



Go Collaborative

A concept note bought to you by
The Collective

Overview and situation analysis

Global civil society is operating in a moment of profound pressure and fragmentation. Civic space is shrinking rapidly, authoritarianism is rising, and climate breakdown is accelerating — yet progressive responses remain too often siloed, under-resourced, and forced into competition for scarce funding. Systems designed for short-term projects and organisational survival have produced duplication, burnout, and isolated wins rather than the collective power needed to meet this moment.

The consequences are visible everywhere: crisis churn replaces long-term strategy; learning is lost; collaboration is stifled; and movements struggle to align across regions, sectors, and issues. At a time when people power is urgently needed, the infrastructure to support it — space, time, trust, coordination — is largely missing.

Go Collaborative is The Collective's third pillar of change. It exists to provide the light-touch, behind-the-scenes connective tissue that global civil society currently lacks. We come in humility, not to recreate or control existing efforts, but to interconnect them — offering new ways to bridge ecosystems, align strategies, and curate collective power. Go Collaborative transforms competition into collaboration, enabling movements to move beyond organisational silos and towards durable, shared action.

At the heart of this pillar is The Gathering (September 2026), a catalytic global convening designed not as an endpoint, but as a launchpad for sustained collaboration, shared strategy, and collective action at scale.

The Outcome We Seek

A globally connected civil society ecosystem capable of exercising collective power — aligning strategy, sharing resources, and acting together to deliver systemic change.

Through Go Collaborative, movements gain the infrastructure they need to collaborate without control, coordinate without hierarchy, and build trust across difference. Success is measured not in individual organisational wins, but in durable alliances, shared strategies, and collective outcomes that reshape policy, narratives, funding flows, and systems over time.

Exercising our collective muscle

Our Approach

Go Collaborative works through deep partnership, co-design, decentralisation, and care, strengthening existing infrastructure and creating the conditions for long-term collective power rather than short-term outputs. At its core is The Gathering — an invitation-only, trauma-informed space for radical collaboration and shared strategy that brings together movements, civil society, creatives, and funders to connect ecosystems, unlock collective intelligence, and enable coordinated action with robust safeguarding and inclusion throughout.

Host The Global Gathering (2026)

Convene a diverse, carefully curated group of at least 300 changemakers and philanthropists from 40+ countries for a multi-day, in-person gathering (likely Bali, Indonesia) to co-create shared strategies, confront systemic challenges, and form long-term cross-movement alliances.

Co-Design Collective Strategies

Facilitate the development of four to six long-term, cross-movement strategies covering narratives, grassroots support, power-shifting finance, and new economic models – with clear action plans and shared ownership.

Bridge the Gap to Power

Connect grassroots movements, Indigenous communities, and marginalised groups with formal decision-making spaces through regional hubs rooted in lived experience, building on and strengthening existing infrastructure.

Map What's Missing

Identify blockages, gaps, and misalignments across civil society systems, then coordinate responses through shared planning, learning, and resource alignment - where wanted and helpful.

Launch a Global Platform for Campaigners

Create digital and in-person spaces that enable cross-border collaboration, amplify under-represented voices, and build shared campaigning capacity.

Build Long-Term Collective Power

Support the formation of trust-based, multi-regional coalitions emerging from The Gathering, designed to be light-touch, non-hierarchical, and adaptive.

Redefine Success

Shift away from individualism and short-termism, centring care, dignity, interdependence, and collective wellbeing as measures of progress.

Act as Supportive Infrastructure

Provide coordination, documentation, learning, and follow-up so strategies move from ideas to action – without centralising power or ownership.



Proposed Timeline

Phase 1 (2025–early 2026):

Mapping, outreach, and curation of participants; partnership building; strategic design and facilitation planning.

Phase 2 (September 2026):

Delivery of The Global Gathering and co-creation of shared strategies and action plans.

Phase 3 (Late 2026):

Documentation, synthesis, and launch of collective strategies; formation of working coalitions.

Phase 4 (2027):

Support three multi-regional coalitions to deliver at least two joint initiatives each within their first year.

Phase 5 (Ongoing):

Sustain connective infrastructure, learning loops, and collaboration across the ecosystem.



Seed Funding Budget (Go Grassroots)

To deliver Go Collaborative and The Gathering at the scale required, we are seeking \$3.5 million in investment.

Investment options include:

- Seed funding: \$500,000
- Full-scale support: \$3.5 million

A full budget breakdown is available on request.

Call to Action

The challenges we face are global, interconnected, and urgent — but so is the opportunity. Go Collaborative is an invitation to move beyond fragmentation and into shared power: to invest in the connective infrastructure civil society needs to act with unity, creativity, and courage. By supporting Go Collaborative and The Gathering, funders become co-creators of a future shaped not by isolated efforts, but by aligned, collective action at scale.

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