



"Voice for Change" project

NEWSLETTER

Second quarter of 2025

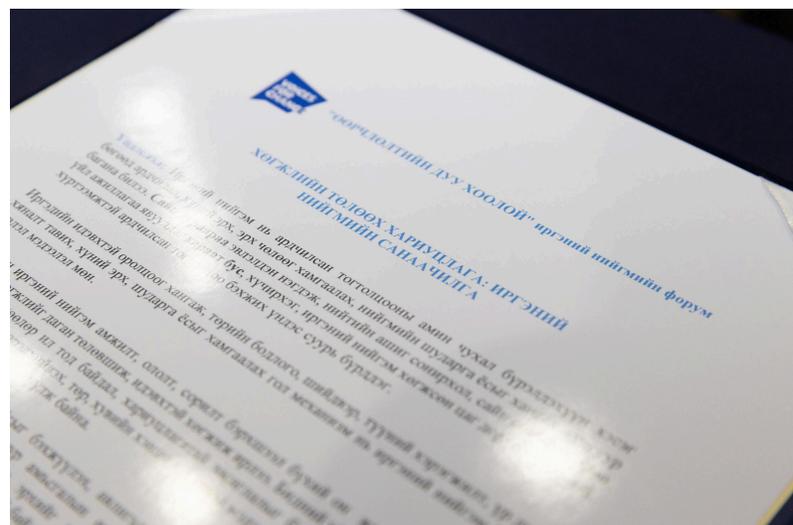
Civil society organizations presented their principles of accountability

The document “*Accountability for Development: A Civil Society Initiative*”, aimed at strengthening accountability of civil society organizations, was jointly developed, discussed, and adopted by project stakeholders. A total of 18 civil society organizations, committed to leading by example in implementing quality governance, signed and endorsed the document, which sets out nine core principles, including promoting human rights, ensuring independence, and increasing participation in decision-making processes. These principles are designed to enhance public trust in civil society, contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals, and enable more effective influence on policy change.

At the meeting, G.Gunjidmaa, Executive Director of the Media Council of Mongolia, emphasized that these principles will continue to be refined in the future, further strengthening the credibility and accountability of civil society and bringing about meaningful change.

We extend our sincere gratitude to all participating organizations that, since January 2023, have worked together to strengthen civil society and embraced the *Accountability for Development: A Civil Society Initiative* principles as a shared commitment to meaningful transformation.

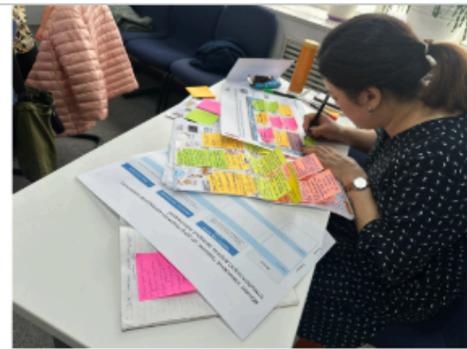
View the full text: <https://www.mediacouncil.mn/a/680>



Training Highlights

Learning the “North Star” Methodology for Good Governance

Supporting the long-term sustainability of 15 civil society organizations (CSOs) that aim to introduce quality management for an accountable civil society—while promoting good governance, transparency, and accessibility for the public—is a key component of the “Voices for Change” project. Within this framework, in partnership with the Nest Center for Journalism Innovation and Development, we have launched a long-term training and mentorship program tailored for CSOs. As part of this initiative, the “North Star” training on long-term strategy development for CSOs was successfully organized on April 23–25, engaging more than 20 representatives from 11 organizations. During the training, participating organizations worked on defining their strategic goals and objectives for the next three to five years, while also developing corresponding action plans for daily operations. Among them, six organizations that fully completed the training and expressed interest in further mentorship were selected to receive long-term advisory support.

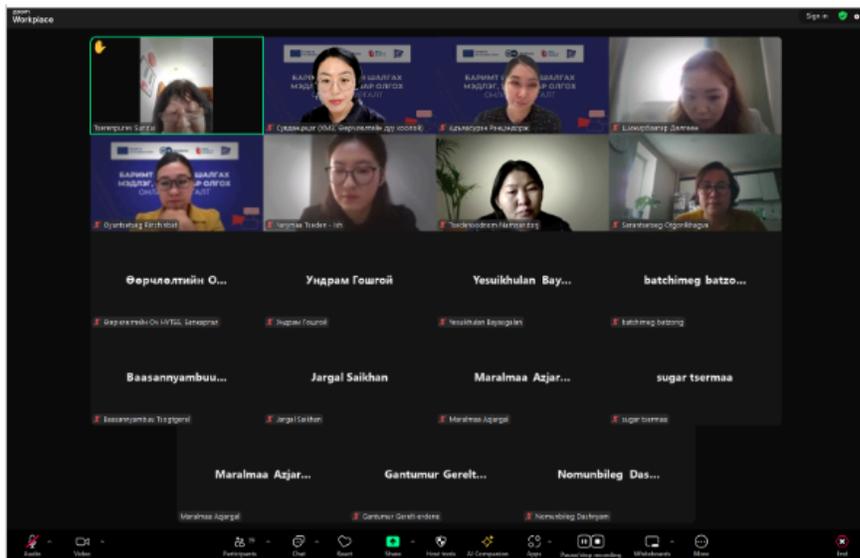


CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS LEARNED FACT CHECKING METHODS

On May 7 and 28, a “*Fact-Checking Methods*” training was organized for civil society representatives in both online and in-person formats. More than 40 participants from around 30 organizations took part and shared their knowledge and experiences.

By learning fact-checking methods, participants are now better equipped to protect citizens from fake and misleading information, correct disinformation and distortion, and carry out evidence-based advocacy more effectively.

The training covered a wide range of topics, including types and causes of false information, core principles of fact-checking, tools for detecting fake news, opportunities for collaboration, as well as social media algorithms and information restrictions. Participants also applied their theoretical knowledge in practice through exercises, interactive discussions, and collaborative learning.



Consultative Meeting on “Civic Space and Policy Making” Held

On April 10, 2025, the Media Council of Mongolia organized a consultative meeting involving civil society organizations (CSOs), media representatives, and government agencies. The meeting focused on draft legislations relevant to CSOs, namely the *Law on the Legal Status of Foundations* and the *Law on the Legal Status of Associations*, as well as related legal research.

Since 2017, the Government of Mongolia has repeatedly worked on drafting regulations concerning CSOs. Notably, on November 24, 2021, the Government submitted to Parliament the draft *Law on the Legal Status of Foundations* and the revised draft *Law on the Legal Status of Associations*. These draft laws aim to regulate the establishment and operations of CSOs in Mongolia by addressing the scope, challenges, and implementation gaps of the existing *Law on Non-Governmental Organizations*, which has been in effect since 1997.

In connection with these drafts, CSOs, their coalitions and consortia, and international non-profit organizations have repeatedly expressed concerns about restrictions on the freedom of association, as well as unclear provisions in the laws. The consultative meeting was therefore significant in bringing together diverse stakeholders to strengthen shared understanding and to clarify the future roles and responsibilities of CSOs and the media in fostering an enabling legal environment for civil society.

During the meeting, T.Amarzaya, Executive Director of the Mongolian Youth Federation, and B.Turbold, Executive Director of *Intellectual Innovation* NGO, delivered presentations and engaged in discussions on policy development for civil society and the impact of related research. More than 20 participants, including representatives from the Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs, the National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia, CSOs, and media organizations, took part in the consultation.



Collaborative Journalism Works

One of the key objectives of the *Voices for Change* project is to promote cooperation between civil society and the media. Within this framework, a meeting was successfully organized last December, bringing together civil society representatives and journalists to exchange views on specific issues and topics. To share some of the important discussions from that meeting with the public, participants have collaborated to produce and present a series of journalistic works. We invite you to explore these joint works created and delivered by civil society organizations and journalists to readers and audiences:

- **Reportage: What is the most useful mobile application in your life?**
Journalist: G.Tegshsuren
"Development Assistance Center" NGO, Ch.Delgermaa
Source: <https://gogo.mn/r/j6q78>
- **The United Nations has considered tying people up for treatment as torture**
Journalist: G.Tegshsuren
"Setgelzuin medremj" (Psychological feeling) NGO, Dr. U. Semjidmaa
Source: <https://shorturl.at/45gN4>
- **The policy of equal inclusion is also coming to life in rural areas**
Journalist: H.Bolormaa
Mongolian Education Alliance, B.Sarantsetseg
Source: <https://shorturl.at/ngqb4>
- **B.Sansar performed surgery on an antelope that was chased by a wild dog and broke its leg**
Journalist: H.Bolormaa
Mongolian Ranger Federation, S.Bayarkhuu
Source: <https://shorturl.at/Ej3TI>
- **Directors of unprofitable state-owned companies received a bonus of ₮900 million**
Journalist: B.Altankhuyag
New initiative of administration NGO, S. Tserenpurev
Source: <https://tinyurl.com/yckc42et> (NTV television)
- **Some schools have implemented a management initiative—such as having principals greet students—for 1.2 billion MNT. In addition, the money was transferred to the account of a party with a conflict of interest**
Journalist: B.Battsetseg, [Newsroom.mn](https://newsroom.mn)
Education Alliance NGO, B.Batchimeg
Source: <https://shorturl.at/KsETq> (newsroom.mn)

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- **E-tags are being banned for life by children**
Journalist: Ch. Nyamdavaa
Khuurkhun zurkh (Cute Hearts) NGO, Christina Nobel Children's Foundation NGO,
Ch.Ochgerel
Source: <https://tinyurl.com/5n7jecth> (24tsag.mn)
 - **Rights played on non-matches**
Journalist: Ya.Khulan
Land owners Bayanzurkh Partnership, lawyer B.Munkh-Amar
Source: <https://tinyurl.com/25tnnncr> (ublifemn)
 - **THE WIND BLOWS THE SMOKE BUT THE HIDDEN PROBLEM IS NOT OVER**
Journalist: O.Amarzaya
Head of LEOS branch in Arkhangai province, B.Battsetseg
Source: "Life of Arkhangai" newspaper
 - **The POWER to keep children away from screens lies in PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT**
Journalist: P.Enkhmaa
Head of LEOS branch in Uvs province, B.Batkhuu
Source: <https://tinyurl.com/bdcmufp9> (uvschuud.mn)
 - **Mongolian children's lives should not be wasted just because UNESCO has registered horse racing**
Journalist: D.Myagmarjargal
Local Media Association NGO, Ch.Bayarsaikhan
Source: <https://tinyurl.com/5y9p3znr> (unuudur.mn)
 - **Who will pay attention to the problems of "Aris shirnii 80" apartment's families?**
Journalist: B.Nyamsuren
Land owners Bayanzurkh Partnership, B.Nyamjav
Source: <https://www.zms.mn/a/101864> ("Zuunii medee" newspaper)
 - **The state should not be a tool of intimidation**
Journalist: B.Nyamsuren
Land owners Bayanzurkh Partnership, B.Nyamjav
Source: <https://www.zms.mn/a/102042> ("Zuunii medee" newspaper)
 - **10 lovable and outstanding works of civil society organizations setting "good practice"**
Journalist: O.Ankhzaya
Source: <https://ub.life/p/250725-6q8rpi> (ub.life)
 - **Education of emotional intelligence in the local community**
Journalist: B.Lkhagvatseren
Citizen Governance NGO, B.Uugankhu
Source: <https://tinyurl.com/yrvm6z9w> (unnu.news)

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- **Like a Nightmare - A Story of Child Online Exploitation**
Journalist: D.Bolorchimeg
“Eireg uurchlult nemekh” NGO (Positive change adds), D.Gunjilmaa
Source: <https://shorturl.at/z1hh7> (peak.mn)
 - **Most of us think that elections are held once every 4 years, but did you know that by-elections are held every year?**
Journalist: Ts.Tserendolgor
Voter Education Center, S.Oyuntuya
Source: <https://tinyurl.com/yn77mfvr> (peak.mn)
 - **Let us restore the office of Tahar and protect the lives and health of witnesses and victims**
Journalist: G.Ulziibat
Legal Media Ch.Unurjargal
Source: <https://tinyurl.com/45sxtjp4> (live24.mn)
 - **When filing for divorce, the risk of violence and death increases 2-3 times**
Journalist: B.Undrakhjargalant
Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uNoizskYZeM> (NTV television)
 - **The Family Health Center of the 26th Khoroo of Songino khairkhan has run a mobile team, and children are vaccinated against measles...**
Journalist: B.Undrakhjargalant
Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MbuXYZLNYD8&t=60s> (NTV television)
 - **It is impossible to walk peacefully in the city of fear**
Journalist: O.Bilegt
Source: <https://tinyurl.com/mjfcy7m6> (urug.mn)
 - **The hidden truth behind the port of Naransevstein**
Journalist: Ts.Erdenetuya,
Civic Council of Environment Ch.Dulmaa
Source: <https://tinyurl.com/mtv94fmy> (niitlel.mn)
 - **Due to unimplemented re-planning, people are living in ruins without heating, water or electricity**
Journalist: A.Bayarmaa
Land owners Bayanzurkh Partnership, B.Nyamjav
Source: <https://www.tac.mn/article/149818> (tac.mn)
 - **The actions of social influencers are becoming a cold, not a joke, to children**
Journalist: Z.Enkhzul
Eastern Leadership NGO, G.Gantuul
Source: <https://shorturl.at/RywiV> (Dornogovi TV, DTV's social page)

Tripartite Meetings between Government, Civil Society, and Media Organizations

Initiated by the Media Council, tripartite meetings and discussions aimed at strengthening cooperation and mutual understanding among government, civil society, and media organizations were held on June 10 in Uvurkhangai province and on June 27 in Dornogovi province.

In Arvaikheer, Uvurkhangai province, the discussion on *“Cooperation and Mutual Understanding between Government, Civil Society, and Media Organizations”* brought together representatives from government, CSOs, and the media to exchange views on transparency, civic participation, and collaboration. Participants also visited the activities of the *“Creative Hand”* NGO, which works to protect the rights of people with disabilities, and discussed the impact of civil society–media cooperation. Journalists further reflected on sectoral challenges, ethics, and opportunities for engagement with government and CSOs.



In Sainshand, Dornogovi province, the discussion on *“Mutual Understanding and Partnership between Government, Civil Society, and Media Organizations”* emphasized the importance of information transparency, accountability, communication among stakeholders, and partnerships. Presentations and exchanges also addressed the role of civil society and journalism in a democratic society. The discussion brought together 20 participants, including representatives of the Dornogovi Citizens’ Representative Khural, Governor’s Office, CSOs, and media organizations. They discussed solutions to strengthen public information transparency and accessibility, civic participation, and accountable governance at the local level. Participants also highlighted the critical role of media and CSOs in society, exploring opportunities for collaboration as well as the pressing challenges they face.



€24,000 in Financial Support Allocated to Strengthen the Digital Capacity of Civil Society Organizations

Within the framework of the *Voices for Change* project, financial support has been granted to strengthen and enhance the digital capacity of civil society organizations (CSOs). On March 27, this opportunity was announced to the 15 organizations engaged in the Accountable Civil Society Initiative. Among them, 10 organizations expressed a strong need to improve their digital capacity and submitted project proposals.

The selection process was highly competitive. Based on the 10 criteria outlined in the initial announcement, two organizations were selected to each receive €7,500 in funding. In addition, using savings from previous project activities, three more organizations—ranked 3rd, 4th, and 5th in the evaluation—will each be awarded an additional €3,000 in support.

Below are the names of the selected organizations and information about their projects:

[Mongolian Rangers Federation](#)

Project Name: Digital Rangers: Transforming Conservation

Amount of support: 7,500 euros

[Development Assistance Center](#)

Project name: Accessible website

Amount of support: 7,500 euros

[MONFEMNET National network](#)

Project name: Digital Literacy Strengthening for Civil Society

Amount of support: : 3,000 euros

[“Uguumur” Information Bureau](#)

Project Name: Digital Activist (CODE: Community of Digital Enablers)

Amount of support: 3,000 euros

[Step Without Borders NGO](#)

Project name: Introducing Digital Solutions in NGO Activities

Amount of support: 3,000 euros

Research on the Legal Environment of Civil Society Organizations

The second phase of the project focuses on involving diverse social groups—such as civil society organizations (CSOs), the media, and youth—in policy discussions and creating an enabling legal environment for civil society.

As part of this effort, an open call for research on the legal environment of CSOs in Mongolia was announced on April 21, 2025. Six teams submitted proposals to conduct the legal study and develop recommendations. Based on the evaluation against specific criteria, two research teams—led by T. Enkhjargal, T. Amarzayaa, and D. Tegshbayar—were selected.

Developing a “Code of Ethics guidelines for disseminating information online”

Within the framework of the project, journalist and communication specialist J.Khulan was selected as a contracted consultant to draft and present a *Code of Ethics guidelines for disseminating information online*. A consultation meeting to exchange ideas and discuss the draft guideline was held on May 23, 2025.

Activities to Increase Youth Participation in Policy-Making through training, hackathons, and digital advocacy campaigns

To enhance youth engagement in the policy-making process, applications were invited from experts to design and implement activities such as training, hackathons, and digital advocacy campaigns. The selection process is ongoing, and implementation is planned to begin in September.

- **Activity 1:** Training and mentorship program to support youth participation in policy-making
- **Activity 2:** Hackathon to identify innovative solutions for strengthening youth participation and influence
- **Activity 3:** Digital advocacy campaign to amplify youth voices in the policy-making

The Media Council of Mongolia, in partnership with Germany's DW Akademie (DWA) and with the support of the European Union, is implementing the project "Voices for Change: Civil Society Organizations Join Forces to advocate for Accountability, Transparency, and Public Awareness" during 2023–2026. The project aims to promote transparency and independence of civil society organizations (CSOs) and to contribute to good governance and social cohesion by enhancing public understanding and awareness of civil society activities.

The second phase of the project focuses on creating an enabling legal environment and engaging diverse groups—including CSOs, media, and youth—in policy discussions.

This digital newsletter has been prepared to promote and introduce the project's activities.

"Voice for Change" project

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