



A STRONG VOICE FOR GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY

VENRO Strategic Focus 2026–2028

Civil society actors in development cooperation and humanitarian aid are facing fundamental challenges: their work is being seriously called into question by policymakers. Public funding is collapsing in many countries. The values-based international order, which has underpinned global development since the second half of the 20th century, is increasingly being challenged — and even actively opposed by some. Urgently needed reform processes risk being lost amid global political turmoil. Civil society actors around the world are also being put under increasing pressure and are exposed to reprisals, defamation and severe restrictions on their work.

This challenging situation requires VENRO to present a united and focused stance in order to play an even stronger role in political discourse as a powerful civil society voice for global responsibility, as a source of impetus for political processes and reform initiatives, and as a defender of civil society engagement. Our guiding principles set out in the [VENRO Strategy 2023–2028](#) will therefore be complemented in the years 2026 to 2028 by a thematic focus in political work on the following areas:

FINANCING AND STRUCTURAL POLICY FRAMEWORK CONDITIONS	THE FUTURE AND REFORM OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION	THE ROLE AND FRAMEWORK CONDITIONS OF CIVIL SOCIETY
International cooperation requires adequate financing — both nationally and internationally. In addition, global structural policy frameworks must be created that enable global justice instead of standing in its way, as has so far been the case. VENRO actively advocates for this at both national and international levels.	In the coming years, key decisions will be made regarding the future direction of international cooperation. VENRO will accompany and help shape these processes from a civil society perspective.	VENRO will continue to advocate for the protection and expansion of civic space worldwide, as well as in Germany itself, and will call for political support for civil society.

The normative foundation of these three priority areas is formed by the principles of **intersectionality**, **inclusion** and **feminism**, which summarise VENRO's

commitment to human rights-based, gender-sensitive, effective and inclusive international cooperation.

More information on the strategic focus is available at www.venro.org.