



CIVICUS Monitor Methodology Paper

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Abstract

This paper describes the methodology behind the CIVICUS Monitor - a dynamic, online portal that tracks conditions for civil society in 197 countries and territories by collating information from a variety of sources, including civic groups and activists. These sources provide a stable approximation of the current state of civic space to arrive at a dynamic rating for all assessed countries. These ratings are constantly updated through a live component and country ratings are quality- controlled by an independent advisory panel of experts. This paper describes the development of the CIVICUS Monitor and the methodological trade-offs underpinning this global effort to track the conditions for civil society. We continually review our methodology with the goal of improving the quality of our assessment. We therefore issue a new version of this document in December 2021 when replacing the PTS with the Peaceful Assembly indicator produced by V-Dem.

Introduction

The goal of CIVICUS Monitor is to provide a comprehensive assessment of the conditions for civil society 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. The state has a fundamental duty to protect these rights. As the diagram below illustrates, the CIVICUS Monitor conceptualises the conditions for civil society as the respect for these four indicators. The Monitor currently provides ratings for all United Nations member states as well as a number of territories.

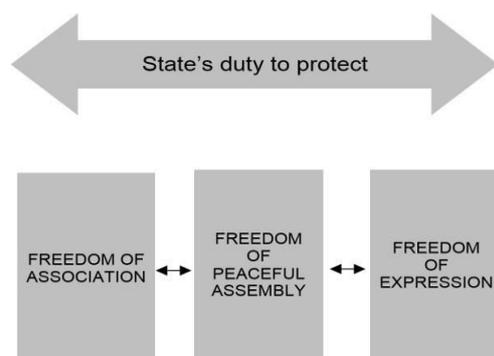


Figure 1 CIVICUS Monitor conceptualisation of civic space

At the heart of the CIVICUS Monitor's methodology is the combination of several independent data sources. These sources include updated ratings from civil society organisations 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 CIVICUS' own analysis to arrive at country ratings for all assessed countries and territories. Current trends are captured through the inclusion of a live component which enables the scores behind the ratings to change commensurate with political or social developments at the country level. In accordance with CIVICUS' mission, the methodology privileges information that is generated closer to the source in an effort to reduce "distance bias". Simply put, this means information from civil society groups on the ground is taken to be the most accurate and credible.

What sources are aggregated to arrive at country ratings for the CIVICUS Monitor?

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

Key Analysis	Key Scores	CIVICUS Analysis	Research Partner Inputs	Civil Society Voices
Reports produced on civic space by civil society	International indices on civic space indicators by international CSOs and academic institutions	Country-specific reports on civic space produced by CIVICUS	Periodic narrative and quantitative reports by CIVICUS' network of research partners & structured interviews with national level civil society groups	Input generated by users of the site which aids analysis

Figure 2: Data inputs to the CIVICUS Monitor

As a mixed methods project, the CIVICUS Monitor combines qualitative and quantitative data inputs generated by primary and secondary research. These inputs are split into two distinct categories: 1) the base score and 2) the live adjustment score. As an attempt to move away from traditional annual indices, the CIVICUS Monitor uses information from its research network to constantly update a country's rating. Underpinning all ratings is a numerical score which determines a country's rating. The diagram below illustrates how the data sources are split up as well as the numerical boundaries for each rating.

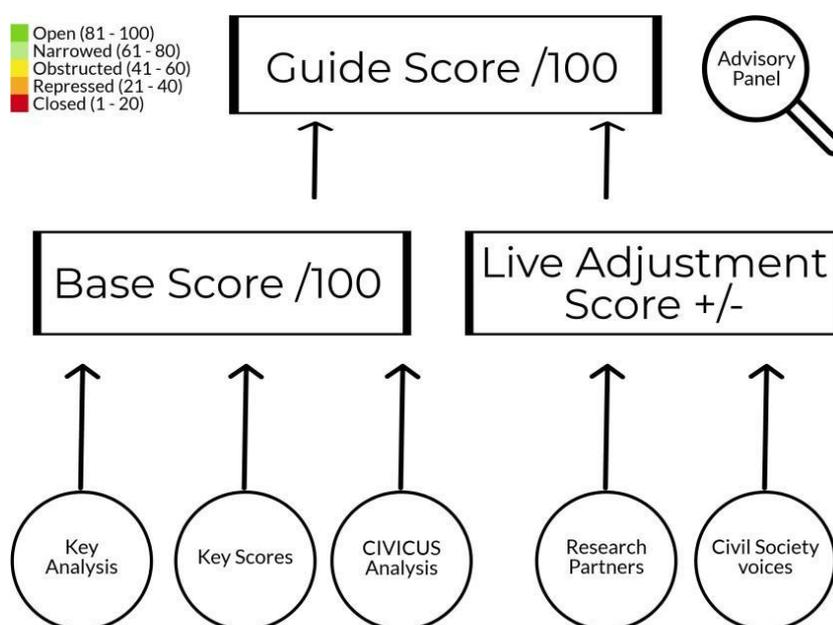


Figure 3: CIVICUS Monitor Data Input Map and Ratings Boundaries

Ratings are on a five-category scale defined as: open, narrowed, obstructed, repressed, and closed. These ratings are conceptualised as broad bands, where a variety of civic experience can exist within any given ratings category. The goal of ratings is to offer comparisons between countries and over time which are robust but responsive to current events.

To ensure the accuracy and rigour of all data sources used, an independent panel of experts evaluates changes in country ratings. The names of panel members, along with their organisational affiliations are published on the CIVICUS Monitor website.

In the remaining sections of this paper, we discuss the choices and consequences of constructing a global index. We then describe each of the data sources behind country ratings and their aggregation. Thirdly, we describe the live component updates and the expert quality assessment mechanism. Finally, we assess the sensitivity of our index with respect to the aggregation of multiple data sources.

Constructing the CIVICUS Monitor: 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 as well as their consequences.

Firstly, we fix the range of the CIVICUS Monitor, i.e. we impose a minimum and a maximum theoretically possible value. Given that civic space restrictions across all United Nations member states 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:

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

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 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 so that all indicators are implicitly weighted equally. Using explicit weights, however, 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 violations. We contend that actors closer to the source are best able to contextualise information and that potential incentives for over-stating restrictions are offset by local organisations' interest in remaining credible.

The Base Score

At the core of the CIVICUS country ratings is the base score. The base score is composed of three aggregate components. The first component is the key analysis, the second is the key score, and the third is the CIVICUS analysis. The base score is the arithmetic mean of these three columns. All input variables are on a one to one-hundred range. The output of this calculation forms the basis for a country's ratings category, prior to the addition of a live adjustment score.

Key Analysis

In the Key Analysis, we combine manual coding of CIVICUS researchers' narrative reports on the civic space in each country with respect to 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 of these freedoms.¹ A country can have up to three reports coded under Key Analysis and these sources are updated annually.

Each individual source is coded on an original scale of 0 to 5, where 0 indicates that the underlying report did not include relevant information for that category. We rescale the original coding to our 1 to 100 range and disregard all component score inputs that are marked not relevant (coded 0). The coding form used by CIVICUS Monitor researchers to assess each source can be found in the appendix.

For each country, we code up to three reports. After an initial coding by a CIVICUS Monitor researcher, the source is then blind coded by another researcher, who is unable to see what the

¹ The coding form used for Key Analysis and CIVICUS Analysis can be found in Annex 1.

first researcher scored each indicator for each report. While it is important to acknowledge that inter-coder reliability is still a challenge, this additional step aims to overcome bias between coders. Any ratings which change as a result of finalised coding are assessed by the CIVICUS Monitor's independent panel of experts before being published.

The reports for Key Analysis are produced by national, regionally based or international civil society 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:

- The report should be published according to a credible methodology involving the collection of primary or secondary information about civic space abuses in the country concerned;
- The report should ideally be published periodically, at least annually and ideally more frequently;
- 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.
- The report should have been published no earlier than 12 months before inclusion on the CIVICUS Monitor. Where three reports produced within the past 12 months cannot be found, older reports can be accepted.

Figure 4: Criteria for Selecting Key Analysis Sources

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.

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. It is essential to note that in some contexts, national civil society organisations may be unable to produce critical information on human rights abuses relevant to our four indicators of civic space. In these situations, we rely on regional or international 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 partnership in the long term. From a methodological perspective, we recover biased but reliable estimates if national organisations overstate restrictions due to the variety of sources in the CIVICUS Monitor. 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

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

Our weighting scheme is as follows:

Type of source	Weighting
Report produced by national civil society organisation	2
Report produced by regional civil society organisation	1.5
Report produced by international civil society organisation	1

Figure 5: Weighting for Key Analysis Sources

The estimation of the key analysis score proceeds in two steps.

Step 1: We average the four components for each country report like so:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n S_i \frac{1}{n}$$

Step 2: We take the weighted average of up to three country reports like so:

$$\frac{K_x * W_x * K_y * W_y * K_z * W_z}{W_x * W_y * W_z}$$

Where K is the country average of the four components from step 1, W is the weight of that country report and the subscripts indicate the first, second, or third country report.

CIVICUS Analysis

In addition to relying on external sources of information, 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 reports per country are coded by CIVICUS Monitor researchers using the same coding form as used in the Key Analysis. Similarly to the Key Analysis, the CIVICUS Analysis is also updated annually.

These reports include:

- CIVICUS' Submissions to the Universal Periodic Review
- Enabling Environment National Assessments
- Policy Action Briefs on civic space issues

The estimation proceeds as in the key analysis with the difference that we apply equal weights because all reports are produced and coded by CIVICUS.

Step 1: We aggregate the four components - the freedom of association, the freedom of peaceful assembly, the freedom of expression, and the state's duty to protect - for each report like so:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n S_i \frac{1}{n}$$

Step 2: We take the average of the up to three country reports again like so:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n K_i \frac{1}{n}$$

Where K is the average country score from step one and the subscript indicates the country report.

Key Scores

The Key Scores draw from three international assessments of civic space which are aggregated to create the Base Score. The Key Scores take data from Freedom House's, Freedom in the World Index, Varieties of Democracy's (V-Dem) Peaceful Assembly indicator and Reporter's Without Borders, World Press Freedom Index. The CIVICUS Monitor draws from each of these data sources on an annual basis to periodically update country ratings. In this section, we describe each of the three components to the Key Scores.

Freedom in the World Component E

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 nongovernmental organizations? (Note: This includes civic organizations, interest groups, foundations, etc.)
3. Are there free trade unions and peasant organizations or equivalents, and is there effective collective bargaining? Are there free professional and other private organizations?

We linearly rescale the Freedom in the World Component E to a 1 to 100 range, to correspond to the common range that we impose on all our input variables.

V-Dem: peaceful assembly component

Freedom of peaceful assembly is approximated by the Peaceful Assembly indicator developed by Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem).³ 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 (less restrictions). As we do with the other indicators, we linearly rescale the V-Dem scale to a 1 to 100 range.

World Press Freedom Index

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 pluralism, media independence, the media environment and self-censorship, the legislative framework, transparency, and the news infrastructure. In addition,

³ Coppedge, M., et al. (2021). "V-Dem [Country–Year/Country–Date] Dataset v11.1" Varieties of Democracy Project. <https://doi.org/10.23696/vdemds21>.

regional experts quantify abuses levelled against journalists.

The World Press Freedom Index is on a 1 to 100 scale where 1 indicates the highest level of press freedom and 100 indicates the lowest level of press freedom. To correspond to the logic of our index, where large numbers indicate a low level of restrictions, we flip the scale of the World Press Freedom Index.

Rebasing Key Scores

As the CIVICUS Monitor uses a fixed scale from one to one hundred, the three input variables outlined above are rescaled to adhere to a linear functional form. In doing so, we ensure that marginal change is constant across the variable. We use the following formula to rebase the Key Scores:

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

After rebasing each of the three input variables to the Key Scores, we use an arithmetic average to aggregate them (A step-by-step walk through of calculations taken by the CIVICUS Monitor

Live Adjustment Score

While the base score offers the overall state of civic space according to sources which are regularly updated, the CIVICUS Monitor attempts to be responsive to country level developments. In order to capture current events, one of our sub-regionally based research partners evaluates whether a country's current trend arches downward, upward, or is stable. Research partners are asked to provide narrative information on the conditions for civil society in a particular country relating to the four indicators

In addition to the narrative information, research partners are also asked draw from the narrative information to provide a quantitative assessment of civic space developments in a particular country. The score ranges from -2 to 2.

Since the last update, has the quality of civic space:	
Seriously worsened	-2
Worsened	-1
Remained the same	0
Improved	+1
Significantly improved	+2

Figure 6: Research partner coding form for CIVICUS Monitor updates

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.⁴ A core team of CIVICUS Monitor researchers, housed at the CIVICUS secretariat, oversee the data inputs by research partners and check the accuracy of information provided. CIVICUS Monitor researchers also appraise the quantitative inputs by research partners, to ensure they are accurate and reflect the reality of the situation on the ground.

On a periodic basis and in response to developments on the ground, CIVICUS researchers also conduct semi-structured interviews with country-based civil society representatives. Based on these interviews, the CIVICUS researcher assesses the current trend in a country and assigns an additional “country consultation” score. This score is given on the same scale as shown in Figure 6 above, however it is weighted as just one quarter (1/4) of the research partner’s input. This lower weighting takes account of the greater proximity of the research partner and their members to the events on the ground.

Qualitative Assessment and Final Country Rating

The sum of the base score and the live component provides the basis for the final rating. Before we publish ratings, an advisory panel of civil society experts reviews the country scores and all supporting documentation and evidence. These experts are independent from the CIVICUS secretariat and are not paid for their services. Panel members may recommend alternative country ratings to the ones proposed to them (we currently do not limit the degree of change they can impose).

Should the advisory panel recommend a change in ratings, the CIVICUS Monitor team can, in unusual circumstances, implement a CIVICUS adjustment score which would alter the numerical score for a country. In doing so, the CIVICUS adjustment score can alter the rating

⁴ The CIVICUS Monitor research partner framework comprises of 52 guiding questions which can be found in the appendix.

for a country. Each adjustment score inputted is backed up by a written justification and recorded on our database. Currently, cases in which adjustment scores are applied are limited to approximately 5% of all countries on the CIVICUS Monitor.

We recognise that the adjustment score does introduce the potential for some arbitrariness into the methodology. However, by allowing the panel to review the scores, we ensure that our ratings make sense to a group of experts, and we are, thus, able to capture inconsistencies before we release country ratings. We believe that this acts as a vital failsafe in our methodology and ensures that, at the end of the day, ratings closely reflect conditions on the ground at any given time and do not reflect data which may be inaccurate or out of date.

Sensitivity

CIVICUS Monitor country ratings are based on a broad range of sources and indicators and are subject to qualitative quality assessment. The index should, therefore, be stable. However, certain aspects such as the weighting scheme may affect the construction of the index. To assess the impact of such decisions, we analyse the sensitivity of our index to these decisions (Saltelli et al., N.d.).

Specifically, we assess the impact of the aggregation mechanism with a method that allows for less compensation among the component variables. Instead of using the arithmetic mean, we tested how our index would change if we used the geometric mean instead. The geometric mean penalizes lower values more and, thus, if one country scores low in one of the components, its aggregate score would also be lower. This would emphasise those aspects of the civic space that a country does least well in.

We evaluate the change in the index using the correlation coefficient. Whereas the absolute value differences of two measures are not important, similar measures should be highly correlated. Projects that want to use the CIVICUS country ratings in their own analysis would, therefore, need country ratings that are highly correlated with the unobserved true state of the civic space. The arithmetic mean and the geometric mean are conceptually different choices. We must, therefore, expect differences between indices that are constructed using these two aggregation mechanisms.

In our index, correlation between the arithmetic mean and the geometric mean is extremely high (0.98). The main reason for this is the high degree of stability afforded by the number of sources we include per country. As the CIVICUS Monitor surveys a number of sources before arriving at a rating, we find that there is an extremely high correlation between the use of an arithmetic and geometric mean.

Conclusion

CIVICUS Monitor country ratings of civic space provide an intuitive way of comparing civic space conditions across countries and over time. We employ a mix of quantitative information and qualitative assessment to construct an index that reflects the current state of civic space restrictions the world over.

We employ a diverse set of sources in our assessment to ensure the stability of our index and the relatively low sensitivity to changes in one data source. Furthermore, we prioritise local knowledge over regional or international assessments. By doing so, we give voice to the stakeholders of civic space, and we also assume that local sources are best able to contextualise information.

While the CIVICUS Monitor's assessment of civic space is stable, we also ensure that it does pick up on current trends through the dynamically updated live components. All scores are reviewed by an independent panel of experts who may challenge our country ratings and thereby highlight potential inconsistencies.

Appendix

A1: Coding form used by CIVICUS Monitor Researchers for Key Analysis and CIVICUS Analysis

Protect civil society:

0. 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:

0. 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:

0. 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 assembly peacefully and common use of force (teargas, 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:

0. 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 practice 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: Calculations used for CIVICUS ratings

In the steps below, we work through the various calculations used to rebase and aggregate the quantitative elements to the CIVICUS Monitor base score for a sample country. Here is the formula used to rebase all sources:

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

Key Scores

To recap, here are the scales for the Key Scores before being rebased:

- a. Freedom in the World, component E, scale 0-12
- b. World Press Freedom Index, scale 100-1
- c. V-Dem indicator, scale 0-4

— Rebasing calculation for Freedom in the World (X)

Raw score=3

$$(100-1)/(12-0) * (3-12) + 100 = \text{Rebased score is } 25.75$$

— Rebasing calculation for World Press Freedom Index (Y)

Raw score=53

$$(100-1)/(1-100) * (53-1) + 100 = \text{Rebased score is } 48$$

— Rebasing calculation for V-Dem (Z)

Raw score=1

$$(100-1)/(4-0) * (1-4) + 100 = \text{Rebased score is } 25.75$$

— Averaging

This remains a simple averaging of the three inputs generated above, as follows:

$$(X + Y + Z) / \text{number of inputs} = \text{KS}$$

$$(25.75 + 48 + 25.75) = 33.16667 = \text{Key score}$$

Key Analysis

To recap, weightings for sources are as follows:

2= National

1.5= Regional

1= International

Example of the new calculation system applied to country x:

Source 1: (International)

- Protection of civil society: 1
- Freedom of association: 1
- Freedom of peaceful assembly: 2
- Freedom of expression: 1

Then we apply:

(Total of individual scores / Number of scored inputs)

In this case:

$$(1+1+2+1) / 4 = 1.25 (Kx)$$

The weight (W_x) for this source is 1 (International)

Source 2: (International)

- Protection of civil society: N/A
- Freedom of association: 1
- Freedom of peaceful assembly: 2
- Freedom of expression: 1

Then we apply:

(Total of individual scores / Number of scored inputs)

In this case:

$$(1+2+1) / 3 = 1.33333 (Ky)$$

The weight (W_y) for this source is 1 (International)

Source 3: (Regional)

- Protection of civil society: N/A
- Freedom of association: 3
- Freedom of peaceful assembly: 2
- Freedom of expression: 1

Then we apply:

(Total of individual scores / Number of scored inputs)

In this case:

$$(3+2+1) / 3 = 2 (Kz)$$

The weight (W_z) for this source is 1.5 (Regional)

Now we apply the following formula to arrive at the weighted average:

$$\frac{K_x * W_x * K_y * W_y * K_z * W_z}{W_x * W_y * W_z}$$

Kx= score for report 1
Ky= score for report 2
Kz= score for report 3

Wx= weight 1
Wy= weight 2
Wz= weight 3

When we apply the above scores and weightings from the example above, we get:

$$\boxed{((1.25*1) + (1.3333*1) + (2*1.5)) / (1+1+1.5) = 1.59428}$$

That score (x=1.59428) is then rebased using the same formula as for Key Scores above, namely:

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

$$\boxed{(100-1) / (5-1) * (1.59428 - 5) + 100 = 15.70843 = \text{Key analysis score}}$$

Civicus Analysis

CIVICUS Analysis uses the same structure as the Key Analysis, without any different weightings. All sources are weighted 1.

Source 1: CIVICUS

- Protection of civil society: 3
- Freedom of association: 2
- Freedom of peaceful assembly: 2
- Freedom of expression: 2

Then we apply:

(Total of individual scores / Number of scored inputs)

In this case:

$$(3+2+2+2) / 4 = 2.25$$

The score (x = 2.25) is rebased using the same formula as above:

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

$$\boxed{(100-1) / (5-1) * (2.25 - 5) + 100 = 31.9375 = \text{CIVICUS analysis score}}$$

Generating the Base Score

The process for then generating the base score from the three inputs remains unchanged and is a simple average. Based on above example, the calculation is:

$$((\text{Key score: } 33.16667) + (\text{Key analysis score: } 15.70843) + (\text{CIVICUS analysis score: } 31.9375)) / 3 = \mathbf{26.93753}$$

Then, as the base scores is 26.93753 country x is categorized as **REPRESSED**.

A3: 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 Rapporteur's on the proper management of assemblies provides a very clear basis for understand 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 whistleblowers, 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 disadvantaged 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?