



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 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

FROM THE DESK OF CIVICUS' SECRETARY GENERAL

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



Breaking records and barriers: Stand Up

By Ingrid Srinath, CIVICUS Secretary General

Dear friends and colleagues,

At least 116 million people. Across 131 countries. Women, children, activists, trade unionists, migrant workers, faith-based groups across religions, students, displaced people, cricketers, farmers, presidents and parliamentarians alike. United voices in a historic, record-breaking global mobilisation. Seeking redress for the deep injustices that not only keep over a billion people below subsistence but add to their numbers daily. The mobilisations do more than reiterate demands. They highlight the human impact of failed policies and unkept promises. They show us the faces and amplify the voices of those who pay the ultimate price for inaction. They also demonstrate better than any report or theory the systemic global causes of poverty, exclusion and exploitation and the need for global responses. At CIVICUS, we're privileged to have a behind the scenes glimpse of just what it takes to accomplish this gargantuan task. And to appreciate the months of relentless commitment that underpin the campaign. We are humbled by the response and congratulate all those anonymous people far from the television cameras who made it happen. To read more on this week's column, [click here](#).



More than 116 million people- Nearly 2% of the World's population--STAND UP AGAINST POVERTY

Source: Global call to Action against Poverty (GCAP)

Anti-poverty campaigners on Wednesday announced that more than 116 million people - nearly two percent of the world population - mobilised at events in 131 countries, from October 17-19 as part of the global "Stand Up and Take Action" against poverty campaign. The mobilisation, which was confirmed by Guinness World Records as breaking the world record for the largest mass mobilisation on a single issue, sends a clear message to world leaders that citizens will not stay seated while promises to end poverty remain unfulfilled. "In what was undoubtedly the largest global mobilisation against poverty in living memory, citizens around the globe put their leaders at the national and global level on notice that their commitments to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 have to be met - no more delays or excuses are acceptable," said **Salil Shetty of the United Nations Millennium Campaign**. "Already, world leaders are responding. Mass mobilisations have the power to change the course of history, and we will not stop mobilising and advocating for action until the Millennium Development Goals are achieved for the poorest people in the world."



Reflections on Stand Up

"This is a new kind of action the world is seeing: it's the local influencing the global. Women in

society issues or have a civil society angle. To read the contribution guidelines, [click here](#).

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villages in Africa are connecting and joining millions of citizens in other countries and young people are taking ownership of the Millennium Development Goals like never before. Thousands of actions, pictures and messages show a powerful groundswell of determination from 'We the People', and that a new global financial architecture must be about equality and gender justice," said **Sylvia Borren of the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP)** who attended Stand up events in the US this week.



"This is a wonderful statement of global determination and commitment to end the injustice of extreme poverty," said **Desmond Tutu, Archbishop of Cape Town and Chairman of The Elders**. "116 million people demand the right to food, water, health care, education and a life of dignified work for all. 116 million people have stood together to say "End extreme poverty".

This message must be heard by leaders everywhere - it cannot be ignored."



"This show of the mass will of people around the world against the massive injustice of poverty and in support of the Millennium Development Goals this past weekend was moving and powerful -- but now it's up to world leaders to match the passion and commitment of their people and deliver on their commitments," said **human and civil rights leader Martin Luther King III**. "My father proved that when the voices of citizens become too loud to ignore, governments are forced to do the right thing. We'll keep mobilising and advocating for change until they do."



"The largest Stand Up is truly an historic event and as keepers and adjudicators of world records we are delighted to ratify such an important record and make this official," said **Craig Glenday, Editor-in-Chief of Guinness World Records**. "We congratulate every individual for taking part in this initiative and welcome them to the family of Guinness World Records." For more information on the Stand Up and Take Action results, [click here](#).

CIVICUS Poll Question

This week's question:

Do you think the actions of 116 million people who participated in the Stand Up Take Action campaign will change key policies on poverty?

- Yes.
- Yes, but only if it is coupled with effective lobbying at various levels.
- No. Policymakers will talk some more but won't commit to concrete action.
- No. Mass mobilisations such as these do not change anything.

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

Previous question:

Do you think civil society:

- Is doing all it can to put poverty at the centre of world leaders' attention,
- Has not adopted very effective approaches to highlight poverty,
- Simply does not have the power to change the world leaders' minds?

Results: a. - 12.8%, b. - 74.4%, c. - 12.8%

We value your comments, suggestions and contributions. Speak to us at editor@civicus.org

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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>



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Publication Launch: Volunteering & Social Activism Promote Human Development and Social Change

Source: Karena Cronin, Volunteer Outreach Officer

Today, United Nations Day and World Development Information Day (24 October), CIVICUS, the International Association for Volunteer Effort (IAVE) and the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme is pleased to launch a joint publication, "Volunteering and Social Activism: Pathways for participation in human development". The paper is based on a study undertaken by the three organisations in 2007-2008. The background study finds that both volunteering and social activism is important strategies for fostering people's participation in social change and human development. CIVICUS Secretary General, Ingrid Srinath, expressed hopes that, "this paper will help promote greater dialogue and engagement between volunteering and social activist organisations around shared development objectives - and in so doing, strengthen citizen participation aimed at reducing poverty and inequality around the world." For more information, [click here](#). The publication is also available in [Spanish](#), [French](#) and [Russian](#).

e-CIVICUS DIALOGUES



From the Age of Exploitation to the Age of Cooperation: Will the global financial meltdown open the way to global solidarity?

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

Since colonial times, and particularly since the outset of the Industrial Revolution, a predatory mentality has dominated economic policy in developed countries. With the end of the Cold War and the ascent of corporate globalisation, the destructive effects of market fundamentalism have grown by several orders of magnitude and now affect the entire world. Obscene levels of wealth accumulation in the hands of a few exist side by side with abject poverty for hundreds of millions while environmental deterioration threatens the survival of our civilizations. The current financial meltdown, a product of runaway collective greed, originated in the United States, but rapidly extended to European financial institutions and is now likely to result in a long economic recession of global proportions. For more information, [click here](#).



Stand Up: If only every day was like this

By Ciara O'Sullivan, GCAP Media Co-ordinator

Last Tuesday, October 21st, I got confirmation that two percent of the world taken part in a mass mobilisation called *Stand Up Take Action*. 166.99 million people had participated in a weekend of action against poverty in over 131 countries. For those of us in GCAP, this was a moment of great jubilation. What force can two percent of people living in our complex, and often

troubled, earth change with their rallies, marches, meetings, concerts and prayers? How will the trees they planted, the letters they delivered to their leaders, their e mails and texts, the time they gave, change the injustices that motivated them to take action in the first place? For starters, they show that there is power in numbers. By getting out there and registering their events, they were able to do something that so many movements in the past have failed to do - they could be counted. In the three years since the beginning of the *Stand Up* campaign, the movement of people who want to see poverty eradicated has grown from 23 to 43 million in the first two years, and now to a staggering 116.99 million. For more information, [click here](#).



Standing up against poverty and living in denial

Source: Nastasya Tay, Thoughtleader, Mail & Guardian online

2008 began as a year of possibility. The second half of this year marks the midpoint of our time allotted to meet the Millennium Development Goals; the midpoint of our quest to make aid more effective through the Paris Declaration; and the review of progress made so far in responsible financing for development since the Monterrey Consensus was signed in 2002. Meetings have and will take place in New York, Accra and Doha respectively, to ponder the way forward. Three opportunities to be honest with ourselves about what we have achieved - and where to go from here. Encouragingly, honesty isn't lacking - a range of organisations, tracking progress on all three fronts, has produced well-researched reports. The devil lies in the denial. For more information, [click here](#).

CIVIL SOCIETY NEWS

Civil society crackdown in Nicaragua

Source: Women's Learning Partnership (WLP)

The Autonomous Women's Movement (MAM) in Nicaragua have called attention to the government's raid and seizure of documents and computers from their offices on 10 October. The raids on MAM's offices, as well as the offices of the Centre for Investigation and Communication (CINCO), are another step of President Daniel Ortega's government's campaign against civil society organisations, particularly feminists, who have been outspoken critics of his government. The wider government crackdown includes harassment of several civil society organisations, journalists, as well as Oxfam GB, the international NGO, which supports the work of local NGOs in Nicaragua. Activists have been threatened and persecuted for defending women's rights, as have journalists who have been reporting on corruption within the government. For more information, [click here](#).

Civil society groups approach the Commonwealth on anti-Christian violence in India

Source: Pakistan Times Foreign Desk

Civil society groups approached the Commonwealth on the issue of anti-Christian violence in Orissa and Karnataka states of India. In an interview with the Press Trust of India, Commonwealth Secretary General Kamlesh Sharma said, "We keep getting communications from various parties on internal developments in member states. The practice is that we pass it on to the member states. This is what we have done in this case as well. "The groups have raised their concerns on the recent violence against Christians in India by Hindu extremists. For more information, [click here](#).

Building civil society a must in Arab world

Source: Gulf News

The building of a strong civil society has to be a priority for all Arab states. This process is part of the natural development of Arab societies, as they move into a new phase of societal development, with much greater emphasis on freedoms and opportunities that will replace government control. The aspirations of citizens as well as government will continue to change, with far more free access to information, and both sectors will need to regularly review what they are doing. An effective civil society in the future has to be based on an open partnership between each nation's government and the many civil bodies representing different parts of society. For more information, [click here](#).

International Labour Organisation: Financial crisis could cost 20 million jobs

Source: Jonathan Lynn, Reuters

Twenty million jobs will disappear by the end of next year, as a result of the impact of the financial crisis on the global economy, a United Nations agency said on Monday. Construction, real estate, financial services, and the auto sector are most likely to be hit, according to the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) estimate, which is based on International Monetary Fund (IMF) projections for the world economy. The toll on jobs could be even higher if IMF economic projections are cut, said ILO Director-General Juan Somavia. "We have to talk about the financial crisis in terms of what happens to people and what happens to jobs and enterprises," he told Reuters' reporters. For more information, [click here](#).

Pacific Islands Forum to continue open door policy with civil society

Source: Radio New Zealand International

The new Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum, Tuiloma Neroni Slade, has said he will maintain an open-door policy to civil society engagement. At a media conference, Mr Slade was asked if he would continue his predecessor's position, which included twice yearly meetings. Slade was cautious and said his predecessor's position could have been personal choice rather than Forum policy. But nevertheless, he said there would be no drastic changes to his approach. For more information, [click here](#).

Civil society asks ECOWAS for resources to combat drug trafficking in West Africa

Source: African Press Organisation

West Africa's civil society organisations have lamented the growing trend of drug abuse and related problems in the region, and urged the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)'s commission to take the lead in mobilising resources to build the capacities of relevant civil society organisations (CSOs) to enable them contribute effectively to the ongoing campaign to curb drug trafficking and related organised crime in the region. At the end of a one-day meeting to review the draft regional response action plan and political declaration on drugs, CSOs said the involvement of ECOWAS will help address the dearth of resources in the region to fight the drug menace. For more information, [click here](#).

Labour violations remain rife in Uzbek cotton fields

By Farangis Najibullah, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

The annual ritual to bring in one of Central Asia's most valuable agricultural resources involves severe fair labour violations. Nothing comes easy during harvest season. Cotton pickers work 10 to 11 hours each day, seven days a week, for a pittance - as low as three US cents per kilogram of cotton. Their nights are spent in places with no running water, no electricity, and lacking basic hygiene. "Children are being exploited in the fields. This is a reality," says Yelena Urlaeva, head of the Uzbek Human Rights Alliance. "For instance, in Namangan Province, children starting the sixth to ninth grades work in the fields." For more information, [click here](#).

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS & GLOBAL CALL TO ACTION AGAINST POVERTY



Stand Up campaign: Now Sit Up and Listen

Analysis by Sanjay Suri, Inter Press Service (IPS) with Kumi Naidoo, Co-chair of GCAP and CIVICUS Honorary President

The Stand Up and Take Action initiative is not just about numbers, but a way to make protest possible. "We've created an opportunity for ordinary people to have a voice and to participate and to feel that they are not just objects of change but really the drivers of change," said Kumi Naidoo, co-chair of GCAP and honorary president of CIVICUS, a leading global NGO campaigning for rights and development. "We've created a global event which is fundamentally local in nature," he said at a press conference after the attendance count. "My sense of why there was such an overwhelming turnout is that there is deep concern that the global economic crisis must not detract

from meeting the MDGs, and exceeding them", said Dr Naidoo. For more information, [click here](#).

Stand Up mobilisations in Asia hit top numbers

Source: Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP)

More than 35 Stand Up events took place in Singapore including migrant workers mobilisations and a **Make Poverty History** concert. The number of Singaporeans participating in the campaign tripled from a year earlier and the base of people standing up broadened substantially to include businesses, NGOs and more community groups. ONE (SINGAPORE) launched the 2015 Countdown Clock. A digital clock that counts how much time - second by second, person by person - remains for world leaders to meet their MDG commitments. Throughout the three days of Stand Up, people submitted a photo of themselves holding a number from 0 to 9. These pictures became the 2015 Countdown Clock. Each participant read and acknowledges the Stand Up pledge before submitting a photo. For more information, [click here](#). For further details on 2015 Countdown Clock, [click here](#).



Poverty campaign inspires new U2 song, says Bono

Source: Lesley Wroughton, Reuters

When 116 million people recently stood up against worldwide poverty, their coordinated cry failed to make big headlines -- but they did inspire Irish rocker and activist Bono to write a new song for his group U2. In an interview with Reuters on Wednesday, Bono said the Stand Up and Take Action campaign in 131 countries had moved him to start creating a song called "Stand Up". "It's not finished yet but it's inspired by this concept of Stand Up. It's a little diamond, though," Bono said, speaking by telephone from Los Angeles. "It's not a 'let's hold hands and the world is a better place sort of song.' It's more kick down the door of your own hypocrisy," he said. He also said while the MDGs may be "the worst acronym in the history of activism," the Stand Up and Take Action events around the world on Oct 17 to 19 showed that people knew what they stand for. "The numbers show that people are aware that those promises were made and why politicians can't think 'oh we can get away with it because no one really knows about it'" Bono said. For more information, [click here](#).

In the wake of the historic, Guinness Record-breaking rally against poverty

Apart from the numbers, organisers tally up the emotions, moments and lessons of Stand Up
By Lani C. Villanueva, Communications Officer, GCAP-Southeast North and Central Asia Secretariat
Last week, as governments across the globe stepped up efforts to ward off a financial meltdown, people from all walks of life came together in rallies and events held in 131 countries to "Stand Up against Poverty." As reports of economic slump despite fresh doses of economic stimulants hogged headlines, more than 116 million people made history, set a new world record and infused fresh doses of determination to the global movement against poverty. "We are talking of people of different races, classes, faith, gender, and other social divisions, coming together to take action against poverty. We are talking of millions of people simultaneously sending a message to their governments to fulfill their promises to end poverty," said Joel Saracho, national coordinator of the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) in the Philippines. For more information, [click here](#).



Stand Up and Take Action: Taking the local to the global

Source: Ben Margolis, GCAP Mobilisation and Outreach Coordinator

Stand Up marks the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty - a day originally aimed at giving voice to people who experience poverty, so their needs and suggested solutions could be heard at the highest levels. It was always about creating opportunities for people to participate in a global fight against poverty, and designed so that anyone can take part anywhere - where they work, play, study or stay. This kind of event in the current context of economic, food and climate change crises, shows that the issues affect most people at the local level first, and that is where they want to take a stand. For more information, [click here](#).

GET INVOLVED!

Join the Global campaign to end violence in schools

Source: Plan International

Violence in schools is a global problem which manifests in differing forms such as corporal punishment, sexual abuse, neglect, verbal and emotional abuse, bullying, peer-to-peer violence, youth gangs, weapons or harassment on the journey to and from school. An internal survey carried out in 2007 across all the countries in which Plan International operates led Plan to create 'Learn Without Fear', a campaign to end violence against children in schools. The campaign will also build on expertise in quality education, school improvement and child protection programme work. Plan's Child-centred Community Development approach to grassroots work will be pivotal to the implementation of the campaign. For more information, [click here](#).

Sign the People's Treaty to Ban Cluster Bombs!

Source: Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)

The new clusters munitions treaty was unanimously adopted by 107 participating states on 30 May. However, the treaty will not become binding international law until all of those countries sign on the dotted line. Do your part to help ban cluster munitions now! A vote from you on the People's Treaty will help ensure that your country does the right thing. You can also write to your government to ask that they participate in the Oslo Conference where the treaty will be signed. For more information, [click here](#).

ACCOUNTABILITY

Transparency, accountability, equality form foundation for progress in any civil society

Source: UAE Daily News

The Forum for the Future conference was held in Dubai from 14-17 October. In the closing editorial, Arab civil society leaders highlighted democracy, women's rights, freedom of expression, corruption and other issues that directly affect the introduction of reform in the region. The final paper called for coupling progress in institutional reform for accountability with that of human development, adding that the entire process cannot be confined to specific institutions and hence the role of government and official entities cannot function in isolation from civilian entities. For more information, [click here](#).

Egypt's NGO Law and its Impact on the Transparency and Accountability of CSOs

By Mohamed Agati, International Journal of Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL)

In Egypt, government restrictions on the activities of civil society organisations (CSOs) have stifled their ability to advocate. Organisations are not permitted to fulfill their missions openly without risking government interference. Government suppression of CSO activities has undermined both government and CSOs' efforts to institute good governance practices among CSOs. The NGO law commingles provisions that allow the government to interfere directly in an organisation's activities with rules about the internal governance and accountability of an organisation. For more information, [click here](#).

CIVIL SOCIETY ACTIVISM AND GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS

Civil society's letter to the IMF and World Bank

Source: International Monetary Fund

With many countries repaying their loans to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and not seeking new lines of credit, the institution's traditional means of generating income is dwindling. Facing a budget shortfall of \$400 million in 2010, in April, the IMF's Executive Board approved a proposal to sell some of its gold reserves. The revenue will be used to create an endowment whose earnings will assist in financing the institution's administrative budget. Civil society is writing to urge that before the

policy in developing countries, and attach conditions to how gold sales will occur. Over the last three decades, IMF policies have limited development, and denied opportunity and decent livelihoods to hundreds of millions. For more information, [click here](#).

Civil society groups speak out on implementation of World Bank projects

By Howard Lesser

The World Bank has incorporated a new dialogue with civil society groups from African countries into its objective of ensuring the successful implementation of projects that it has launched in developing nations. Earlier this month at its annual Washington meeting, civil society groups were invited to attend briefings with Bank officials and finance ministers to address a number of concerns about holding participants responsible for projects to serve the needs for which they were created. Auwal Musa Rafsanjani, Director of Transparency International in Nigeria, says that “adding local input to the dialogue will open up a new dimension of accountability that will help the projects’ chances of success”. For more information, [click here](#).

PROFILES



DONOR: The Evens Foundation

The Evens Foundation is a philanthropic organisation based in Antwerp, Belgium, with representation in Paris and Warsaw. It has aims to contribute to the construction of Europe by means of concrete projects, at a human level, reinforcing social cohesion between citizens of the European Union. The Foundation, which celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2007, owes its existence to the generosity of the late Mr. Georges Evens, entrepreneur, philanthropist and European enthusiast of Polish origin. The Evens Foundation supports sustainable projects that contribute to a deeper respect for the cultural and social diversity in Europe, in the fields of: Harmonious living together at European level; Harmonious living together at Local Level; Education (in and out of school); Conflict Prevention; Arts; Science; and Media. They also award prizes in the fields of Intercultural Education, Arts and Science. For more information, [click here](#).



MEMBER: Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA)

PRIA is a civil society organisation that undertakes development initiatives to make a positive impact on the lives of poor and marginalised people, with a focus on reforming governance institutions. Many development programmes have been conceived of and implemented in a top-down manner, without any reference to the participation of those for whose benefit these were intended. Over the last 26 years, PRIA has been emphasising people-centred participatory development processes. PRIA works with marginalised groups, like women, and other socially and economically marginalised sections of society. It works for the strengthening of local government institutions and civil society. PRIA works directly in 17 states of India and extends its reach through its more than 3000 civil society partners. Strategic partnerships with academia, media, government and international actors are important aspects of PRIA’s work nationally and globally. PRIA’s vision is to develop a democratic society based on the values of equity and justice. Its mission is to work towards the promotion of policies, institutions and capacities that strengthen voices and participation against the marginalisation of communities. For more information, [click here](#).

BOOKS, REPORTS & RESOURCES

The New Global Poverty Estimates

By Sanjay G. Reddy, Barnard College and School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University

Recently, the World Bank released “updated” global poverty estimates. These new numbers are based on a new price survey and a new benchmark international poverty line of \$1.25 in 2005, and purchasing power parities (PPPs). The new figures purport to describe world poverty since 1981, and thus affect our understanding of the world over the last quarter century of globalisation. The new estimates also suggest that the number of poor is almost fifty per cent more than previously thought. Can the new estimates be trusted? Unfortunately, the numbers are based on the same methods used earlier and are thus undermined by the same problems as previous estimates. For more information, [click here](#).

Measuring Inequality of Opportunities in Latin America and the Caribbean

By Ricardo Paes de Barros, Francisco H. G. Ferreira, José R. Molinas Vega, and Jaime Saavedra Chanduvi

The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development / The World Bank, 2008

Society has never been able to systematically measure inequality of opportunity, in Latin America or anywhere else. The development community simply lacked the methodological tools to monitor equity, making it all but impossible to design, implement, and evaluate public policies that target human opportunity. While the citizens of the region feel the uneven playing field under their feet – that personal sense that one’s destiny is pre-determined by circumstances over which one has no control or responsibility, such as skin color, gender, birthplace, or family wealth – their leaders have proved unable to do much about it. For more information, [click here](#).

New Report on Workers’ Rights in Norway

Source: International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

The release of the new ITUC report on core labour standards in Norway , coincides with the country’s trade policy review at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) on 22 and 24 October 2008 . Norway has ratified all eight core labour conventions of the International Labour Organisation (ILO). Despite having its legislation in general compliance with the principles emanating from these legally binding international instruments, the government still makes recourse to the use of “compulsory arbitration” to halt strikes and intervene in industrial disputes in nonessential services, going beyond the scope of the internationally recognised definition. The ILO, through its supervisory organs, has denounced repeatedly the misuse of this instrument by the government of Norway. The report underlines the paradox between progressive legislation protecting the population against discriminatory policies and practices, and persisting discrimination in terms of different wages between men and women for work of equal value. For more information, [click here](#).

Women and Campaign Finance - The High Price of Politics

Source: Women’s Environment and Development Organisation (WEDO)

Lack of economic resources is one of the biggest obstacles that prevent women from participating in politics in greater numbers. Making it easier for women to access economic resources is key to expanding women’s presence in the political realm. That is the topic of WEDO’s latest fact-sheet, which highlights successful campaign strategies that have been used by women candidates in many parts of the world. When greater numbers of women are represented in politics everyone benefits. For example, a recent survey of men and women parliamentarians concluded that women parliamentarians have redefined legislative priorities to include women’s concerns and perspectives, such as gender-based violence, parental leave and childcare, pensions, gender-equality laws and electoral reforms that enhance women’s access to parliaments. For more information, [click here](#).

Report: Cyclones play role in carbon transfer

By Alister Doyle, Environment Correspondent, Reuters

Tropical cyclones may be some help in staving off global warming, as accompanying rains and floods wash away vegetation and soil containing greenhouse gases, transferring them to long-term deposits in the oceans, according to a study published in the journal Nature Geoscience. Plants soak up carbon dioxide; a natural greenhouse gas also emitted by burning fossil fuels, and stores it as carbon as they grow. The carbon usually gets released back to the air when vegetation rots or is burnt. "50 to 90 million tonnes of carbon a year is thought to enter the oceans from islands of the west Pacific alone," mainly during cyclones, according to the scientists, based in Britain and Taiwan. For more

information, [click here](#).

CONFERENCES & EVENTS



Registrations for the World Social Form 2009 are open

27 January to 1 February 2009, Belem, Brazil

Source: World Social Form, www.fsm2009amazonia.org

Registrations for the World Social Forum 2009 Amazon are open. In this first stage, only organisations, agencies and groups of civil society organisations can sign up and propose self-managed activities for the event. Period of registration of organisations and activities from 7 October to 7 November 2008. As defined in the International Council (CI) of the World Social Form (WSF), only organisations, agencies and groups of civil society organisations can register activities. Each organisation may propose up to four self activities. Self-managed activities on the official programme grid of the WSF 2009 and may be camping, workshops, seminars, conferences, testimonies, marches, among others, and are forums for exchange, reflection and preparation of proposals for the construction of another possible world. For more information, [click here](#).

Fifth-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women

2-13 March 2009, New York, USA

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) will hold its fifty-third session at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, and focussing on "the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including care-giving in the context of HIV/AIDS." If your organisation has consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), you are invited to participate in this session and to pre-register your designated representatives. NGOs are strongly encouraged to use on-line pre-registration system by logging into our website, using the organisation ID and password provided in the email that was sent with this letter. Further changes to your on-line pre-registration may be made in the same manner. For more information, [click here](#).

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

New Tactics Partner Grant Proposals

Application Deadline: 27 October 2008

New Tactics in Human Rights, in partnership with the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), is currently accepting partner grant proposals for 2008-2009. These funds are intended for human rights practitioners to share, translate, adapt and/or apply the New Tactics materials and resources for strategic and tactical innovation in local human rights struggles as well as share examples of innovative tactics with a broad range of people. To apply, fill out the application form [online](#). To download a word document, [click here](#).

2008 AMF Journalism Fellowship

Application Deadline: 30 October 2008

The Asia Media Forum, in partnership with ActionAid, launched the journalism fellowship of £1,000 (1,762 U.S. dollars) for the development and enhancement of research ideas and concepts related to current socio-political debate among journalists in Asia. Practicing journalists of any Asian country are invited to apply for the fellowship based on any of the following themes: Bhutanese Refugee, Impunity and Flawed Rule of Law in Democratic States of South-east Asia, and Inclusive Democracy: How Nepal Could Achieve It? Applicants should have five years or more working experience as journalists in any medium (print, TV, radio or online), either as staff of media organisations or as freelancers. For more information, [click here](#).

Reminder: Skoll Awards for Social Entrepreneurship

Application Deadline: 4 November 2008

The Skoll Foundation's mission is to advance systemic change to benefit communities around the world by investing in, connecting and celebrating social entrepreneurs. The Foundation believes that social entrepreneurs see opportunities where others see problems and crises. They apply innovative solutions to social and environmental issues, empowering people and communities to envision and create positive change. They work in many kinds of organisations, including non-profits, social purpose ventures such as community development banks, and hybrid organisations that mix elements of nonprofit and for-profit organisations. For-profit or hybrid organisations may apply for funding if the grant or program-related investment would contribute to a charitable purpose and activities. For more information, [click here](#).

WORKSHOPS & COURSES

Global Fundraising for International NGOs seminar

18 November (London - UK) and 20 November (Geneva- USA) 2008

The Management Centre's seminar, 'Global Fundraising for International NGOs' is designed to enable international charities to access new donors in new markets, focusing upon 4 key areas; Asia, Latin America, Australasia and the Gulf. At the seminar, new research will be discussed, revealing that only 10% of international charities are applying a truly international approach to their fundraising, by seeking funds in new and emerging markets. The event features case studies from the World Food Programme, International Union for Conservation of Nature, UNICEF and United Nations Volunteers. For more information, [click here](#).

Tools of the Trade for Development Practitioners course

17-21 November 2008, Benoni (Johannesburg), South Africa

Exploring models and strategies to promote sustainable community economic development
Themba International Guarantee Fund and Southern New Hampshire University-School of Community Economic Development will be hosting a 1-week course targeting business and economic development practitioners to optimise the role of their organisations in the economic development process. Changes in the environment, in organisations and in government policies have implications for the way organisations do business and, have created the need for new approaches aimed at improving interrelations between communities, developmental organisations, financial institutions, service providers and government agencies. For more information, [click here](#).

Applying a Human Rights-Based Approach to Development

15-19 December 2008, Cairo, Egypt

The Technical Assistance and Social Services Consultants (TASSC) is organising a training course aimed at building participants' knowledge and capacities related to human rights, regional and international instruments, the human rights-based approach to programming, and project cycle management. The participants will be expected to analyse the policies and strategies of their organisations and explore application procedures of a human rights based approach to their programs and activities. For more information, [click here](#).

CALL FOR PAPERS, SUBMISSIONS, SURVEYS & NOMINATIONS

Call for articles: Exchange magazine on HIV/AIDS, Sexuality and Gender

Application Deadline: 20 November 2008

Exchange is a magazine on HIV/AIDS, sexuality and gender in developing countries. It is published quarterly by the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) in collaboration with Southern Africa HIV and AIDS

Information Dissemination (SAfAIDS) in Zimbabwe . Exchange continuously welcomes contributions for its forthcoming issues. The articles should preferably focus on HIV in relation to gender, culture, sexual health, and sexuality and/or rights issues. Exchange is especially interested in receiving reflective papers from programme managers and other staff of local and national NGOs working in the Global South about their successful and promising programmes, strategies or approaches. For more information, [click here](#).

APPOINTMENTS

CURRENT JOBS

Programme Development Officer

Application Deadline: 31 October 2008

United Methodist Committee on Relief

Location: Medan, North Sumatra Province, Indonesia

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

Knowledge Management Officer

Application Deadline: Position open until filled

International Center for Transitional Justice

Location: New York, USA

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

CONTACT e-CIVICUS

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