Social Participation and Accountability:
Minimum conditions for advancing civic space

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Some questions…

- Government-led Social Participation and participatory spaces?
  - *What happens when the government does not believe in hearing citizens? Or seeks participation of only 'yay sayers'?*
- Who has the legitimacy to be heard?
  - *Users? Non users? Or corporate powers? 'Civil society' birthed by political parties in power?*
- What if social participation forums and processes are cosmetic and tokenistic?

Some Desirable and Essential Conditions for Social Participation…

- *Desirable*: Social and political ethos of democracy. Where there is articulated and demonstrated commitment for democracy and democratic functioning, proposed Social participation will work.

- *Essential:* Normative and technical guidelines, a UN resolution binding on nation states

- *Essential:* Accountability mechanisms requiring member states to report back. Including CSO evaluation of government led social accountability. Parallel CSO report?

Some Desirable and Essential Conditions for Social Participation…

- *Essential:* Resource allocation for independent participation. For consultations, public hearings, capacity building for those participating and those inviting participation.

- *Essential:* Value clarification of duty bearers – how to maximise power through sharing

- **We have to learn from the Corona crisis – BUILD SOLIDARITY TOWRDS GREATER SOCIAL GOOD**

Thank you

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