

CIVICUS Monitor country scores and ratings

Methodology Paper

March 2023

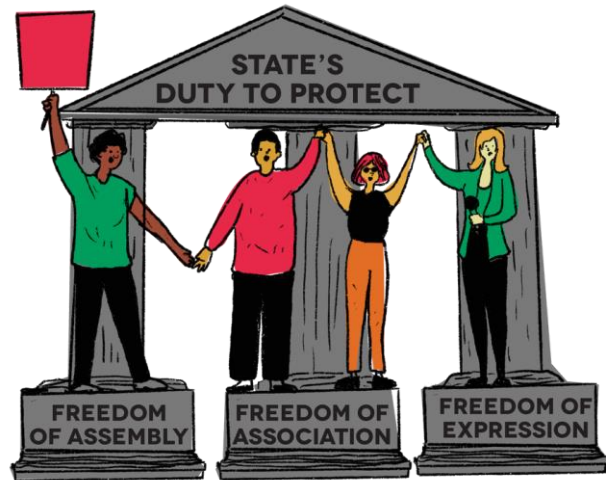
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Introduction

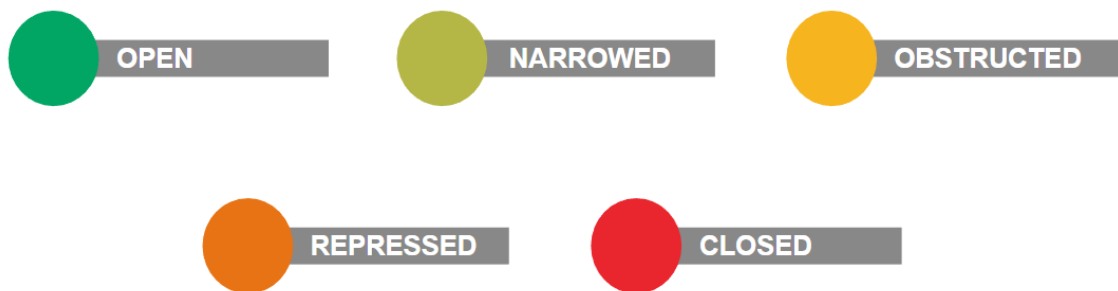
The CIVICUS Monitor aims to provide a comprehensive assessment of civic space conditions within countries and over time. [Civic space](#) is defined as the respect in law, policy and practice for the freedoms of association, peaceful assembly and expression. Built into the three core freedoms is the understanding

that states have a duty to protect civil society, and must go beyond simply refraining from interfering in citizens' enjoyment of their rights. At the heart of the CIVICUS Monitor's methodology is the combination of several independent and reliable data sources. These sources include indicators from other organisations monitoring civic space freedoms and reports from national, regional and international civil society



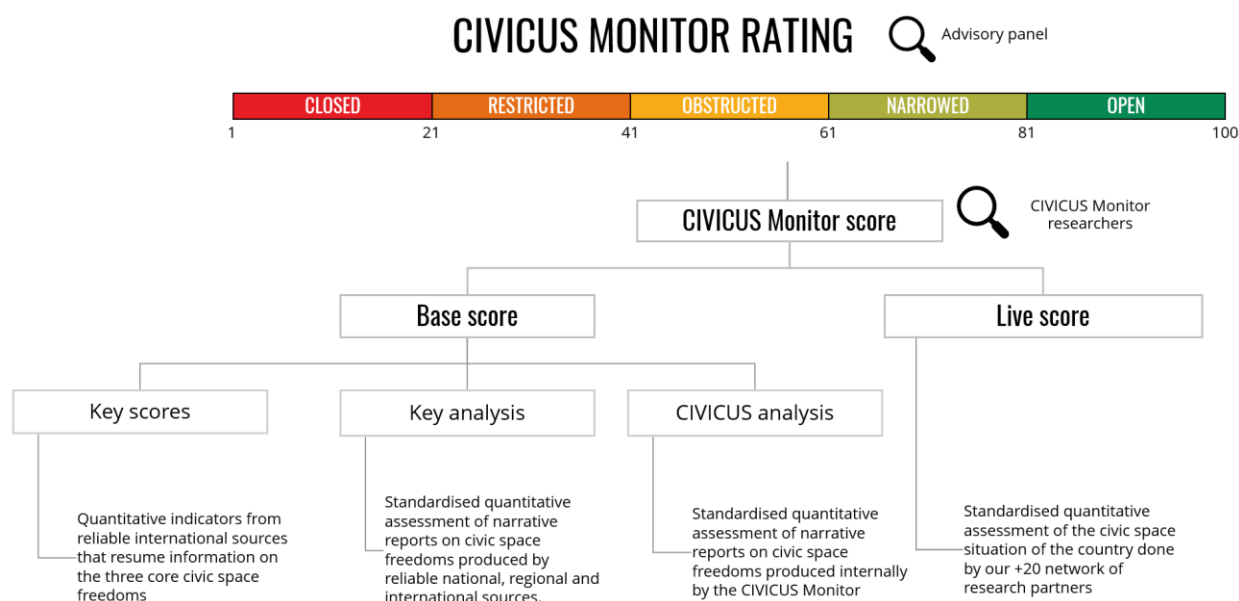
organisations with relevant information on the four above-mentioned indicators of civic space. These external analyses are then paired with the analysis of CIVICUS and their research partners to arrive at the country score and subsequent rating for all assessed countries and territories.

The CIVICUS Monitor assesses the civic space conditions of 197 countries and territories and condenses this information in a score for each of them. Based on the score, a country can be [rated](#) as open, narrowed, obstructed, repressed or closed. These ratings are conceptualised as broad bands, where a variety of civic experiences can exist within any given rating category. The goal of ratings is to offer robust comparisons between countries over time; meanwhile the scores offer more detailed information on the state of civil society freedoms within those broad categories. The intention of the CIVICUS Monitor scores is not to rank the countries; rather, they are meant to provide transparency to the assessment and additional information, for example, by detecting countries at risk of being downgraded or bringing to light the different civic space conditions that can co-exist within the same rating.



The scores and ratings are updated annually, and the results are released together with the publication of our report People Power Under Attack. To get to the scores, we combine quantitative and qualitative data, not only produced internally by the CIVICUS Monitor but also published by upstanding organisations working on civic space freedoms. The score also relies upon an assessment of the civic space situation by CIVICUS' network of research partners and structured interviews with civic space experts and national-level civil society groups.

The score underpinning the ratings is a combination of four different components: Key scores, Key Analysis, CIVICUS Analysis and the Research Partners' live analysis. The average of the first three is the base score and summarises information on the civic space situation of the country the year before the score publication. Through the live score, the +20 network of research partners assesses the state of civic space in the current year.



In an attempt to produce a rigorous assessment, the ratings and scores go through two examinations. The first one is done internally by the CIVICUS Monitor team and the regional leads whose experience in the subject allows them to determine if the final scores and

ratings are aligned with the actual civic space conditions of the countries. The second review is done by an independent panel of experts who check rating changes and, based on their regional and/or thematic expertise, can flag to the CIVICUS team when a country rating does not align with the situation on the ground.

The remaining sections of the methodology paper will explain how the scores are calculated and the sources behind them.

Constructing the CIVICUS Monitor methodology: general choices and consequences

Given that the four indicators which we use to conceptualise civic space are latent concepts that cannot be directly observed, much less captured by a single measure, they are more accurately approximated by constructing a composite index (Salzman, 2003). In this section we will briefly discuss the general choices taken in the construction of the CIVICUS Monitor methodology as well as their consequences. Firstly, we fix the range of the score, i.e. we impose a minimum and a maximum theoretically possible value.

Given that civic space conditions across the country and territories vary from very restricted to more open, we can be reasonably confident that the range we set up is broad enough to encompass the variety of civic experiences around the world.

In acknowledgement of this approach, it makes sense to quantify a civic space range from completely unrestricted to completely restricted. Therefore, a fixed scale makes it easier to interpret the absolute values of the country scores because the endpoints are natural reference points. Next, we must choose the functional form of all input variables. Linear functional forms are easy to interpret and imply that the meaning of marginal change is constant across the range of the variable. The linear functional form requires that a change in the press index from five to ten has the same meaning as a change from fifty-five to sixty (Salzman, 2003). All our variables are linear transformations.

We rescale all input variables to a one to one hundred using the following formula:

$$\text{Rebase formula} = \frac{\text{new maximum} - \text{new minimum}}{\text{old maximum} - \text{old minimum}} * (\text{value} - \text{old maximum}) + \text{new maximum}$$

By rescaling, we conceptualise changes in restrictions as constant across the range of our variables. As a result, all our input variables are on the same scale. This means that if the score of any source changes, it is still comparable to other sources using the rebased value.

We choose to aggregate our input variables for each component of our methodology using additive weighting, i.e. the sum of all variable and weight products, where the weights sum to one. This approach is straightforward. Conceptually, country ratings are designed to reflect the state of civic space in a country. This aggregation mechanism enables variables to offset each other. Other approaches – such as deprivational indices – penalise low performance in any one of the components (Anand and Sen, 1997). We opted for additive weighting because we view our four indicators of civic space as interrelated concepts that

frequently overlap. Considering that separating these four indicators is a difficult task, a deprivational approach did not adequately reflect the complexity of the concepts we aim to approximate.

A final consideration in the construction of our index reflects the weighting scheme. We have, thus far, constructed the CIVICUS Monitor methodology so that the four civic space indicators are implicitly weighted equally. However, within each freedom indicator, we give greater weight to national sources than to sources produced by regional or international organisations. The advantage of our approach is that we give greater voice to national level civil society organisations producing data on civic space. We contend that actors closer to the source are best able to contextualise information and that potential incentives for overstating restrictions are offset by local organisations' interest in remaining credible.

Digging into the components behind the scores and ratings

The score underpinning the ratings is a combination of the base score, which offers the overall state of civic space according to sources which are updated annually, and the live score. The latter is a CIVICUS Monitor attempt to be responsive to country level developments that took place during the current year. In order to keep the information up to date using inputs from our research partners we adjust the base score to contemplate the live civic space situation.

Thus, the score formula is:

$$CIVICUS\ monitor\ score = \frac{1}{2} * base\ score + \frac{1}{2} * live\ score$$

1. BASE SCORE

The CIVICUS Monitor relies on a variety of sources before arriving at a score and rating for the quality of civic space in each country. By diversifying our sources, we reduce over-reliance on any data source. Using a variety of sources also enhances the stability and sustainability of our data.

The score is composed of two aggregate components: the base score and the live score. The base score is the arithmetic mean of Key scores, Key Analysis, CIVICUS Analysis. This base score is then averaged to the live score to get the final score.

All input variables are on a one to one-hundred range. The output of this calculation forms the basis for a country's rating category, prior to the additional review process done by the CIVICUS Monitor research team and the external advisory panel.

$$Base\ score = \frac{1}{3} * key\ score + \frac{1}{3} * key\ analysis\ score + \frac{1}{3} * CIVICUS\ analysis\ score$$

1.1. KEY SCORE

The key scores component makes use of three external scores drawn from international assessments of civic space updated annually. We use the Freedom in the World Index (FIWI) data from Freedom House to contemplate freedom of association, Varieties of Democracy's

(VDEM) Peaceful Assembly indicator and World Press Freedom Index (WPFI) data from Reporters Without Borders for freedom of expression.

All three quantitative inputs use different scales, so in the first place, we rescale them to our fixed scale from 1 to 100. After that, we use an arithmetical average to aggregate them as follows:

$$\text{Key score} = \frac{1}{3} * \text{FIWI rebased} + \frac{1}{3} * \text{VDEM rebased} + \frac{1}{3} * \text{WPFI rebased}$$

Although we acknowledge that the use of external indicators can bring inconveniences associated with not having control over possible changes in the way they are calculated, these indicators separately are a third of the key score component, which in turn is ¼ of the final country score. Therefore, the eventual methodological changes in the external indicators will not substantially change our indicator. Furthermore, all three organisations have a long history of consistently publishing this information, which guarantees the availability of this information year after year and ensures the sustainability of this component of our methodology. Below we provide details of each of the three inputs:

Freedom in the World Index

Freedom of association is approximated by the [Freedom in the World](#) Component E, which measures organisational and associational freedoms, compiled by Freedom House. It is an annual publication which uses an expert survey methodology to arrive at a country score. The score is based on the following three questions that are scored by experts and jointly contribute to a 0 (least free) to 12 (most free) scale:

1. Is there freedom of assembly, demonstration, and open public discussion?
2. Is there freedom of non-governmental organisations? (Note: This includes civic organisations, interest groups, foundations, etc.)
3. Are there free trade unions and peasant organisations or equivalents, and is there effective collective bargaining? Are there free professional and other private organisations?

Varieties of Democracy's peaceful assembly indicator

Freedom of peaceful assembly is approximated by the Peaceful Assembly indicator developed by [Varieties of Democracy](#).¹ It measures the degree of respect for peaceful assembly using information gathered from experts that answer the following question: To what extent do state authorities respect and protect the right of peaceful assembly? The original scale ranges from 0 (more restrictions) to 4 (fewer restrictions).

World Press Freedom Index

¹ Coppedge, M., et al. (2021). "V-Dem [Country-Year/Country-Date] Dataset v11.1" Varieties of Democracy Project. <https://doi.org/10.23696/vdemds21>.

Freedom of expression is approximated by the [World Press Freedom Index](#) which is compiled by Reporters Without Borders (RSF). The organisation estimates the scores by surveying journalists in 180 countries on five contextual indicators that reflect the press freedom situation in all its complexity: political context, legal framework, economic context, sociocultural context, and safety. In addition, regional experts quantify abuses levelled against journalists. The World Press Freedom Index is on a 0 to 100 scale with 100 being the best possible score (the highest possible level of press freedom) and 0 the worst.

1.2. KEY ANALYSIS AND CIVICUS ANALYSIS

For Key analysis and CIVICUS analysis we drew from narrative reports covering the civic space conditions of the countries and manually code them using detailed and standardised [guidelines](#).

According to the information included in the reports we give a score from 1 to 5 to the respect of the freedom of association, the freedom of peaceful assembly, the freedom of expression, and the state's duty to protect civil society, which underpins all these freedoms. In this scale 1 represents fewer civic space freedoms and 5 the most enabling civic space. After the coding is finalised, we rescale the original coding scale to the 1 to 100 range.

After an initial coding by a CIVICUS Monitor researcher, the source is then blind coded by another researcher. While it is important to acknowledge that inter-coder reliability is still a challenge, this additional step aims to overcome bias between coders. Once both coders finalise their assessment, a comparison will be done. If there are discrepancies between coders we rely on the discussion approach, where both coders make their points and attempt to find a consensus. If the discrepancies persist, a third coder from the team with specialised knowledge on the country will provide input.

For each of the countries we code up to three reports published by external reliable sources (Key Analysis) and up to three internally produced reports (CIVICUS analysis).

The reports for Key Analysis are produced by national, regionally based or international organisations. Wherever possible, these reports are sourced from CIVICUS' members or other reputable organisations. We do not rely on state agencies except for Human Rights Institutes that comply with the Paris Principles and are rated "A". CIVICUS Monitor researchers select Key Analysis sources based on the following criteria:

1. The report should be published according to a credible methodology involving the collection of primary or secondary information about civic space abuses and

improvements in the country concerned.

2. The reports should be consistently published to ensure uniformity of the assessment over time.
3. The report should have been published no earlier than the year before the annual publication of the CIVICUS Monitor ratings. In exceptional cases where reports cannot be found, older reports can be accepted. Reports older than three years are not considered in the assessment.
4. Reports should document the state of civic space for the general population and not only for a particular civil society group.
5. The report should cover one or more aspects of civic space as defined by the CIVICUS Monitor: that is, freedom of association, freedom of peaceful assembly, freedom of expression and the state's duty to protect civil society. Priority is given to reports that cover all aspects of civic space.

By relying on multiple reports from multiple sources, we reduce the potential impact that any one individual biased source may have on our final ratings. While the complete elimination of bias is impossible, we hope to recover unbiased estimates in expectation by using the criteria that we select sources without systematic bias.

For each of the countries we try to balance the inclusion of international, regional and national sources. However, when averaging the information included in those reports for each of the freedoms, we place the greatest weight on sources produced at the national level rather than those produced by regional or international groups. The motivation behind this approach is to give local stakeholders more voice. We argue that local civil society groups have the most nuanced understanding of the local context and are the best sources of information.

Critics may argue that local organisations have an incentive to overstate restrictions on the civic space to draw attention to their issues. While this might be a viable strategy in the short term, human rights groups need to maintain a credible reputation to continue transnational partnerships in the long term. We recover biased but reliable estimates if national organisations overstate restrictions due to the variety of sources in our methodology. As the incentive structure is the same for every national organisation and in consideration of the previous critique, some component sources for Key Analysis may be slightly biased downwards. However, as this is almost impossible to quantify, and assuming that this bias exists in all countries, we would recover a scale that is perfectly

correlated with the truth in expectation.²

Our weighting scheme is as follows:

| Type of source | Weighting |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Report produced by national CSO | 2 |
| Report produced by regional CSO | 1.5 |
| Report produced by international CSO | 1 |

In addition to relying on external sources of information through the Key Analysis, CIVICUS produces its own assessments of civic space. Given that CIVICUS is an alliance dedicated to strengthening civil society, these reports often interrogate the freedoms of association, the freedom of peaceful assembly, the freedom of expression, and the state's duty to protect civil society. Up to three internally produced reports per country are coded by CIVICUS Monitor researchers using the same coding strategy. As in the Key Analysis, reports published during the past year are prioritised, however, in case of a lack of information for a certain country, older reports can be reviewed.

The algebra behind Key analysis and CIVICUS Analysis is presented below. The only difference is that for CIVICUS analysis we apply equal weights as the source is always the same. First calculate a score for each of the civic space indicators (e.g. PCS being state's duty to protect civil society) and then we average the scores for the four of them:

$$\text{Key analysis score for PCS} = \frac{PCS_1 * w_1 + PCS_2 * w_2 + PCS_3 * w_3}{w_1 + w_2 + w_3}$$

Where w is the weight of that country report and the subscripts indicate the first, second, or third country report. Same is done for all civic space indicators (PCS, FOA, FOPA, FOE).

$$\text{Key analysis score} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \text{Key analysis scores per civic space indicator}}{n}$$

Where n is the number of civic spaces indicators with information in at least one report. After we obtain the general score, we rebased them to our 1 to 100 scale.

For the CIVICUS analysis the same formula is used, however, all weights (w) are equal to 1.

² The estimates would be biased in a more unpredictable way if national organisations overstate restrictions, and these national organisations only exist in some countries.

2. LIVE SCORE

The CIVICUS Monitor is a collaborative research initiative that works together with a network of +20 research partners. These [partners](#) are organisations that play a vital role in keeping information on this platform up to date, accurate and grounded in local realities. The CIVICUS Monitor research partner network currently covers 160 countries and research partners submit country updates on these countries every two months. These country updates capture both violations and improvements to civic space and are collated using a common research framework. A core team of CIVICUS Monitor researchers oversees the information inputs by research partners³, checks the accuracy of information provided and regularly publishes brief [reports](#) summarising those updates.

This work gives our research partners great knowledge on the state of civic space. At the end of each year, we ask our partners to assess each of the countries in their portfolio using the same standardised [guidelines](#) used for Key analysis and CIVICUS Analysis.

When a certain country is not covered by our Research Partner, the CIVICUS Monitor research team or an external consultant can also conduct semi-structured interviews with country-based civil society representatives and experts. Based on these interviews, the CIVICUS researcher assesses the current trend following the same guidelines as the research partners.

We aggregate the inputs they shared with us for the four components - the freedom of association, the freedom of peaceful assembly, the freedom of expression, and the state's duty to protect through a simple average and then rebase the score to our 1-100 scale.

$$\text{live score} = \frac{1}{4} * RP \text{ input for PCS} + \frac{1}{4} * RP \text{ input for FOA} + \frac{1}{4} * RP \text{ input for FOPA} + \frac{1}{4} * RP \text{ input for FOE}$$

3. SCORES AND RATING REVIEW

Before we publish the scores and ratings, a two-step revision process is conducted. Given the complexity of concepts condensed in the scores and the sensitivity of the assessed topic, this revision process is vital. The two steps of the process are meant to flag countries for which the mathematical calculations for the scores do not illustrate the actual conditions of the country's civic space.

³ See [Appendix A2](#): Guiding Questions for CIVICUS Monitor Research Partners

Step 1. CIVICUS Monitor researchers' review

After the calculations are done the scores are reviewed by the CIVICUS Monitor team who will point out any score changes that merit a closer look.

The CIVICUS Monitor team constantly produces narrative reports on the civic space as well as thematic reports on each of the core freedoms. This work gives the team the competence to ascertain that the final scores reflect the actual civic space conditions of the country under evaluation.

Step 2. Advisory panel review

Furthermore, an advisory panel of civil society experts will revise all countries for which the rating has changed. These experts are independent from the CIVICUS secretariat and are not paid for their services. Should the advisory panel recommend a change in ratings, the CIVICUS Monitor team can, in unusual circumstances, implement the expert adjustment score which would alter the numerical score for a country. In doing so, this adjustment score can alter the rating for a country. Each adjustment score inputted is backed up by a written justification and recorded on our database.

We recognise that this revision process does potentially introduce some arbitrariness in the methodology. However, by allowing the research and the expert panel to review the scores and ratings we are able to capture inconsistencies in the data. We believe that this acts as a vital failsafe in our methodology and ensures that the scores and ratings closely reflect conditions on the ground at any given time and do not reflect data which may be inaccurate or out of date.

APPENDIX

A1. Coding guidelines used by CIVICUS Monitor Researchers for Key Analysis and CIVICUS Analysis

Protect civil society:

-. Not applicable

1. Systematic or widespread impunity for those that perpetrate abuses - physical attacks, disappearances, assault, illegal detention, verbal abuse, harassment and intimidation - against civil society, and/or active involvement or support from the state in cover ups and undermining investigations and prosecutions.

2. A situation of widespread impunity for state and/or non-state actors - those that perpetrate serious abuses against the sector, characterised by a weak or corrupt justice system.

3. Partial or sporadic impunity for abuses against civil society, meaning that successful investigations and prosecutions do sometimes occur, or that particular segments of civil society - such as anti-corruption/human rights/democracy organisations - are targeted, while others are not.

4. A situation in which the rule of law generally prevails although there are infrequent instances where abuses against civil society go unpunished.

5. A situation in which there is strong rule of law, an impartial police service and an independent judiciary, ensuring that all abuses against civil society are properly prosecuted.

Freedom of association:

-. Not applicable

1. A situation of systemic repression characterised by the mass de-registration of CSOs, imprisonment, disappearance and torture of activists and frequent raids on NGO premises.

2. A situation of widespread violation of free association, including barriers to foreign funding, raids of NGO offices, imprisonment of activists and vilification of CSOs in the media.

3. A situation of sporadic attacks on NGOs, including their selective deregistration, the proposal or enactment of restrictive NGO regulations.

4. A situation in which CSOs are regulated through an enabling law that is mostly respected but where verbal or legal attacks against individual activists or organisations still occur sporadically.

5. A situation in which there is strong rule of law and NGOs are not just allowed to operate but enabled through progressive tax laws and are actively consulted by the government as equal partners in the governance of the country.

Freedom of peaceful assembly:

- . Not applicable

1. A situation where public demonstrations are impossible, and the security forces (or non-state actors) consistently use lethal force against those that attempt to gather.

2. A situation of frequent denial of the right to assemble peacefully and common use of force (tear gas, rubber bullets, baton charges) by the police to disperse dissenting protestors.

3. A situation of enabling laws for peaceful assembly, which is only partially respected by the authorities, and in which it is possible to gather but the authorities retain control over how, where and when.

4. A situation in which peaceful assemblies are largely respected and protected by the authorities, although permission to gather is still infrequently denied and clashes with police can occur.

5. A situation in which the law governing peaceful assembly adheres to international best practices and is consistently applied by the authorities.

Freedom of expression:

- . Not applicable

1. A situation in which free expression and criticism of the authorities is criminalised, journalists risk their lives, independent reporting is non-existent, and the state retains full control of the airwaves.

2. A situation of widespread abuse and violence against the media, citizens face legal or physical harassment when expressing critical opinions and there is little space for independent media.

3. A situation where plural media exists, and some dissent is tolerated but abuses against the media and citizens are still perpetrated by the state or non-state actors and access to information legislation does not exist.

4. A situation in which an independent media sector is allowed to function freely, journalists are free to practise, albeit in an environment where the government and powerful economic interests still dominate public narratives, and access to information legislation is only sometimes respected.

5. A situation in which there is a free and open exchange of ideas, information and opinion, the media is free and independently regulated, access to information exists in law and in practice.

A2. Guiding Questions for CIVICUS Monitor Research Partners

General Notes: While our monitoring focuses on civic space, rather than civil society per se, we do this with a clear commitment to promoting universally accepted human rights norms and the promotion of social justice. When it comes to the motives or aims of the groups exercising civic space freedoms, we should be guided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the basic principles of equality, non-discrimination and tolerance. Within this framework, it is also legitimate to make reference to the specific boundaries of national law, as they may relate to hate speech for instance.

Our analysis is focused on all arms of the state – executive, judiciary, legislature – as well as private actors including businesses and extremist movements that have an impact on civic space.

Freedom of Association

Over the past two months:

- Are there any groups which have been prevented from forming and registering an association in order to advance collective interests? What is the focus or area of work of these groups?
- Are there any groups which have experienced unreasonable delays when trying to register or form an organisation? What is the focus or area of work of these groups?
- Have any new laws that hinder or enable freedom of association been introduced and in what ways do they do this? Does this legislation disproportionately affect LGBTQI+ groups, women or other excluded groups?
- Has the government used its authority to deregister or interfere with CSOs? Have the government used this power to target specific groups?
 - Have some CSOs (for example those promoting human rights/democracy/good governance) been particularly targeted?
- Have there been any civil society groups targeted because of their activism in support of women, LGBTQI+ persons, ethnic minorities?
- Has advocacy or activism by GONGOs reduced the space for women's rights, LGBTQI+ rights advocacy?
- Has there been any state subversion or infiltration of the civil society sector? (In other words, has any arm of the state attempted to undermine the advocacy or activism of independent civil society through overt or covert means, including the placing of individuals within organisations and movements, and the financial or political support for government affiliated NGOs.)
- Have any CSOs been prevented from opening or maintaining a bank account?
- Although opening a bank account could generally be a difficult process in many countries, this question aims to address difficulties of CSOs that seem to prevent them from freely operating in a particular country. What is the focus or area of work of these groups?

- Have any CSOs been required to undergo unnecessarily frequent (more than the law prescribed) fiscal audits, particularly for human rights organisations? What is the focus or area of work of these groups?
- Have CSOs been prevented/restricted from receiving foreign funding? What is the focus or area of work of these groups?
- Has the government introduced or passed any new laws (or made amendments to existing laws) which make it easier for people to form and operate civil society organisations? Please specify the legal provisions introduced, and how they make things better for CSOs – for example related to how CSOs are registered, how they are taxed, how they are supervised/regulated, and how they are required to report on their activities.
- Has there been a noticeable shift in public statements from the government – from negative to positive – directed at civil society? (For instance, a more positive narrative brought about by a change in government or personnel in a relevant ministry, or a statement condemning an attack on CSOs by non-state actors.)
- Has there been a discernible decline in the number of attacks (including physical attacks, raids on offices, legal harassment) on civil society organisations and activists?
- Have there been any progressive court judgments related to the Freedom of Association?

Freedom of Peaceful Assembly

The recent report of two UN Special Rapporteurs on the proper management of assemblies provides a very clear basis for understanding where state's responsibilities lie:

http://freeassembly.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/A.HRC_.31.66_E_with_addendum.pdf

Over the past two months:

- What major protests/demonstrations have taken place and what issues are at stake?
- Has the government facilitated the exercise of those protests and demonstrations?
- Have organisers of gatherings been required to obtain prior approval for demonstrations? If so, were particular groups -women, LGBTQI+- particularly targeted?
- If only notice is required, has the notice period changed or not been respected by authorities? If so, were particular groups -women, LGBTQI+ particularly targeted?
- Have requests to demonstrate been denied? For what reasons? If so, were particular groups -women, LGBTQI+ particularly targeted?
- Have unwarranted 'time and place' restrictions been imposed? For example, has the protest or demonstration been moved by the authorities to the outskirts of the city? Has a protest or demonstration been prevented to reach a particular destination? If so, were particular groups -women, LGBTQI+- particularly targeted?
- Have any protests turned violent? What caused this and how did the government respond?
- Do security forces use water cannons, tear gas, rubber bullets, or live ammunition against protestors?
- Do security forces make any arbitrary or illegal arrests? If so, has the person or group been charged with a particular crime?
- Have the laws in place to regulate gatherings been changed? Do those changes comply with international law and best practice?

- Have international or national monitors been allowed to monitor protests or demonstrations?
- How has the media reported about these protests? Do they focus on the exercise of the rights and the causes of the protests or just focus on the protests that turn violent?
- Have there been any groups discriminated against when trying to protest? (eg women, LGBTQI+, ethnic minorities, etc)
- Have protests on specific themes been treated differently by the authorities? (Here we should report on events that led to the protests, especially concerning gender issues.)
- Has the government introduced or passed any new laws (or made amendments to existing laws) which make it easier for people to peacefully assemble in public? Please specify the legal provisions introduced, and how they make things better for peaceful demonstrators – for example easier/shorter notification process, guidelines on the proportional use of force by police, reduced/removed time and place restrictions, recognition of spontaneous protests.
- Have the authorities done a better job of policing protests in a way that has avoided violence between police and protestors or between rival groups of protestors? Have the authorities refrained from using excessive force?
- Have the authorities authorised more protests (in countries where authorisation is required) than was previously the case?
- Have there been any progressive court judgments related to the Freedom of Peaceful Assembly?

Freedom of Expression

Over the past two months:

- Has the state interfered with media houses, CSOs, academics or activists right to freely express themselves?
- Have journalists, bloggers or activists experienced interference, harassment, and/or physical attacks?
- If those attacks occurred, were they perpetrated or instigated by state, non-state actors or both?
- Has state-owned media been editorially independent?
- Was self-censorship practiced by the media or civil society? Are there certain topics or causes that civil society avoided promoting because of a fear of negative repercussions?
- Has there been any attempt to curtail expression for excluded or disadvantaged groups?
- Have people been able to access government information in law and in practice?
- Has the state use the legal system to target people or journalists who express critical opinions in public? (for instance through criminal defamation or sedition proceedings)
- Was freedom of expression on the internet and social media restricted?
 - Do people in the country express any new concerns about online privacy and state surveillance?
- What relevant laws have been introduced or changed (Freedom of Information, Media regulation/self-regulation, Contempt of Court, Censorship, Sedition) or what actions have

been taken by the state, and how do they facilitate or hinder free expression?

- Has freedom of expression been curtailed as a result of gender or sexual orientation?
- Have WHRDs faced specific or especially serious challenges because of their gender or activism in promotion of gender equality/women's rights?
- Has the government introduced or passed any new laws (or made amendments to existing laws) which make it easier for people to freely express their views of access public information? Please specify the legal provisions introduced, and how they make things better for peaceful demonstrators – for example more liberal regulation of the media, decriminalisation of any form of speech, greater legal protections for whistle-blowers, improved/new access to information rules.
- Has there been a noticeable shift in public statements from the government – from negative to positive – directed at journalists and the media? (For instance, a more positive narrative brought about by a change in government or personnel in a relevant ministry.)
- Has there been a reduction in the number of attacks directed at journalists and media houses? This includes public vilification and attacks against online activists, social media users.
- Have there been any progressive court judgments related to the Freedom of Expression?

State's Duty to Protect

Over the past two months:

- What has been the situation of individual activists, journalists and human rights defenders? Is the situation worse for a particular group? What issues or theme do they work with?
- Have there been verbal threats, physical attacks, enforced disappearances and assassination of activists?
- For any abuses that took place against civil society during the reporting period, have the authorities open an investigation?
- Has the state provided any special measures after an attack? Has the State provided any assistance to excluded or disadvantage groups?
- Has the state successfully concluded any prosecutions against civil society?
- Have the courts provide a reliable and independent means of recourse for activists?
- Has civil society felt more or less protected?
- What has been the role of the judiciary when restrictive legislation was passed?
- Has there been a discernible increase in the numbers of investigations, prosecutions brought and/or convictions in cases concerning attacks on activists, CSOs, protestors or journalists?
- Have any new laws been passed which increase protections for human rights defenders, civil society activists or journalists?

A3. How do we get to the scores? A numerical example

In the steps below, we work through the various calculations used to rebase and aggregate the quantitative elements to the CIVICUS Monitor score for a sample country.

Step 1. Key Scores

For the sample country, researchers collect the scores published by Freedom House, V-dem and Reporters Without orders on their websites.

- Component E of freedom in the world index = 5.00
- Peaceful assembly component of V-dem indicator = 1.04
- World press freedom index = 36.60

As all these indicators are in different scales, we rebase them to our 1-100 scale using the rebase formula.

$$\text{Rebase formula} = \frac{\text{new maximum} - \text{new minimum}}{\text{old maximum} - \text{old minimum}} * (\text{value} - \text{old maximum}) + \text{new maximum}$$

As the freedom in the world indicator original range is 0-12 the rebased formula in this case is:

$$\text{Rebased WIFI} = \frac{100 - 1}{12 - 0} * (5 - 12) + 100 = 42.25$$

Likewise rescaled V-dem = 26.75 and rescaled WPFI = 37.23

To calculate the key scores only entails a simple averaging of the three inputs generated above, as follows:

$$\text{Key score} = \frac{1}{3} * \text{FIWI rebased} + \frac{1}{3} * \text{VDEM rebased} + \frac{1}{3} * \text{WPFI rebased}$$

$$\text{Key score} = \frac{1}{3} * 42.25 + \frac{1}{3} * 26.75 + \frac{1}{3} * 37.23 = 35.42$$

Step 2. Key analysis

For Key Analysis (KA) two researchers code and blind code up to 3 reports covering the civic space situation in the sample country using a detail guideline. Imagine that for the sample

country the research team coded one report produced by an international organisation and two reports produced by national organisations, as follows:

| | <i>Report 1 (International)</i> | <i>Report 2 (National)</i> | <i>Report 3 (National)</i> |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| State's duty to protect civic freedoms (PCS) | 1 | 2 | no data |
| Freedom of association (FOA) | 1 | 1 | no data |
| Freedom of peaceful assembly (FOPA) | no data | no data | no data |
| Freedom of expression (FOE) | 2 | 2 | 2 |

Recall the formula below and that our methodology puts greater weight on national reports compared to regional and international sources:

$$\text{Key analysis score for PCS} = \frac{PCS_1 * w_1 + PCS_2 * w_2 + PCS_3 * w_3}{w_1 + w_2 + w_3}$$

Where w is the weight of that country report and the subscripts indicate the first, second, or third country report. Same is done for all civic space indicators (PCS, FOA, FOPA, FOE).

Thus, the calculations are meant to be as follows:

- Key analysis score for PCS is: $((1*1) + (2*2)) / (1+2) = 1.667$. This is the score given to PCS in report 1 (1, multiplied by the weight of that report (1) + the score given to PCS in report 2 (2) multiplied by the weight of that report (2). We do not consider report 3 for this freedom as we do not have data for PCS in this report. The same procedure is followed for the other freedoms.
- Key analysis score for FOA is: $((1*1) + (1*2)) / (1+3) = 1$
- Key analysis score for FOPA: no data
- Key analysis score for FOE is: $((2*1) + (2*2)) + ((2*2)) / (2+2+1) = 2$

Once we have the scores for each freedom, following key analysis score formula:

$$\text{Key analysis score} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \text{Key analysis scores per civic space indicator}}{n}$$

Where n is the number of civic spaces indicators with information in at least one report. After we obtain the general score, we rebased them to our 1 to 100 scale.

Key analysis score is: $(1.667+1+2) / 3 = 1.556$. This is the simple average of the weighted averages per freedom. We divide by 3 and not by 4 as FOPA is not covered in any of the reports.

After applying our rebase formula, Key Analysis score is 14.76.

Step 3. CIVICUS analysis

For the sample country the researchers coded one report internally produced by CIVICUS as follows:

| | <i>Report 1</i> |
|--|-----------------|
| State's duty to protect civic freedoms (PCS) | 2 |
| Freedom of association (FOA) | 2 |
| Freedom of peaceful assembly (FOPA) | 3 |
| Freedom of expression (FOE) | 2 |

Remember that all reports are weighted 1. Then, using the same formula as in the previous step, CIVICUS analysis score is:

- CIVICUS analysis score for PCS is: $(2*1) / (1) = 2$
- CIVICUS analysis score for FOE is: $(2*1) / (1) = 2$
- CIVICUS analysis score for FOPA is: $(3*1) / (1) = 3$
- CIVICUS analysis score for FOE is: $(2*1) / (1) = 2$

CIVICUS Analysis score is: $(2+2+3+2) / 4 = 2.75$. After applying our rebase formula, CIVICUS Analysis score is 31.94.

Step 4. Base score

We finally have the 3 components for base score. Then, following the formula:

$$\text{Base score} = \frac{1}{3} * \text{key score} + \frac{1}{3} * \text{key analysis score} + \frac{1}{3} * \text{CIVICUS analysis score}$$

$$\text{Base score} = \frac{1}{3} * 35.42 + \frac{1}{3} * 14.76 + \frac{1}{3} * 31.94 = \mathbf{27.37}$$

Step 5. Live score

We requested our research partners to evaluate the civic space situation of the sample

country.

Their assessment for the current year indicates that:

| | <i>RP's input</i> |
|--|-------------------|
| State's duty to protect civic freedoms (PCS) | 2 |
| Freedom of association (FOA) | 3 |
| Freedom of peaceful assembly (FOPA) | 3 |
| Freedom of expression (FOE) | 3 |

Following the formula:

$$\text{live score} = \frac{1}{4} * \text{RP input for PCS} + \frac{1}{4} * \text{RP input for FOA} + \frac{1}{4} * \text{RP input for FOPA} + \frac{1}{4} * \text{RP input for FOE}$$

$$\text{live score} = \frac{1}{4} * 2 + \frac{1}{4} * 3 + \frac{1}{4} * 3 + \frac{1}{4} * 3 = \mathbf{44.31}$$

Step 6. Final CIVICUS monitor score and rating.

$$\text{CIVICUS monitor score} = \frac{1}{2} * \text{base score} + \frac{1}{2} * \text{live score}$$

$$\text{CIVICUS monitor score} = \frac{1}{2} * 27.37 + \frac{1}{2} * 44.31 = \mathbf{35.84}.$$
 Then, this country is rated as **REPRESSED.**