

Newsletter



**CSOs Election Manifesto
2024-2029 Disseminated to
Tanzania's Political Parties:
*Aligning Civil Society Priorities
with Election Strategies***



CSOs Election Manifesto 2024-2029 Disseminated to Tanzania's Political Parties: Aligning Civil Society Priorities with Election Strategies

Following the successful launch of the 2024-2029 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Election Manifesto, the focus shifted to disseminating the manifesto to Tanzania's political parties. This outreach is essential in ensuring that political parties integrate the manifesto's priorities into their platforms, aligning with the aspirations of citizens.



In the picture Panelist of the CSOs Election Manifesto 2024/29 Launching podcast during the #CSOsWeek2024 ON 12 September 2024 at Mount Meru Hotel, Arusha. From right is Adv. Onesmo Olengurumwa, THRDC National Coordinator; Deus Kibamba – TCIB Executive Director; Hamad Msoud- CUF Executive Secretary; Hassan Juma-Executive Director of ANGOZA Zanzibar; Godbless Lema - Representatives from CHADEMA; Rabia Abdallah-CCM National Election Committee Secretary, Politics and International Relation; Bishop Nelson Kisare-Chairperson of INTERFAITH Tanzania; and Jane Magigita-Executive Director Equality for Growth.

“The Tanzania we want”

Since 2015, the CSO manifesto has championed the agenda of “The Tanzania We Want,” outlining key priorities that should be addressed during and after the elections. This manifesto has been prepared by CSOs and subsequently shared with all key stakeholders for implementation, including political parties, citizens, electoral institutions, and development partners. The manifesto’s primary purpose is to provide CSO members and Tanzanians a platform to identify key issues that should be considered by political parties when preparing their own manifestos, as well as to guide key electoral processes.

Last week, we were thrilled to kick off our CSOs Manifesto dissemination visit starting with political parties’ offices in Tanzania to communicate our 2024–2029 CSOs Manifesto in a face of strategic engagements with Policy makers. From 07 to 10 we have visited six (7) political parties Alliance for Change and Transparency (ACT Wazalendo) Chama cha Ukombozi wa Umma (CHAUMMA); The National Convention for Construction and Reform (NCCR Mageuzi); The Civic United Front (CUF); Alliance for Democratic Change (ADC); and Chama cha Demokrasia na Maendeleo, Party for Democracy and Progress (CHADEMA) and Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM)

ACT Wazalendo



On 07 October 2024, The CSOs team, led by Onesmo Olungurumwa, National Coordinator of the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) and Thobias Mesanga from Jukwaa la Katiba Tanzania (JUKATA), held a strategic meeting with ACT Wazalendo leaders including Dorothy Jonas Semu-Chairperson, and Ado Shaibu, General Secretary. The discussions revolved around the manifesto’s core priorities, particularly the need for a New Constitution, inclusive economy, and human rights protections.



Ado Shaibu expressed gratitude for the manifesto, noting that many of the CSOs' priorities, such as inclusive development and human rights, are well-aligned with ACT's own policies. He remarked, "Most of the recommendations outlined by CSOs resonate with our manifesto, which gives us the opportunity to speak a common language in addressing the nation's development challenges."

The Chairperson of ACT Wazalendo, Dorothy Jonas Semu echoed these sentiments, commending the CSOs for their diligent work. "The manifesto offers clear guidance on how we can collectively move forward to achieve the Tanzania we all want. It was an honor to engage in these strategic discussions, and we look forward to further incorporating these insights into our own election strategy."

The meeting marked a significant alignment between civil society and ACT Wazalendo, ensuring that the party's platform reflects the public's desire for *inclusive governance and rights-based development*.

NCCR – Mageuzi

On 08 October 2024, the team successfully met with political leaders of NCCR MAGEUZI, including Mr. Imani Mshindani, the Deputy Secretary-General, and his team, who all commended the exceptional work done by CSOs in developing this manifesto. They clearly stated that this manifesto would serve as a key guide in the preparation of their 2024/2025 Election Manifesto.

They also raised several questions regarding the current state of democracy and the rule of law, focusing on the restrictive election laws and regulations as well as the growing public disillusionment with electoral participation.

As the country approaches the local government elections, the leaders recommended that CSOs and political parties continue holding ongoing discussions to ensure the successful implementation of the manifesto



"We commend CSOs for the exceptional work in developing this manifesto, which will be a key guide for us as we prepare our 2024/2025 Election Manifesto. However, we must address pressing concerns regarding the state of democracy and the rule of law, particularly the restrictive election laws and the growing public disillusionment with electoral participation. As we approach the local government elections, it is crucial that CSOs and political parties maintain ongoing discussions to ensure the successful implementation of this manifesto." **Imani Mshindani, Deputy Secretary-General of NCCR-Mageuzi, October 8, 2024.**

Chama cha Ukombozi wa Umma (CHAUMMA)



On 07 October 2024 CHAUMMA also received the CSOs Election Manifesto with enthusiasm. The meeting was an opportunity to discuss shared priorities, including food security and social services. CHAUMA's Chairperson, Hashim Rungwe, was pleased with the manifesto's focus on these key areas.

"The manifesto addresses critical issues like food security, which are also top priorities for us at CHAUMMA," **Rungwe said.**

He further pointed out the party's concern for children's welfare, reflecting on the difficulties many children face in Tanzania's education system. *"Children are really suffering. They go to school early and leave school late without getting food, they are starving. When you give them exams, we claim they are not intelligent, this needs to change. Schools must do better in providing for the needs of our children including providing food."* **Concluded Rungwe**

The engagement with CHAUMA demonstrated the party's commitment to tackling socio-economic challenges in Tanzania, with the CSOs manifesto serving as a guide for their political platform.

Civic United Front (CUF)

On 08 October 2024, the CSOs team's visit to CUF was equally fruitful, with Professor Ibrahim Lipumba, Chairman of CUF, expressing strong support for the manifesto. The discussions centered on the manifesto's emphasis on economic growth, social justice, and inclusive policies.



"We receive this manifesto with appreciation, and it will guide us as we prepare for the upcoming local government and general elections. It aligns with our own focus on building a strong economy. We will review it thoroughly and incorporate its recommendations into our election strategy."

Professor Lipumba when highlighting the importance of Manifesto

CUF's leadership acknowledged the manifesto's comprehensive approach to addressing citizens' concerns and emphasized the need for political parties to prioritize economic reforms and social services as outlined by the CSOs.

Chama cha Demokrasi na Maendeleo, Party for Democracy and Progress (CHADEMA)

On October 9, 2024, the CSOs team met with CHADEMA at their offices, where the manifesto was officially handed over to John Mnyika, Secretary General of CHADEMA. The discussions focused on the manifesto's alignment with CHADEMA's vision for a free and fair Tanzania.



"I commend the CSOs for coming up with this manifesto and addressing the issue of the constitution. Indeed, the Tanzania We Want should be a Tanzania with a new constitution, serving as the main tool for leading major institutional, systemic, and leadership reforms. These reforms will ensure the inclusion of all key issues affecting citizens in the economic, social, and political spheres." **Said John Mnyika, Secretary General of CHADEMA.**

He was particularly pleased to see the inclusion of climate change mitigation, human rights protections, and the need for a new constitution as core priorities, which he said closely align with CHADEMA's own goals of creating a more democratic and inclusive society.

The meeting with CHADEMA reinforced the party's commitment to democratic governance, with the manifesto providing a roadmap for ensuring that the rule of law, human rights, and economic inclusion remain central to their political agenda.

Alliance for Democratic Change (ADC)

The CSOs team also visited the offices of ADC in Ilala, Dar es Salaam on 08 October 2024 where they met with Innocent Gabriel Siriwa, Deputy Secretary General, and Abdallah, Commissioner for Mainland Tanzania. The ADC leadership expressed their appreciation for the manifesto, emphasizing its relevance to the party's focus on inclusive governance and economic reforms.



Siriwa acknowledged the importance of the manifesto, stating, "This manifesto represents the voices and aspirations of Tanzanians, and it will help guide our election strategy as we work towards inclusive governance that benefits all citizens."

ADC's leadership pledged to incorporate the recommendations into their policy platform, especially in addressing economic inequality and enhancing public services.

Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) Receives CSO Election Manifesto

On October 12, 2024, Advocate Onesmo Olungurumwa, National Coordinator -THRDC together with Mr. Samwel Nsokolo, Executive Director of Nguruka Development Agency (NDA) Kigoma led a delegation to present the CSO Election Manifesto to Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM).

The manifesto highlights the efforts made by the government in implementing the 2015-2019 CSO Manifesto and identifies areas that require further attention. Advocate Olungurumwa raised concerns about factors hindering the progress of these initiatives and urged future leaders to address the challenges and recommendations raised by the public.



Key issues covered in the manifesto include the demand for a new Constitution, which resonates with all citizens and political parties, including CCM. It also emphasizes sustainable development, inclusive economic growth, robust strategies to tackle climate change, effective management of national resources, food security, improved social services (education, health, water), national values, and human rights.



In receiving the manifesto, John Mongella, CCM's Deputy Secretary-General, expressed the party's appreciation for the valuable insights it provides. He emphasized that CCM acknowledges the pivotal role CSOs play in addressing the needs of the people, recognizing that political and government systems alone cannot meet these demands

"Today, the CSO Manifesto has found its way home. For CCM, the strength of CSOs in the country is of great importance. We understand that political and government systems alone cannot fully meet the needs of the people. That's why CSOs are vital, and we at CCM recognize their role. The success of civil society organizations is something any serious government or political party must engage with," **Mongella stated.**

He reaffirmed that CCM is committed to continued collaboration with CSOs and political parties in advancing development, in line with national laws and regulations.

POLITICAL PARTIES ALIGN WITH 2024-2029 CSOS ELECTION MANIFESTO: KEY ISSUES AND PRIORITIES HIGHLIGHTED



NCCR Mageuzi

- Democracy and rule of law
- Restrictive election laws
- Public disillusionment with electoral participation
- **Priority:** NCCR Mageuzi expressed concerns about the state of democracy and restrictive election laws. They view the manifesto as a key guide in preparing their election strategy and stressed the importance of ongoing discussions between CSOs and political parties.



Chama cha Ukombozi wa Umma (CHAUMMA)

- Food security
- Social services (specifically children's welfare)
- **Priority:** CHAUMMA focused on food security and the education system's failure to provide for children's basic needs, particularly food. They are committed to addressing these socio-economic challenges in line with the manifesto.



Civic United Front (CUF)

- Economic growth
- Social justice
- Inclusive policies
- **Priority:** CUF supports the manifesto's focus on economic reform and social justice. They plan to incorporate its recommendations into their election strategy, especially regarding economic inclusion and social services.



Chama cha Demokrasia na Maendeleo (CHADEMA)

- New Constitution
- Climate change mitigation
- Human rights protections
- **Priority:** CHADEMA emphasized the need for a new Constitution to drive systemic reforms. They support the manifesto's focus on human rights and climate change, aligning closely with their vision for a more democratic and inclusive Tanzania.



Alliance for Democratic Change (ADC)

- Inclusive governance
- Economic reforms
- **Priority:** ADC highlighted the importance of the manifesto in addressing economic inequality and enhancing public services. They pledged to integrate the recommendations into their election platform.



Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM)

- Implementation of the previous CSO manifesto (2015-2019)
- Sustainable development
- National resources management
- **Priority:** CCM acknowledged the value of the manifesto in guiding their efforts toward sustainable development and economic reforms. They reaffirmed their commitment to collaborating with CSOs and addressing the needs of Tanzanians through inclusive governance.

Each party has shown a willingness to incorporate the manifesto's recommendations, ensuring that the priorities of civil society are represented in their political agendas for the 2024/25 elections.

The dissemination of the 2024-2029 CSOs Election Manifesto to political parties has been a crucial step in ensuring that the priorities outlined by civil society are reflected in the platforms of political actors across Tanzania. All six parties expressed their commitment to incorporating the manifesto's recommendations into their election strategies, marking a significant alignment between civil society and political actors as the country prepares for its upcoming elections.

Stay tuned for more updates as the CSOs continue to engage with political leaders to shape a future that reflects the needs and aspirations of all Tanzanians.

Dear Esteemed Members, Partners, and Stakeholders,

I am pleased to present to you the newsletter for the CSOs Election Manifesto 2024-2029 dissemination to Political Parties aligning Civil Society priorities with election strategies. In a special way, we extend our gratitude to the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) in collaboration with the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) for coordinating the development of the CSOs Election Manifesto 2024/29. We thank the representatives from over 300 CSOs, ordinary citizens, activists, experts, and community leaders from various parts of Tanzania for providing their input. These contributions have helped shape the priorities of Tanzanians in this manifesto.

Elections involve many stakeholders, but the two main groups are voters and candidates. For voters to choose a leader who will effectively promote the country's development and ensure peace continues to prevail, they must be aware of the qualities of a good leader and the country's fundamental needs. This manifesto represents the concerns of the people, which we would like politicians to include in their election manifestos.

The 2024/2029 CSOs Election Manifesto outlines the key priorities for Tanzania as the nation approaches elections. Developed by CSOs, this manifesto reflects the voices and aspirations of Tanzanians, emphasizing the need for accountable leadership and inclusive development.

Key Priorities:

1. New Constitution.
2. Inclusive Economy and Sustainable Development
3. Management of Public Resources and Eradication of Corruption
4. Human Rights, Rule of Law, and Separation of Powers
5. Environmental Protection and Climate Change
6. Peace, Security, Unity, and National Solidarity
7. Diplomacy and International Relations


This manifesto serves as a roadmap for political parties and leaders, encouraging them to align their platforms with the aspirations of Tanzanians and create a future that is just, inclusive, secure, and sustainable.

Best regards,

Onesmo Olungurumwa

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