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A model for Civic Entrepreneurship

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Civil society is the ecosystem of individuals/citizens, political/economic/religious communities and organizations. And as a result of the revolutionary breakthrough of the information and communication technologies, channels were opened for new configurations of civil society organizations around the world, and a perfect model for citizen expression both online and offline was created.

The thin line between entrepreneurship as an individual private business and civil society as an individual's ecosystem is being more fluid day after day. With an eye opened on the uprising events recently happened in Egypt and other Arab countries alike, one can easily define the »Civic Entrepreneurship« as the business initiatives driven by the youth entrepreneurs in order to address urgent societal needs, and to bridge the gaps that appeared due to the lack of well-played governmental role and support to society during the uprising events.

While the changes and conflicts were often taking place at the governmental and official levels of the country during the previous years in Egypt, as well as other Arab countries, the public sector witnessed an interrupted, hesitant and disordered performance, which created a real need for an urgent alternative solution to the societal daily problems and demands. The only sector/players who were ready and able to fill this gap were the young entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurs helped to mobilize the stagnant economy, provide quick and low cost products/services, align social forces, incubate young dreamers and visionaries and innovate new ideas and society-driven projects.

The collaboration of the entrepreneurs and the civil society actors may create a community-oriented workspace and the following objectives can be achieved:

- 1- Better future shaping
- 2- Social and economic sustainable development
- 3- Equal opportunity realization
- 4- Unemployment rate reduction
- 5- Social stability through youth engagement
- 6- Women empowerment

The role of G7/donor countries could be to support these collaborative efforts by encouraging more initiatives, raising awareness, providing training, knowledge, financial aids, and other infrastructure prerequisites to enhance the Civic Entrepreneurship.

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