is independent of control from other sources, such as another branch of the government or the military.) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Worldwide Governance Indicators (2011) 2. Global Integrity Index (2010, 11) 3. Democracy index (2011) 4. Gallup World Poll (2009, 2010) 5. The Cingranelli-Richards (CIRI) Human Rights dataset (2010)
	<u>Personal rights</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Physical integrity rights index (includes cases of torturing people, extrajudicial killing, political imprisonment, and disappearance) [8-0] 2. Trade unions rights violations [0-150 and above; rescaled as 1-(i/150); all scores higher than 150 (18 scores) were scaled as 0] 3. Worker's rights [2-0] 4. Civil liberties [10-0] 5. Civil liberties [Scores of 7 (Free) to 1 (Not Free), rescaled as 1-((i-1)/6)] 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Cingranelli-Richards (CIRI) Human Rights dataset (2010) 2. Trade unions rights violations survey (2011) 3. The Cingranelli-Richards (CIRI) Human Rights dataset (2010) 4. Democracy index (2011) 5. Freedom House Freedom in the World (2011)
	<u>NGO legal context</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Legal environment [Scores of 7 (Sustainability Enhanced) to 1 (Sustainability Impeded), rescaled as 1-((i-1)/6)] 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. USAID CSO sustainability index (2011)
	<u>Media freedoms</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Freedom of speech [2-0] (the extent to which freedoms of speech and press are affected by government censorship, including ownership of media outlets. Censorship is any form of restriction that is placed on freedom of the press, speech or expression.) 2. Press freedom index [-10 to 142; rescaled as 1-(i+10)/152] 3. Freedom of the Net [0-100] 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Cingranelli-Richards (CIRI) Human Rights dataset (2010) 2. Reporter Without Borders Press freedom index (2012) 3. Freedom House Freedom of the Net (2012)

Source: Adapted from the CIVICUS 2013 Enabling Environment Index Report.



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