

ADVANCING INCLUSIVE DEMOCRACIES

within increasingly authoritarian contexts

OUR HOPES MIRROR OUR FEARS

To address multiple crises and the transnational threats on civil society, funders need to provide ecosystem funding.

HOPES



Emerging inspiring visions.

More people giving, and civil society being organized.



Youth and marginalized communities using transparency, accountability and participatory tools.

Deepening debate around power, equity and justice.

Intersection of agendas across geographies. Good governance – climate justice – gender – tech.



FEARS

Anger is fueling populism.

Dis- and misinformation.

Risk to lose partners because focus is on what democracy has to deliver.

Surveillance and violence.

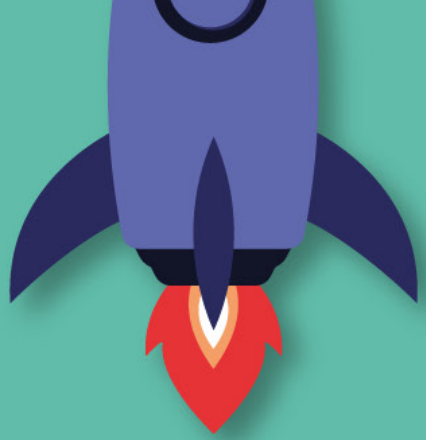
Inequality, concentration of power.

Failing governments and private sector.

Polycrisis - level of complexity.

Funders failing to stand as allies to those who risk it all.





WHAT WE KNOW?

Even in the most authoritarian contexts **civil society can find a voice.**



States are increasingly **authoritarian** but so are segments of civil society.



Transparency is still a key tool to help push for accountability.

Many activists contribute from **exile.**



Legal compliance is not enough



Building coalitions does work. They can become an early warning and mutual support system.



WHAT WE CAN DO?

Build more spaces for learning and exchange among stakeholders: funders, practitioners, academia, private sector, diaspora.



Incentivize funders to redistribute power!



Invest in building citizens who are aware of their rights and what the rule of law means.



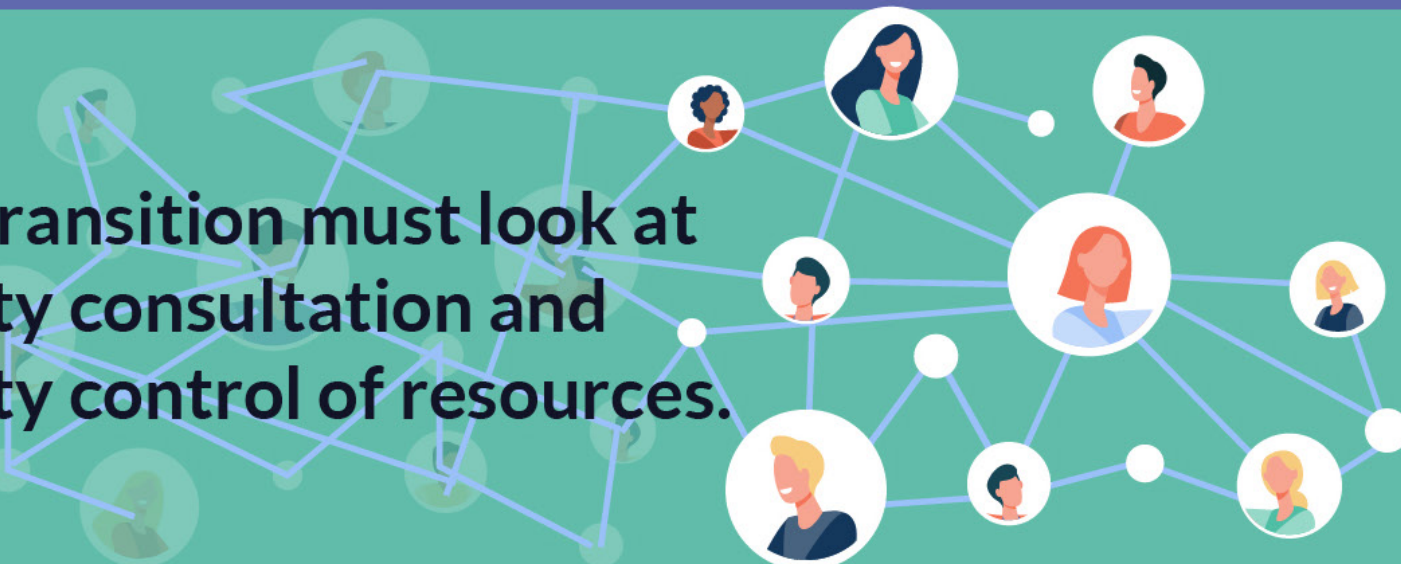
Invest in building healthy information ecosystems.



Address economic drivers of repression and re-examine the role of money in politics.



Any just transition must look at community consultation and community control of resources.



Explore how to engage with the private sector.

WHAT SHOULD FUNDERS DO DIFFERENTLY?

Trust partners and commit to long term unrestricted support.



Embrace failure and risk and adapt to evolving contexts.

Spend less time strategizing and more resources protecting front liners.



Stay humble, listen and be flexible regarding impact.



Offer practical tools that help activists to be safe and ensure their well-being.



Breakdown internal silos – tackling authoritarianism requires an intersectional approach.



Understand how local, regional and global interventions interact



Support more women to participate in processes at all levels.



Support multi-dimensional alliances, that are seizing on evidence based approaches.

Don't shy away from funding civil society in authoritarian contexts.



Create more spaces to learn from each other.



Offer access to decision makers to your grantees.



Recognize that work on civic space is inherently political.



Invest in changing narratives

WHAT TAI OFFERS?

Learning across themes, stakeholders and geographies.



Facilitating intersectional approaches: civic space, transparency, participation, accountability, climate, gender.



Investigating the role of economic actors in shaping space for activism.



Exploring the potential for private sector investment in civic space support.



Pooling insights on narratives and framing tools and approaches.

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