



# A BRIEF OVERVIEW

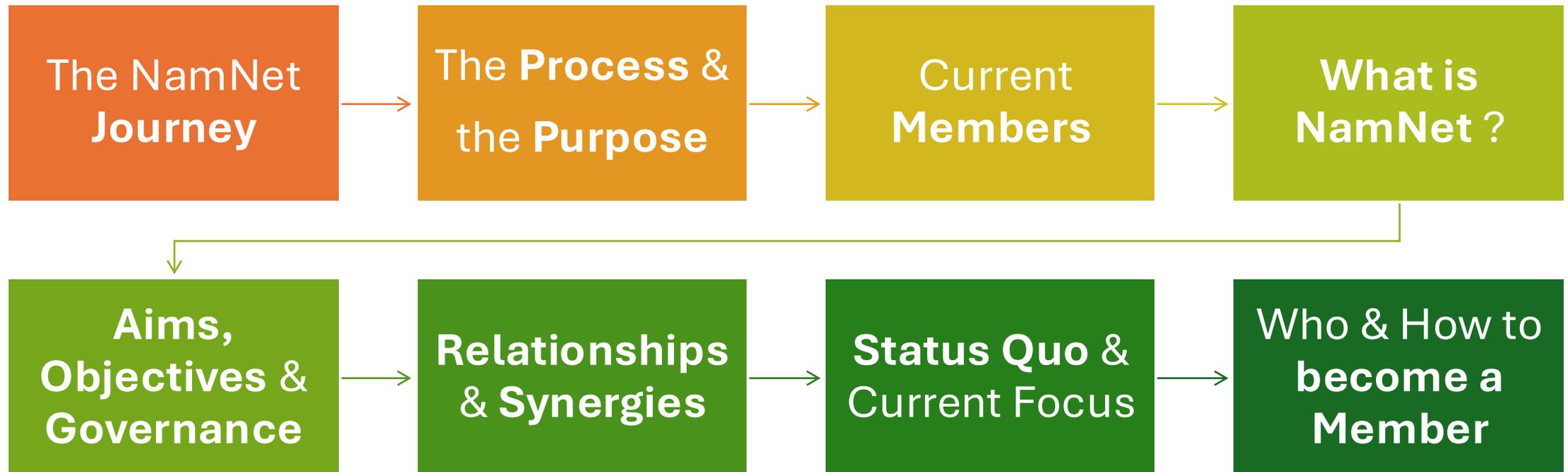
28<sup>th</sup> March 2025

**Breakfast Meeting:**  
**Introducing a Series of Dialogues**  
**between Namibian Civil Society &**  
**EU Member States**

By Ronny Dempers & Ben Schernick

# Issues to be covered...

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# The NamNet Journey - *towards new beginnings*



**2022 – Windhoek:** Furstenhof Hotel Meeting, initiated by TUCNA, supported by FES Namibia. **Reflections on the existing vacuum in the Civil Society Space** and the need to form a functioning type of network.



A **Task Force** was formed, which initially consisted of: **NACSO** (Ronny Dempers), **NCE** (Dr. Chris Brown), **Civic +264** (Carola Engelbrecht), **NDWA** (Linda Bauman), **ESJT** (Herbert Jauch), Dr Marius Kudumo, and **TUCNA** ( Mahongora Kavihuha )



The Task Force set out to **draft a Constitution** and facilitate an **inclusive process** towards the formation of a network, hereby **building on already existing umbrella organisations**, while CSO members to be kept abreast of the developments.

# Formation of NamNet was a **PROCESS**

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The process of engaging with various umbrella bodies (active in different thematic areas) took over a year, with **Networking** and **Feedback Meetings** held at Aerebusch and NIPAM in March and June 2023 respectively.

Members of an Interim Working Committee deliberated on the function and purpose of NamNet, as captured in the final and signed version of its **Constitution**.



# BIRTH of NamNet & Overall **PURPOSE**

NamNet was constituted  
and launched on **27<sup>th</sup> May 2024**



## **Purpose and Goal of NamNet:**

The Namibian Civil Society Non-State Actors Network, (NamNet), aims to promote, advance and articulate the voice of Civil Society Non-State Actors to positively influence rational, sustainable, and equitable socio-economic development of Namibia and her people.

# FOUNDING and current MEMBERS of NamNet

- The Seven (7) Founding Members of NAMNET collectively represent about 1150 member organisations. The Founding members are:

1. The Namibia Labour Organisation (NANLO) which has **4 affiliated members** represent about **6 000** individual members.



2. The Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organisation (NACSO) which has **13** members.



3. The Namibian Chamber of Environment (NCE) which has **77 members**.



4. The National Federation of People with Disabilities (NFPDN) which has **11 Member organisations**, which represent about **98,000** People Living With Disabilities.



5. The Nutrition and Food Security Alliance of Namibia (NAFSAN) which has **30 members**.

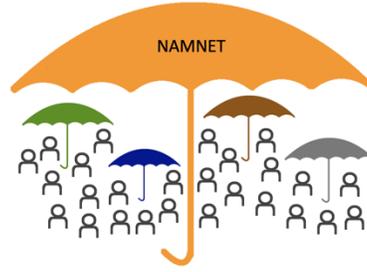


6. The Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia (SDFN) which has **901** member groups which have a combined members of over individual members.



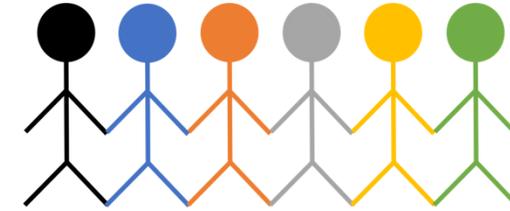
7. The Trade Union Congress of Namibia (TUCNA) which has **15 members** with combined membership of about **100,000** members.

# What is NamNet?

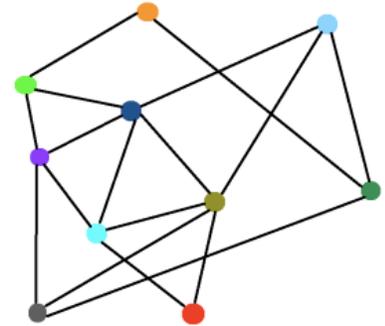


An **apex body** for Civil Society Non-State **Umbrella Bodies** and **Networks** operating in all sectors of Namibian society.

Advance and promote **equitable human development**.



Consult regularly and widely with civil society non-state actors to **identify and agree on national priorities** and develop **appropriate actions** via *inter alia* an annual Network Conference.



Encourage the formation and strengthening of **sectoral umbrella bodies**.



NamNet welcomes sectoral organisations as members who are **well governed** and managed and who subscribe to the **highest standards of good governance** and **ethical leadership practices**.

# What does NamNet Do & Not Do?

Promote and facilitate **networking, communications, and collaboration** between members and their respective sectors.

**NamNet shall not take on issues** which its members are already working on.

NamNet shall prioritise and advance those **strategic high-level issues around which common ground is found.**

We respect that even in civil society there will be issues around which we may not find common agendas, however the contribution of NamNet in such situation would be – on a needs basis – to **facilitate dialogues and research** and provide **evidence-based propositions** which can inform and guide **development policy formulation.**

# AIMS & OBJECTIVES

*...help to define the relationship and provide guidelines and division of labor between network members and the network.*



Issue **public statements** on agreed matters of common interest where these carry a clear majority view



Initiate and facilitate **engagement with relevant stakeholders** and institutions, e.g., government, communities, development agencies, private sector.



Facilitate the formulation of **evidence-based positions** drawing on credible scientific, social and economic data from past and current research.



Promote **good governance and a code of ethics** within the Network by following best practices and ensuring transparency.



Promote **accountability and transparency** by holding authorities and institutions (government, transnational corporations, private sector, donors etc.) to high standards of governance to counter corruption.

# NamNet GOVERNANCE

## Council (All Members)

Ultimate Decision-Making Organ

Full Members (umbrella bodies, voting)  
& Associate Members (organisations, non-voting)

Annual and Extraordinary General Meetings = AGMs & EGMs

## Executive Committee (ExCo)

Comprises **5-8 elected delegates** (from voting members),  
and **0-3 co-opted members** (to enhance capacity);  
Elects: Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer

## Secretariat

Staff, facilitation, member support, activities,  
finances, communications etc.

This **governance structure** was selected because it **promotes**:

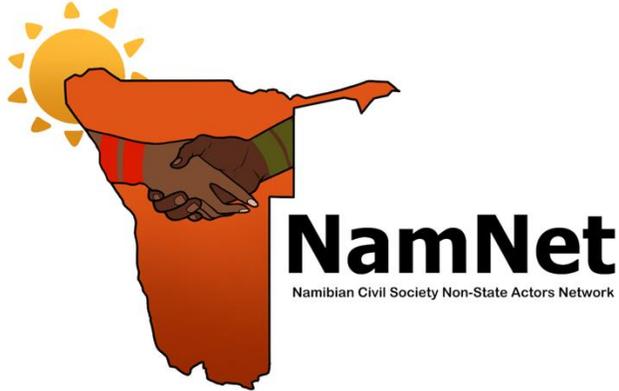
- Participation
- Transparency
- Accountability
- Democracy

*= Members are the ones in control.*

## Sub-Committees

NamNet currently comprises seven (7) umbrella organisations, totalling 1,152 organisations and 250,000 individuals

# Relationship & Synergies between



**Apex body** for different civil society and non-state **Umbrella Organisations** and **Networks** operating in Namibia.

A **voice** for and **representation** of its member bodies from different sectors working in various thematic areas.

A well-organized **communication hub** with a comprehensive database of active **civil society organizations in Namibia**, with a website, newsletter etc. for sharing of information, resources and services.

Good **reputation** and **relationships** established with various stakeholders.

*In 2024, meetings took place between Civic+264 and NamNet leadership, and a **MoU is being drafted** to define the future working relationships.*

# NamNet's current **Operational Status**

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- Executive Committee Meetings take place regularly, as per the constitution
- Organizational set-up = work in progress; Year Plan for 2024/25 developed
- Annual Networking Event / 'Peoples Conference' scheduled for 2025.
- NCE offered temporary secretarial assistance, while short-term Secretarial support could be secured from EPDN, until May 2025.
- Small grant secured from the global EU SEE ('Supporting an Enabling Environment for Civil Society) in collaboration with IPPR/Civic+264

## **Key focus areas now:**

+ **Website:** [www.namnet.com.na](http://www.namnet.com.na)

- Member and Stakeholder Engagement + Recruitment of New Members
- Ensure Operational Capacities established & Core Funding is secured

# WHO & HOW to BECOME A MEMBER ?

- **Full Membership** is open to ‘any **umbrella membership-based organisation or network** established as a legal entity under Namibian law and capable of acquiring rights and obligations separate from its members; and whose member organizations are legally constituted organisations under Namibian law. Such umbrella organisations/networks whose objectives include representing the interests of its sector or regional members; and whose collective objectives are to support the sustainable development of Namibia and her people; and which supports the objects of NamNet, may apply for Membership of NamNet.’
- **Associate Membership** is open for ‘any Namibian non-governmental, **non-party political and non-corporate organisation**, established as a legal entity under Namibian law and capable of acquiring rights and obligations; and which does not have a sector umbrella body – whose objectives include support to the sustainable development of Namibia and her people; and which supports the objects of the Network’.

Forms available: [www.namnet.com.na](http://www.namnet.com.na)