

The Civil Society Board

Concepts, Progress and The Way Forward

The Civil Society Board

- ▶ a mechanism through which Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) through elected representatives would be able to contribute to the development of National Policy.

The Civil Society Board

- ▶ To coordinate the opinions & views of the CSOs throughout Trinidad and Tobago on key issues of governance, social services and policy
- ▶ To communicate to Government for National decision-making

Objectives

- ▶ to ensure representation of all CSOs on key issues with community, national, regional and international implications
- ▶ to set priority areas to focus the government on critical issues
- ▶ to promote the principles and practices of good governance
- ▶ to build the capacity of CSOs in Trinidad and Tobago

Initial Proposal for the Formation of the CSB

- CSOs were initially required to register by sector (14 sectors in total)
- After extensive consultations (14 Municipal regions, Tobago East and West) sectors were realigned to 15 in total;

Realignment of Sectors

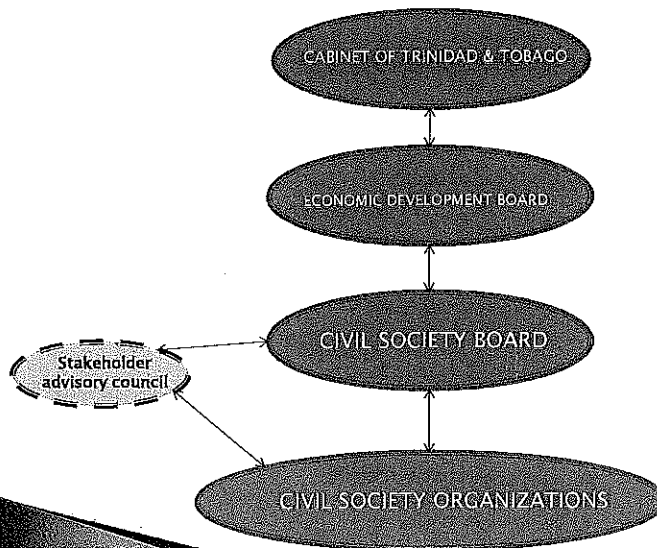
➤ The fifteen sectors which groups can register under are:

- Agriculture
- Business
- Culture & Heritage
- Education and Technology
- Environment
- Faith Based Organisations
- Family Affairs
- Health
- Labour, Justice and Security
- Social Development & Poverty Alleviation
- Affairs of Persons with Disabilities
- Community Based Organisations
- Sport
- Youth
- Tobago Affairs

Proposal for the Formation of the CSB

- ▶ Each sector would elect two (2) delegates, one designate and an alternate, giving a total of 30 delegates
- ▶ The CSB would consist of no more than 15 members
- ▶ Members of the board would serve for 2 years but may be eligible for re-appointment on one further consecutive occasion
- ▶ Elections to the CSB would take place every two (2) years

Organizational Chart of CSB



The Consultations

- ▶ sixteen (16) Public Consultations: 14 in Municipal Corporation areas and 2 in Tobago
- ▶ CSOs were also invited to register by sector for the election of the Board members
- ▶ Ministries involved
 - Office of the Prime Minister
 - Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development
 - Ministry of the People and Social Development
 - Ministry of Community Development

Results of Consultations

- ▶ The CSOs generally agreed with the main tenets of the documents but suggested some variations including the:
 - addition of a number of sectors to be represented;
 - provision of stipends to members of the Board;
 - establishment of mechanisms to monitor the implementation of solutions proposed by the Board;
 - the development and maintenance of a civil society register (database) by the Board;

Results of Consultations

- expansion of the mandate of the Board to include coordination of Government funding to the sector;
- introduction of a scheme of regional representation to supplement the structure of the Board; and
- Provision of a legal framework for the operations of the CSB.

Transfer of CSB Initiative

- ▶ On **June 22, 2012** Civil Society Engagement was transferred from the OPM to the MNDSI
- ▶ On **November 23 2012** and **December 12 2013** the MNDSI held 2 Dialogue Sessions in Trinidad and in Tobago respectively to inform CSOs of the change and to solicit feedback.

Way Forward

- ▶ The Ministry proposes a system of fused regional and sectoral voting
- ▶ Each region would select a representative for each of the sectors (Regional Delegate Elections)
- ▶ The regional representatives for each sector will select the delegates who will sit on the Board (National Delegate Elections)
- ▶ Voting would be conducted on the basis of *One CSO, One Vote.*

The Way Forward

- ▶ Nominations for delegates would be held from the period June 30 – July 11 2014
- ▶ Regional Elections for Sectoral Representatives would be held on July 21-22 2014
- ▶ Elections of Members to the Civil Society Board would be held on July 28-29 2014

The Way Forward

- ▶ The fifteen members who will constitute the Board will select a Chairman and Vice Chairman
- ▶ The results will be communicated to the Cabinet.

Thank You