



e-CIVICUS

e-CIVICUS World Assembly Reflection

World Alliance for Citizen Participation

A Free Weekly Electronic Newsletter Promoting Civic Existence, Expression & Engagement

Please send contributions, comments and questions to editor@civicus.org.

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CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

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ABOUT e-CIVICUS

The CIVICUS weekly electronic publication is keeping tens of thousands of people informed of the developments taking place in civil society, the factors that are affecting them and the impact they are having on creating an informed and knowledgeable civil society.

e-CIVICUS WELCOMES CONTRIBUTIONS OF CIVIL SOCIETY NEWS

e-CIVICUS offers a useful channel

FROM THE DESK OF CIVICUS' SECRETARY GENERAL

Send your comments and contributions to editor@civicus.org.



Citizens must be at the centre of effective aid

By Anabel Cruz, Chair of the CIVICUS Board and Ingrid Srinath, CIVICUS Secretary General

Dear friends and colleagues,

In just a few days, hundreds of representatives of multilateral and bilateral donor agencies, representatives of developed and developing country governments and representatives of civil society organisations will gather in Accra, Ghana, for the Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, organised by the OECD-DAC (Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development). Just prior to the Forum, 31 August to 1 September, a civil society parallel Aid Effectiveness Forum will bring together more than 400 civil society organisations from around the world, to discuss and finalise recommendations to the decision-makers at the High Level Forum (HLF). CIVICUS has been an engaged actor in the process leading to Ghana, and will be an active participant at both the Civil Society Forum and the HLF itself. To read more on this week's column, [click here](#).

NB: e-CIVICUS this week focuses mainly on citizen perspectives on aid effectiveness. We have invited several prominent civil society leaders to contribute to our dialogue, etc....

CIVICUS Poll Question

This week's question:

The current mechanisms for improving the effectiveness of aid:

- a. Can be reformed to deliver equitable outcomes
- b. Are intrinsically flawed and cannot possibly deliver equitable outcomes
- c. Is unlikely, but possible

To answer the question, [click here](#).

Previous question:

through which you and your organisation can share your news, publicise your events and articulate the issues you face. Please send us your contributions no later than Tuesday for publication in the coming week to editor@civicus.org. All contributions must focus on civil society issues or have a civil society angle. To read the contribution guidelines, [click here](#).

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The threats to civil society of increased legislative controls are:

- a. exaggerated
- b. present but justifiable in the context of security threats
- c. seriously hazardous to democracy and human rights

Results: a. - 63.3%, b. - 30%, c. - 6.7%

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e-CIVICUS DIALOGUES ON AID EFFECTIVENESS



Gender equality and aid effectiveness: the need to acknowledge marginalised groups

By Nerea Craviotto, WIDE Network Women in Development Europe and Cecilia Alemany, Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID)

Adopted in 2005, the Paris Declaration (PD) on Aid Effectiveness is the most recent framework on the management of development aid assistance agreed by the donor community in the OECD, in partnership with some Southern governments. Its implementation aims to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Despite commitments by donor and southern countries to the PD principles, civil society organisations (CSOs) state that the Paris Declaration remains a narrow, unjust and unequal framework for understanding development effectiveness. From the perspective of women's rights organisations, the position we have been promoting ahead of the upcoming Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Accra is based on the certainty that there can be no aid effectiveness without development effectiveness, and that gender equality, human rights and environment must be recognised as crucial areas for development effectiveness. For more information, [click here](#).



Civil society consultations on aid realities and concerns in the Arab Region

By Ziad Abdel Samad, Executive Director of Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND) and CIVICUS Board Member

Human development indicators place the Arab region in a very modest position compared to other regions of the world. This is mainly due to extended implementation of inadequate national and regional economic and social policies, resulting in distorted allocation of resources. Within this context, the Arab region includes both donor countries, mainly oil-producing Gulf countries, and aid receiving countries including least developing countries. Civil society organisations that discussed the process of aid effectiveness and the Paris Declaration in the regional preparatory consultation before the High Level Forum in Accra highlighted several challenges and concerns. For

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Civil Society Watch Monthly Bulletin

The CIVICUS e-newsletter Civil Society Watch Monthly Bulletin is an action-oriented newsletter distributed to over 7,400 people around the world, featuring insightful interviews, updates on threats to civil society, and analyses of current situations. Read more at www.civicus.org.

CIVICUS blog

What do you think? Have your say on the CIVICUS Blog! CIVICUS seeks to amplify the voices and opinions of ordinary people and give expression to the enormous creative energy within civil society. Our recently launched blog gives you the opportunity to use your voice and engage with the rest of civil society. Have your say by visiting <http://civicus.civiblog.org>



www.whiteband.org

more information, [click here](#).



Policy reform at the heart of sustainable aid effectiveness

By Claire Courteille, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

The Accra high level meeting on aid effectiveness comes at a critical juncture for the international community, with the global economy beset by a series of crises - the food and energy crises, and the financial market slowdown that threaten to put the clock back on hard-won gains in poverty alleviation, and plunge 100 million people back below the \$1 a day poverty threshold. Those crises were not inevitable. They are the result of wrong policy choices, and inappropriate governance arrangements at global level, that have put the liberalisation of markets and the quest for profits above human well-being. The International Trade Union Confederation, representing 168 million workers in 155 countries worldwide believe these policies and institutional arrangements can and must be changed. For more information, [click here](#).



Role of civil society in reclaiming national space

By Yash Tandon, Executive Director, South Centre

For thirty years (from mid 1970s to the end of the last century) many governments in the South, especially in the low and middle-income countries, had surrendered their right to make macroeconomic policies over to the Bretton Woods Institutions (BWIs) -- the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB). The BWIs' so-called Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) advocated, among other things, free market liberalisation, fiscal austerity, privatisation and marketisation of essential social services such as health, education and water. The most potent tool for enforcing SAPs was the so-called "development aid", or Official Development Assistance (ODA). For more information, [click here](#).



The road to Accra : what have we achieved?

By Tajudeen Abdul-raheem, Director of UN Millennium Campaign in Africa

The Accra Aid Effectiveness meeting (2-4 September) is meant to review the progress that has been made in meeting the commitment to improve on the quality and quantity of Aid in the past 7 years. It is a follow up on similar reviews that took place in Paris in 2005. Out of that grew the Paris Declaration. The basic tenets of the Declaration include local Ownership, National Alignment, and Harmonisation of policies and coordinated efforts that ensured 'managing for results' in a new partnership that guarantees mutual accountability. In spite of the Declaration and attempts at adhering to them. As we begin the second half of the 2015 target date for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) progress on aid effectiveness has been at best mixed. The 3 decades old promise of richer countries committing 0.7% of their GNI to international development has only been achieved by a few countries of the biggest economies including Germany, Japan, the USA and even Britain. For more information, [click here](#).



Monitoring the Paris Declaration: what have we learnt?

By Lucy Hayes, European Network on Debt and Development (EURODAD)

What has changed about the aid business since the Paris Declaration was signed three and a half years ago? And what difference could the High Level Forum in Accra make? As over a thousand people from all corners of the world prepare to descend on the 2008 African capital of choice for international sporting and political events, this question is one we should keep in our minds. The terms of the aid debate have certainly changed and official discussions about aid have become more open and transparent for CSO engagement, even if their voices are too often ignored. But the rhetoric of "country ownership", "sustainable development" and "effective aid" are still a long way from becoming a reality. For more information, [click here](#).



A critical appraisal of the Paris Declaration

By Charles Mutasa, Executive Director, African Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD)

The year 2008 will be a crucial one for development. Several high-level events will take place and make the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) a political priority. The Third High level Forum on Aid Effectiveness taking place in Accra to look at the implementation of the 2005 Paris

Declaration (PD). The Doha follow-up International conference on Financing for Development will be held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008. Doha will take stock of undertakings made at the Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development in 2002. These events are expected to a greater extent to boost the international community's resolve to achieve the MDGs by 2015 and move towards making practical what has since been agreed onto in development cooperation. The present framework for enhancing aid effectiveness is largely based on issues related to international financial and technical cooperation for development agreed on in the 2002 Monterrey consensus and the Paris declaration of 2005. For more information, [click here](#).



Beyond Aid Dependence - Speech at the UN Development Cooperation Forum 2008 meeting - New York, 1 July 2008

Speech given by Ramesh Singh, Chief Executive, ActionAid International

I am delighted to share some thoughts and recommendations or asks concerning aid and development cooperation. My brief presentation is informed not only by ActionAid's own experience and research but also by the debates, discussions and research of various partner at national and international civil society organisations we work with. At the outset, before I talk about aid effectiveness and respond to the questions presented by Madame moderator, I would like to emphasise the need to position aid and aid effectiveness in the broader challenge confronting donors and developing countries to find a way in which aid itself can contribute to the end of aid. In other words, we must go beyond the rhetoric around 'country ownership' to find forms of international cooperation that support developing countries to achieve more self-sufficient financing of their own growth strategies, their own natural resources and their own public policies. For more information, [click here](#).

CIVIL SOCIETY PERSPECTIVES ON AID EFFECTIVENESS

A Civil Society Position Paper for the 2008 Accra High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness

Source: Better Aid, www.betteraid.org

Civil society organisations (CSOs) were present in 2005 when donor country members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's Development Assistance Committee (OECD DAC), developing countries and multilateral institutions signed the Paris Declaration (PD) on Aid Effectiveness. Since then, diverse CSOs have been engaged in tracking this agreement, both internationally and in developing countries. CSOs have been raising a range of issues and bringing in different perspectives, trying to ensure that this new framework for aid effectiveness translates into effective and accountable development processes. CSOs argue that the only true measures of aid's effectiveness are its contribution to the sustained reduction of poverty and inequalities; and its support of human rights, democracy, environmental sustainability and gender equality. For more information, [click here](#). To endorse the paper, use feedback form, [click here](#).

Civil society calls for concrete commitments on aid effectiveness

Source: Better Aid, www.betteraid.org

At the last High Level Forum, held in Paris in March 2005, donors and governments signed onto "The Paris Declaration", a five-year plan for reform of aid practices that includes five principles to make aid delivery effective - country ownership, alignment to country priorities, harmonisation of the terms for aid, management of aid for results, and mutual accountability for these results - with related goals for action. This year, the Accra High Level Forum will review progress on these commitments, but equally importantly, the Forum may establish an agenda for deepening these reforms over the next two years, leading to a successor Declaration to be agreed in 2011 in Beijing, China. Civil society welcomed the Paris Declaration and its principles, but questions its narrow and limited focus on technical reform of aid delivery - the efficiency of moving money from donor accounts to those of governments in developing countries. For more information, [click here](#).

Civil society and the new aid modalities: addressing the challenges for gender equality,

democracy and participation

Source: International Gender and Trade Network

New aid modalities highlighted in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, from General budget support, to Sector Wide approaches and community driven development have important implications for economic and social development, gender equality & women's empowerment, democracy and participation. This report lays out the opportunities and challenges of the new aid modalities. For more information, [click here](#).

Civil society perspectives on the Paris Declaration and Aid Effectiveness

Source: International NGO Training and Resource Centre

While civil society organisations (CSOs) were present during the signing of the Paris Declaration in March 2005, there have been growing concerns about the lack of an active civil society role in the process, to ensure that aid effectiveness can be measured in relation to its actual impact on the ground in alleviating poverty and improving livelihoods of poor and marginalised communities. Whilst this is of foremost priority there is also keen interest among civil society to ensure that budget allocations are not utilised to remove further the goals of human rights, democracy and sustainable development that includes a focus on gender equality. For more information, [click here](#).

Civil society prepares for busy aid media programme in Accra

Source: European Network on Debt and Development (EURODAD)

Over three hundred civil society activists are preparing for a busy programme of events starting this week in Accra, in addition to the official High Level Forum which will be attended by 80 CSO accredited representatives. Two media workshops will kick off the week's activities. Interaction from the US is organising a media skills workshop. For more information, [click here](#).

Questioning Aid: Bangladesh Perspective

By Ahmed Swapan Mahmud, Executive Director, VOICE

Since independence, Bangladesh has been facing serious crisis to be a self-reliant country free from conditions, policy prescriptions and dependency imposed by the donors. More than last three and a half decade, in the name of development, the international financial institutions and the corporate agencies of rich countries determine the economic policy for country's development. It has been observed that the policies are framed in such a way so that the institutions that prescribe mainly got the benefit out of policy impositions and conditionalities for aid instead of improving the socio-economic status of the country. In fact, the poverty reduction rate is not satisfactory which around one per cent is. The question is then where the money goes given by the donors? The recent trend shows that though the aid flow is decreasing, interestingly, the aid conditionalities are increasing. For more information, [click here](#).

The Curse of Aid

Jose G. Montalvo and Marta Reynal-Quero, Council on Foreign Relations

'Foreign aid provides a windfall of resources to recipient countries and may result in the same rent seeking behavior as documented in the 'curse of natural resources' literature. In this paper we discuss this effect and document its magnitude. Using panel data for 108 recipient countries in the period 1960 to 1999, the paper find that foreign aid has a negative impact on institutions. For more information, [click here](#).

CIVIL SOCIETY NEWS

Civil society calls for international intervention in Kashmir

Source: Daily Times

Indian intellectuals and civil society activists called for international intervention to avoid a humanitarian catastrophe in Indian-held Kashmir, after a stern curfew led to a shortage of medicine, baby milk and essentials, and left hundreds of injured without healthcare. "In view of the deteriorating

humanitarian situation and the media blackout of the events in Kashmir, we call upon the international humanitarian agencies, particularly the United Nations bodies and the world press, to intervene immediately to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe in Kashmir," said the statement, signed by a number of noted social activists and civil society organisations. For more information, [click here](#).

Georgia Crisis Highlights Kazakhstan's Balancing Act

Source: Radio Free Europe/Liberty

Two major Russia-related events have occurred literally one after another this month. The first was the death of the acclaimed but controversial Russian writer Aleksander Solzhenitsyn, who was granted a lavish state funeral in Moscow on 6 August. Then just two days later, Russian armed forces entered South Ossetia, purportedly to protect Ossetians, who are Russian citizens, from a massive Georgian infantry and artillery attack. For more information, [click here](#).

Civil society calls on the Yemeni authorities to respect freedom of expression and journalists' rights

Source: ARTICLE 19

Twenty-seven civil society organisations from around the world call on the Yemeni authorities to immediately end the pattern of repression against journalists, which peaked in 2005 and continue at an alarming rate. "ARTICLE 19 is alarmed by the serious undermining of freedom of expression in Yemen," says Dr. Agnès Callamard, Executive Director. "We reiterate our condemnation of the current conditions in Yemen that clearly violate Yemen's international obligations on freedom of expression." ARTICLE 19 and other civil society organisations strongly condemn the numerous attacks against journalists and activists in Yemen. For more information, [click here](#).

Civil society raise concern on Sierra Leone's democratic situation

Source: Cocorioko Newspaper Limited

In 1995 when well-meaning Sierra Leoneans embarked on the journey to peace through the co-ordinated effort of Civil Society in Sierra Leone, the Bintumani 1&2 Conferences, knew it was going to be stormy and challenging, but remained very hopeful that with commitment and forth-rightness on the part of all stake holders, especially the politicians, there was light at the end of the tunnel. Civil society has invested so dearly in the restoration of peace and stability in Sierra Leone that it cannot remain passive while these gains are placed under serious threats of reversal. For more information, [click here](#).

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS & GLOBAL CALL TO ACTION AGAINST POVERTY

50 Days of Action - GCAP Mobilisation 2008

Source: Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP)

From 1 September, millions of campaigners around the world will join the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) for 50 days of intense campaigning focused around some key political and mass mobilisation opportunities. Campaigners in more than 100 countries are expected to take action with events ranging from concerts to seminars to football matches to rallies. The action begins with the High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness when GCAP will host a seminar in Accra on trade and aid, and will support the call from the Better Aid coalition. The Call will grow louder around the UN High Level Event on the Millennium Development Goals which will take place in New York on 25 September. GCAP coalitions in 12 countries are running poverty hearings to ensure the voices of impoverished and marginalised people are given a space to be heard, and will take these testimonies and recommendations to an international poverty hearing in New York on 23 September. In October, GCAP will work with, and support, partner organisations around the World Day for Decent Work on 7 October, World Food Day on 16 October and Debt Action Week from 13 -19 October. The 50 days of action will culminate with the massive 'Stand Up and Take Action' mobilisation from October 17-19 when tens of millions of people are expected to Take Action and call for an end to poverty and inequality and for the achievement and exceeding of the Millennium Development Goals. Last year

43.7 million people Stood Up and sent a powerful and unmissable message to world leaders that the global call for an end to poverty is growing and cannot be ignored. GCAP has developed a mobilisation guide with more information and to enable organisations and individuals to take action during the 50 days. The Mobilisation Guide is available in [Arabic](#), [English](#), [French](#), [Portuguese](#) and [Spanish](#) (pdf versions). For more information, contact Ben Margolis, GCAP Mobilisation and Outreach officer at benmargolis@whiteband.org or [click here](#).



Funding gap fuels literacy gap

By Adelaide Sosseh, Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) Co-Chair

"Discussions on aid effectiveness need ... to break once and for all with the notion that aid is some kind of charity," writes Adelaide Sosseh, Co-Chair of GCAP. Education is the backbone of development and the struggle for education for all in The Gambia has been long and hard fought. As one of the people who have dedicated most their lives to this struggle, I know that the fact that so many of my countrymen and women cannot read and write is a fundamental injustice and points to some systemic problems in the way resources are allocated and programmes are prioritised. For more information, [click here](#).

GET INVOLVED!

Launch of the International Aid Transparency Initiative

Thursday, 4th September 2008, International Conference Centre, Accra, Ghana

The event will promote greater transparency of information on aid flows by launching an International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI). The IATI is a new initiative to deliver step shift in global public availability and access to information on aid flows. The International Aid Transparency Initiative will accelerate the reduction of poverty by improving aid through greater transparency. The publication of comprehensive, timely and detailed information about aid, in a form that is easy to access, will contribute to more effective aid, limit opportunities for corruption, and promote greater accountability and ownership by developing countries. The International Aid Transparency Initiative commits donors to work together to make aid more transparent; including by agreeing, before the end of 2009, an accessible common format for the publication of information about aid. For more information, [click here](#).

Join the 2008 CIVICUS World Assembly Virtually

For all of you who didn't manage to make it to the 2008 CIVICUS World Assembly in Glasgow, you can now join the experience online. For those of you who did make it, you can recapture the highlights. The CIVICUS World Assembly website now has photos, reports, footage and other materials. Held from 18-21 June, this year's World Assembly was the culmination of the 3 year series of Assemblies in Glasgow, Scotland. Close to 900 people participated from 101 countries across the globe. Many of these participants had attended a World Assembly before and others for the first time. There were 4 main plenary sessions, 2 mini plenary sessions, 10 break out sessions and 30 workshops. On the last day, World Assembly delegates and the greater Glasgow community marched together to attend a rally in Kelvingrove Park to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Speakers included Mary Robinson, the former Irish Prime Minister and an Elder, and Ela Bhatt, who is also one of the Elders. The programme also featured calypso dancing, film screenings, live recordings of the award winning British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) radio show 'World Have Your Say' and traditional Scottish Ceilidh dancing. For more information, [click here](#).



CIVICUS Civil Society Behind Bars - Kamal al-Labwani

Syria: Human Rights Commitments at International Forums, Deep Repression at Home

By Mandeep S. Tiwana, CIVICUS Civil Society Watch Programme

The CIVICUS Civil Society Watch Programme is publishing a series of articles as part of the Civil Society Behind Bars campaign, which profiles civil society activists imprisoned because of their

work. Although individuals are profiled in the campaign, their cases indicate a systemic pattern of repression of civil society voices by national governments. This is the third article in the series. Kamal al Labwani, civil society activist, physician, writer and accomplished artist is currently serving a twelve year term with hard labour in a Syrian prison for "weakening national morale" and "conspiring with a hostile nation to attack Syria". For more information, [click here](#).

ACCOUNTABILITY

Publish What You Fund

The Global Campaign for Aid Transparency

Why transparency is the key to Accra

Greater transparency is central to aid delivering on its promise. Aid transparency is key to making aid accountable and responsive to the needs of people. Citizens and their representatives in both recipient and donor countries must be involved in aid planning, tracking and evaluation. While greater transparency alone will not result in more effective aid, better governance or enhanced development outcomes in recipient countries, it is fundamental to their success. While clearly not sufficient, aid transparency is a necessary condition for country-led development to emerge. Without transparency, other aid effectiveness gains cannot be achieved. To read more on the Publish What You Fund principles, [click here](#). For further details, [click here](#).

Aid accounting

Source: European Network on Debt and Development (EURODAD)

European governments have pledged to increase their overseas development assistance (ODA) by \$38.3 million dollars by 2010. Too often European donors have made pledges but failed to act. And as Eurodad has revealed in recent reports, a third of all aid in 2005 and 2006 was simply a donor accounting trick as money moved from one donor ministry to another. Eurodad continues to expose and seek to ban the reporting of 'inflated' aid, such as debt cancellations (particularly Export Credit Debts) and spending on refugees and foreign students in donor countries. Eurodad is advocating for real progress in untying aid including technical assistance. It is estimated that up to 40% of all ODA is tied to donor goods and services and that US\$13 billion is being spent on donor consultants vastly inflating the real value of aid for developing countries. In September 2007 Eurodad agreed to act as the European focal point for the Reality of Aid network, a global collaboration on aid tracking. For more information, [click here](#).

Accountability Rating 2008 – world's largest companies to undergo more robust accountability assessment

Source: AccountAbility, www.accountability21.net

A broader and more robust approach to measuring companies' social and environmental impacts is now being used in this year's Accountability Rating of the world's largest companies. Last year, for the first time since its launch in 2004, the Accountability Rating included an assessment of companies' impacts. For 2008, the methodology for assessing corporate impacts has been strengthened. It now covers a much larger number of social and environmental impacts, while focusing on metrics that are comparable between companies and sectors. For more information, [click here](#).

CIVIL SOCIETY ACTIVISM AND GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS



Climate Justice and Human Rights: Two sides of the same coin

By Vicente García-Delgado, CIVICUS' UN Representative (NY)

In a remarkably short period of time Climate Justice has become a worldwide citizen movement. The cry for Climate Justice has now been taken up by practically all sectors of civil

society, and the search is on for new forms of civil society collaboration with a truly interdisciplinary, holistic approach. Notably in this regard, former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and the Global Humanitarian Forum recently launched the Global Alliance for Climate Justice. The Alliance's two-day meeting last June was "the first time that the issue of the human impact of climate changes, as opposed to its environmental and emissions aspects, was the centre of an international conference of such high and wide-ranging levels." The urgent call by global civil society for Climate Justice may thrust forth from many different and diverse civil society perspectives, angles and geographical and cultural backgrounds; but in the end, they all seem to gravitate around one essential common realisation: climate change is fast becoming one of the greatest challenges to Human Rights. For more information, [click here](#).

How the Georgian War began

Source: Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR)

With the Caucasus still reeling from the disaster caused by the war that erupted over South Ossetia, questions are being asked as to how the conflict started on the night of 7-8 August. Everyone agrees that the Georgian army launched an attack at 11.30 pm that night. The key question is to what degree the Georgians were facing a direct threat. "How could we have prevented the hostilities, after Russia clearly decided to start a war?" Georgian state minister for reintegration and Tbilisi's chief negotiator over South Ossetia Temuri Yakobashvili told IWPR. For more information, [click here](#).

African civil groups demand massive climate change compensation

Source: Ekklesia, www.ekklesia.co.uk

A number of key African civil society organisations have come together with church development campaigners, to demand billions in compensation from rich countries for the impacts of global warming. The demand comes at the close of the United Nations climate change talks in Accra, Ghana. "A serious and equitable response to climate change will require rich countries to pay billions in public funds to help poor countries develop in a sustainable, low carbon manner. So why have the EU, which like to claim global leadership in the response to climate change, turned up with empty pockets again?" asked Nelson Muffuh, adviser on the UN climate talks to the UK-based international development agency Christian Aid. For more information, [click here](#).

CAPACITY BUILDING

Donor Management Toolkit

Source: NPower Seattle

This toolkit is for any nonprofit employee or manager given the task of selecting software for managing donors. Nonprofit organisations regularly face the challenge of accomplishing a mission with limited resources and high accountability for expenditures regularly considered "overhead", donation and grant dependent funding where success is defined by an ability to tap into and grow these donor bases as efficiently and effectively as possible, limited in-house technology expertise tasked with maintaining and managing unusual and detailed data to support your services and multiple systems that can inadvertently complicate tasks because data is stored in multiple locations that don't talk with one another. Donor management software help to manage relationships with active and prospective donors by tracking contact information, keeping records of correspondence and donations, managing grant deadlines, and producing detailed reports. For more information, [click here](#).

National Advocacy and Media toolkit for CSOs on Aid Effectiveness in Accra, Ghana

Source: Better Aid, www.betteraid.org

A Better Aid national advocacy and media toolkit has been developed for use in the run up to and during the Civil Society Forum and the OECD Third High Level Forum (HLF3) in Accra, Ghana on 2-4 September 2008. This is intended to support national advocacy and media activities, which can be conducted by the Better Aid position paper signatories and other concerned CSOs at the national

level. The toolkit has a number of templates that can be used and adapted according to national activities, in the run up to the CSO Forum and the OECD HLF 3, in Accra. The media toolkit is available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [French](#) and [Portuguese](#).

PROFILES



DONOR: New Field Foundation

The New Field Foundation contributes to the creation of a safe and sustainable world by supporting women and their families to overcome poverty, violence and injustice in their communities. Based in San Francisco, California, USA, New Field Foundation is newly established and operates in support of Tides Foundation's international grant making. The Foundation goal is to have long-term relationships with a variety of organisations that share similar values and vision. For more information, [click here](#).



MEMBER: Global Links Initiative

The Global Links Initiative aims to enable community capacity building at the local level - on a global scale - through knowledge sharing. It strongly supports positive and creative action on social inclusion and citizen empowerment. The Global Links Initiative primarily uses website technology to make practical global links among community capacity builders, socially entrepreneurial and caring people around the world. It also facilitates face to face meetings and exchange visits. The Global Links Initiative loves publishing good stories/news on their website to inspire/encourage us all to make a positive difference to others. In less than 4 years, the initiative has publicized over 1000 people/organisations from 58 countries to share information to make the world a better place. It has strong clusters of "networkers" in China, India, Japan, Nepal, Canada, UK and 15 African Countries... their website library of INSPIRE stories is perhaps the best in the world. It takes just two or three minutes to go to www.glinet.org and "Register" - it costs nothing - and help to build the confidence and capacity to help the disadvantaged and socially excluded in your district, country or region as well as globally. For more information, [click here](#).

BOOKS, REPORTS & RESOURCES



Book Launch: Ending Aid Dependence

By Yash Tandon, Executive Director, South Centre

South Centre, an intergovernmental organisation of the developing countries based in Geneva, will be launching its book 'Ending Aid Dependence' at the Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Accra, Ghana on 1st September 2008 in the session "Beyond aid dependence", Village Voice: Session II, 16:00-18:00. This book, 'Ending Aid Dependence' shows how the developing countries can liberate themselves from the aid that pretends to be developmental but is not. Exiting aid dependence should be at the top of the political agenda of all countries. This timely book cautions countries of the South against endorsing the Accra Action Agenda (AAA) offered by the OECD. For more information, [click here](#).

The Trouble with Aid

Why Less Could Mean More for Africa

By Jonathan Glennie

The new book calls on poor countries to reduce aid dependency. Less damning about the effects of aid than Tandon, Glennie nonetheless is concerned that people are missing the real issues by investing so much energy into campaigns to "double aid to Africa". Jonathan Glennie argues that, along with its many benefits, government aid to Africa has often meant more poverty, more hungry people, worse basic services and damage to already precarious democratic institutions. Moreover, calls for more aid are drowning out pressure for action that would really make a difference for Africa's

poor. Rather than doubling aid to Africa, it is time to reduce aid dependency. For more information, [click here](#).

Two papers examining what makes for effective anti-corruption systems, institutions and policies in Africa

Source: South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA)

Corruption remains a persistent problem in Africa, as it does around the world. It diverts public aid and state revenue to private pockets, and retards development efforts. All countries have laws, rules and organisations to counteract corruption, but why do we seem to be making so little headway? Most states have installed supreme corruption-busting bodies, only to disembowel or dismantle them a few years later, often when they are close to bringing the powerful to book. Others claim that these institutions abuse their powers and conduct vendettas. This month's papers discuss some of the ingredients for building stronger systems. The first paper 'Preventing Corruption in African Procurement' is written by Professor AS Mawenya, [click here](#). The second paper 'What Makes for Effective Anti-Corruption Systems' by Marianne Camerer, [click here](#).

CONFERENCES & EVENTS

CSOs Aid Effectiveness Parallel Forum

31 August- 1 September 2008, West Africa College of Physicians and Surgeons, Accra, Ghana

Civil society organisations (CSOs) have long called for the aid reform process to be moved to a more representative institution in which both donors and southern countries have an equal stake and one that provides oversight and also complements the processes housed in OECD which is effectively the organisations of donors. In order for any discussions to be inclusive and representative, a strong role for civil society, local governments, parliamentarians and other stakeholders must be ensured. CSOs also express the need to position aid and aid effectiveness in the broader challenge confronting donors and developing countries today to find a way in which aid itself can contribute to the end of aid. In other words, we must go beyond the rhetoric around 'country ownership' to find forms of international cooperation that support developing countries to achieve more self-sufficient financing of their own growth strategies, their own natural resources and their own public policies. For more information, [click here](#).

Accra Women's Forum to review Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness

31 August 2008, Accra, Ghana, International Women's Tribune Centre (IWTC) Women's GlobalNet

In anticipation of the Third High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness that will take place in Accra, Ghana, from 2-4 September, women's rights organisations, advocates and activists will gather at the Accra Women's Forum on to articulate a coherent set of recommendations and plan for women's effective engagement. For more information, [click here](#).

UN 2008 Social Forum

1-3 September 2008, Geneva, Switzerland

The Social Forum is a unique space for interactive dialogue between the United Nations human rights machinery and various stakeholders, including grass-roots organisations, and underlines the importance of coordinated efforts at national, regional and international levels for the promotion of social cohesion based on the principles of social justice, equity and solidarity as well as to address the social dimension and challenges of the ongoing globalization process. In this Forum, CIVICUS will be represented by Renate Bloem, UN Representative (Geneva) and Ingrid Srnath, CIVICUS Secretary General. For more information, [click here](#).

Annual DPI/NGO Conference Reaffirming Human Rights: The Universal Declaration

3-5 September 2008, Paris, France

Over the course of three days, 2000+ representatives of NGOs, grass-roots organisations, UN system, private sector, academia, media, philanthropists, youth and other constituencies will gather in

Paris - city of the signature of the UDHR in 1948 - to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) by examining its application in the context of current realities and emerging issues worldwide. During this conference, CIVICUS will be represented by Julie Middleton, Civil Society Watch Programme, Vicente García-Delgado, UN Representative (New York), Renate Bloem, UN Representative (Geneva) and Ingrid Srnath, CIVICUS Secretary General. For more information, [click here](#).

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Youth Social Entrepreneur Competition

Application deadline: 15 October 2008

Ashoka's Youth Venture and Changemakers is partnering with Staples to launch our first global competition to recognize young leaders who are finding new ways to create positive change in their communities. Join Changemakers, Youth Venture and Staples in identifying and supporting innovative ways young people are making positive change in their communities. Enter to receive feedback, find supporters, win prizes, and even secure up to US\$1,000 in funding to advance your project. The competition is open to all young individuals between the ages of 12-24. Youth leaders who enter the competition on Changemakers.net have an opportunity to win a global prize or be considered for a \$1,000 Youth Venture grant to advance their projects. For more information, [click here](#).

Asia Pacific Rice Film Award 2008

Application deadline for entries: 1 August-31 January 2009

Film makers and new media artistes across the Asia Pacific region are invited to enter their audio-visual creations in this first ever award recognising excellence in films on rice-related issues. Presented by Pesticide Action Network Asia and the Pacific (PAN AP), TVE Asia Pacific (TVEAP) and Public Media Agency (PMA) of Malaysia, the competition is open to both fictional and factual films on the theme of Asia's rice heritage and the threats it faces in this era of globalisation. The films may have been produced using professional video, home video, mobile phones or cinematic equipment. They may be in any of these formats or genres: 2D animation, 3D animation, songs, short drama, satire and adaptations of folk culture or documentary. They need to have been made after 1 January 2008. For more information, [click here](#).

WORKSHOPS & COURSES

Advocacy and Policy Influencing

8-12 September 2008, Oxford, UK

This popular and successful course gives participants, from Northern and Southern NGOs, a thorough understanding of how to influence the policy making process in their own context. You will learn skills to help you formulate and plan effective advocacy strategies. Enhance participants' ability to lobby decision makers, and gain confidence in the ways in which relates to the media - give new life to campaigning! The course seeks to identify different approaches to advocacy and the values and strategies that underlie them, build an advocacy strategy, analyse the external environment and policy processes in order to identify appropriate 'levers of influence'. For more information, [click here](#).

CALL FOR PAPERS, SUBMISSIONS, SURVEYS & NOMINATIONS

2008 Call for Ambassador Nominations

Application Deadline: 15 September 2008

Nominees must be U.S. leaders in global health research who have demonstrated an understanding of, and commitment to, advocacy for global health research. All nominations will be reviewed by the Society's Advisory Council, which includes leaders in global health research, public policy and communications. Nominees are not limited to those holding a senior leadership position overseeing or conducting public or private funded global health research. The nominee's availability, willingness and time commitment to attend and participate in meetings with policy makers, thought leaders and the media in their own states and in Washington, D.C. Once selected, they will be required to participate in a two day advocacy leadership forum in Washington, D.C. Those who have a demonstrated track record and understanding of, and commitment to, advocacy for global health research and can offer examples of outreach experience with policy makers, thought leaders and the media. Nominations should be in the form of a letter on institution, industry or organisation letterhead. For more information, [click here](#).

APPOINTMENTS

CURRENT JOBS

Project Coordinator Participatory Governance

Application Deadline: 15 September 2008
CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation
Location: Johannesburg, South Africa
For more information, [click here](#).

Resource Mobilisation Coordinator

Application Deadline: 26 September 2008
CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation
Location: Johannesburg, South Africa
For more information, [click here](#).

Call for a Consultant

Application Deadline: 2 September 2008
ActionAid International
Location: Home with constant discussions with ActionAid Education Team
For more information, [click here](#).

CONTACT e-CIVICUS

e-CIVICUS is a free weekly online publication keeping tens of thousands of people, organisations and programmes informed of the many developments that are taking place in civil society organisations around the world, the many factors that are affecting the impact of civil society on creating a more just world.

We value your comments and suggestions. Please send these to the Editorial Team at editor@civicus.org.

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