



## Appendix A: Restrictions on Foreign Funding

This appendix provides an illustrative list of recent legal constraints imposed on the foreign funding of civil society organizations (CSOs). For more information on these or other initiatives, please contact ICNL ([david@icnl.org.hu](mailto:david@icnl.org.hu)).

Type of Restriction	Country	Legal Measure	Status
Prohibitions and limitations against foreign funding	Ecuador	Decree prohibiting international CSOs from receiving funding from bilateral and multilateral sources for activities in Ecuador	Issued 2011
	Venezuela	Law for Protection of Political Liberty and National Self-Determination prohibits CSOs dedicated to “defense of political rights” from receiving foreign funding.	Enacted 2010
	Kenya	Miscellaneous Amendment Bill 2013: The bill included amendments to the Public Benefits Organizations Act, 2013 and sought to cap the amount of foreign funds NGOs can receive to 15% of their budget.	Draft amendments issued in November 2013 and withdrawn in December 2013.
Advance government approval	Bangladesh	Foreign Donations (Voluntary Activities) Regulation Act would prohibit individuals and organizations from receiving foreign funding for carrying out any voluntary activity without prior approval from the government; require organizations to register with the NGO Affairs Bureau before receiving foreign aid; and empower the NGO Affairs Bureau to approve or deny foreign funding on a project-by-project basis.	Draft bill issued first in 2012 and approved by the Cabinet of Ministers in June 2014. Pending parliamentary review.
	Pakistan	Foreign Contributions Act would require NGOs to obtain prior approval to use foreign funds, and give the government broad authority to review an NGO application or inspect the NGO, with strict penalties for noncompliance.	Drafted originally in 2012, with subsequent versions issued in 2013 and 2014. Still pending.
	Sudan	Government policy: Existing law requires NGOs to secure approval from the Humanitarian Affairs Commission (HAC), and the new policy states that funds may not be disbursed to the NGO until the HAC has approved a proposal by the NGO.	Issued 2013
	Turkmenistan	Presidential Decree: On State Registration of Foreign Projects and	Issued 2013

		Programs of Gratuitous Technical, Financial and Humanitarian Assistance and Grants: The Decree creates a new state commission to provide advance approval for all foreign funded projects and programs.	
	Nigeria	Bill to Regulate the Acceptance and Utilization of Financial/Material Contribution of Donor Agencies to Voluntary Organizations: The Bill requires voluntary organizations that wish to receive foreign funding to secure advance governmental approval and provide for imprisonment in case of violation of this requirement.	Bill presented for first reading in Parliament in June 2014.
Burdensome procedural requirements	Azerbaijan	Amendments to Laws on NGOs, Registering Legal Entities, Grants, and Administrative Penalties: NGOs are expected to register information about foreign donations received and there are strict penalties for noncompliance.	Enacted 2013
	Yemen	Amendments to NGO Law: The amendments relate to government interest in, among other things, "controlling" NGO funding to address "flaws in how the law was implemented over the past decade."	Drafted 2012
Restricted purposes and activities	Ethiopia	Proclamation on Registration and Regulation of Charities and Societies limits foreign funding to no more than 10% of total organizational income for organizations pursuing certain designated purposes.	Enacted 2009
	Bolivia	Law on Granting Legal Personality: The law grants the state the right to dissolve organizations without administrative process and requires NGOs to register all of their funding sources. In addition, it could be interpreted to preclude NGOs from working in human rights and democracy promotion and from receiving financial support from the government or international donors not in the country.	Enacted 2013
	Israel	Draft NGO Law: The draft law set a limit of \$5,500 in funding from foreign government entities if an NGO engages in prohibited activities (i.e., calling for the prosecution of IDF soldiers in international courts; supporting boycott, divestment, or sanctions against Israel and its citizens; and rejecting Israel's character as a Jewish, democratic State.)	Drafted 2013
Stigmatization of recipients of foreign funding	Russia	So-called Law on "Foreign Agents": NGOs receiving foreign funding and engaged in "political activities" must be registered as a "foreign agent"	Enacted 2012
	Kyrgyzstan	Draft "Foreign Agent" Law: The draft law would require that NGOs wishing to	Drafted in 2013, under review by

		conduct political activities register as foreign agents. As a result, their activities would be limited and additional requirements would be imposed.	parliamentary committee in June 2014.
	Ukraine	Law on Organizations Receiving Funding from Abroad: The law requires all public organizations and mass media to register as “organizations receiving foreign funding” and subjects such organizations to new reporting requirements, mandatory annual audits, and requirements to brand all of their activities and products as produced by “organizations receiving foreign funding.”	Enacted in February 2014 and subsequently repealed.