

Indonesia Civil Society Forum 2023
Civic Space, Capacity and Sustainability
Jakarta, June 14 - 15, 2023



**Group 3: Protecting Civic Space and Tolerance at the National Level:
Lessons Learned from Civil-20**

June 14, 2023, 1:30pm-4:00pm

Host: Indonesian Center for Law and Policy Studies (PSHK)

As participants at the ICSF 2021 and 2022 noted, Indonesia is not immune to democratic backsliding, as evidenced by faltering progress scores in several global democracy indices. Civic space in Indonesia is under pressure. An increasing rise of "*uncivil society*" and challenges leading to democratic stagnation of freedom of association and expression have occurred. National surveys also showed that public support for public debate on sensitive topics such as sexual orientation, atheism, and socialism remains very limited.

To avoid these setbacks, Indonesia must maintain the integrity of democratic institutions and public support for democratic practices, such as universal freedom at all levels and effective forms of citizen participation to ensure citizens' voices are heard by policymakers.

In 2022, Indonesia hosted the G20 *Presidency*, with Civil-20 or C20 as one of the *engagement groups* with a focus on what civil society can contribute and benefit from human and social development. At ICSF 2022, one of the group discussion sessions provided input to the C20 working group. The group's recommendations included (1) leveraging C20 as an opportunity for CSOs to think and act not only locally but also globally; (2) encourage development partners to make changes to the adaptive environment for civil society; and (3) with support from ICSF participants to use C20 to strengthen channels and community connections to strengthen advocacy for change.

The Indonesian Center for Law and Policy Studies (Pusat studi Hukum dan Kebijakan Indonesia - PSHK) which was the coordinator of the working group on civil liberties space under C20 in 2022 will facilitate this group discussion session and will further discuss the recommendations mentioned above and focus on what civil society can contribute to ensure a conducive environment.

Guiding Questions:

1. How did *Indonesia's* G20/C20 *Presidency* promote public participation and fulfillment of the rights of women, persons with disabilities, the elderly and young people in socio-economic development?
2. What was the experience of CSOs in pushing civil liberties issues as an important topic discussed in *Indonesia's* G20/C20 *Presidency*, including ensuring its sustainability in the next *G20/C20 Presidency*?
3. How are CSOs' experiences related to the tendency of a smaller space for civil liberties? What things or topics are subject to restrictions and mark the decline of democracy?

4. What are the types of barriers CSOs face in relation to civil liberties? What can CSOs do to overcome the obstacles they face?

Guide: Rizky Argama, Executive Director of PSHK

Lighters:

- Ah Maftuchan, Sherpa C20 2022, Head of Perkumpulan Prakarsa
- Gita Putri Damayana, Coordinator of the Civil Liberties Space Working Group C20 2022
- Herlambang P. Wiratraman, Academician of Faculty of Law UGM, Member of Coalition for Academic Freedom / KIKA and Association of Indonesian Young Scientists / ALMI)
- Muhammad Isnur, Director of YLBHI