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*Declaration to Support a More Enabling Environment for Philanthropy and Civil Society,  
including NGOs*

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The context portrayed in the [synthesis document of the WINGS Forum](#) shows how philanthropic freedom and civic space more broadly are under attack and must be defended and promoted through a prompt and concerted response of the philanthropic, civil society and NGO sectors.

We, undersigned, representatives of global networks representing the spectrum of civil society actors: civil society networks and organizations, national NGOs, and philanthropy support organizations, welcome and jointly endorse the present declaration and express our will to harness our collective power in order to help civil society globally addressing these pressing issues and to develop a culture of giving and solidarity globally.

We acknowledge the need for a greater articulation of initiatives between existing networks and other key actors involved, and the importance to ensure regular communication and collaboration amongst them. We call on our members to join efforts in this endeavor.

We value differences within civil society and believe new partnerships should be built based on each actor's specific value-added. These should also include less usual actors from the private sector, and the media.

We agree on the need to develop a new positive narrative about civil society, one that will win back hearts and minds of citizens, and to engage in processes that create new knowledge and a more accessible, inspiring language.

Convened by WINGS, we call together for all international funders, notably Human Rights funders, a field under particular duress, to support the development of domestic philanthropy, as a key element to cope with cross-border giving restrictions and create long-term resources for civil societies.

We encourage domestic funders to address issues that remain mainly supported by international funders, such as human rights and social justice, and to engage in collective processes with their peers so as to develop a solid infrastructure that will enhance their impact and advocate on their behalf for an enabling environment to operate.

We also seek to improve the practice of philanthropy itself, so that funders are more equitable and inclusive in their practices, leading to greater effectiveness of their giving, but also to greater accountability and transparency, at times in which people become more distrustful of established institutions.

We believe that there is more appetite for collaboration than ever before and want to use the momentum to initiate a longer-term collective process.

Based on the above, we agree to:

- Mutually share new initiatives or important outputs, and disseminate those produced by others whenever relevant.
- Collect and share data and success stories on shrinking civic space (with due caution to avoid exposing actors on the field); a call for cases has been launched simultaneously to this declaration and can be found [here](#);
- Create synergies in different areas:
  - o Joint trainings and capacity development;
  - o Contribution to each other's researches;
  - o Connect global advocacy activities;
  - o Share tools to assess the environment.
- Facilitate alliances at national level: heads of networks will look at ways to facilitate collaboration of their respective members at country level so that they can join forces to aggregate data, elaborate civil society narratives, campaign and handle other activities related to enabling environment.

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