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Civil Society Engagement and the Asian Development Bank

Business Opportunities Session
Marina Rose Best
NGO and Civil Society Center



ADB

NGO and
CIVIL SOCIETY
CENTER



What are the Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and how do they function?



Bretton Woods 1944



- ❖ Bretton Woods System
- ❖ International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- ❖ International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD, now World Bank Group)

UN Institutions

Later Institutions

- ❖ Inter-American Development Bank (1959)
- ❖ African Development Bank (1964)
- ❖ Asian Development Bank (1966)
- ❖ European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (1991)
- ❖ New Development Bank (2013)
- ❖ Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (2016)

Not Formally Part of the UN

ADB's 68 Members

And Resident Missions



As of December 2021.



Basic Structure

Board of
Governors

Board of Directors

Management

Departments and
Country Offices

Policy
Operations
Knowledge
Safeguards
Accountability
Finance
Support Functions



Basic Function



*Majority of cases, special note on ADF



Institutional Policies of Interest

Policies are generally longstanding but periodically updated

- 1995 Policy on Governance**
Promotes strong governance and sound development management
 - 1998 Policy on Cooperation with NGOs**
Outlines ADB's Engagement with Civil Society at the policy level.
 - 2003 Policy on Gender and Development**
Guides ADB's activities directed at improving the status of women
 - 1998 Anti-Corruption and Integrity Policy**
Reduces the burden corruption exacts from the governments and economies of the region.
 - 2009 Safeguards Policy**
Addresses environmental and social risks in development projects to minimize and mitigate, if not avoid, adverse project impact.
 - 2012 Accountability Mechanism Policy**
Establishes forums for those affected by ADB-assisted projects to voice their concerns.
 - 2019 Access to Information Policy**
Governs ADB's sharing of information and public communication
 - 2021 Energy Policy**
Guides ADB's operations in the Energy Sector
- 



**How do we define
Civil Society
Organizations?**

**How do we interact
and partner
together?**

How do we Define Civil Society?

ADB defines “civil society organization” as those organizations

- (i) not based in government, and
- (ii) not created to earn profit.

ADB defines CSOs as nonprofit organizations independent from the government, which operate around common interests. They vary in size, interests, and function, and include nongovernment organizations (NGOs), youth groups, community-based organizations, independent academic and research institutes, professional associations, foundations, faith-based organizations, people’s organizations, and labor unions. CSOs represent interests of their members or others.



Advocacy Organizations



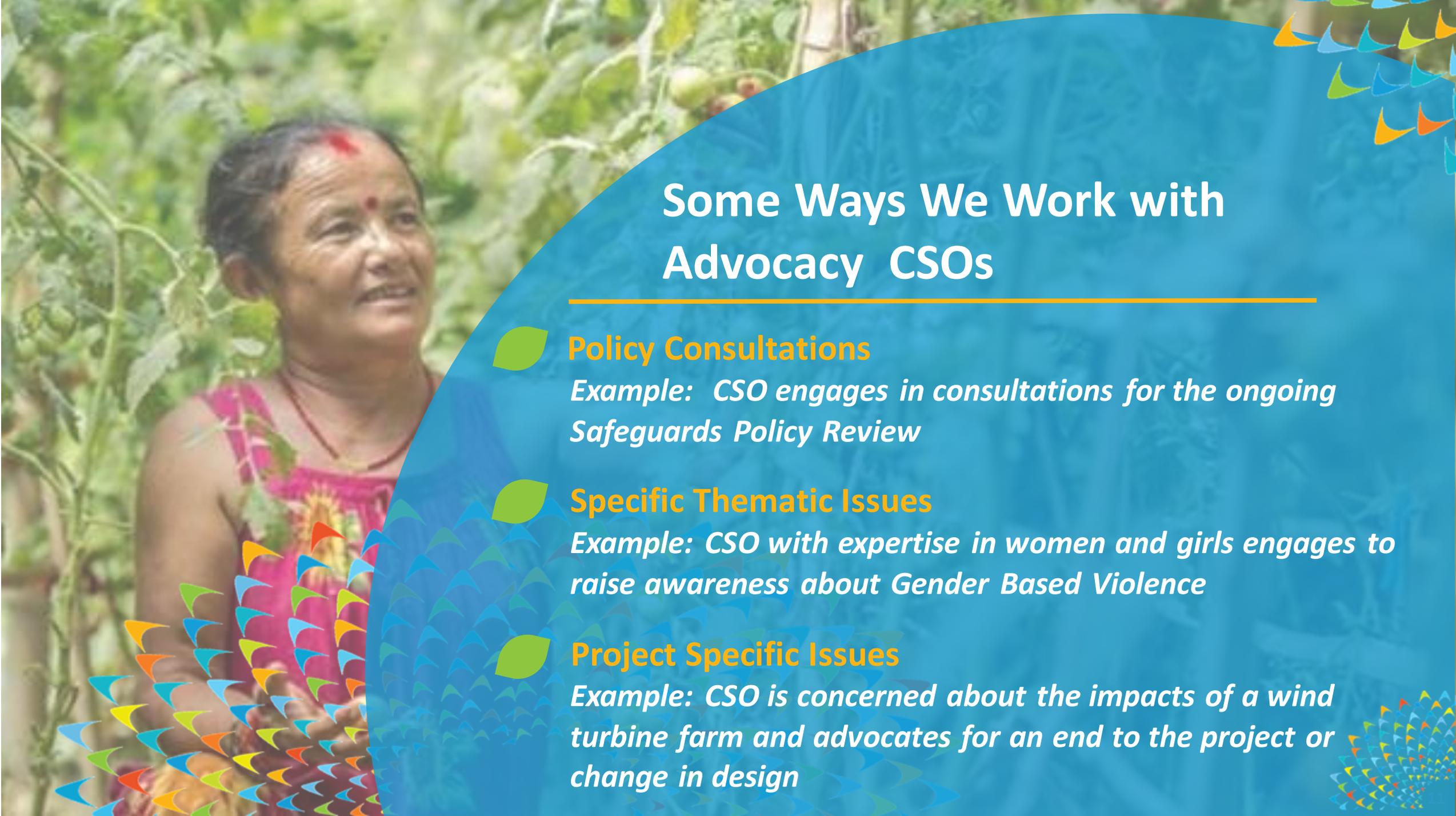
Advocacy CSOs provide representation for specific issues, concerns, points of view, or interests, and attempt to influence the policies, practices, and views of governments and institutions.

Many Organizations Are Both

Operational Organizations

Operational CSOs directly deliver, or contribute to the delivery of, welfare services such as emergency relief or environmental protection and management. They work at the community, local, district, national, regional, and international levels





Some Ways We Work with Advocacy CSOs

Policy Consultations

Example: CSO engages in consultations for the ongoing Safeguards Policy Review

Specific Thematic Issues

Example: CSO with expertise in women and girls engages to raise awareness about Gender Based Violence

Project Specific Issues

Example: CSO is concerned about the impacts of a wind turbine farm and advocates for an end to the project or change in design



Operational CSOs

Why do we appreciate working with you?

- Country and Local Expertise
- Field presence
- Efficiency
- Inclusive, Sustainable Development Outcomes



Some Ways We Work with Operational CSOs

Consultations and Advisory

Example: CSO participates in community outreach on an ADB project.

Project Components

Example: CSO hired to conduct community WASH trainings alongside a water distribution investment.

CSO-Specific Funds (Rare)

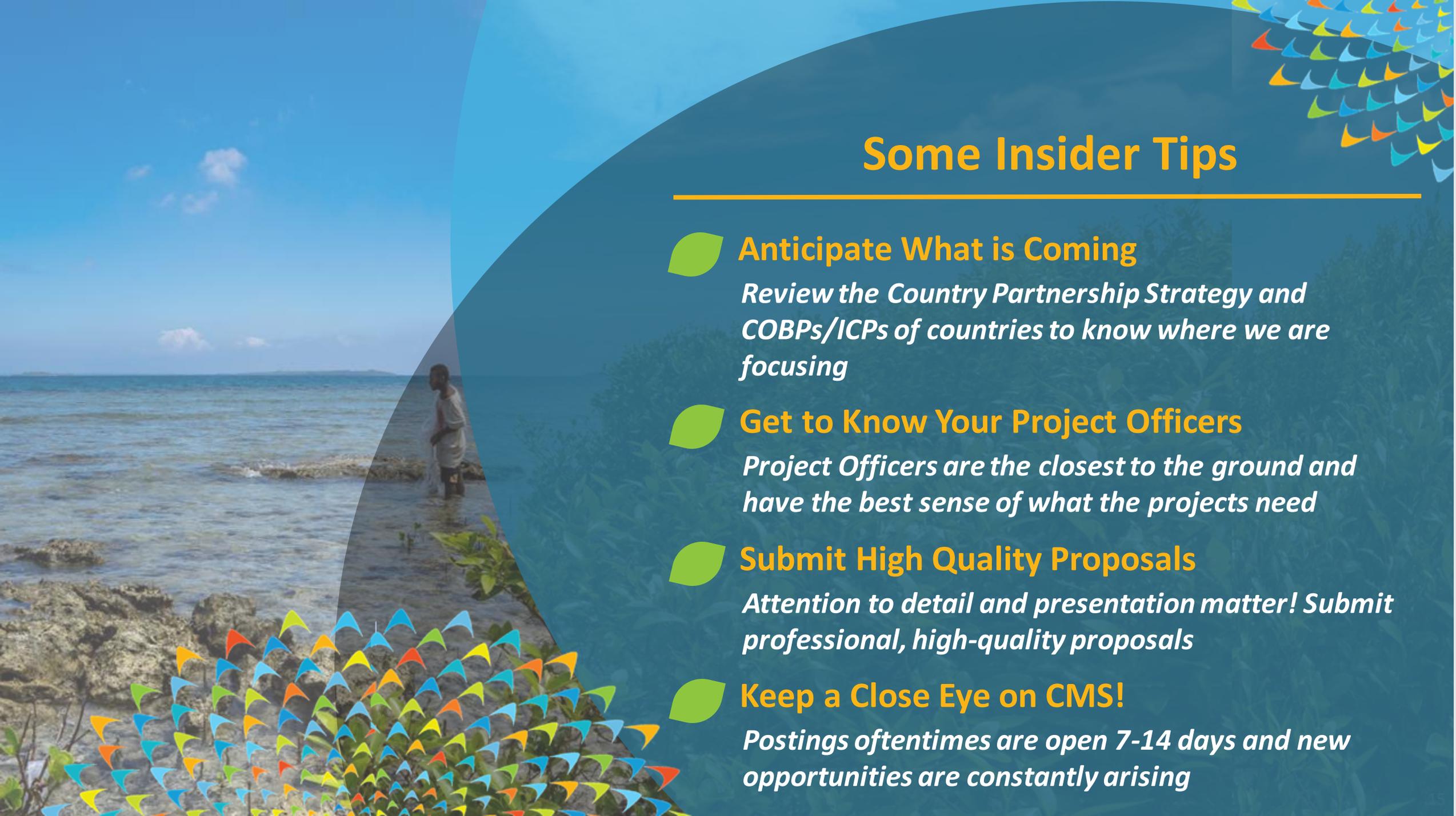
Example: Funds specifically dedicated to Civil Society and COVID-19 Response.

CSOs are Contracted as Service Providers
!! ADB Does Not Offer Grant Funding or Receive Unsolicited Proposals!!

Traditional Areas of CSO Engagement

- ❖ Assisting and reaching communities (e.g., consultations)
- ❖ Design and implementation of:
 - ❖ Involuntary resettlement plans
 - ❖ Indigenous peoples' plans
 - ❖ Gender Action Plans
- ❖ Assessment and monitoring of environmental impacts
- ❖ Delivering tailored services and programs to vulnerable groups
- ❖ Providing training, capacity building, and mentoring programs to local communities





Some Insider Tips

-  **Anticipate What is Coming**
Review the Country Partnership Strategy and COBPs/ICPs of countries to know where we are focusing
-  **Get to Know Your Project Officers**
Project Officers are the closest to the ground and have the best sense of what the projects need
-  **Submit High Quality Proposals**
Attention to detail and presentation matter! Submit professional, high-quality proposals
-  **Keep a Close Eye on CMS!**
Postings oftentimes are open 7-14 days and new opportunities are constantly arising

Who Can you Reach Out to For More Information?

NGO and Civil Society Center

We serve as the focal point for Civil Society Organizations at ADB



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INCHEON
56th ADB ANNUAL MEETING
2-5 MAY 2023

**REBOUNDED ASIA:
RECOVER, RECONNECT, and REFORM**

Civil Society Program

Call for CSO SESSION PROPOSALS

Scan the code or go to this link
for more details:

bit.ly/callforcs056



Deadline for submission of proposals:
5 March 2023 | 5:00 p.m. (GMT+8)



NGO and
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USEFUL MATERIALS

NGOC Website: [ADB and Civil Society | Asian Development Bank](#)

NGOC Annual Report on Civil Society Engagement: [ADB Annual Report 2021 | Asian Development Bank](#)

CSO Sourcebook: [A Sourcebook for Engaging with Civil Society Organizations in Asian Development Bank Operations | Asian Development Bank \(adb.org\)](#)

ADB e-Learn: [ADB eLearn](#)

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THANK YOU