

# MANIFESTO

The foundational document set to inform on consolidation of efforts by and larger engagement of the Ukrainian civil society organizations

## Alliance of Ukrainian CSOs

### CALL TO JOIN EFFORTS OF HUMANITARIAN AND CIVIL SOCIETY SECTORS TO ESTABLISH THE ALLIANCE OF UKRAINIAN CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

The full-scale invasion of Ukraine has presented numerous challenges and served as a catalyst for the proliferation of Ukrainian humanitarian, volunteer, and charitable organizations, aimed at addressing the consequences of the war and the ensuing humanitarian crisis. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have played a significant leadership role in practical response, particularly in the initial months of the full-scale invasion. The mentioned demonstrated the ability to act swiftly and effectively, utilizing established horizontal networks, and working collaboratively with local and national authorities to confront challenges and address the needs of the affected population.

The war persists, and the response to the humanitarian crisis must evolve into a more structured and enduring effort.

The role of Ukrainian non-governmental organizations in humanitarian response must be strengthened, and this will be achieved through the consolidation of our efforts, working in close partnership with government authorities, donor structures, the United Nations, and international organizations. All that will enhance the presence of Ukrainian civil society within the existing humanitarian architecture and empower sustained action to overcome the resulted from the war crisis.

Following a series of meetings with proactive Ukrainian non-governmental organizations in 2023, a decision has been made to issue a Call to Action (Manifesto) in order to unite in an Alliance for further formalization and development:

Coordination and Partnership, Advocacy, Capacity Building of NGOs, Civil Protection

## CONTEXT

Civil society is actively seeking ways for national humanitarian organizations as well as regional civil organizations to conduct humanitarian responses in a harmonious, coordinated manner, with shared standards of assistance delivery, fostering cooperation over competition. The necessity to form a unified voice and unite the efforts of the civil sector is emphasized by Ukrainian non-governmental organizations, state structures, as well as representatives of other countries and international organizations supporting Ukraine's humanitarian mission and recovery.

Ukrainian civil society organizations possess awareness and understanding of the needs of the communities they aid. However, the role of local organizations in coordinating responses to emergencies, considering various causes, is often limited and does not reflect the involvement of sufficient expertise from civil society organizations.

Currently, numerous individual advocacy efforts within Ukrainian civil society are underway, advocating for the rights of war-affected populations and identifying the needs of the civil sector. CSOs unequivocally look to improve the policy and regulations to adhere to contemporary needs of volunteers, charitable funds, and civil society organizations vis-à-vis the context of Ukraine. Through consolidation, civil society organizations could more rapidly convey these critical messages and become a visible and reliable partner for the government.

Support for Ukrainian NGOs often lacks resources required for a long-term and sustainable development. Nevertheless, building the resilience and capacity of Ukrainian civil society organizations is a priority to enable them to operate effectively and sustainably for an extended period, and to play the needed role in the recovery of Ukraine.

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[1] The structure of the Civil Society Alliance is regulated by Appendix 1 of this document

The call of civil society, channeled through the CSOs, aims to address the described in the context challenges by establishing the Alliance of Ukrainian CSOs (AU CSOs). The Alliance seeks to foster a shared understanding of partnership and leadership roles among CSOs in responding to the consequences of war and reconstruction while creating conditions for CSOs capacity potential development and influence in shaping strategies and policies.

# ALLIANCE OF UKRAINIAN CSOs COMMITMENTS

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- *Formation and Development of Coordination and Partnership among CSOs and identified UA NGO stakeholders*
  - *Formation and Development of Advocacy for Strengthening of the Position of CSOs and the Civil Sector*
  - *Formation and Development of Capacity Building and Sustainable Development of CSOs*
  - *Formation and Development of Civil Protection*
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# Signatures

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Charitable Organization «Charitable Fund «Brave»

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International Charitable Fund «Caritas of Ukraine»

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Public Organization "Resource Center for Non-Governmental Organizations"

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Charitable Organization «Ukrainian Education Platform»

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Ukrainian Red Cross Society

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Charitable Organization «Charitable Fund «Right to Protection»

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Public Organization «Philanthropy in Ukraine»

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Public Organization «Divchata»

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Public Organization «Initiative Center for Promoting Civic Engagement and Development «Unity»

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Charitable Organization «Charitable Fund «EAST-SOS»

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Charitable Organization «Charitable Fund «FIRST LINE UA»

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Charitable Organization «National Network for Local Philanthropy Development»

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Charitable Organization «Charitable Fund «Your support»

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## ALLIANCE STRUCTURE

<b>NAME</b>	Alliance of Ukrainian CSOs (AU CSOs)
<b>WHO WE ARE</b>	<p><b><i>Alliance of Ukrainian CSOs addressing humanitarian issues and responding to emergencies</i></b></p> <p>A community that unites Ukrainian CSOs representing various spheres of Ukrainian civil society engaged in responding to the challenges of war and other emergencies.</p> <p>We have a united, strong voice, identified common issues within the sector, and we seek systemic solutions in various fields related to our work. We create opportunities for Ukrainian CSOs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· to be visible and comprehensible</li> <li>· to participate in wide-scale humanitarian response and recovery efforts in Ukraine</li> <li>· to develop both, as non-governmental organizations and as a part of collective civil society and community</li> </ul> <p>Together, we work to develop new approaches and establish partnerships between the Ukrainian Civil Society Sector and the State (national and local levels), the International Community (international NGOs, the UN system, donors), and the private sector.</p>
<b>MISSION (why we exist)</b>	To unite and to empower Ukrainian CSOs to ensure effective locally-led response

**PRINCIPLES  
OF  
OPERATION**

- Partnership**
- Position clarity and precision**
- Trust and transparency**
- Efficiency and effectiveness**
- Fairness**

## STRUCTURE

1. **Alliance Members** - the signatories of the Manifesto and CSOs who may express their desire to join the Alliance through a procedure to be developed by the AU SCOs Secretariat in the future.
2. **Supervisory Board** (Strategy and Policy) - the heart of the Alliance, embodying the goals set by the members. It includes up to 10 representatives (no more than one from each organization). Supervisory Board members are elected during elections and serve with a rotation period of 1 year.
3. **Secretariat** (Practical Implementation and Coordination) - assumes responsibility for ensuring that the Alliance fulfills its objectives in practice. It should consist of a director, support staff, and heads of working groups. It operates according to the approved plan and provides quarterly reports on its activities to the Supervisory Board.
4. **Working Groups** (Area-Specific Initiatives) - each WG focuses on addressing the challenges facing the Alliance and is responsible for the areas outlined in the **Commitments**:
  - Formation and Development of Coordination and Partnership among CSOs and identified UA NGO stakeholders
  - Formation and Development of Advocacy for Strengthening the Position of CSOs and the Civil Sector
  - Formation and Development of Capacity Building and Sustainable Development of CSOs
  - Formation and Development of Civil Protection
  - As well as any other areas determined by the community
5. **Regional Hubs** (Communication, Coordination, Context, Awareness) - facilitate the Alliance's connection with the civil society sector at the local level, working closely with the Secretariat.
6. **Advisory groups** (Consulting and External Support) - meetings with various stakeholders. Convened periodically to provide strategic advice or consultancy on specific directions, with the potential involvement of different experts (Government - national and local levels, International Community - International CSOs, UN system, institutional donors, Private Sector).

**AREAS OF  
COMMON  
INTEREST**

1. Advocacy and strengthening the voice of civil society in cooperation with international organizations.
2. Access of Ukrainian organizations to sources of funding, plus including initiatives such as:
  - Verification/accreditation
  - Capacity building
  - Collective funding for small local organizations with simplified application requirements
  - IT solutions/platforms where organizations and donors can connect
  - Advocacy for reducing bureaucratic burdens
  - Communication strategy - informing Ukrainian NGOs about mechanisms for accessing international funding
3. Positioning Ukrainian civil society in Ukraine - building a partnership with the Government and influencing Ukrainian legislation and promoting the decentralization process.
4. Building a bridge between national and local organizations, allowing the voice of local organizations to be heard.