

Civic Space and Press Freedom

'civic space' refers to the sum of all conditions that allow individuals and organisations to participate, organise and communicate outside of the control of the state or the market.

Its boundary is defined by three fundamental rights:

- * the right to freedom of association
- * the right to peaceful assembly
- * and the right to freedom of expression.

Pressure on these rights restricts the space for civil society organisations – such as nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), citizen associations, religious organisations, labour unions, spontaneous movements of citizens, and independent media outlets – to operate freely.

Civic Space and Press Freedom

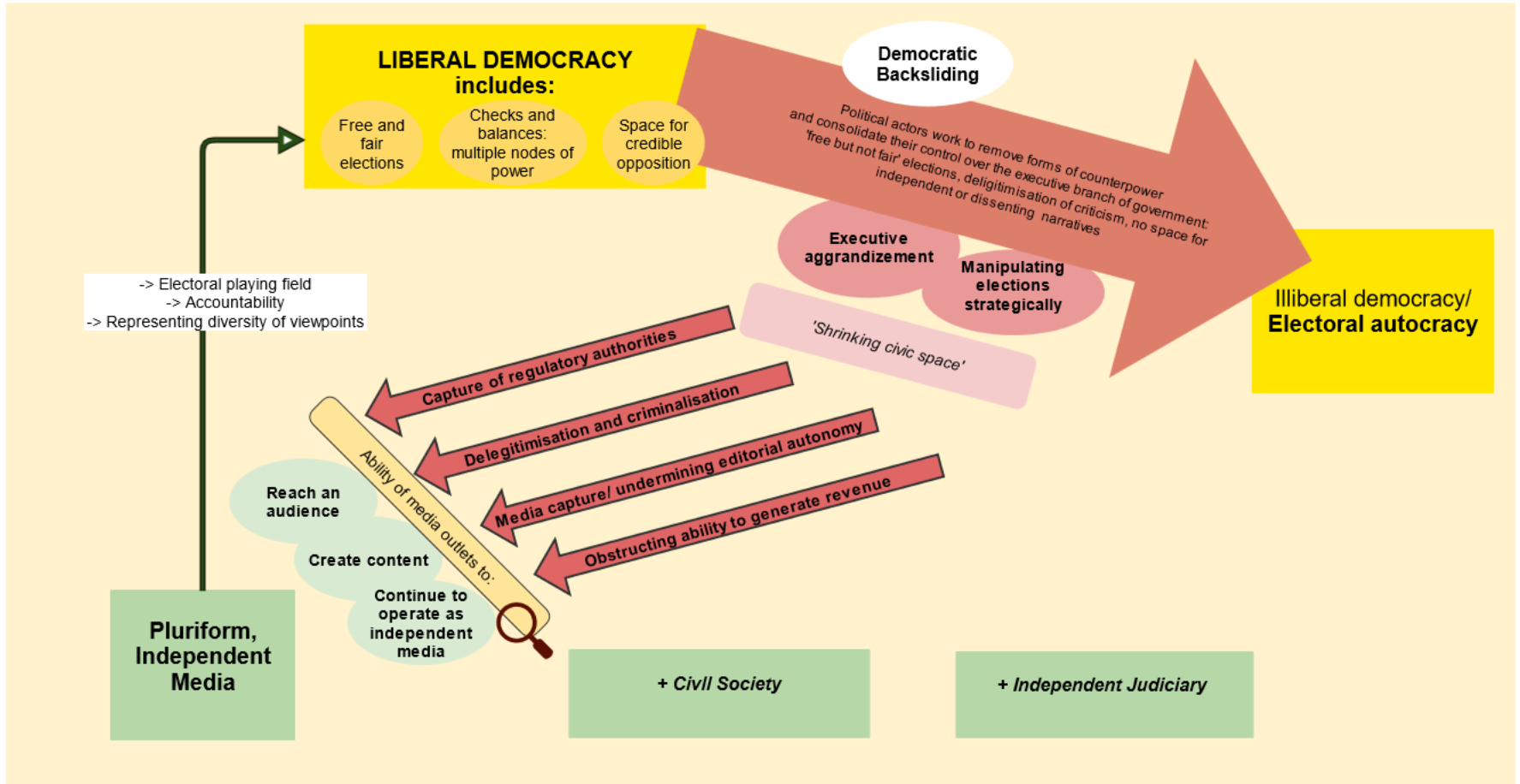


Information & Democratic space

Democratic space to influence decisions for the public/media actors

- No information about decisions or processes (= zero influence)
- Information available on decisions taken
- Information provided on decision-making processes
- Opportunities exist to provide information to decision makers
- Regular forums for consultation exist
- Decision-makers open to dissenting voices
- Transparency and feedback from consultations
- Evidence that CSO input is influencing policy
- Decision makers engage in determining policy agenda
- Decisions opened to public influence (= max influence)

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The potential of independent media to enhance civic space is very important.
Independent media can enhance civic space if:

1. All audiences have access to independent media

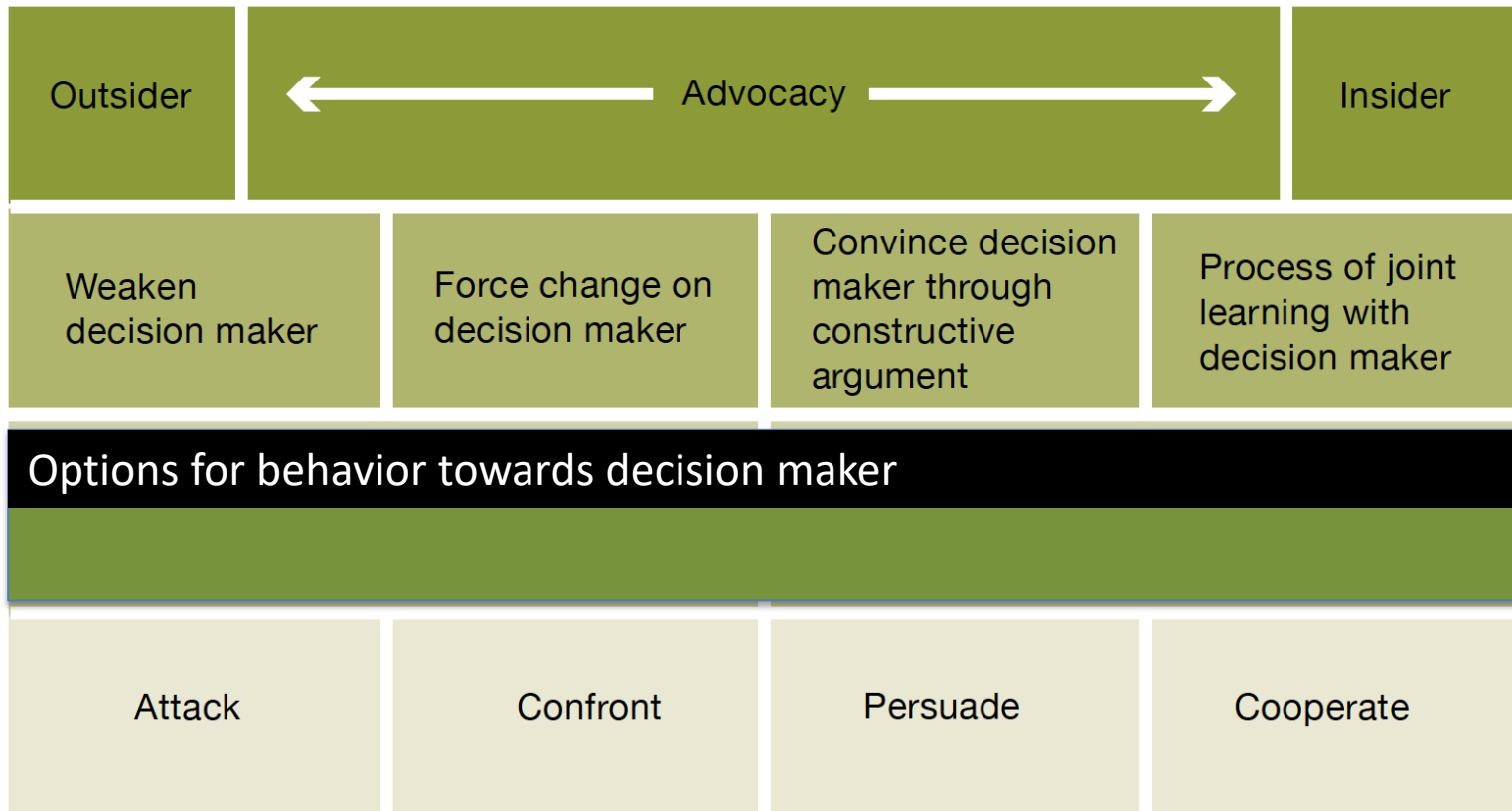
2. Independent media are seen as credible

3. Independent media hold powerholders to account

National Ownership for change

- Improved reporting on infringements of rights
- National Coalition Building between CSO and Media

Position towards decision maker



Policy goals Media Freedom Action

Working to improve Journalist Safety
AND Access to Information

Safety: Incidental case advocacy

- Joint international appeals

Feed safety data to UN

- UNESCO/OHCHR/SDG-Agenda

Access to Information

ICIC network

A2I legal monitoring network

Critical shortcoming at national level

- Resources for data monitoring
- National Coalition Building

Civic Space fund would be very welcome to support this – but:
Is national CSO field aware of the fund?