

**CSO-PIFS  
Engagement**

# Cotonou Agreement 2000

## ◆ Article 2, Paragraph 2:

- ◆ *Participation: apart from central government as the main partner, the partnership shall be open to different kinds of other actors, in order to encourage the integration of all sections of society, including the private sector and civil society organisations, into the mainstream of political, economic and social life.*

## ◆ **Article 4**

- ◆ · *be informed and involved in consultation on Co-operation policies and strategies, on priorities for Co-operation especially in areas that concern or directly affect them, and on the political dialogue;*
- ◆ · *be provided with financial resources, under the conditions laid down in this Agreement in order to support local development processes;*
- ◆ · *be involved in the implementation of Co-operation projects and programs in areas that concern them or where these actors have a comparative advantage;*
- ◆ · *be provided with capacity-building support in critical areas in order to reinforce the capabilities of these actors, particularly as regards organisation and representation, and the establishment of consultation mechanisms including channels of communication and dialogue, and to promote strategic alliances.*

# Asian CSO engagement with ASEAN

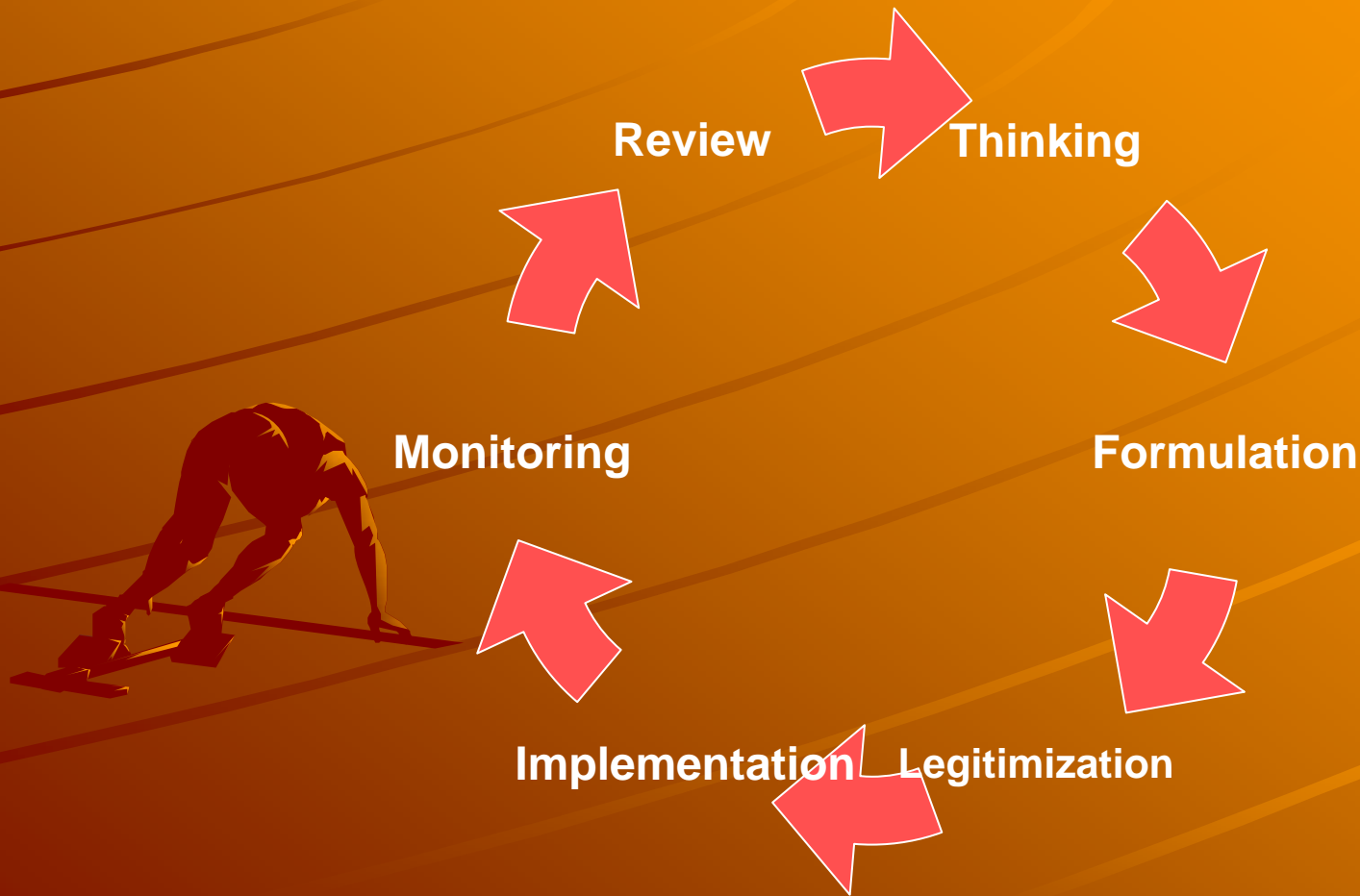
- ◆ *Improve existing mechanisms for involving non-government organizations, peoples' organizations and social movements in the ongoing review of the ASEAN affiliation process.*
- ◆ *Adopt mechanisms at the national and regional levels to ensure the active participation of the various sectors, including civil society, in the development of the ASEAN Charter.*
- ◆ *Provide and institutionalize participation of civil society organizations in policy and decision-making bodies of the ASEAN.*
- ◆ *Disclose and disseminate widely the decisions of ASEAN, using all major languages of ASEAN nations.*
- ◆ *Promote and protect a free media in the region not only to inform and raise awareness among people but also as a means to encourage accountability and responsible governance by governments, politicians and institutions.*

# CSO-PIFS engagement

- ◆ Accreditation: Access to meetings, one voice
- ◆ Consultative role
- ◆ Pre-Forum CSO form



# PIFS cycle of policy making: CSO engagement, intervention?



# Questions

- ◆ What stage of engagement?
- ◆ How to engage?
- ◆ Capacity to engage?
- ◆ What issues to engage in?
- ◆ Power dynamics of engagement?
- ◆ Redefining the limits of “legitimacy”
- ◆ Mutual capacity building and empowerment?
- ◆ Possibility of consensus?
- ◆ Understanding, engaging and influencing

# Summary: Session 1

## ◆ Weaknesses

◆ Indigenous economics, governance

◆ Intellectual property

◆ CSOs have taken position: Need more deconstruction of issues in document, contradictions

◆ Rules of engagement for “Big boys”

◆ How to influence document

