



**CIVICUS**  
**WORLD ASSEMBLY**  
**3-7 SEPTEMBRE/SEPTEMBER 2012**  
**ASSEMBLÉE MONDIALE**  
**MONTREAL**



**ACTING TOGETHER FOR A JUST WORLD**  
 Defining a new social contract - making the future together

Co-hosted by CIVICUS and the Institut du Nouveau Monde, the 2012 CIVICUS World Assembly was the 11th edition of the event. Launched following the 5th CIVICUS Youth Assembly it also marked the last edition of a three-year cycle in Montreal, Canada. It gathered 641 participants from 100 countries on 3-7 September 2012.

To guide progress towards achieving concrete recommendations from the 2012 CIVICUS World Assembly discussions, the programme was divided into three tracks: Changing nations through citizens, Building partnerships for social innovation and Redefining global governance.

"Elected representatives are there to represent the people, not to replace them. I was a minister of the people, not of government."

*Marina Silva  
 Instituto Marina Silva*



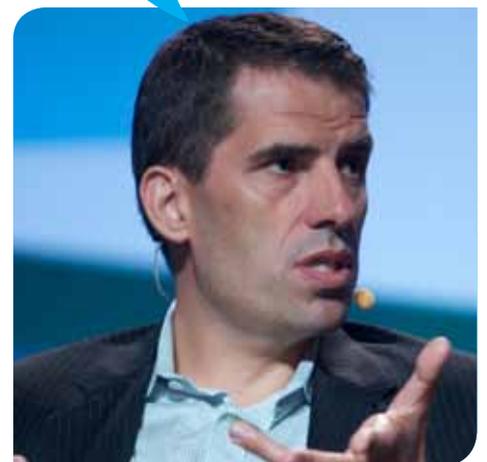
"Civil society must provide innovation for global change. No bureaucracies innovate - it's not in their nature."

*Roberto Bissio  
 Third World Institute*



"Civil society's increasing ability to organise can break the deadlock in global governance."

*Olav Kjørven  
 UNDP*





# OUTCOMES

At the end of the Assembly, the various recommendations were analysed and distilled into 15 key commitments, the 'Montreal Civil Society Commitments for a New Social Contract', for civil society personnel to implement as they seek to work more effectively to challenge and change the rules of engagement between citizens, the state and other holders of power.

## The Montreal Civil Society Commitments for a New Social Contract

In order to help forge a new social settlement that is inclusive, democratic and just, we in civil society should:

- 1** Link, network, connect: form horizontal and consensual alliances, and unusual and smart partnerships.
- 2** Make connections between formal civil society organisations and new social movements and groups
- 3** Mainstream social and communications technologies: prioritise making connections between online activism and offline action and excluded communities.
- 4** Encourage local participation and voluntary action as a first step for people's real engagement in civil society.
- 5** Maintain community connections as a primary reality check and touchstone: regain and refresh the roots of civil society.
- 6** Be constantly aware of and address marginalisation of all those socially and politically excluded, particularly focus on women, young people and minorities. Ensure safe spaces and accessible processes, promotion and advancement.
- 7** Promote the value of international solidarity for encouraging domestic and local action, and the protection of spaces for civil society.
- 8** Work within a human rights based framework and focus on the rights that enable people's demands for dignity, freedom, justice and equality.
- 9** Be knowledge-based: develop communities of thought, as well as practice.
- 10** Integrate issues of sustainability: redefine what prosperity means and prioritise bio-diversity and the protection of nature.
- 11** Be demand driven, rather than supply driven, and accountable to citizens, not donor structures.
- 12** Limit our dependency on governments and be transparent about our funding compromises: seek alternative models, like social and crowd sourced funding.
- 13** Be innovative, strategic and have an assets-based approach: focus on entry points, tipping points, points of leverage.
- 14** Better understand and take account of the roles – positive and negative – of the private sector.
- 15** Develop our capacities for negotiation and analysis of power.



# PROGRAMME

From plenary to activity sessions through to a networking activity, a film screening, a gala dinner and parallel events, over 60 participative activities enabled the participants to debate and exchange opinions and dialogue about their experiences during five days.

## Report

A total of 100 reports are available in English, French and Spanish on the CIVICUS website: [www.civicus.org/wa2012](http://www.civicus.org/wa2012).

## Blog

All 104 blog posts from the World Assembly discussions are still available on the CIVICUS blog! Check it out: [www.blogs.civicus.org/worldassembly/](http://www.blogs.civicus.org/worldassembly/)

## Live stream and videos

All the Youth Assembly and World Assembly plenaries, 53 interviews with guest speakers or participants and thematic videos can be found at: [www.livestream.com/CivicusWA](http://www.livestream.com/CivicusWA)



**"As a woman, I'm not a victim. I'm part of the solution."**

*Amal Elsana Alh'jooj*

**"All businesses are social enterprises in that they make a social impact through selling their product and engaging with communities."**

*Workshop on Searching for innovative and entrepreneurial solutions to social problems*

**"If civil society is at a crossroads, what does this mean for us donors?"**

*Virginia Manzitti @DEVCO*



**"I commit to being a young audacious rebel for sustainable change."**

*Philippa Wheaton @PipWheaton*





# EXPECTATIONS AND SATISFACTION

According to the satisfaction survey\*, 93% of the participants are generally satisfied or very satisfied with the 2012 CIVICUS World Assembly.

Their main expectations were:

- To get information about the focal issues and debate them (98%);
- To meet new people and extend their networks (94%);
- And to meet experts and key players around a subject of personal and/or professional interest (97%).

97% of participants believe that the event met their expectations.

## Impact assessment

- **Implementation of knowledge learned**  
74% of respondents plan to apply their new knowledge to improve their organisation's operations.
- **Network reinforcement and development**  
86% of the respondents believe that the 2012 World Assembly helped their collaborations with their existing partners and that it helped them create new partnerships.
- **Learning concrete ways to improve citizen engagement**  
66% of the respondents believe they learned concrete ways to improve their citizen engagement.
- **Reinforcement of their capacity and confidence to influence public debates and decision-makers**  
80% of respondents claim that their participation has reinforced their capacity and confidence to influence public debates and decision-makers.
- **Strengthening of links and collaborations across sectors**  
85% of the representatives of governments, donors and the private sector report increased understanding of the role and importance of civil society players in international development, and of how to better collaborate with them. 75% of the representatives of civil society report increased understanding of the importance of cooperating with governments, donors and private sector.

"What I've learned will serve as a means to my self-assessment as a member of civil society and citizen of the world."

"It was a great moment of sharing, the participants had different degrees of relations on their commitment as civil society organisation; and the challenge is enormous, but it is a process."

"Getting people together is a unique opportunity to create collective sense of direction and individual roles/commitments to support the direction."

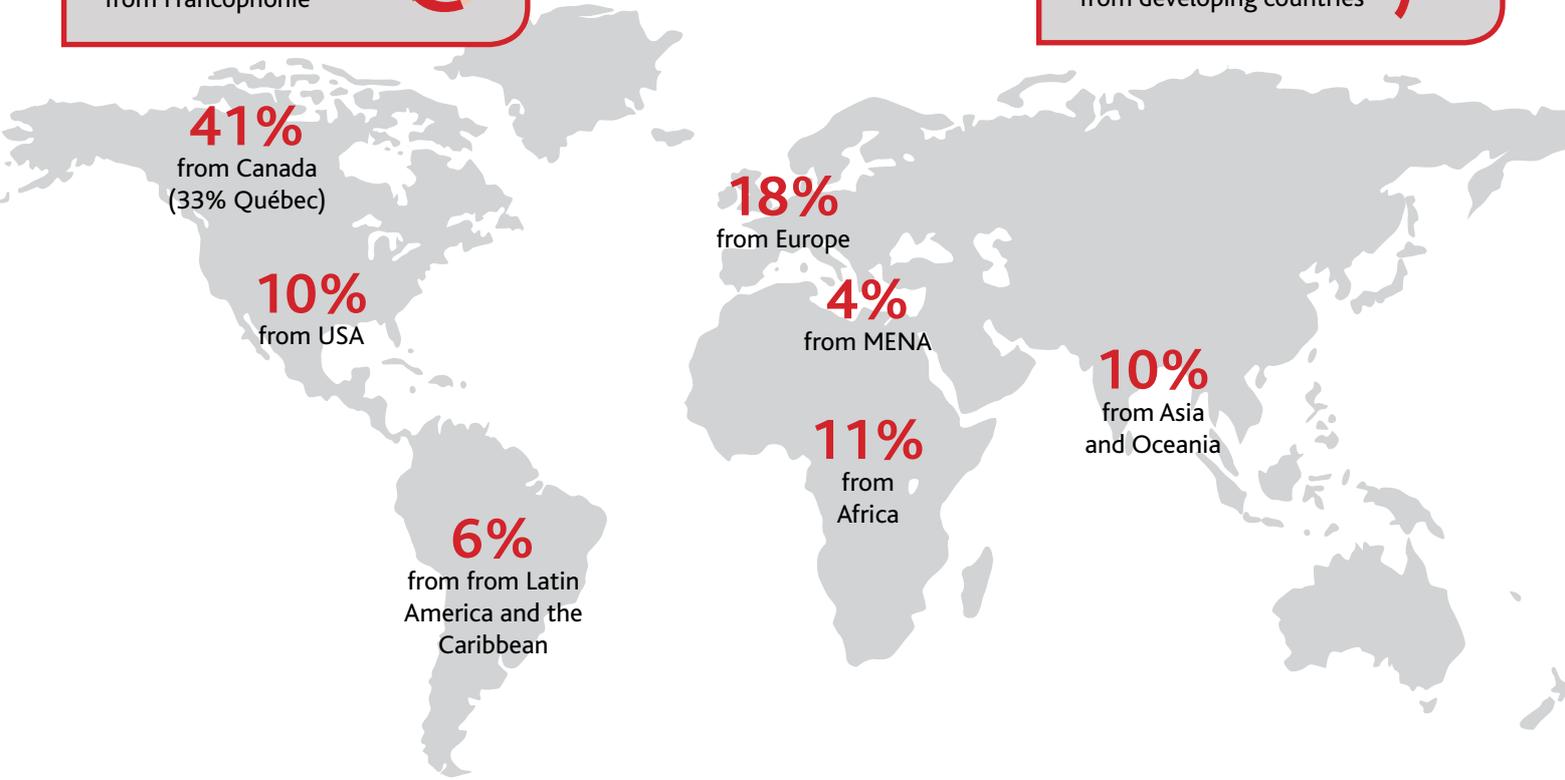
\* An online satisfaction survey was carried out after the 2012 world assembly to assess the short, medium and long term outcomes of the event. Sent out in french and english to 523 participants, 185 responses (35%) were received and a further eight phone interviews were conducted.



# DIVERSITY AT THE WORLD ASSEMBLY

Representatives from other sectors responded to the invitation of the world alliance for citizen participation for multi-stakeholder engagement.

A diversity of 641 participants and 206 speakers



164 bursaries recipients – including 15 Youth bursary recipients

"It was very exciting to discover the richness and diversity of civil society organisations. Also to meet with its representatives."  
*A 2012 World Assembly delegate*

34 % of delegates aged 30 and younger  
A youth mentoring programme enabled, this year again, young participants to share their lunches with 7 keynote speakers for inspirational and informal discussions.



## INNOVATION AWARDS

Three projects were awarded the 2012 Nelson Mandela - Graça Machel Innovation Awards. The winning projects each received a US\$5,000 grant courtesy of the Inter-American Foundation:

- Monitoring and mapping the implementation of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights's recommendations in Argentina - *Juan Martín Camusso*, FUNDEPS (Fundación para el Desarrollo de Políticas Sustentables), Argentina
- Reinforcing local authorities' accountability to improve local democracy in Haiti - *Lucien Dossous*, Action Communautaire de Solidarité et d'Intervention Sociale (ACSIS), Haiti
- Strengthening grassroots organisations and women's groups in Latin America - *Analia Bettoni*, Instituto de Comunicación y Desarrollo (ICD) and the Iniciativa Regional Rendir Cuentas, Uruguay.

## SYNERGIES

### *17 exhibitors at the Citizen Café:*

- Canadian International Development Agency
- World Bank
- Fonds pour les Femmes Congolaises
- Oxfam-Québec
- CESO/SACO
- FIM - Forum for Democratic Global Governance
- L'œuvre Léger
- Open Forum for CSO development effectiveness
- Engineers Without Borders Québec
- Canada World Youth
- Canadian Community Economic Development Network
- IAP2 – International Association for Public Participation
- SIT Graduate Institute

### *13 side events before, during and after the main event:*

- Affinity Group of National Associations Annual General Meeting, *by AGNA*
- Leadership development and civil society strengthening meeting, *by CIVICUS and the Foundation of the People of the South Pacific International*
- Post-2015 Civil Society Conference, *by GCAP, CIVICUS, UNGLS and Beyond 2015*
- CIVICUS Members' Annual General Meeting and cocktail,
- Building Consensus for Legal Empowerment of MENA CSOs meeting, *by the Iran Local Development Resource Centre*
- The Post-2015 Development Agenda: Reflections on Purpose, Means and Protagonists

meeting, *by the Bahá'í International Community United Nations Office*

- Francophonie meeting, *by CIVICUS and INM*
- World Assembly Film screening, *by Every Human Has Rights and .ORG*
- Vibes of Peace at the CIVICUS World Assembly! On line meditation, *by Peace Revolution, a project launched by The World Peace Initiative*
- Conference with Marina Silva, *by Alternatives Canada*
- Roles and responsibilities of national associations meeting, *by the Japan Association of Charitable Organisations*
- Latin America regional meeting, *by CIVICUS*
- Utilising technology to increase capacity, *by TechSoup Canada*



## BEYOND MONTREAL

The CIVICUS Board of Directors decided to establish a Task Team to reflect on the concept of the CIVICUS World Assembly and its future. An online consultation with CIVICUS members and key stakeholders will be conducted between December 2012 and January 2013. A draft report will be issued at the end of January 2013 and shared with Board members, CIVICUS members and partners. A final recommendation for a new World Assembly cycle will be proposed to the Board for endorsement in March/April 2013.

For more information: [worldassembly@civicus.org](mailto:worldassembly@civicus.org)

Images from this report and more are on Flickr: [www.flickr.com/photos/civicus](http://www.flickr.com/photos/civicus)

Photo credit: Tristan Brand



## THANK YOU...

... to all CIVICUS and INM friends, members and partners

... to all the 2012 CIVICUS World Assembly delegates

... to the 56 volunteers, 3 team leaders and 11 facilitators

... to the local host committee

... to the 2012 World Assembly sponsors



Agence canadienne de  
développement international

Canadian International  
Development Agency

Québec 



# CIVICUS

World Alliance for Citizen Participation

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation has worked for nearly two decades to strengthen citizen action and civil society throughout the world, especially in areas where participatory democracy and citizens' freedom of association are threatened.

CIVICUS has a vision of a global community of active, engaged citizens committed to the creation of a more just and equitable world. This is based on the belief that the health of societies exists in direct proportion to the degree of balance between the state, the private sector and civil society.

[www.civicus.org](http://www.civicus.org)



## INSTITUT DU NOUVEAU MONDE

Institut du Nouveau Monde (INM) is a non-partisan organisation dedicated to stimulating public participation and fresh ideas in Quebec. It seeks to promote social justice and inclusion, in the spirit of respecting democratic values, openness and innovation.

Through its activities, INM proposes a structured and deliberative approach based on the guiding principles of informing, debating and proposing. INM strives to encourage public participation and contributes to developing citizen skills, strengthening social ties and supporting democratic institutions.

[www.inm.qc.ca](http://www.inm.qc.ca)

## CONTACT US

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