

# *Impact of Arab spring on youth & cso's*

*Case of Morocco*

*By Karima Rhanem*



## **SEMINAR**

**“EMPOWERMENT OF YOUTH  
ORGANIZATIONS AND YOUTH-LED  
CIVIL SOCIETY INITIATIVES IN THE  
SOUTH- MEDITERRANEAN  
FRAMEWORK**

**MALTA – MARCH 22-23**



## YOUTH: CONSUMERS OR PRODUCERS OF PUBLIC POLICIES

Today youth voice their opinions to influence policy making. They want their voices to be heard and considered; they want to be part of the decision making process; they want to be actors of change



# CONTEXT

**Public policy:**  
*Absence of national  
integrated youth  
strategy*

*Youth political elite still limited –  
political parties' structures  
(status quo)*

**Local Governance:**  
*challenges of  
regionalization &  
CSOs participation  
in local gov  
decision making*



**Street Revolution**  
*cyber activism*

**Institutional revolution**

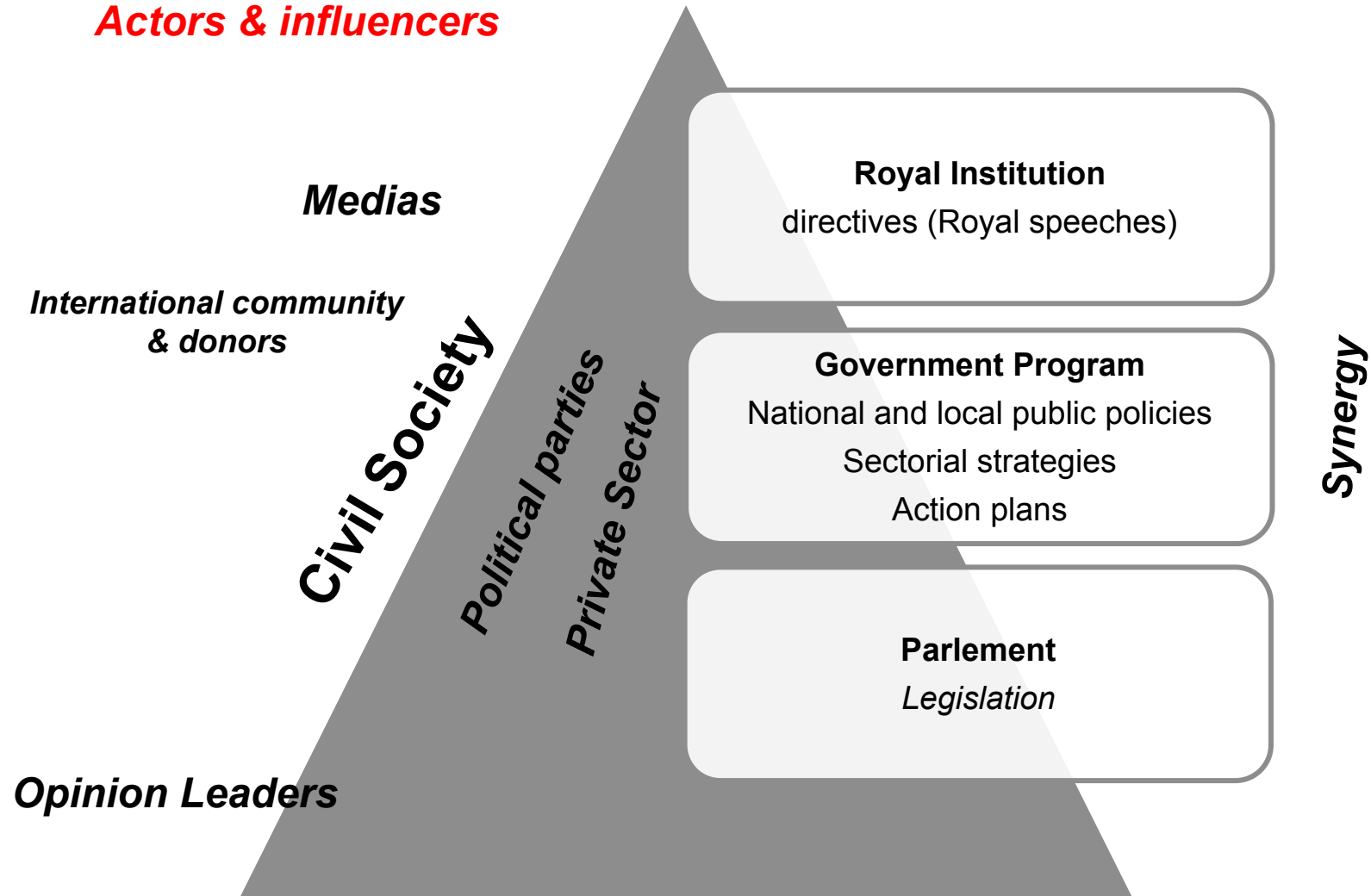
**Fragmented CSOs**

*Public debates/  
forums not yet  
institutionalized*

**Is public will  
sufficient?**

# ACTORS & INFLUENCERS OF YOUTH PUBLIC POLICIES

## Actors & influencers

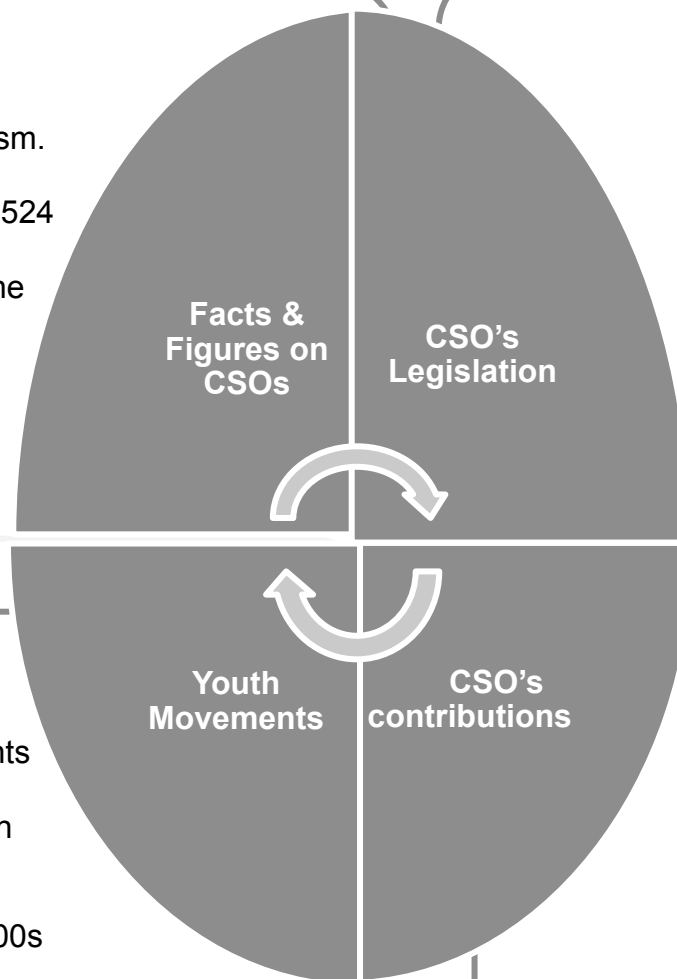


## STATE OF CSO'S & YOUTH MOVEMENTS IN MOROCCO

- 45,000 CSOs = 150 NGO to 100,000 inhabitants.
- 15 million membership (2/3 are women).
- 7 out of 10 NGOs benefit from volunteerism.
- NGOs recruited 352,000 volunteers, who participated with 96 million labor hour (56,524 full time job).
- Economic contribution of the projects done by CSOs worth 8.8 billion dhs
- Youth organizations (more than 3000)

• **HCP 2007 survey**

- Protests did not start with youth movements but reach its peak during the Arab Spring.
- Several protests and advocacy marches in the 80s and 90s led mainly by students' coalitions or civil society organizations.
- Self immolations happened during the 2000s when fresh graduates couldn't find jobs, burned themselves.
- Feb. 20 movement (main leaderless coalition) other movements (Royalist youth, Baraka....etc)
- Several members of these movements are members of CSOs



- 1979, Morocco ratified the International Pact on Civil and Political Rights, & freedom of association (constitutional Right 1996)
- Civil liberties Code
- Civil Dahir (Royal Decree) 15 novembre 1958
- 2002, new legislation was adopted to facilitate the use of foreign funding by Moroccan

- History of advocacy
- Human Rights Organizations (2004 the first truth commission in the Arab world, which investigated Human rights abuses)
- Women's organizations: Family code amendment, nationality code
- Labor Code
- Amazigh Rights
- Youth Rights

# IMPACT OF YOUTH MOVEMENTS (1)

- **March 9 speech 2011**, King Mohammed VI proposed a number of new political reforms: passage of a new constitution and the holding of early legislative elections.
- Introduction of an ever unprecedented **culture of public dialogue** and consultations within governmental and non governmental institutions.
- **From political apathy to activism**: youth are not only part of the political scene but leading it.
- **Complementarity** between Street activism or institutional revolution
- **Vast consultations** of the commission in charge of revising the constitution with CSO's who submitted over 200 Memorandums, out of which 55 demanded the creation of consultative councils (**see slide on constitution reforms**).
- Pre 2011 **legislative elections**: a coalition was formed composed of CSOs reps and youth wings of political parties to advocate for a national list for youth (guaranteed 30 seats for youth in the parliament)



# NEW CONSTITUTION

## Article 12:

Freedom of the creation  
of CSOs

Participative  
democracy

## Article 14:

Right to propose  
legislation

## Article 13

Creation of  
consultative councils/  
commissions/bodies

## Article 139

Participative mechanisms in place by  
Local Government Regional Councils

## Article 33

Generalizing youth participation

Creation of the consultative  
Council of Youth and  
Community work .

## Article 160:

Councils: Presentation of  
annual activity report at  
least once a year before  
the parliament.

## Article 170:

CCYCW is a  
consultative body  
(functions)

## Article 15

Right to present  
petitions



# IMPACT OF YOUTH MOVEMENT

## (2)

- **Cabinet formation:** added civil society to the missions of the ministry in charge of relations with the parliament. (Focusing on liaison and legislation)
- **Birth of new CSOs coalitions:** eg. Civic youth coalition for reforms, Coalition to preserve the constitutional rights...etc
- Increase number of local **youth councils** created
- **Birth to new laws:** eg: Law protecting consumers rights finally voted with CSOs pressure
- Establishment of the **Social and Economic Council** (mentioned in the 1996 constitution but was never created)
- CSOs went beyond demands and initiated forums with the aim of **drafting bills** related to the consultative council of youth and community work
- two initiatives are in the process of being created: a **shadow youth government** to monitor and evaluate sector policies, and a **shadow youth parliament** to monitor the performance of the parliament from a youth perspective





# GOVERNMENT PROGRAM MENU FOR YOUTH & CSO'S

**The government, in its statement before the parliament pledge to:**

- Open public debate with youth & civil society;
- Develop a national integrated youth strategy, ensuring coordination and synergy between sectors working on youth policies;
- Make the Consultative Council of Youth & Community Work functional;
- Create regional youth councils;
- Upgrade public spaces reserved to youth;
- Develop CSO's capacity building and;
- Amend laws regulating civil society allowing for more freedom but transparency in accessing public finances.

## **CHALLENGES FACING CIVIL SOCIETY IN MOROCCO**

Shifts from grassroots-based to professional organizations

Dependency on foreign funding.

coalitions plagued by infighting and division, with limited success in taking their message to the grassroots.

Technical difficulties involved in managing projects when reporting and proposal writing becomes a priority above fieldwork

Limited funding of human resources and office costs

A lack of coordination among international donors as well as among governmental agencies while working with or funding civil society work leads to the duplication of activities or the adoption of different strategies that are not always compatible

CSO's actions are more activity oriented than program/strategy oriented (Impact of sustainability)

Absence of audit and monitoring and evaluations of CSO's projects/activities

Limited specialized NGOs (Majority does everything)

Socio-economic situation and lack of credibility and ability of CSOs to manage public funds, impact voluntarism

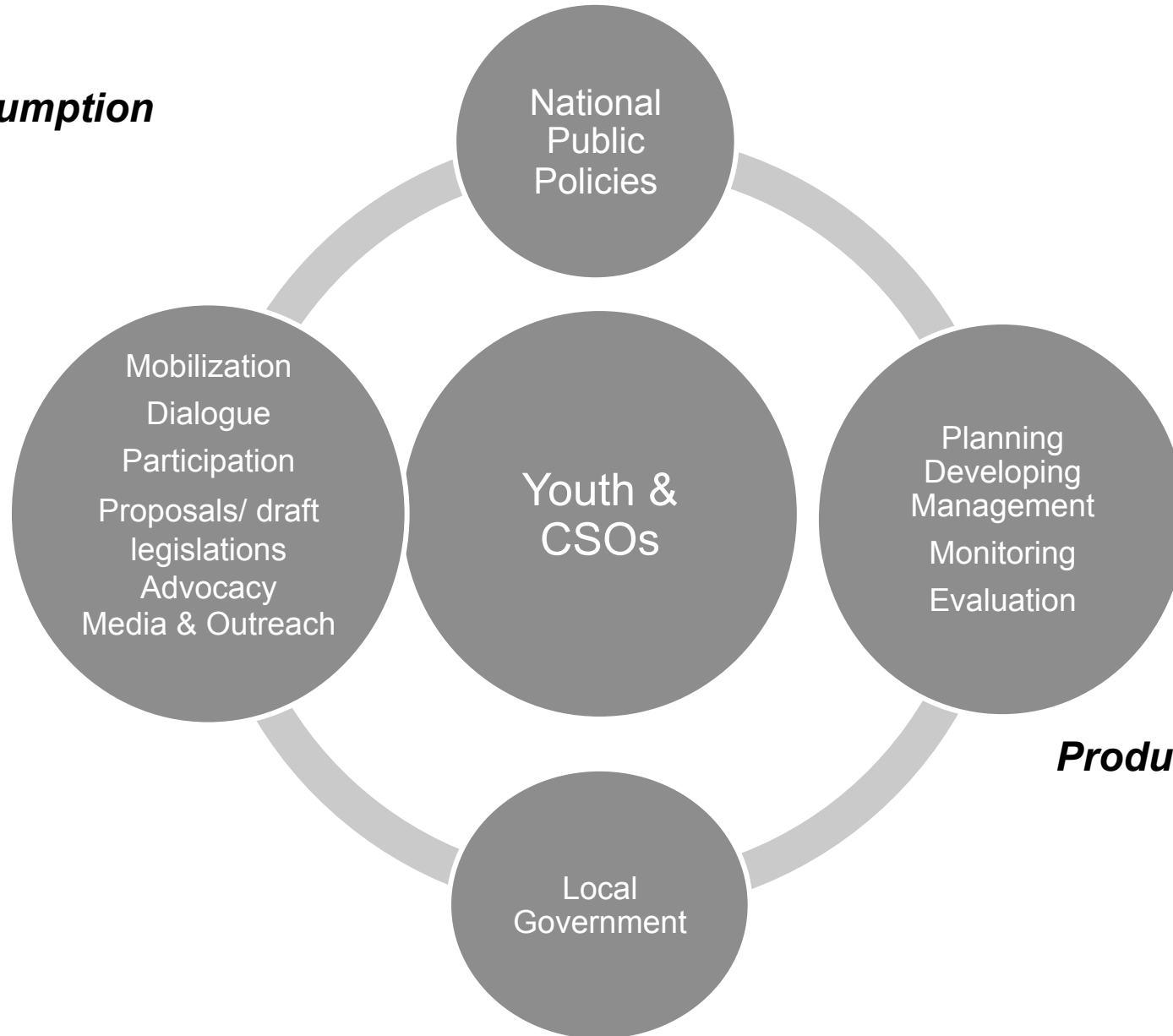
# RECOMMENDATIONS

- Encouraging partnerships between youth organizations and local governments on special projects to improve public parks, renovate equipment and infrastructure.
- Youth organizations can develop the capacity to negotiate and maintain partnerships where joint contributions from local governments and the private sector fund infrastructure and equipment destined for youth or neighborhood improvements, instead of solely depending on foreign aid.
- Encourage synergies and civil society donor coordination;
- Strengthen civil society institutional and advocacy capacity and encourage specializations
- Encourage the creation of networks & youth councils to provide a space for CSO's to use mobilization and advocacy to improve services at the community level. The networks should be based on common vision and ethical charter to avoid failure
- Encourage CSOs to take advantages of the openings in the constitution to participate in drafting legislations that concern youth.
- Encourage youth movements to get organized in watchdogs for example; go beyond protests in the street; and start negotiations with the government.
- Amend regulations to allow NGOs to submit to bid and project proposals
- Draft law to regulate volunteerism and encourage volunteers with a minimum symbolic compensation (expenses to do work, phone, transportation etc)
- Set clear criteria for CSOs competing for public funds
- CSOs should be a subject of Audit and financial and Performance based evaluations
- Institutions should ensure funding sustainable CSOs programs (focusing on Impact and not Outputs)

# SUMMARY

## YOUTH: FROM CONSUMPTION TO PRODUCTION

***Consumption***



***Production***

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**THANK  
YOU**

