



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 through which you and your organisation can share your news, publicise your events and articulate

FROM THE DESK OF CIVICUS' SECRETARY GENERAL

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



Financial meltdown or tipping point?

By Ingrid Srinath, CIVICUS Secretary General

Dear friends and colleagues,

Did you, like me, watch the recent developments in the world's financial markets with bemusement? Were you tempted to satirise Churchill and say, "Never in the field of human endeavour has so much pain been inflicted on so many by so few"? Did you yet again wonder what the prevalent exchange rate in human distress is - how many poor lives lost, or childhoods irreversibly stunted, does it take to generate the level of outrage and urgent action that are instantly mobilised to save a failing bank? Was your brain numbed by the staggering sums of money somehow found to bail out these citadels of power and privilege when minuscule fractions of those amounts have not been available to prevent starvation deaths, reduce maternal mortality, prevent conflict, treat disease or even to alleviate the pressures on the middle-classes? Were you struck by the thought that the remedies being prescribed sounded a lot like trying to cure obesity by buying bigger sized clothes? Did you find yourself hoping against the odds that some thought might finally be given to the fundamental dysfunction and injustice of an economic system designed to privatise gains and socialise losses? To read more on this week's column, [click here](#).

CIVICUS Poll Question

This week's question:

Do you think that the current financial crisis:

- a. Trigger the long-overdue political commitments on development
- b. Will be the irreparable blow to the world's poor
- c. Is something civil society does not have a state in?

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

Previous question:

For the MDG action plans to work, what do you think is the most important ingredient?

- a. Better understanding of how human rights and poverty intersect

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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TELL A FRIEND

Do you have a friend who works for

- b. More opportunity for people with experience of poverty to be heard
- c. Stricter and consistently monitored time-bound plans of action from governments
- d. All of the above
- e. Other

Results: a. - 5%, b. - 10%, c. - 10%, d. - 55%, e. - 20%

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e-CIVICUS keeps tens of thousands of people and organisations informed of the many developments taking place in civil society around the world. As a subscriber you know the value e-CIVICUS can bring to your work. So why keep it to yourself?

Do you have a friend who works for a more just world? Would you like to share this newsletter with them? Why don't you suggest they register for a free subscription?

They can send us an e-mail to subscriptions@civicus.org or fill out the subscription form [here](#). Alternatively, please forward their e-mail addresses to us and we'll contact them on your behalf. Please send us your contributions no later than Monday every week to editor@civicus.org. All contributions must be focused on civil society issues or have a civil society angle.

e-CIVICUS DIALOGUES



International Human Rights Exchange Programme at CIVICUS: Some Reflections

By Michael Rubin, CIVICUS Civil Society Watch (CSW) programme intern and student of Political Science at Emory University in the United States

My tenure at CIVICUS was facilitated through the International Human Rights Exchange (IHRE) Programme, an academic programme administered jointly by the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa - the host university for the programme - and Bard College, the partner institution in the United States, focusing on the study of Human Rights in today's evolving global community. I was drawn to CIVICUS because of its commitment to defending the rights and strengthening the influence of civil society organisations throughout the world. My firm belief in the importance of civil society as a prerequisite for democracy and as an effective agent of holding governments accountable for their policies and practices guided my arrangement to intern in the Civil Society Watch (CSW) programme that works specifically on defending civil society space around the world -- namely freedom of expression, association and assembly. For more information, [click here](#).



Who should control the World Bank?

Rich countries keep their thumbs on the scales

Source: Bretton Woods Project

As Liz Stuart of Oxfam said: "The system is so out of kilter with the World Bank's goals, and it completely fails to recognise global realities." Proposed reforms to the way the World Bank is governed tinker at the edges, promising only marginal improvements for developing countries; critics are stepping up the pressure for a fundamental rethink. Developing countries have proposed that future reform should be based on the principle of "parity:" equal voting share for borrower and non-borrower countries. This principle has been supported in a letter sent to World Bank president Robert Zoellick in August, signed by over 80 NGOs and numerous influential figures from around the world. For more information, [click here](#).

Regulation of hedge funds: Why is it a social security issue?

By Aldo Caliarì, Center of Concern

a more just world?
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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>



Originally, hedge funds were supposed to be very specialised investment vehicles whose access was highly restricted to sophisticated investors. But the last few years have seen a considerable broadening of the investor class with access to hedge funds. Governments are also increasingly investing their pension programme money in hedge funds. Since the funds are accessible to common citizens, the need for public intervention to ensure that investments are carried out according to good practices and standards, that managers meet integrity and competence criteria, and that transparency and disclosure requirements are implemented makes eminent sense. For more information, [click here](#).



Call to Action on World Foodless Day

Source; PAN Asia and the Pacific

On 16 October, PAN AP, together with its community partners and network organisations, will observe the World Foodless Day (WFD 2008). This will be held in defence of the communities' right to food, land and food sovereignty. In the face of growing hunger and malnutrition, agribusiness transnational corporations (TNCs) continue to mint profits. Food, which is for nourishment and livelihoods, is now being treated as a commodity for trade, speculation and profiteering. The United Nations, World Trade Organisation (WTO) and international finance institutions are using the food crisis to further impose their failed prescriptions of liberalisation and corporate agriculture on the governments and their people. To participate in the World Foodless Day campaign, [click here](#).



Freedom of Expression under attack in the global south

Source: Manana Stone, Media & Advocacy Officer, Media Institute of Southern Africa

The Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) is a regional media and freedom of expression advocacy organisation working through national chapters in 11 Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) countries to promote media diversity, pluralism, self-sufficiency and independence, as envisaged in the 1991 Windhoek Declaration and the African Charter on Broadcasting. The media is under immense scrutiny for its use of the right to freely express itself. Many feel that the media in general has become a law unto itself, but MISA believes that freedom of expression is a right that is core to the role of media in development. MISA also acknowledges that in exercising this right, every citizen needs to bear in mind that his/her rights do not infringe on those of others. For more information, [click here](#).

CIVIL SOCIETY NEWS

CIVICUS's first submissions: Universal Periodic Review of the UN Human Rights Council

As part of the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism of the Human Rights Council, the CIVICUS Civil Society Watch Programme made its first submissions on Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. The submissions focused on restrictions on the freedoms of association and assembly in both countries, whose human rights record is due for review at the December 1-15 session of the UN Human Rights Council. In carrying out its review, the Council considers the reports submitted by (i) national governments, (ii) the national human rights institution of the country, if any, and, (iii) from civil society organisations. For more information on CIVICUS' submissions for Uzbekistan, [click here](#) and for Turkmenistan, [click here](#).

Human Rights Watch delegation expelled in Venezuela

Source: Wordpress.org

The Venezuelan government's expulsion of two Human Rights Watch staff underscores the Chávez administration's increasing intolerance of dissenting views, Human Rights Watch said today. The government expelled José Miguel Vivanco, America's director at Human Rights Watch, and America's deputy director Daniel Wilkinson on 18 September, hours after they held a news conference in Caracas to present a report that describes how the government of President Hugo

Chávez has weakened democratic institutions and human rights guarantees in Venezuela. "Chávez's expulsion of the Human Rights Watch team is further evidence of Venezuela's descent into intolerance," said Kenneth Roth, executive director of Human Rights Watch. For more information, [click here](#).

Civil society reactions to the proposed NGO regulation law in Cambodia

Source: Meas Sokchea and Sebastian Strangio, The Phnom Penh Post

Rights groups have criticised the government's proposed introduction of tighter regulations for non-government organisations, saying the restrictions go beyond what is needed to ensure accountability in the NGO sector. Addressing the first meeting of the new cabinet, Prime Minister Hun Sen said the government plans to pass a law regulating the operation of local and international NGOs in Cambodia. "We have to know the sources of [NGO] funds," Hun Sen said. "We are concerned that their funding could come from terrorist groups." Rights groups brand the Prime Minister's proposed NGO Law "unnecessary", saying terrorism and fraud can be solved through more effective means. For more information, [click here](#).

Journalist in critical condition following brutal beating in Bulgaria

ARTICLE 19 Press Statement

ARTICLE 19 is shocked at the vicious assault on Ognyan Stefanov on 22 September 2008, in the capital of Bulgaria, Sofia, while relieved to hear that he regained consciousness on the third day of his hospitalisation. Stefanov is a Bulgarian journalist and the chief editor of the online media outlet. "This attack appears to be motivated by a desire to silence Stefanov and, as such, it represents an assault not only on Stefanov, but also on the right to freedom of expression", stated Dr. Agnès Callamard, Executive Director of ARTICLE 19. "We call on the Bulgarian authorities to do all they can to find the perpetrators and to bring them to justice." For more information, [click here](#).

African civil society groups and farmers march against Economic Partnership Agreements

Source: Ghanaweb.com

Hundreds of Ghanaian farmers and civil society groups took to the streets on Monday calling on the leadership of the Africa Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries to reject outright the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with the European Union. The EPAs are a major topic of discussion at the 6th ACP Head of State Summit to be held in Accra from Tuesday September 30 to October 3 this year. The EU is seeking under the EPAs a reciprocal trade regime with the African Caribbean and Pacific countries. This means EU exporting its goods to the markets of ACP countries quota and duty free and in return granting ACP countries similar access to EU markets. Mr Kofi Asamoah, Secretary General of the Ghana Trade Union Congress, said the EPAs as currently structured are set to continue and even carry further the destabilising elements that have rendered developing countries' economies so dependent on aid. For more information, [click here](#).

Journalists charged with abusing freedom and democracy in Vietnam

Source: JURIST, legal news & research

Vietnamese journalists Nguyen Van Hai of Tuoi Tre news agency in Vietnam and Nguyen Viet Chien of the Thanh Nien news agency have been charged with "abusing freedom and democracy" and will face up to seven years in prison if convicted at trial next month in the Hanoi People's Court, state media outlets reported. For more information, [click here](#).

Civil society calls for public participation in action plan on climate change

Source: Ahmed Swapan, Executive Director of Dhaka based-NGO-VOICE

Participants from various civil society organisations agreed to monitor closely the policies, projects and programmes of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Bangladesh in the face of the changing nature of the ADB. Speakers critically evaluated the recently drafted national action plan on climate change, which was drafted without any public participation, including that of vulnerable communities. The day long consultation on Environment and Climate Change: Role of the ADB in Bangladesh was attended by nearly 40 representatives from NGOs, civil society organisations, academics, journalists and human rights activists across the country. Speakers demanded that international financial institutions (IFIs) and northern multinational companies should shed the climate hypocrisy if they

want to consider impacts of climate change on people. The event was organised by Voice, a research and advocacy organisation based in Dhaka, and Manila based NGO Forum. For more information, [click here](#).

Red Cross appeals for access to victims of Congo conflict

Source: Wordpress.org

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is calling for all warring parties in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo to respect the Red Cross emblem. The humanitarian situation has deteriorated in North and South Kivu provinces since fighting between Congolese government troops and rebels resumed at the end of August. The International Committee of the Red Cross estimates more than 100,000 people have fled their homes since fighting resumed a month ago. ICRC Spokeswoman Anna Schaafte told Voice of America that many of these people have been displaced several times. And, as in the past, she says many have run away with just the clothes on their backs. For more information, [click here](#).

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS & GLOBAL CALL TO ACTION AGAINST POVERTY



Billions for Banks but not for the billions of people living in poverty

Source: Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP)

The Global Call to Action against Poverty called on leaders during the Emergency Summit on the Millennium Development Goals to reassess their priorities and commit the resources needed to meet their targets. "We cannot believe the way poverty has been sidelined so far in favour of discussions on how to support the rich. This is our golden moment to get these Goals back on track but the voices of people affected by poverty are kept on the fringes. This is not a recipe for putting right the most grievous wrong of our time," said Kumi Naidoo, Co-chair of the Global Call to Action against Poverty, speaking at the launch of a new campaign called 'In my name' in front of the UN. For more information, [click here](#).

High-level meeting on MDGs raises commitments and attention to survival of mothers and children

Source: United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

In spite of financial storms wreaking havoc on the global economy and drawing wide media coverage last week, the High-level meeting on the Millennium Development Goals last week was a success for the MDGs broadly and for UNFPA's work on maternal health. It gained wide attention and exceeded expectations in terms of funds raised. At the meeting and related side events, governments, foundations, businesses and civil society groups rallied around the call to slash poverty, hunger and disease by 2015. For more information, [click here](#).

We the Peoples 2008 - Getting to 2015: Building participation, seeking success

Source: North-South Institute

As we head past the midpoint towards 2015, the 2008 edition of the We the People reaches out to youth groups as well as organisations working with young people, underlining the critical role of youth in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It shows that young people around the world are actively engaged in raising awareness about the MDGs. For more information, [click here](#).

Lack of action on corruption threatens poverty alleviation and climate change measures, says TI

Source: Transparency International (TI)

A lack of follow-through on anti-corruption commitments by the Group of Eight (G8) is further undermining essential poverty goals, as well as threatening environmental measures, warned Transparency International on the eve of the 2008 Toyako Hokkaido Summit. "Vulnerable communities across the world continue to pay the price for corruption in basic services denied, public resources depleted and institutions subverted by greed," said Huguette Labelle, Chair of


Transparency International. "The G8, as the world's most powerful economies, have a golden opportunity to ensure that no further generation is lost to corruption and poverty, and that the world is armed to manage the human dimension of climate change, possibly the greatest governance challenge it has ever faced." For more information, [click here](#).

The Millennium Development Goals Report 2008

Source: Millennium Development Goals Indicators

This report is based on a master set of data that has been compiled by an Inter-Agency and Expert Group on MDG Indicators led by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, in response to the wishes of the General Assembly for periodic assessment of progress towards the MDGs. The Group comprises representatives of the international organisations whose activities include the preparation of one or more of the series of statistical indicators that were identified as appropriate for monitoring progress towards the MDGs. The eight Millennium Development Goals have been adopted by the international community as a framework for the development activities of over 190 countries in ten regions; they have been articulated into over 20 targets and over 60 indicators. This Report summarises progress towards the Goals in each of the regions. However, any such synthesis inevitably masks the range and variety of development experiences in individual countries since the goals were adopted. For more information, [click here](#).

GET INVOLVED!

 **Civil society involvement on October 17th to 19th - STANDS UP and TAKES ACTION against Poverty and Inequality**
Join the biggest worldwide mobilisation to end poverty now!

The Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) and the UN Millennium Campaign are planning a number of important activities to maintain the momentum and pressure on leaders in both rich and poor countries to honour the commitments they have made to end poverty and to meet and exceed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Last year over 43 million people around the world took part in the Stand Up initiative against poverty and in support of the MDGs. By doing so, they set a new Guinness World record for the most number of people ever to Stand Up against poverty. Their actions sent a clear message to governments that there is a growing global movement of people no longer prepared to stay seated or silent in the face of poverty and broken promises. Between 17 and 19 October, to coincide with the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, global civil society will be attempting to break last year's world record by asking people all over the world to STAND UP and TAKE ACTION against poverty and inequality and for meeting and exceeding the MDGs. For more information, [click here](#).

Amnesty International: Stop torture campaign

In 2006, Amnesty International recorded cases of torture and ill-treatment in 102 countries. There's a military commander in Sudan who wages war on civilians. He commands his men to rape women. It's his way of suppressing the population. There is a man in Algeria who tortures people. It's his job and he's good at it. He uses a variety of tools including broken glass and a blow torch. An Iranian official is paid to kill people, including children. He's been known to hang them in public streets. A western president authorises an illegal detention centre. Here no rule of law applies. Detainees are subjected to sleep deprivation, hooding, forced nudity and simulated drowning. A man in Eastern Europe runs a profitable business selling women as sex slaves. The UK is one of his biggest markets. All these people are real. They are all going about their business of torture. To join the campaign, [click here](#).

European Day against the Death Penalty, 10 October

Source: Council of Europe Press Division

The Council of Europe and the European Union will mark the European Day against the Death Penalty, 10 October, with a panel discussion from 11.00 am to 12.30 pm at the Council of Europe's Agora Building. Europe is today the only region in the world where the death penalty is no longer

applied. All the Council of Europe's 47 member states have either abolished capital punishment or instituted a moratorium on executions. The European Day against the Death Penalty coincides with the World Day against the Death Penalty and includes grass roots events all over Europe, from Armenia to Ukraine. A special op-ed against the death penalty, co-authored by Ministers of Foreign Affairs Carl Bildt and Bernard Kouchner, on behalf of the Swedish Chairmanship of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers and the French Presidency of the European Union respectively, will be published in major media across Europe. For more information, [click here](#).

Global Campaign Against Corruption

Transparency International

It is estimated that as much as U.S.\$1 trillion is paid in bribes worldwide each year. This amount is 40 times the cost estimated by the United Nations for a global campaign to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS, ten times total annual development assistance spending, and nearly the GDP of the entire African continent. Yet even \$1 trillion is a dramatic underestimate of the social and human cost of corruption. Corruption - the abuse of entrusted power for private gain - is a roadblock to human development. It distorts competitive markets, leads to the misallocation of resources and disproportionately burdens the world's poorest and most vulnerable. Corruption makes a mockery of rights, breeds cultures of secrecy, deprives the neediest of vital public services, deepens poverty and undermines hope. For more information, [click here](#).

ACCOUNTABILITY

IMF challenged on accountability, governance

Source: Bretton Woods Project

A scathing report from the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) highlights the International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s lack of transparency and accountability, but there appears to be little shareholder agreement on the IEO's conclusions and consolidation of European board representation. Despite both broad conclusions and detailed recommendations for each body of the Fund, the IMF board did not endorse any specific recommendation, contrary to its usual practice after discussing IEO reports. Inside sources indicate that the board feels that the issues brought up in the report, many of which deal with the design and functioning of the board itself, can only be addressed in national capitals. The report finds that accountability and voice are the weakest features of the Fund's governance and notes "these weaknesses entail risks to the Fund's legitimacy, which in turn has a bearing on its effectiveness." For more information, [click here](#).

Keystone's Constituency Voice Approach in Aid Effectiveness Debate

Source: www.KeystoneAccountability.org

A description of Keystone's impact planning and learning method and comparative constituency feedback application was included as reference documents presented by the Advisory Group on CSOs and Aid Effectiveness at the 6th round-table on Civil Society and Effectiveness that took place at the 3rd High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Accra. Constituency Voice approach is presented as part of a series of methods and approaches that constitutes good practice for enhancing aid effectiveness and illustrates the recommendations of the Advisory Group. For more information, [click here](#).

2008 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)

Source: Transparency International (TI)

With countries such as Somalia and Iraq among those showing the highest levels of perceived corruption, Transparency International's 2008 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), launched on September 23, highlights the fatal link between poverty, failed institutions and graft. But other notable backsliders in the 2008 CPI indicate that the strength of oversight mechanisms is also at risk among the wealthiest. The Transparency International CPI measures the perceived levels of public-sector corruption in a given country and is a composite index, drawing on different expert and business

zero (highly corrupt) to ten (highly clean). For more information, [click here](#).



Correction: Corruption nourishes poverty

In the last edition of e-CIVICUS 408, we have published a wrong image of Ramesh Jaura interviews Huguette Labelle, Chair of Transparency International

A new report by Transparency International (TI) lashes out at some of the world's poorest countries for an "ongoing humanitarian disaster", and deplores the wealthiest for not doing enough to stem graft. Launching the 2008 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) on Tuesday, 23 September in Berlin, TI Chair Huguette Labelle said: "In the poorest countries, corruption levels can mean the difference between life and death, when money for hospitals or clean water is in play, but even in more privileged countries, with enforcement disturbingly uneven, a tougher approach to tackling corruption is needed." For more information, [click here](#).

CIVIL SOCIETY ACTIVISM AND GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS

Universal Declaration of Human Rights and International Day of Non-Violence, 02 October

This day, which marks the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, falls during the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. There is a profound philosophical connection between the fundamental principles of human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration and those practised by Mahatma Gandhi. The answer for Mahatma Gandhi was always found in action. As he said, "An ounce of practice is worth more than tons of preaching." Today, the legacy and the principles of the Mahatma are carried forward in our celebration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. They are carried forward through the activities of the United Nations and invaluable partners in civil society: religious leaders, teachers, artists and so many others. For more information, [click here](#).

Citizen's mobilisation needed to prevent worse financial crisis impacts and change financial model

Source: Alex Wilks, Director, European Network on Debt and Development (EURODAD)

The United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) event in New York was supposed to have seen a reconfirmation of government commitment to the MDGs. Instead leaders have spent their time in New York and back home discussing the financial crisis, which reached new depths last week. For the last year many commentators have said developing countries were immune ('decoupled') from the mayhem affecting financial markets in the North, but this view is being rapidly revised as alarm spreads about the likely impacts on the world's impoverished billions. For more information, [click here](#).

Global malaria action plan launched to eradicate malaria by 2015

By Shipra Prakash, Media Global

Malaria defeated the international community many years ago. A single global action plan for malaria control, that enjoys partnership-wide support, is a strong factor for success," said Margaret Chan, Director-General of the World Health Organisation (WHO) at the launch of the new Global Malaria Action Plan (GMAP) in New York. The Plan was launched by the Roll Back Malaria (RBM) Partnership in collaboration with the British government, the United Nations, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Malaria No More - along with the private sector, faith and civil society leaders - to commit \$3 billion for the ambitious goal of reducing malaria deaths to near zero by 2015. According to the RBM Partnership, malaria affects 3.3 billion people in 109 countries and causes nearly one million deaths per year. For more information, [click here](#).

Russia's War in Georgia: Causes and Implications for Georgia and the World

Central Asia-Caucasus Institute & Silk Road Studies Programme

In August 2008, Russia launched an invasion of Georgia that sent shock waves reverberating - first across the post-Soviet space, but then also into the rest of Europe and the world, as the magnitude of the invasion and its implications became clear. This invasion took the world by surprise. But what

should have been surprising about it was perhaps the extent of Russia's willingness to employ crude military force against a neighbouring state, not that it happened. Indeed, Russia had for several years pursued increasingly aggressive and interventionist policies in Georgia, and had employed an array of instruments that included military means, albeit at a smaller scale. In the several months that preceded the invasion, Moscow's increasingly blatant provocations against Georgia led to a growing fear in the analytic community that it was seeking a military confrontation. For more information, [click here](#).

PROFILES

DONOR: The Compagnia di San Paolo

The Compagnia di San Paolo was founded in Turin in 1563 as a charitable lay brotherhood by seven citizens who decided their mission was to help the poor. Throughout its long history, it has supported a range of charitable activities in the fields of health, education and social welfare. In 1992, it was transformed into a foundation as a consequence of the restructuring of the San Paolo Bank Group. After the privatisation of the San Paolo Bank, the Compagnia di San Paolo no longer holds the controlling shares in the bank. The Compagnia di San Paolo supports works of public interest and social well-being, in particular in the sectors of scientific, economic and juridical research; education; art and the preservation and valourisation of cultural heritage and activities; health; and assistance to the socially deprived categories of society. The Compagnia defines its objectives through multi-annual and annual programmes, and operates both by making grants to organisations who propose projects in line with its programmes, and in other ways, including the work of its "operating units", which work directly in various sectors of the foundation's activities. For more information, [click here](#).



MEMBER: Ethiopian Human Rights and Civic Education Promotion Association (EHRCEPA)

EHRCEPA works to make a difference in people's awareness, concern and exercise of their fundamental and human rights in Ethiopia. It is also working relentlessly for the promotion and realisation of gender equality, the rule of law, good governance, and peace and stability with the active participation of target groups and other stakeholders. Its major programme areas are women's rights, gender equality, Harmful Traditional Practice Reduction, and Reproductive Health rights with emphasis on HIV/AIDS; children's rights; peace education and conflict resolution; civic and voter education; good governance; civic and human rights education in literacy and ABCE programmes; IDP'S and refugee rights; the rights of persons with disabilities (PWD); environment education; and nutrition education. It approaches these programmes via community mobilisation, training and education; institutional capacity building; networking and partnership; and public policy advocacy. For more information, [click here](#).

BOOKS, REPORTS & RESOURCES

Report of the UN Secretary General on IYV Follow-up

Source: UN General Assembly

The Report of the UN Secretary General on Follow-up to the implementation of the International Year of Volunteers (IYV) in 2001 examines the state of volunteerism around the world through the four lenses of recognition, facilitation, networking and promotion. The report concludes that the vibrancy of volunteerism globally, engendered by IYV 2001, continues - although the pace and direction of growth is the subject of a number of factors that are explained in the report itself. These factors need to be recognised and understood if volunteerism is to be properly incorporated into national policy

marking the tenth anniversary of IYV in 2011. A resolution will be drafted and submitted for approval at an inter-governmental meeting to be held in New York on 6 October. For more information, [click here](#).

Role of civil society in enhancing aid effectiveness

Aid and development cooperation

The aim of Round-Table 6 at the OECD High Level Forum III in Accra was to build upon the work of the Advisory Group on Civil Society and Aid Effectiveness (AG-CS). The AG-CS is a multi-stakeholder group reporting to the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness, which led an extensive consultation process, analytical work, and case study work in the 18 months preceding the Accra High Level Forum (HLF). For more information, [click here](#).

GBV Survey: UN IASC Protection Cluster on Gender Based Violence

Source: United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS)

The United Nations agencies and NGOs active in humanitarian assistance have come together to form a Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Area of Responsibility Working Group under the auspices of the global Protection Cluster. In an effort to better guide the interventions of this group and deepen understanding of what is happening in the field, a survey on GBV coordination structures in humanitarian settings has been created. NGOs and civil society organisations active in either prevention or response (including legal, health and psychosocial programming) are invited to complete the survey, which is open until 31 October 2008. The survey aims to help understand the gaps in GBV coordination and how those gaps can be filled to ensure comprehensive GBV prevention and response programmes in humanitarian settings. It is hoped that a lot of information can be captured from this survey from as many agencies and civil society actors as possible. For more information [click here](#).

Climate change and displacement

Forced Migration Review issue

The 80-page issue of the Forced Migration Review (FMR), published by the Refugee Studies Centre of Oxford University, includes a major focus on climate change and displacement. In response to growing pressures on landscapes and livelihoods, people are moving, communities are adapting. This issue of FMR debates the numbers, the definitions and the modalities - and the tension between the need for research and the need to act. Thirty-eight articles by UN, academic, international and local actors explore the extent of the potential displacement crisis, community adaptation and coping strategies, and the search for solutions. For more information, [click here](#).

An NGO code of ethics in Mali

Source: FECONG

NGOs firstly appeared in Mali when dramatic droughts affected the country in 1973. The sector grew a lot with the advent of democracy in 1991 and the government evaluates at 2,000 the number of NGOs operating in the country today. But those NGOs are not always fully functional and accountable. NGOs in Mali also structured their sector by creating territorial or sectoral networks. With the aim of representation at the highest levels, the Federation of NGO Networks (Fédération des Collectifs d'ONG - FECONG) was created in 2003 as an alliance of 15 existing NGO networks, representing 600 national and international NGOs. Members mandated FECONG to create a code of ethics for the sector in Mali. For more information, [click here](#).

CONFERENCES & EVENTS

Policy Forum - Towards a Copenhagen Consensus: Opportunities and Challenges

9-10 October 2008, Kyoto, Japan

The Bali Action Plan, as agreed by the 13th Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC (COP 13), is an important road map towards an inclusive and sustainable development-oriented global climate

regime. It considers both the founding principles of the UNFCCC and the latest findings from the fourth assessment report of IPCC, and calls for global collective action to address climate change in a fair and differentiated way. Therefore, forging a consensus in Copenhagen will depend upon how these key elements are defined, and how common understanding on such issues can be developed. As part of the 4th round of the Asia-Pacific consultations on the future climate regime, IGES will organise a policy forum in Kyoto, Japan, in cooperation with several organisations such as NIES and UN ESCAP, and support from several others. For more information, [click here](#).

7th Global Conference on Human Development

17-21 November, 2008, Takayama, Japan

The Institute of Cultural Affairs International's 7th Global Conference on Human Development will serve as a launching pad for realising the paradigm shift needed to overcome deepest human development challenges. The conference will bring together development practitioners, community leaders, policy innovators, government, the private sector, and world-class facilitators. Participants will explore most pressing human development challenges - from poverty to disease to ecological sustainability - and identify new solutions and design new approaches to resolving them. For more information, [click here](#).

Doha Global Civil Society Forum

27 November - 28 November 2008, Doha, Qatar

Non-governmental Organisations in consultative status with ECOSOC as well as those that were granted ad hoc accreditation to the International Conference on Financing for Development (ICFD) or its follow-up process are eligible to apply for the two events. Organisations without previous accreditation that applied for ad hoc accreditation to the Doha Review Conference before the deadline of 31 August, are welcome to register, but confirmation will only be issued if the General Assembly approves the accreditation request. Due to limited space, applicants wishing to participate in the official Review Conference, or to be speakers in Round Tables at the Conference, will be given special consideration. Completed registration forms must be received by 17 October. Confirmation of participation will be issued by 27 October. For more information, [click here](#).

International court representatives' conference to examine current legal challenges

6-7 October 2008, Lancaster House, London, UK

Under the Swedish chairmanship of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers, the Council of Europe is organising a wide-ranging conference which is gathering 120 participants, including Presidents, Prosecutors and Registrars from 15 international courts and tribunals, legal experts, academicians and practitioners. International justice answers to the common desire to resolve peacefully conflicts between states, to try the most atrocious crimes, and to contribute to human rights protection. The conference will create a roundtable for open and constructive discussion between those who represent international justice on a daily basis and representatives of the governments which have initiated and established these bodies. For more information, [click here](#).

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Alfa Fellowship Programme

Application Deadline: 24 October 2008

The Alfa Fellowship Programme is a high-level professional development exchange programme placing 10 qualified American citizens per year in work assignments at leading organisations in Russia in the fields of business, economics, journalism, law, and public policy. Key goals of the Alfa Fellowship Programme are expanding networks of American and Russian professionals, developing greater intercultural understanding, and advancing US/Russian relations. The programme includes language training, seminar programmes and extended professional experience. Fellows receive travel, free housing, monthly stipends and insurance. Russian language proficiency is preferred though not required at the time of application. For more information, [click here](#).

2009 Gates Award for Global Health

Application Deadline: 31 October 2008

The Gates Award for Global Health was established by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to reward and showcase organisations that have made major and lasting contributions to the field of global health. The award includes an honorarium of \$1 million. The Global Health Council invites application from an organisation from any country in the world that has substantively improved the health and the lives of people in need. The organisation may be a charitable institution, a private company or a public entity. Nominations will be considered by an international jury consisting of health professionals from developing countries and the Global Health Council's Board of Directors. The award will be presented in Washington , D.C. , at a special Awards Ceremony during the Global Health Council's Annual International Conference. For more information, [click here](#).

Gruber Foundation for Justice Prize

Application Deadline: 15 December 2008

The Peter and Patricia Gruber Foundation's Justice Prize honours individuals who have advanced the cause of justice as delivered through the legal system. The award is intended to both acknowledge individual efforts and encourage further advancements toward bringing about a fundamentally just world. The prize -- a gold medal and an unrestricted \$500,000 cash award -- is an international award presented annually. Recipients are selected by a distinguished panel of international legal experts from nominations that are received from around the world. Nominations may be submitted by individuals, organisations or institutions that are active in or have an appreciation for the theory and practice of justice. Self-nominations are not accepted. All nominations materials must be submitted in English. For more information, [click here](#).

WORKSHOPS & COURSES

WFUNA-Youth Project Management Workshop

24-26 October 2008, Barcelona, Spain

WFUNA-Youth will hold its third Project Management Workshop in Barcelona from 24 to 26 October 2008. Participants have applied for participation by handing in project proposals that will be carried out after the workshop. Participants from the following United Nations Youth Associations have been selected: Bulgaria, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Serbia, Switzerland and the UK. They will take part in events such as a project management skills training, one-to-one project proposal analysis, and a workshop on how to organise a one-day classroom Model United Nations for high-school students. For more information, [click here](#).

Niger Delta Women and Youth Workshop

26-28 October 2008, Niamey, Niger

The Youth for Transparency International (formerly African Youths for Transparency) in collaboration with the Women and Girl Child Initiative Network (formerly Women and Girl Child Initiative Foundation), the 2008 CIVICUS Nelson Mandela Graca Machel Innovation award winners, invites application from women and youth organisations working in the Niger Delta to a 3 day workshop on Accountability for Human Rights of the Niger Delta. The workshop seeks to constructively engage, educate and train 25 youth and women leaders in the Niger Delta region, providing practical and theoretical skills to promote accountability and the rights of the citizen, implement successful interventions that can heal the wounds of growing resources and social conflicts in the Niger Delta and foster a conscious national network of NGO/CBOs working together to lend a voice to alleviate the suffering of the Niger Delta people. For more information, [click here](#).

CALL FOR PAPERS, SUBMISSIONS, SURVEYS & NOMINATIONS

Call for Proposal for the 2009 Business & Community Partnership Forum

Application Deadline: 7 October 2008

This year's theme is "Creating High Impact Business & Community Partnerships". We are inviting you to share your experiences and best practices in partnership development. Themes reflect the diversity of today's cultural and social environment, the need for sustainability in our practices and partnerships and how innovation relates to growth and capacity development. The Forum will feature successful Canadian and international partnership programmes that leverage the strengths and assets of each participant. Nonprofits need to understand the motivations and realities of the business environment in order to engage the support of business. Join over 100 non-profit leaders for two days of fully interactive networking sessions with your peers, gaining practical tips and tools for effective and lasting partnership development. The "2009 Business & Community Partnership Forum: Nonprofit Stream" will be held 4 and 5 March 2009 in Vancouver, British Columbia. For more information, [click here](#).

APPOINTMENTS

CURRENT JOBS

Civil Society Watch Programme Officer - Two Positions

Application Deadline: 6 October 2008

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

Location: Johannesburg, South Africa

For more information, [click here](#).

Research Assistant to the CIVICUS Honorary President

Application Deadline: 17 October 2008

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

Location: Johannesburg, South Africa

For more information, [click here](#).

Communications and Shared Learning Coordinator, International Education Team

Application Deadline: 17 October 2008

ActionAid International

Location: Johannesburg, South Africa

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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