



Forming an MCLD National Association

Update February 13, 2024

Freedom of association is a human right. The formation of civil society networks for collective voice and action are vital to achieving sustainable social and economic progress.

As a recognized global network of national associations, MCLD supports that right by setting and agreeing on a minimum set of standards for its member National Associations so that governments and the general public can be assured of MCLD's integrity nationally and globally.

One role of the MCLD Global Assembly will be to set and protect these standards and formally accept new National Associations by a transparent application process supported by the Global Secretariat.

Minimum Standards

- Alignment with the 12-point Global Standard for CSO Accountability, developed by a dozen CSO networks from around the world. (<https://csostandard.org>)
- Commitment to the Values, Principles and Goals of MCLD
- Democratically selected and gender-balanced association leadership (chairs or co-chairs or steering committee) from local CSOs of good repute.
- At least 10 members of which at least five are locally-registered CSOs.
- A local constitution consistent with the local CSO legal requirements (whether they intend to register locally or not) including local standards for membership. This constitution should also be consistent with the MCLD values and principles.
- A responsive and transparent process of setting goals consistent with building a strong ecosystem for community-led development in their country and in contributing to that process globally
- Appointment of two gender-balanced representatives that participate in meetings of the Global Assembly
- Appointment of a coordinator, who is a citizen of that country and based there, to work in close, regular partnership with the global secretariat.
- Participation in peer learning and key strategic activities organized by the Global Secretariat.
- Adherence to basic policies on key issues like non-discrimination, child safeguarding, anti-terrorism, anti-money laundering adopted by the Global Assembly (till the Assembly is constituted this will be carried out by the Secretariat).
- MCLD recognises that every national association will form and adhere to its own membership rules. However, those rules should be based on the principles of inclusion and transparency- the foundational values of MCLD. Every National Association will have a documented process for membership and all applicants will be provided with a written explanation about the status of their application.

Application Process

- An association may only refer to themselves as part of MCLD and use the MCLD logo once their application has been formally accepted by the Global Assembly (and till the formation of the Assembly by the Global Secretariat). Please note that only an approved National Association (with an MoU) is permitted to use the MCLD logo. Once approved, members of that National Association may use the MCLD logo to show their participation in the movement but not for their independent activities, unless they are being carried out by the NA or have the explicit approval of the NA.
- MCLD will rely on the member National Associations to ensure that its logo and name is used appropriately.
- An association will apply for membership in writing to the Global Secretary, who will bring it to the Global Assembly. (Until formation of the Global Assembly later this year, the collective of existing coordinators will play this role.)
- Once an application has been received, the Global Secretary will arrange for a call with all the interested organizations in that country to go over the process.
- Application shall be made in writing in English or the official local language, affirming agreement with the minimum standards, listing the names of member CSOs and providing letters of recommendation as outlined below.
- Applicants shall include letters of recommendation from two organizations whose reputation can be known by the Global Assembly.
- MCLD Global Secretariat will provide all applicants with a written explanation on the status of their application within 3 months of receipt of the full application package.

Once a National Association has been formally accepted, it will be listed on the MCLD website, will be able to call itself an MCLD National Association and will have access to all learning materials, training, calls and events organized by MCLD. Please note that MCLD strives to ensure visibility, access and funding for national associations. However recognition as an MCLD National Association does not automatically guarantee any funding.