



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT ALLIANCE  
ALIANSI KETERLIBATAN SIPIL INDONESIA

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## Background

Indonesia's democracy is facing serious challenges. Civic space continues to shrink, democratic indices decline, and oligarchic control over natural resources grows stronger. Globally, the world is also grappling with multidimensional crises—from geopolitical tensions and geo-economic shifts to climate change and widening inequality.

In response, forty-eight civil society organizations (CSOs) met in Sentul, Bogor, in February 2025 to discuss the shrinking civic space in Indonesia. The meeting identified the need for a shared platform to coordinate and consolidate civil society movements, which later led to the establishment of the **Indonesian Civic Engagement Alliance (CEA)**.

The mandate to form CEA was reaffirmed during the **National Civil Society Assembly** in Lembang, West Java, in July 2025. Sixty-one organizations from 19 provinces participated, representing development and humanitarian sectors. This gathering marked the birth of CEA as a national alliance of Indonesian civil society organizations.



**CEA's primary mandate** is to strengthen Indonesia's civic space to be safer and more open. The alliance believes that a healthy civic space fosters meaningful public engagement and reinforces democratic resilience.

**Vision:**  
An empowered and equitable civil society ecosystem.

### Values:

- Sincere intention: all actions are grounded in genuine commitment to social change.
- Joyfulness: work is carried out with positive energy and inner happiness.
- Mutuality: guided by inclusivity, equality, fairness, and tolerance.
- Empowering others: promoting collaboration and collective leadership toward an open, organized civil society.
- Anti-racism and non-discrimination.

# The Structure

An interconnected network of regional nodes

**CEA is a social movement** rather than a formal organization and thus has no legal status. It operates as a network of interconnected regional nodes at the national level. Each regional node is autonomous and independent but works collectively, recognizing that individual actions impact the broader ecosystem.

**CEA's leadership** is collective and tiered, beginning with regular regional node meetings that are periodically consolidated in the National Assembly (Rembug Nasional), which also integrates the work of task forces and issue caucuses. CEA has no national or regional chairpersons—only Regional Node Coordinators and a Secretariat Coordinator who facilitate network coordination.

**CEA's national structure** rests on four main bodies: the Network of Regional Nodes, National Secretariat, Task Forces, and Issue Caucuses.

**The core pillar** is the Network of Regional Nodes, which operates as a confederation rather than a federation—each node is sovereign yet collaborates through shared mechanisms.

**Regional Nodes** consist of networks of local civil society organizations, community groups, forums, actions, individuals, and other civic collectives at the regional level established by mutual agreement.

**Secretariat of the Regional Node Network** acts as a service provider for the network, operating under the mandate of the Regional Nodes. It facilitates the formation and operation of Task Forces and Issue Caucuses while ensuring representation through designated focal points.

**Task Forces** are working groups that generate ideas and expand civic participation. They operate in two key arenas: **Civic Space Arena** – policy advocacy, capacity building, connectivity, and resource mobilization; and **Civic Engagement Arena** – community organizing, narrative and public policy advocacy, and strengthening democratic and productive economies.



**Issue Caucuses** are thematic working groups focusing on sectoral issues such as human rights, gender equality, health, education, forestry, coastal areas, energy, and humanitarian concerns.

# Resource Governance

Focus, Decentralization, and Localization

CEA resources are managed under three key principles:

**Focus:** supporting effective management, mobilization, and creation of new resources, both individually and collectively.

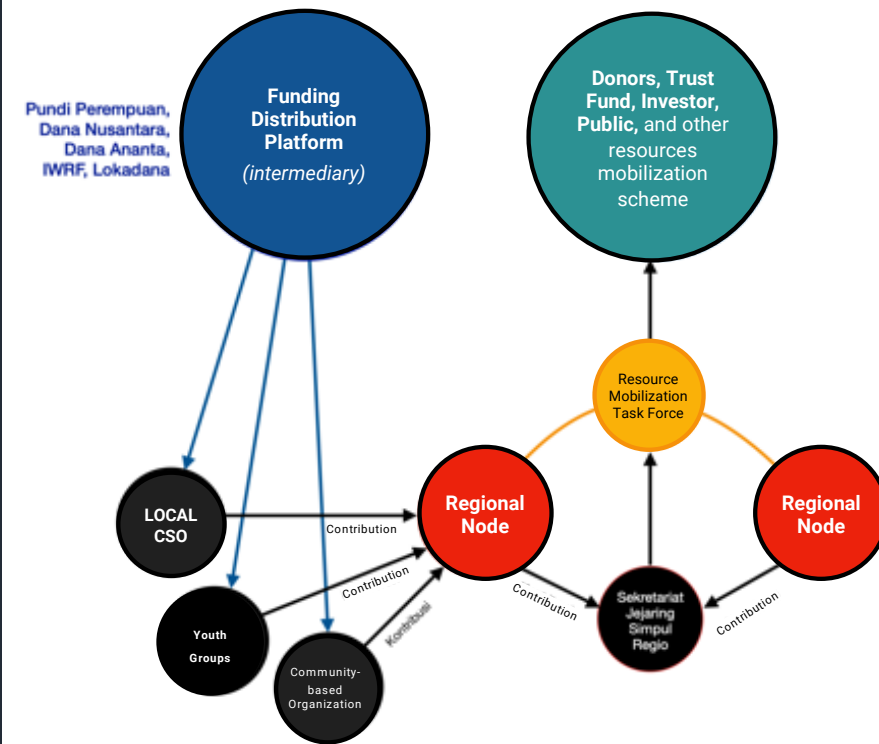
**Decentralization:** empowering each Regional Node to manage its own resources independently, respecting local ownership, and fostering mutual exchange and growth.

**Localization and Subsidiarity:** strengthening local leadership, ownership, and capacity, maximizing benefits for local constituencies, and ensuring decision-making occurs at the closest level to beneficiaries.

## Contribution, Mobilization, and Distribution

CEA strives to develop innovative and sustainable models for resource mobilization and fund distribution, while recognizing the equal importance of non-financial resources amid the current funding crisis.

Mobilized funds will primarily support local-level movements (local NGOs, community organizations, and civic groups), not the operational costs of regional or network secretariats. Secretariat funding is expected to come from organizational contributions.



# Action Plan

## Building Cross-Issue Networks at the Local Level

### **Sustainable Grassroots Organizing**

CEA builds sustainable grassroots organizing through shared narratives that challenge stigma, strengthen community resilience and protection, and promote cross-issue and intersectional networks at the local level.

### **Capacity and Connectivity of Civil Society**

CEA strengthens the capacity and connectivity of civil society organizations by developing national and regional communication systems, enriching data and knowledge management, bridging generational gaps, and ensuring safeguarding policies that protect communities, organizations, and public spaces.

### **Collaborative Resource Mobilization**

CEA promotes collaborative resource mobilization, expands access to diversified funding, and opens equitable negotiation spaces with issue-based and regional donors.

### **Civic Participation and Policy Influence**

CEA advocates for regulations that enable active civil society participation in shaping and influencing public policy, and strengthens their capacity for meaningful engagement.

### **Alternative Advocacy and GEDSI Integration**

CEA consolidates alternative advocacy narratives rooted in history, culture, and community experiences, ensuring GEDSI integration within public spaces.

### **Inclusive and Just Economic Democracy**

CEA supports inclusive and just economic democracy through transparent governance, data-driven mapping, and the creation of empowering institutional models.

### **Empowered and Equal Civil Society**

CEA believes that achieving an empowered and equal civil society in Indonesia requires active and effective participation of locally rooted organizations, connected from local to national levels, supported by collaboratively managed resources to sustain a democratic and just civic space.



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