

ARAB NGO NETWORK FOR DEVELOPMENT

**The Ethical Criteria for Eligible and Responsible Civil Society Involvement
in Response to the needs and challenges of Human Security in the region**

Amman March 14, 2005

Part I INTRODUCTION

The role of civil society organizations can be divided into three main tracks:

- 1- **Provision of services:** this role should be seen as a very important factor to help poor to overcome the socio economic impact of globalization; privatization, reduction of public expenditure on the account of social services, increasing public income mainly through new taxes.
- 2- **Raising awareness and capacity building:** while they actively try to alleviate poverty, CSOs have to adopt a right-based approach by empowering poor and raising awareness about their right to development.
- 3- **Lobby and advocacy:** it is well known that poverty eradication and social justice are core strategies for all CSOs. Therefore, it is obvious that in order to achieve such strategies there is a need to introduce radical changes in public policies, both at the local and global levels. These changes and reforms necessitate well-organized and strong advocacy and lobbying campaigns on the decision makers.

On the other hand,, it is obvious that human security is not only a matter of state security, but it is *"all those things that men and women anywhere in the world cherish most: enough food for the family; adequate shelter; good health; schooling for the children; protection from violence whether inflicted by man or by nature; and a State which does not oppress its citizens but rules with their consent"*¹

Accordingly, it can be noted that human security in the Arab region is threatened by three main factors:

- 1- **Foreign occupations** and their impact on the political, economic, social and cultural aspects of life in the whole region. Therefore, ending occupation will definitely contribute to sustaining human security and to developing relevant strategies to address developmental challenges in the region.
- 2- **Lack of democracy and the violation of human rights**, whereby it is obvious that democracy is a key issue to enlarge participation of the main stockholders. Therefore, it is a main tool to elaborate fair and relevant policies and national strategies. Moreover, democracy is a tool for transparency, accountability and responsibility.
- 3- **Deterioration of economic, social and cultural situation**, for it is known that human development indicators (including a long and healthy life as measured by life expectancy at birth, knowledge as measured by adult literacy and combined primary, secondary, and tertiary cross enrollment, and a decent standard of living as measured by GDP per capita), which is about increasing the choices available for citizens, in most of the Arab countries show negative results.

Although the concept of human security is not an alternative to that of state security, it establishes a complementary process by which the former becomes one of the means to the latter. In the Arab region it is essential to add the effects on human security that are related to the foreign occupation and its tendencies towards including more territories

¹ Louise Frechette, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General

and influencing its politics, economy and culture. Two things are indispensable for addressing the roots of human security problems in the region: civil society organisations and a transformation in institutional policies.

The above mentioned challenges indicate the interrelation between state security and human security in its wider and comprehensive understanding. Moreover, the basic definition of human security indicates the need for an active role of CSOs in the provision of the factors that can guarantee such security, especially since the role of the governments have been decreasing with the rise of the institutions and forces of globalizations. Thus, this situation requires that all organizations contribute to the common good in order to achieve sustainable progress, peace, and justice.

This paper will address the main challenges that CSOs in the Arab countries are facing and therefore the main criteria and needs to establish strong CSOs, and provide an environment that enables them to face the above mentioned challenges of human security and to play a more important and effective role in elaborating and adopting fair social and economic policies.

CHALLENGES FACING CSOs IN THE ARAB REGION²

The main challenges that CSOs in the Arab countries are facing can be divided into two main groups; internal or subjective and external or objective challenges:

1- Subjective challenges:

- a) The main challenge facing Arab civil societies is that the major numbers of CSOs in the Arab region are still service oriented. Accordingly, they are mainly focusing on providing services, raising awareness, and building capacities rather than conducting advocacy and lobbying campaigns on decision makers.

This situation is in part due to the lack of social movements, which is able to influence social and economic policies and political reforms.

- b) The other challenge is the lack of a comprehensive developmental vision that could lead to the elaboration of effective strategies and national plans and thus possible opportunities to take part in decision making. On one hand, and the lack of transparent and viable relations between the various stakeholders such as NGOs, trade unions, political practices and other social groups such as youth, and women contributes to this situation.
- c) CSOs in the Arab region lack coordination in their programs and strategies, which could enable them to improve their role at the national, regional and international levels. Moreover, despite its active participation in international summits and conferences, this participation still lacks clear objectives, therefore, this participation is not effective and unable to influence global decision making. It is also unable to benefit from these experiences at the national and regional levels. The reason is that the participation is individualistic in nature rather than through networks, organized structures, or social movement.

2- Objective challenges:

² Abdel Samad, Ziad, January 2005, paper presented in a workshop in Sudan about Sudan in the Arab strategy.

The main challenge facing Arab civil societies is related to the legal framework and the restrictions set by Arab governments. Therefore, the main reason for the weakness of social movements in the region is the lack of political freedoms, mainly the freedom of association. Accordingly, these lead to a lack in the recognition of the role and the need of participation of civil society as a main factor towards political and social change and sustainable development.

On the other hand, the heavy burden of debts and economic stagnation increase the role and the influence of the international financial institutions in formulating national policies. This situation threatens CSOs' stability and independence and weakens their capacities to oppose such imposed policies. It also increases the need for a role from CSOs pushing governments towards prioritizing national needs and agendas rather than applying foreign agendas imposed by the IFIs.

Finally, the overall situation in the region, particularly the instability and the lack of security, weakens civil society structures and roles.

It is worth noting that the region is witnessing the rise of many initiatives aiming at democratization and introducing reforms. These initiatives request the active participation of CSOs as a precondition to their success and sustainability.

Part II

GLANCE OF A CODE OF ETHICS FOR NGOS³

In order to be able to improve their role and to increase their influence in the whole process of sustainable development and reforms and democratization, CSOs should apply to criteria that assure their performance and good governance and commitment to a set and approved code of ethics.

In the following display of the factors basic to a possible code of ethics of CSOs, the focus will be in studying the requirements for NGOs, given that they represent a sample of the most active and vibrant CSOs in the Arab region. Accordingly, the study of a code of ethics of NGOs could reflect the needs of ethical conduct required from other kinds of CSOs.

Ethical criteria can be divided into two main groups: quantitative and qualitative

A. Quantitative criteria:

Integrity

NGOs should be not-for-profit, non-governmental, organized, independent, self-governing, and voluntary. While these general criteria may appear evident, particularly for those NGOs whose national law codifies and requires such standards, they remain basic for the integrity and conduct of an NGO.

We understand by *non-for-profit*, that any surplus generated through its operations is to be utilized solely to help the organization fulfill its mission and objectives. Moreover, an NGO is not to be part of, or controlled by, government or any intergovernmental agency. An NGO should maintain independent and not be rigidly aligned or affiliated with any

³ The following part of the paper is mainly extracted from the "Code of ethics and conduct for NGOs"; World Association for NGO"-WANGO, 2004

political party, although it may share a common political or legislative cause within the limit of its mission, stated objectives, and legal structure. In addition, it should not act as an instrument of government foreign policy, but act independently of governments.

An NGO should have an organizing document, an executive board, officers, and regular meetings and activities. It should clearly define the mission, objectives, governance structure, membership rights and obligations, if any, and rules of procedure.

An NGO should be independent; its policies, vision, and activities should not be determined by any for-profit corporation, donor agency, government, government official, political party, or other NGO. Moreover, it should govern itself autonomously, according to whatever governance structure it selects for itself. It should be equipped to control its own activities.

The retaining of *voluntary values* and principles should remain a primary force in the way of operations of an NGO. In order to achieve its mission and objectives, an NGO should have meaningful contributions from volunteers. These may include both the target group and supporters. Those who are part of an NGO's governing body (generally the board of directors) should serve in a voluntary capacity, for no pay.

Governance

An effective *governance structure* and a strong, active, and committed *governing body* are crucial to the soundness of an organization and its ability to achieve its mission and objectives. *The plan of governance* of an NGO should reflect the core values, mission, and cultural standards of the organization. Democratic principles should be used where applicable and should be reflected in the *organizing document*. The governing body of an NGO (generally a board of directors or trustees) holds ultimate responsibility for all activities and resources of the organization. This includes establishing the direction of the organization, beginning with its mission statement, and assuring that the mission statement is appropriate and relevant as times change.

The *governing body* also determines the organization's activities and monitors their compliance with the mission. The governing body exercises responsibility for obtaining and appropriately employing the human and financial resources to carry out the organization's mission and sustain the organization, and oversee fiduciary and legal requirements.

Human Resources

A committed, capable and *responsible staff* is vital for the success of an NGO. The foundation for this is effective *human resource policies*. For most NGOs, these should address both paid employees and unpaid volunteers, given the use of volunteers in many roles, including in management and as individuals rendering program and support services. An NGO should seek qualified staff, offer them proper training and supervision, treat them with fairness and equity, and provide them with avenues for individual growth and development. On the other hand, the NGO should expect employees and volunteers to maintain the highest standards of professional and personal conduct, use information and resources responsibly, and avoid conflicts of interest. It should have written *human resource policies* (or an employment manual) for its staff. All staff should be treated with *fairness and equity*, and as individuals with rights to be honored and defended. *Their* rights to freedom of association, conscience and expression shall be

respected and protected. Each staff member should be provided with the NGO's code of ethics and conduct and the written human resource policies. Key staff should be *enabled* to communicate serious concerns to a member of the governing board or officer. Staff should be encouraged and *guided* in maintaining the highest standards of professional and personal conduct, and in taking personal and professional responsibility for their actions and decisions. Guidance should be provided staff with access to official documentation or information regarding maintenance of the integrity, confidentiality, and privacy of such information to protect any individual concerned.

The governing body should provide staff that has decision-making power the written conflict of interest policy pertaining to them. Each officer should disclose each institutional affiliation that he or she has that might possibly involve a conflict of interest. An NGO should establish a policy regarding gifts to staff members, such as requiring that staff refuse all significant gifts connected with their position, or turn them over to the organization. Staff members should refrain from using their official position, either regular or volunteer, to secure special privilege, gain or benefit for themselves. If an NGO has provision for making loans to staff, there should be a policy describing how the loans operate and all loans should be disclosed to the governing body. Employees and staff should put organizational goals before personal goals, putting the best interests of the entire program ahead of individual desires.

Public Trust

Trust is the lifeblood of an NGO — trust by the public, trust by the media, trust by the government, trust by corporations, trust by donors, trust by other NGOs, and trust by its employees and those who volunteer their time. To develop and maintain trust, each NGO must exhibit genuine public accountability and transparency, and should be honest in the information that it makes available to the public.

Information provided about the organization to donors, members, clients, staff, and the general public should be accurate and timely. At least annually, an NGO should prepare and make available to the public information on its programs and services, and provide public access to appropriate records of those programs and services. It should prepare and make available to the public basic financial information on the organization, including the source of its funding, the use of those funds, the percentage of the funds used for service and programs, administration activities, and fundraising, and any compensation provided to the governing body. It should make available the names of its governing body and management staff, publicize any changes in its governing board, and provide access to appropriate minutes of meetings of its governing board. An NGO should make available, in a timely and accurate manner, information on any partnerships or other joint ventures into which it has entered. An NGO should maintain the confidentiality of personal information on staff, clients and others, unless the individuals waive this right, or disclosure is required by law. Moreover, an NGO should describe itself in terms of its own merits, not in depreciation of other NGOs. Communications regarding another NGOs should not be made with the purpose of creating a self benefit at the expense of the other. An NGO should provide a communication channel for the public should they wish to make inquiries regarding the NGO and its activities. It should assign at least one person to assure that the organization is complying with national and local laws regarding disclosure of information to the public.

Information that an NGO chooses to disseminate to the media, policy makers or the public should be accurate and presented with proper context. An NGO should have clear guidelines and approval processes for the issuing of verbal and written statements. An NGO should present information in a fair and *unbiased* manner. An NGO's statements should reflect its actual authority. A membership NGO may be able to represent its membership, if such a role is provided in its organizing document and the views of the membership are determined by proper means.

Financial and Legal

NGOs should have proper financial and legal procedures and safeguards in place, not only to stay within the law, but also as a measure of the organization's health and to assure donors, members, and the general public that investments in the organization are safe and being correctly used. NGOs should employ sound internal financial procedures, maintain financial records carefully, and make available to the public financial statements. They should also have their financial records reviewed periodically by a qualified, independent, outside examiner who can certify that the organization is operating legally and according to generally accepted accounting practices. NGOs must also be diligent that they are complying with applicable federal, state and local laws.

Fundraising

In order to fund their operational and program costs and reach their objectives, most NGOs raise funds from outside their organization, via seeking voluntary financial support from foundations, corporations, individual donors, and government agencies. However, such financial support is not simply the movement of money from these sources to the NGO. It is a two-way street, involving value for and obligations to the donor. As a recipient of such funds, it is important that the NGO be open and transparent, be accountable to the donor, use the funds responsibly and according to the intent of the donor, and allow the funding agency to be able to have insight into the project at all times. It is important that the fundraising activity also be consistent with the mission of the NGO.

General Fundraising Principles: The governing body should be very active in the fundraising *effort*, including being active in solicitations and in giving a substantial portion of the individual contributions. An NGO should only accept funding that is *consistent* with its mission, does not compromise its core principles, and does not restrict its ability to address relevant issues freely, thoroughly, and objectively. An NGO should be truthful in all matters relating to the raising of funds and their use. Programs should be designed to meet the mission of the NGO and never designed simply to meet the needs of a funding source. An NGO should not tolerate any unethical activities such as double funding for one project, diversion of dedicated funds to uses other than the project for which funds were approved, or overstatement of achievements.

Solicitations: An NGO should be careful to ensure that all solicitation and promotional materials are accurate, and that they clearly represent the NGO, its mission, and its programs. An NGO should ensure that donors receive informed, accurate, and ethical information regarding the tax implications of potential gifts. Fundraising should be mission-led, institutionally based, and volunteer driven, and free of improper motive, inappropriate conduct, unreasonable reward, or personal increment. When funding for a particular purpose is invited from the public, there should be a plan for handling any excess funds, and the appeal should include information on how any excess funds will be used. An NGO should not provide compensation to fundraisers that is based on a

percentage of charitable contributions raised or expected to be raised, nor should it provide a finder's fee. Fundraising promotions involving the sale of products or *services* should indicate the duration of the campaign, and the actual or anticipated portion of the purchase price that will benefit the NGO or program. The costs involved in fundraising should be reasonable relative to the revenue generated. The NGO should have policies in place to protect the donor's right to be informed whether the solicitors are paid staff, volunteers, or agents of the NGO.

Use of Funds An NGO should ensure that contributions are used as promised or implied in fundraising appeals or for the purposes intended by the donors. When an NGO accepts a grant, they are entering into a contract to carry out the program activities in an agreed-upon manner, and have an ethical and legal responsibility to honor that commitment. An NGO may alter the conditions of a gift or grant only by obtaining explicit consent by the donor. An NGO should ensure efficient and effective use of grants and charitable contributions.

Accountability: An NGO should set up an organized system to track grant expenditures. An NGO should produce timely reports on the use and *management* of funds. Financial statements regarding donations should be *available* upon request by the donor and interested parties.

Relationship with Donor: The directors, management, staff and volunteers of an *NGO* should not exploit any relationship with a donor or prospective donor for personal benefit or the benefit of any relative, friends, associates, colleagues, and so forth. Privileged or confidential information regarding the donor or donation should not be disclosed to unauthorized parties. A donor's privacy should be respected and an NGO should safeguard any confidential information regarding the donor or the gift. An NGO should have a clear and easily accessible privacy policy that informs the public what information is being collected on individuals and donors and how that information will be used, how to contact the organization to review personal information collected and to request corrections, how to inform the NGO that the individual does not wish his or her personal information to be shared outside the NGO, and what security measures are in place to protect personal information. An NGO or its agents should not use excessive pressure, coercion, undue influence or other unethical means in their solicitations.

B. Qualitative criteria:

Mission and Activities

An NGO's mission is its *raison d'être* — the reason or purpose why the NGO exists and what it hopes to accomplish. NGOs have an obligation to clearly identify and articulate their mission. This well-defined mission should serve as the foundation and frame of reference for all activities and organizational planning of the NGO. An NGO has an obligation to utilize its resources in an effective and efficient manner toward accomplishment of its stated purpose.

An NGO should formally and succinctly state its mission in a written statement approved by the governing body of the NGO. Each member of the board of directors should fully *understand* and support the mission of the organization. The mission statement of an NGO should be made available to all officers, members, staff, partners, donors, program beneficiaries, and the public in general. The mission of the NGO should be reviewed periodically (every two or three years) to determine if it is still relevant.

Activities should be consistent with an NGO's mission. An NGO's mission should serve as the foundation for strategic planning and as the blueprint for the organization's activities. An NGO's focus should be directed towards making sure that its goals are met. The programs of an NGO should effectively and efficiently work toward achieving its stated mission. An NGO should regularly seek feedback on its activities from project beneficiaries, as well as other stakeholders. The activities of an NGO should be critically examined periodically to determine their relevancy to the mission, their efficiency and effectiveness, the value of continuing the programs or revising them, and the need for new programs. An NGO should carry out its activities with professionalism and centered on the concept of serving others.

Partnerships, Collaboration and Networking

When appropriate, NGOs may find that cooperation with other civil society organizations, government and intergovernmental agencies, and for-profit corporations may be beneficial in advancing their mission related objectives. Such collaboration for common good may reduce duplication of services and eliminate using resources for competitive purposes rather than serving constituencies. Collaboration may allow pairing diverse strengths and resources and promote effectiveness in tackling priorities. However, an NGO may enter into such a relationship only if it is consistent with its mission.

- **General Principles of Partnerships and Collaboration:** An NGO should collaborate with other entities only if the relationship is consistent with the mission of the NGO. It should collaborate on the basis of shared values, common ground, and for the good of society. An NGO should collaborate on the basis of equitable and genuine mutual benefit to each organization. NGO collaboration should allow financial transparency and a two-way flow of information, ideas, and experiences. Collaborations should be adaptive to change. Changes in the relationship should be developed through cooperation, and not forced by one or the other organization.
- **Relations with Other NGOs and Civil Society Organizations** When appropriate, NGOs with overlapping missions, values, and target groups should partner with each other and civil society organizations when it would be beneficial for the common target groups and for the achievement of common objectives. NGOs with overlapping missions, values, and *target* groups should refrain from competing with each other and with other civil society organizations, and should refrain from unnecessary duplication of services and disruption of each other's projects. NGOs with overlapping missions, values and target groups should share relevant project information with other NGOs and civil society organizations, and mutually support each other. An NGO should express solidarity with *campaigns* and actions of other NGOs, and promote the effectiveness and success of other NGOs, when it does not compromise the integrity or values of the NGO. An NGO should network with other ethical NGOs as a means for promoting the growth, effectiveness and efficiency of the NGO sector and the ability to advance the public good.
- **Relations with Government Agencies and Intergovernmental Bodies:** An NGO should enter into a partnership agreement with a government or intergovernmental body only when it is beneficial to achievement of the NGO's objectives and does not compromise the independence or self-control of the organization. An NGO should seek to dialogue and cooperate with government and intergovernmental agencies when such cooperation would be both appropriate and mutually beneficial and could increase the NGO's effectiveness in dealing with issues and priorities in its agenda. An NGO should not enter into a

partnership with a governmental or intergovernmental body solely to promote the sustainability or competitive advantage of the NGO independent of achieving its mission objectives. An NGO should not change its policies or non-partisan nature in order to curry political favor.

- **Relations with For-Profit Corporations:** An NGO should enter into *collaboration* with a for-profit corporation only when it is beneficial to achievement of the NGO's objectives and does not compromise the independence or self-control of the organization. An NGO should not enter into collaboration with a for-profit corporation if motivated by financial reasons versus achieving its mission objectives. An NGO should not enter into collaboration with a for-profit corporation if the main motivation of the corporation is to gain a market advantage over competitors.

Part III

ENDNOTES; ABOUT THE SOCIAL CAPITAL

In the context of the abovementioned ethical codes that are basis for a successful and right role for CSOs, it is worth noting that one of the main indirect roles of CSOs is strengthening and enhancing *social capital*. Social capital is based on the process of connectivity between people, leading to coordination and cooperation. It can be defined as *"an instantiated informal norm that promotes cooperation between two or more individuals; not just any set of instantiated norms constitutes social capital, however they must lead to cooperation in groups and therefore are related to traditional virtues like honesty, the keeping of commitments, reliable performance of duties, reciprocity, and the like."*⁴.

Social capital is detached from the role of the government, given that it can not be enforced by public policies. However, social capital has been strongly associated with religion and tradition. Yet, with the increased secular nature and the relatively limited role of religion in today's societies', a greater role in the creation of social capital is related to the involvement of people in associations and civil society organizations. Moreover, in our time of heightened globalized dynamics, the argument that social capital can be a liability by limiting the movement of individuals between groups and thereby become a barrier of new ideas and information⁵. Accordingly, CSOs have a role in enhancing two dimensions of social capital including *"bonding* (or exclusive) and/or *bridging* (or inclusive). The former may be more inward looking and have a tendency to reinforce exclusive identities and homogeneous groups. The latter may be more outward-looking and encompass people across different social divides (Putnam 2000: 22)"⁶.

Thus, social capital and the process of enhancing connectivity between people imply increasing the processes of exchange, partnerships, and dialogue. Accordingly, societies are characterized by more access to information and higher levels of awareness and knowledge among citizens, as well as more developed trust relations and thus support systems for the individual.

Here abides the direct link between social capital and human security. "There is considerable evidence that communities with a good 'stock' of social capital are more likely to benefit from lower crime figures, better health, higher educational achievement,

4 Social Capital and Civil Society, Francis Fukuyama, The Institute of Public Policy, George Mason University, October 1, 1999

5 Mark Granovetter, 8Mark S. Granovetter, "The Strength of Weak Ties," American Journal of Sociology 78 (1973): 1360-80, taken from Social Capital and Civil Society, Francis Fukuyama

⁶ [Mark K. Smith](http://www.infed.org/biblio/social_capital.htm) 2000, 2001, "Social Capital", available online at http://www.infed.org/biblio/social_capital.htm

and better economic growth"⁷. Moreover, research has shown that higher levels of social capital are associated with better health, higher educational achievement, better employment outcomes, and lower crime rates. In other words, those with extensive networks are more likely to be "housed, healthy, hired and happy"⁸. Therefore, a society with more trust relations, with enhanced partnerships and exchange, and in which people are more aware of the challenges that they face, is a society in which an individual can secure higher conditions for food, shelter, health, and education. In addition, connectivity enhances involvement as well, thus should be considered means more democratic practices. Social capital based on connectivity and trust, is a means towards stronger shields from undemocratic practices, thus a way towards finding a space for everyone to coexist in one society and thus a step away from possible violence as well as possible oppression inflicted by the State. Accordingly, social capital is a factor of direct relation to human security.

Consequently, the role of civil society organizations, including their developed forms of operations through networks and social movements, and on the basis of the ethical code of conduct that have been detailed, is highly important in creating social capital and enhancing ties within as well as between social groups.

In this framework, citizenship, as a main factor that strengthens social capital through enhancing one's relationship with his home country, is highly important and need to be addressed by CSOs in the process of enhancing human security. The sense of belonging and building trust in one's communities is basic to social capital, and it is directly implied by the citizenship.

In the report, prepared for the Advisory Board on Human Security, under the title "Denial to Citizenship; A Challenge to Human Security" (June 2004), the direct link between citizenship and human security was demonstrated. Citizenship is referenced by the Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights as well as the Political and Civic Rights. Citizenship, including the right to vote, to participate in political life, and to participate in the political, social, and economic processes, is the means to empower the individual as a citizen. In this sense, the Commission on Human rights "has acknowledged critical linkages between governance and citizenship and between violent conflict and citizenship"⁹.

Commentators on the ways of achieving citizenship rights have ranged from Marshall's (1950) advocacy of entitlements to basic resources, to Putnam's (1994) and Cox 's (1995) identification of civil societies being achieved by building social capital within different levels of democracy. Marshall (1950, 56) is perhaps the most explicit in linking social rights to security¹⁰. Moreover, human security as means for "creating political,

⁷ [Mark K. Smith](http://www.infed.org/biblio/social_capital.htm) 2000, 2001, "Social Capital", available online at http://www.infed.org/biblio/social_capital.htm

⁸ Woolcock, M (2001) the place of social capital in Understanding Social and Economic Outcomes. ISUMA Canadian Journal of Policy Research 2 (10) 11-17, from "Social Capital; Networks and shared visions" available online at <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/CCI/nugget.asp?ID=314>

⁹ "Human Security Now" Report, from the report "Denial to Citizenship; A Challenge to Human Security" by the Advisory Board on Human Security (June 2004), page 5

¹⁰ Stuart Rees & Lynda-Ann Blanchard, "Security Through International Citizenship", University of Sydney, also available online at: http://www.toda.org/conferences/hugg_hon/hugg_hon_papers/rees-blanchard.html

social, environmental, economic, military and cultural systems that together give people the building blocks of survival, livelihood and dignity"¹¹, have been have been also linked to citizenship as a process, that if lacking can lead to significant threats.

Accordingly, civil society with its various forms of organizations, have an integral role in strengthening citizenship, as a means for more prosperous social capital, and thus enhanced human security. In its quests for achieving full respect for the international conventions of human rights, including the Convention for Political and Civic Rights as well as Social, Economic, and Political Rights, for good governance and democratic practices, are main agents for strengthening the supportive environment to preserve human security.

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¹¹ Report "Denial to Citizenship; A Challenge to Human Security" by the Advisory Board on Human Security (June 2004), page 4-5