



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands



Dutch support to Southern civil society. IOB evaluation findings

International Day for the Rights of the Child

Piet de Lange, former senior evaluator IOB



Agenda

- 1. What is maatschappelijk middenveld/ civil society?**
- 2. What is the role of civil society in development cooperation?**
- 3. What are the conclusions of the policy review on Dutch support to Southern civil society development?**

What is civil society?

- **Associational life; neighborhood and youth organizations, parent-teachers associations, trade unions**
- **It has agency, power to create change**
- **Outside state and private sector**
- **Blurring boundaries**
- **Position of NGDOs in civil society?**

Civil society in Dutch development policy

- **20% budget via DNGOs**
- **SCS contributes to better policies and choices, countervailing power versus state and private sector**
- **Focus on strengthening Southern CS (MFS II)**
- **Theory of change not clear**

Conclusions policy review SCS support

- Support was effective in contributing to realization MDGs/ poverty reduction. Realization systematic social change?
- Fragmentation among DNGOs continued (due to MFA).
- SNGO-DNGO relations good, changing, under pressure since 2011
- Localization INGOs, DNGOs not appreciated by SNGOs