



PRESIDENTIAL SOCIAL SECTOR SUMMIT

KEY MESSAGES

BRIEF:

In his maiden State of the Nation Address (2018), President Cyril Ramaphosa called for a social compact with all key sectors of society to build a South Africa we want, as envisaged in the National Development Plan (Vision 2030).

He further announced the Presidential Social Sector Summit to harness the potential of civil society organisations in advancing nation building, social cohesion and in addressing the myriad of social challenges confronting South Africa.

The Social Sector Summit will take place on 4–5 August 2022 under the theme: “***Fostering Social Cohesion to enable Socio-Economic Participation in Communities***”.

KEY MESSAGES	SUPPORTING STATEMENTS
<i>Government is strengthening relations with civil society organisations.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Social Sector Summit seeks to strengthen and improve the interface between the state and civil society.• The summit will discuss mechanisms and strategies to improve collaboration between the state and civil society.• A coordinated approach between community-based organisations and the state will fortify efforts to reverse our social challenges.• The Social Sector Summit resonates with government’s commitment to achieve greater social cohesion in line with the Constitution.• The Social Sector Summit will help to address the challenges that Non-Governmental Organisations and Community Organisations face.
<i>Civil society are our partners in building the nation of our collective dreams.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Civil society and community-based organisations constitute a fundamental part of the democratic system.• This is in line with the NDP which calls for an active citizenry, which is one of the key ingredients of a healthy and participatory democracy.• Civil society and community-based organisations have an essential role to play both as partners and as service providers in the provision of essential services.• South African civil society and community-based organisations have a rich history of fighting for social justice and tackling societal challenges such as

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	<p>gender-based violence, alcohol and drug abuse and providing services to persons with disabilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil society initiatives effectively complement Government's development agenda
<p><i>Working together we can to advance South Africa's development agenda</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the last 28 years, civil society has significantly grown and is contributing to the national development agenda of social inclusion, nation building and social cohesion. • Government remains committed to work with civil society to develop an inclusive policy framework that creates an enabling environment in which civil society can flourish and contribute to the attainment of South Africa's national development goals as envisaged in the NDP, regional and international obligations. • Government and civil society partnership is central to implementation of key programmes targeted at the most vulnerable, such as Persons with Disabilities, HIV and AIDS, gender-based violence, ECD and anti-alcohol and substance abuse campaigns. • Civil society structures ensure that the voice of the citizens is present in policy/decision making processes and in service delivery innovation.
<p><i>Civil society plays a critical role in changing society for the better.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government cannot address all the needs of South Africans on its own; we need strong partnerships to create a better life for all. • A robust civil society plays a critical role in creating a vibrant democratic culture and addressing the gap between the state and local communities. • Our Constitution creates space for civil society to play an oversight role and support the vulnerable in asserting their rights. • Civil society organisations play a critical role in tackling the triple challenge of poverty, unemployment, inequality and related social ills. • Government is committed to enhancing its relationship with civil society organisations to benefit communities. • It aims to improve coordination among various departments and across the three spheres of government to better support civil society.
<p><i>The NDP calls for an active citizenry.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active citizens are the bedrock of any democracy; together we can create a better tomorrow. • We salute those who are playing their part daily to improve the living conditions of all in society. • The voice of civil society organisations is integral to building a capable and developmental state in South Africa. • It is each citizen's responsibility to take charge and play an active role in building the South Africa envisioned in the NDP.