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## Action for becoming a credible CSO in Namibian communities (CCSO)

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### Press Release

#### Update on the Project: Action for becoming a credible Civil Society Organisation in Namibian Communities

Press Conference - 16 November 2017

We are pleased to inform you of the press conference of the project called "Action for becoming a credible Civil Society Organisation (CCSO) in Namibian Communities". The press conference was held on the 16 November 2017 at the European Union House in Windhoek.

EU-Ambassador Jana Hybaskova officiated at the event and Parliament's Speaker, Professor Peter Katjavivi delivered the keynote address.

The CCSO-project is jointly funded by the European Union (EU) and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) to the amount of €749,281.00. The sum is equivalent to N\$13 Million. The project is currently implemented in partnership with the Namibia Institute of Democracy (NID) and Institute of Management and Leadership Training (IMLT). The project duration is 36 months (April 2016-April 2019) and it is implemented in 5 regions: Oshikoto, Otjozondjupa, Erongo, Omaheke and Hardap respectively. It directly benefits 10 CSOs per region who were selected based on their activities in the community, duration of existence and compliance with the law e.g. registration. The CCSO project is advised during the project cycle by the advisory group (CSOAG). This group serves as a steering committee to advise on the implementation of the project.

The project activities are:

- **Overall objective:** Positive contribution to an accountable, transparent and participatory democracy in Namibia in accordance with Namibian Constitution.
- **Specific objective:** reinforcement of CSOs as influential actors and make them develop capacities and skills that lead to an improved dialogue with elected representatives who also will gain knowledge to fulfil their roles and responsibilities in a democratic system more effectively.

At this stage the project has reached more than 66 members of CSOs in the five regions. The CSOs involved in this project work in the fields of culture & heritage, gender activism as well as health related fields, people living with disabilities, farming, substance abuse rehabilitators and vocational training. The first three training modules have been conducted in the fields of organisational, operational, financial and administrative skills and enhancement of constituent engagement and public participation. Cooperation and networking with regional authorities has been enhanced. However, this relationship needs further work.

Mrs. Maria da Conceicao Lourence from the Women's Lobby shared that the training had made her feel more credible as a community worker. She said, "In the past it was difficult to solicit funding because donors did not know me or what my organisation brought to the table. This training helped me understand how to implement project activities, which helps build credibility". For the remaining 18 month the upcoming trainings are designed to further enhance and strengthen CSOs capacities' to engage Local Authorities Parliament.

For more information about the project or to arrange interviews with KAS and the EU about the project, please contact:

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**<http://www.kas.de/namibia/>**

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Implemented by:

