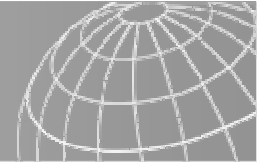


**Population Dynamics and Political Governance
Berlin, October 24-25, 2012**

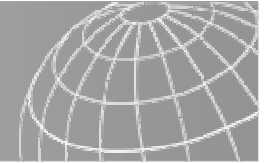
**Political Participation of Civil Society
and
Constructive State-Society Relations**

Léonie Jana Wagner



Structure of Presentation

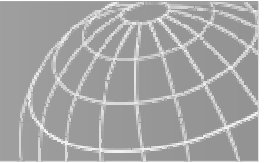
1. What is the relationship between population dynamics and state-society relations?
2. How can the political participation of civil society be promoted? The approach taken by German Development Cooperation (BMZ Special 168)



Population Dynamics and State-Society Relations

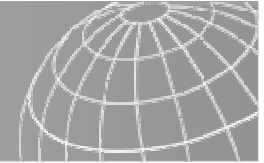
- Growing populations create demand and may constrain the state's capacity to meet the requirements necessary for delivering adequate services
- Population dynamics raise questions concerning a fair distribution of available resources
- Rapid population growth increases the risk of exclusion and marginalization of large parts of the population

Challenges for State and Society are
fundamentally inter-related with a country's governance



Population Dynamics and State-Society Relations

- ✓ for preventing rising population numbers to have a destabilizing impact on a state, **inclusive and functioning political negotiation processes** between state and society need to be in place
- ✓ constructive state-society relations are a key element for the development of **resilient states**, enabling a sustainable management of growing populations as well as the formulation and implementation of responsible, effective and citizen-oriented population policies



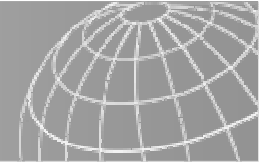
Promoting Political Participation

- **Definition Political Participation:**

All forces within society have an equal say in political decisions.

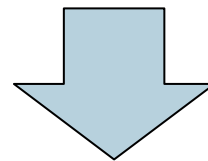
- **Objective of German Development Cooperation:** enable different interest groups and social groups (particularly the disadvantaged or marginalised) to participate in political processes on an **equal footing** and **have proper representation**.

- **Definition of Civil Society:** all forms of **organised** activity in which citizens engage; not profit-oriented; independent of party-political interests



Approach of German Development Cooperation

- The principles of **transparent**, **accountable** and **development-oriented** government can only be upheld if an active civil society
 - is **informed** about policy decisions,
 - is **involved** and **actively participates** in decision-making processes and
 - is **able to exercise a critical control function** with regard to the state.

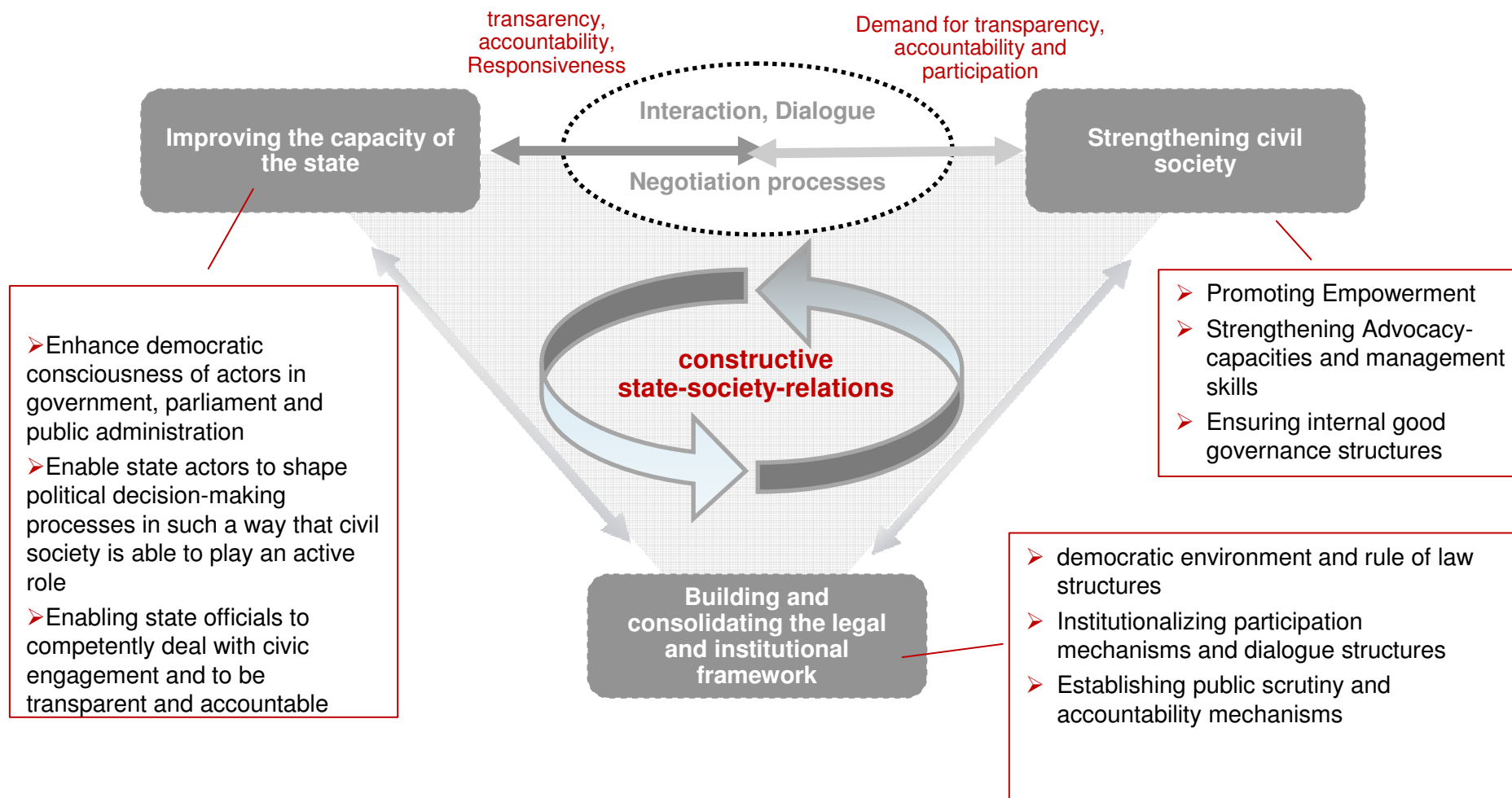


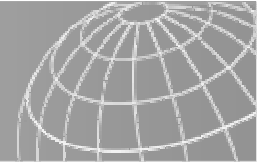
Civil Society does not act in isolation, there exists a reciprocal relationship with the state

(BMZ Special Paper 168)



The German Approach: A Multidimensional strategy





**Thank you very much
for your attention!**