# Governance Models for Climate Change Response: The Role of Civil Society

*By*

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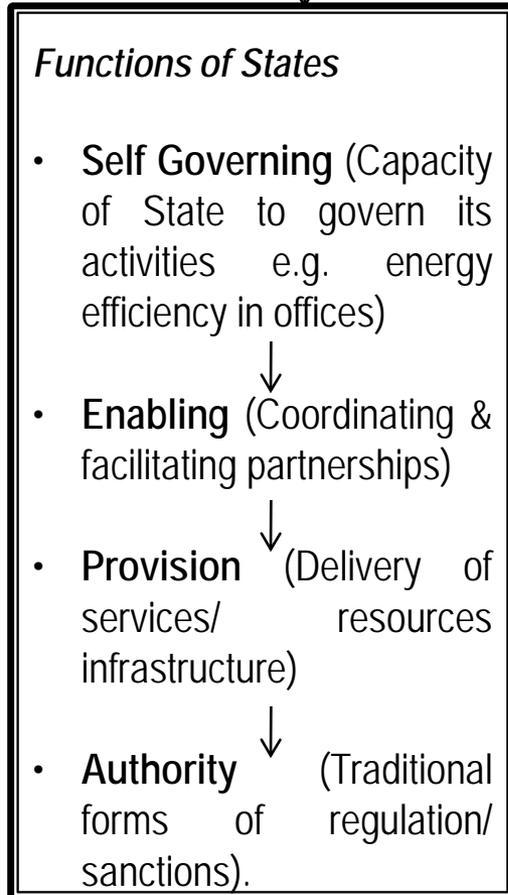*E-mail: fagbohun@elri-ng.org*

‣ **Concept of Civil Society**

– Any organization that is part of the public sphere, but, separate from the state or business;

– NGOs, Charities, Faith and Community Groups, Academic Institutions, Social Enterprises, Trade Unions, Student Groups, Cultural Societies, and Professional Associations;

– Two dimensions to the Agency of Civil Society

(1) Pressure group to challenge the state to act right;

(2) Activation of peoples to pursue their emancipation from inappropriate structures of governance.

‣ **Appealing Status of CSO to CC**

- Relevance to phenomena of CC in the context of law of humanity (environmental justice/ sustainable livelihoods/ poverty outcomes);

- Failure of the State to move forward in negotiations (20 years of discourse since 1992; pluralistic/multiple means of governance);

- Dynamics of CC Governance itself (State actors/Global Institutions);

- Scale of emerging problems to be addressed/ managed.

# ▸ Dimensions of Climate Change Governance

| Civil Society |
|:-:|

## Functions of States

- **Self Governing** (Capacity of State to govern its activities e.g. energy efficiency in offices)

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- **Enabling** (Coordinating & facilitating partnerships)

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- **Provision** (Delivery of services/ resources infrastructure)

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- **Authority** (Traditional forms of regulation/ sanctions).

## Functions of Global Institutions

- **Scientific information about CC,** (credibility of IPCC).

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- **Coordinate International Policies** (secretariat of UNFCCC is weak).

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- **Mobilize & Dispense Finance/Tech** (COPs/G20/GEF – promises unreliable/not trusted/slow).

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- **Monitor & Evaluate Compliance** (Polices of National Governments/UNFCCC).

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- **Develop emission Trading Schemes compatible Across Regions/Nations** UNFCCC/CDM (Suspicious training the mechanisms)

- **Interventions Expected of Civil Society**

  - Improving access to climate information at all levels in aid of decision making;

  - Bridge between research institutions and the general populace to breakdown the barrier of communication;

  - Strengthening of decentralized institutions at the local levels to ensure sustainable adaptation strategies;

  - Strengthening the voice of the vulnerable groups

    (i) Resilience of the poor and the vulnerable;

    (ii) Outcome of implementation of mitigation/adaptation strategies e.g. biofuels, hydropower.

# Interventions Expected of Civil Society…

- Promote direct and effective stakeholder participation in support of citizen monitoring systems;

- Assist in promoting behavioural changes;

- Implementation of projects;

- Complement efforts of country delegations during negotiations through analysis and feedbacks.

‣ **Challenges to Civil Society Effectiveness**

– Scarcity of resources;

– Insufficient legislation;

– Conflicts with prioritized municipal projects (ineffective/non-existing EIA);

– Conflicts with business (support of government for the latter);

– Civil Society vs. Civil Society (the hijack syndrome).

– Corrupt practices within CSOs (credibility and legitimacy);

– Serious question of competence and capacity;

– Concentrated in large centres of population; and

– Not well enough organized to lobby effectively.

The above are realities that CSOs must appropriately confront.

# Conclusions

(1)   Civil society have critical roles to play;

(2)   They must be able to push for governance systems that enable transparency, accountability and integrity;

(3)   Transparent flow of information is also critical within CSOs;

(4)   Civil society should not see themselves as being in the opposition, but, more as collaborative partners with a shared purpose and joint problem solving strategies.

## *THANK YOU*