

Strategic Goals 2023 – 2027, with explanations

1. ForumCiv and its member organizations, together, are developing innovative and more effective ways of working for democracy and human rights.

Democratic backsliding and shrinking space for civil society make it more difficult for ForumCiv and its members and partners to carry out their work, while the need for our work has increased. The trends show that these challenges will increase in a continued volatile world while financial support for our work may decrease. Several members are interested in a collaboration in this area.

There is knowledge among the members, ForumCiv, and among our partners about methods and practical ways of working that can be used when shrinking space worsens, when democracy regresses, and when human rights decline. By drawing on our collective experiences from different contexts, we can develop new methods and ways of working.

It is of particular importance to include a focus on marginalized groups and have an intersectional perspective in this work. It is also necessary to challenge a surviving colonial thinking in development cooperation and examine the power relationship between Swedish and local actors.

2. ForumCiv and its member organizations take on an expanded role in the climate justice movement.

The climate crisis and its strongly negative impact on people's lives and livelihoods have been increasing for several years, and this trend will not only continue but escalate. These crises highlight and exacerbate inequalities, and already marginalized groups face increasing difficulties – even though they contribute (and have contributed) the least to the climate crisis.

3. ForumCiv and its member organizations work to increase gender equality, as well as to detect and prevent regression.

The situation for women around the world has worsened in recent years, especially during the Covid pandemic. However, even before that, women's access to their human rights had declined, for reasons that include democracies having regressed and the climate crisis having increased. These trends can be expected to continue in the coming years, and it is therefore necessary that we maintain a special focus on the situation of women and girls in our work.

4. ForumCiv and the member organizations are together strong advocates in Sweden and the EU.

ForumCiv's target groups are decision-makers and the public. We conduct advocacy work through sub-granting that reaches the public and advocacy programs that reach decision-makers. We use the knowledge, experience, and commitment of our entire network to conduct advocacy in Sweden and the EU, for democracy and human rights around the world and for generous and effective Swedish development cooperation. The perspectives and experiences of our partner organizations contribute to this work in a unique way.

5. ForumCiv strengthens capacity and efficiency between members, partner organizations, ForumCiv's own programs, and the partnership program through mutual learning.

Capacity development organized by ForumCiv is carried out in different ways. There is a need to develop this work and include new issues. By enhancing learning between members, partner organizations, ForumCiv's own programs, and the partnership program, we strengthen capacity and efficiency throughout the platform.

6. ForumCiv has broadened its funding which results in increasing restricted and unrestricted funds.

Today we are heavily dependent on contributions from Sida. We are thus limited in how money can be used and have very limited own resources for innovation, pilot projects, and repayment of grant funds. We will broaden our funding with more institutional donors (such as the UN and the EU) and private sponsors, without competing with our members. An increase in unrestricted funds offers us greater flexibility.