



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.

31 October 2008

ISSUE No. 413

PUBLISHER

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Ingrid Srinath

MANAGING EDITOR

Eric Muragana

EDITORS

Henri Valot
Nastasya Tay
Katsuji Imata

OCCASIONAL CONTRIBUTORS

Carol Baloyi
Elizabeth Robson
Irfan Mufti
Gustavo Capdevila
Tania Gobena
Tanzilya Salimdjanova
Vicente García-Delgado, Esq

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 society issues or have a civil society angle. To read the contribution

FROM THE DESK OF CIVICUS' SECRETARY GENERAL

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



Civil society looking at Financing for Development

By Ingrid Srinath, CIVICUS Secretary General

Dear friends and colleagues,

The first International Conference on Financing for Development was held from 18-22 March 2002 in Monterrey, Mexico. Doha, Qatar will soon again centre of all attentions for those of us working on development cooperation issues. Indeed, it will host the upcoming "Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development" to review the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus from 29 November to 2 December 2008. In the lead up to this, the Doha Global Civil Society Forum will be held in Doha from 26 to 27 November. In this week's edition of e-CIVICUS, I have asked below my colleague Henri Valot, CIVICUS Policy Advisor, to analyse civil society participation in the upcoming UN Financing for Development meeting. With gratitude, faith and solidarity, Ingrid Srinath.



Back to Doha: Financing for Development at stake

By Henri Valot, CIVICUS Policy Advisor

Doha is sadly known for having its name attached to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Doha Development Round, the current trade-negotiation round of the World Trade Organisation which commenced in November 2001. As of 2008, talks have stalled over a divide on major issues, such as agriculture, industrial tariffs and non-tariff barriers, services, and trade remedies. Major negotiations are not expected to resume until 2009. We hope that the Financing for Development talks will be far more fruitful than their WTO predecessors. To read more on this week's column, [click here](#).

[Read more on the previous columns...](#)

CIVICUS Poll Question

This week's question:

Do you think the involvement of civil society in the Doha meeting:

- a. Will yield meaningful results;
- b. Is important, but will have little substantive impact;
- c. Will result in disappointment?

guidelines, [click here](#).

REPRODUCTION OF e-CIVICUS

Readers are welcome to reproduce, in part or in full, all sections of this newsletter, however please request permission to do so first. When reproducing or retransmitting content, please credit sources and authors. The content of this newsletter can be translated into another language and reproduced in other publications, as long as due acknowledgment is made to CIVICUS.

e-CIVICUS DISCLAIMER

Although CIVICUS makes all reasonable efforts to obtain prima-facie reliable content for e-CIVICUS, CIVICUS cannot guarantee the accuracy of the reports, views or opinions of third-party content providers, nor does CIVICUS necessarily endorse the views reflected therein. Opinions expressed by contributors to e-CIVICUS are solely those of the individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of CIVICUS, its Board of Directors, managers or staff, or any CIVICUS members or partners. We request that readers exercise caution and alert us immediately if they suspect any fraudulent or incorrect material has been included in our publication. Please do send your comments and suggestions to editor@civicus.org.

CONTACT US

P.O. Box 933
Southdale, 2135
South Africa
Tel: +27 11 833 5959 Fax: +27 11 833 7997

1112 16th Street NW,
Suite 540
Washington D.C.
20036 USA
Tel: +202 331-8518
Fax: +202 331-8774

Websites:

www.civicus.org
www.civicusassembly.org

To subscribe or unsubscribe: email subscriptions@civicus.org

TELL A FRIEND

Do you have a friend who works for a more just world?
Would you like to share this newsletter with them?
Please forward their e-mail address to subscriptions@civicus.org

We value your comments,

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

Previous 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.

Results: a. - 1.7%, b. - 55%, c. - 28.3%, d. - 15%

TELL A FRIEND ABOUT e-CIVICUS

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



The BBC World Debate: Investing in Africa: What Works?

Source: British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) World Service Trust

The BBC World Service Trust in cooperation with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) recorded a panel discussion for the BBC World Debate during the Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Accra, Ghana, which was broadcast on 10-11 October 2008. The discussion featured a number of prominent speakers including Kumi Naidoo, Co-Chair of the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) and Honorary President of CIVICUS, representing civil society, along with other panelists. For more information, [click here](#).

Dangerous derivatives at the heart of the financial crisis

By Alex Wilks, EURODAD (European Network on Debt and Development)

Financiers have engineered a "shadow banking system" that has subverted regulation and dumped risk. Complex derivative trades have fuelled a decade or more of cheap credit and destabilised the financial system. The financial and human costs are now being revealed as the massive borrowing spree unwinds, leaving the public purse to pay for failed corporate structures and the threat of a major economic recession. Reforms will only be significant if citizens inform themselves and mobilise on these issues to overcome the pressures of special interest lobbies such as the powerful International Swaps and Derivatives Association. Much of the money used by derivatives traders comes from institutions such as pension funds, university endowments, and municipal funds - which

suggestions and contributions.
Speak to us at editor@civicus.org

Support CIVICUS

To make an on-line donation, [click here](#).

Join CIVICUS

Join or renew your CIVICUS
Membership on-line now, [click here](#).



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>



are vulnerable to public pressure. With these entry points, plus the unprecedented public and political debate on the problems with globalised, liberalised finance, the banking system may be dragged back out from the shadows. For more information, [click here](#).

[Read more...](#)

CIVIL SOCIETY NEWS



Alert: Predicting Threats to Civil Society

Mandeep Tiwana, Civil Society Watch Programme Officer discusses the pilot study of CIVICUS Early Warning System

CIVICUS and the International Centre for Not for Profit Law (ICNL) along with seven partner organisations in Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Philippines, Solomon Islands, United States and Vietnam are undertaking a six month pilot study as a precursor to putting in place an Early Warning System (EWS) to predict, pre-empt and respond to threats to civil society. To launch the pilot study, a workshop was organised in Johannesburg, South Africa from 27-29 September 2008 in which the project partners discussed and deliberated on the components of the EWS project. For more information, [click here](#).

Credit crisis rattles civil society

Source: The Phnom Penh Post

Cambodia's civil society groups are under threat from the global credit crisis that looks set to severely limit the amount of available donor funding. "The government collects tax and has other sources of income, but NGOs have only one source of funding: donors," said Thun Saray, president of Cambodian rights group, Adhoc. Adhoc has an average monthly running cost of between US\$100,000 and \$200,000, all of which comes from donors. Were donors to reduce funding in 2009, the organisation would have no option but to cut back on lower-priority projects, Thun Saray said. But for many, such as Ou Virak, president of the Cambodian Center for Human Rights (CCHR), the lack of long-term security is a major concern. "Now we have to have funds of more than \$250,000 to operate our projects for next year," he said. "But we are still worried about [the credit crisis] because it will affect our organisation... if it continues." For more information, [click here](#).

NGOs pare down in face of financial crisis

Source: IRIN News

Some of the biggest development and humanitarian NGOs are laying off staff or revising programmes for 2009, as their income streams flatten because of the global financial crisis. Fundraising experts of three of the world's top NGOs - Oxfam GB, Save the Children UK and World Vision USA - said programme growth will slow in 2009 as a result of the squeeze.

"The growth we had assumed when putting plans together a year ago is not materialising," John Shaw, director of finance and information systems at Oxfam GB, told IRIN. "The overall picture is essentially flat." Oxfam had envisaged five to six percent growth over 2009-10, but has now revised this to zero. For more information, [click here](#).

Global Churches to discuss plight of refugees

Source: Catholic Information Service for Africa

An international ecumenical delegation will visit Uganda from 27 October to 2 November on behalf of the World Council of Churches (WCC), to express solidarity with refugees. The plight of people displaced by war will be the main topic of the "Living Letters" initiative. The delegation discuss, with the representatives of state and civil society, the protection of refugees, with a specific focus on sexual violence and the vulnerability of children. The delegation members will learn about peace-building in Uganda and share experiences made in their own churches in Australia, the Middle East, Asia and different regions of Africa. For more information, [click here](#).

Boosting development in the Asia-Pacific Region through Decent Work

Source: International Trade Union Confederation/Asia Pacific Labour Network (ITUC/APLN)

Trade union leaders gathering at the XIV Asia Pacific Labour Network Conference, taking place in Lima (Peru) on 27-28 of October, have called for a far-reaching reorientation of the policies of Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). "We are living a global financial crisis that may leave at least 20 million additional people unemployed by next year, according to the ILO," said ITUC General Secretary Guy Ryder. "APEC must broaden its scope away from trade and investment liberalisation in order to deal with the economic and social realities of the people of the region. Equally, APEC leaders must take a leadership role in tackling the social consequences of the current global financial turmoil." That is the message that union leaders will be relaying to President Alan García of Peru, the host to this year's APEC Leaders' Summit in November. For more information, [click here](#).

Civil society can help strengthen Indo-Pak relations

Source: The Daily Rising Kashmir

Stressing that better relationship between India and Pakistan is imperative for sustainable peace in South Asia region, Vice Chancellor of the University of Jammu, Prof Amitabh Mattoo has urged the civil society to play an active role in strengthening the peace initiatives between the two nations. He said the recent initiatives taken by India and Pakistan in reducing the tensions in the region has created a conducive environment for initiatives to prevent future situations from escalating into an armed conflict. "With the end to the Cold War era, traditional rivals in South Asia are moving towards peaceful resolution of disputes," he said, while interacting with the members of civil society there on Friday, 24 October. For more information, [click here](#).

Caribbean civil society to meet in Trinidad on OAS summit goals

Source: Caribbean Net News

Caribbean civil society will meet in Trinidad and Tobago on October 30 and 31, 2008 in Port of Spain to discuss the agenda of the upcoming Heads of Government Summit of the Organisation of American States. "It is an opportunity for regional organisations to place on the agenda exactly what they expect of their governments, when they meet in Summit in April 2009 on the theme Securing Our Citizens' Future by Promoting Human Prosperity, Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability", Director of Lobbying, Advocacy, Research and Public Relations at the Network of NGOs of Trinidad and Tobago for the Advancement of Women, Dr Kris Rampersad explained. For more information, [click here](#).

Azerbaijan vote underscores democratic deficit

Source: Freedom House

Freedom House is disturbed by preliminary assessments of the Azerbaijan election from the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the US State Department, which chose to emphasise moderate improvement in technical aspects of the vote, rather than the authoritarian context in which it occurred. Azerbaijan's flawed elections which saw President Ilham Aliyev win with more than 88 percent of the vote amid an opposition boycott -vividly illustrate the country's five-year decline in respect for a number of basic freedoms. Freedom House's annual Nations in Transit survey indicates that Azerbaijan has experienced a steady erosion of freedoms related to media independence, the electoral process, civil society, governance and the judicial framework. Its corruption score remains less than a point shy of the worst possible ranking. For more information, [click here](#).

[Read more...](#)

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS & GLOBAL CALL TO ACTION AGAINST POVERTY



Now is the time to Think and act seriously for World Problems

By Irfan Mufti, Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) Campaign Manager

Two weeks ago, the world witnessed an unprecedented level of global mobilisation from October 17-19. In more than 130 countries of the world more than 116.9 million people (nearly 2% of the world's population) expressed their concerns on the situation of world poverty and other forms of inequalities and injustices. The mobilisation took place on the call of Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP), UN Millennium Campaign, and thousands of other leading interest groups and movements all across the world. This global expression of civil society points to the fact that there is growing discontent in the world now, on policies and practices that are not serving people, not changing the conditions for the majority, and as a result, crises are deepening. For more information, [click here](#).



No more talk - time to act: Commemoration of the International Day for the Eradication Poverty at the UN

By Tanzilya Salimdjanova, CIVICUS Civil Society Watch Programme Officer

Often people living in poverty are missing from poverty forums like roundtables, presentations, conferences and, more importantly, decision-making and planning. The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty was introduced to the UN by International Movement ATD Fourth World in order to break this practice and bring people living in extreme poverty to high-level dialogues on the subject. The Movement believes that without the involvement of people in poverty themselves, little progress can be made in poverty eradication. Every year now, on October 17, the International Movement ATD Fourth World with the support of the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs, and the Permanent Missions of France and Burkina Faso to the UN, organises events around the Day at UN headquarters in New York. On this Day people living in poverty from around the world come to speak at the UN about their experiences and ideas along with high-level UN officials. For more information, [click here](#).

Are The MDGs Priority in Development Strategies and Aid Programmes? Only Few Are!

Source: Sakiko Fukuda-Parr, Professor of International Affairs, The New School University, New York

In this newly released International Poverty Centre (IPC) Working Paper, the author argues that, contrary to popular belief, numerous Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and aid programmes do not adequately address the MDGs. The paper analyses the substance of 22 developing countries' PRSPs and the policy frameworks of 21 bilateral programmes. Major findings of the analysis include nothing that if economic growth for income poverty reduction and social sector investments (education, health and water) are important priorities in most of the PRSPs; decent work, hunger and nutrition, the environment and access to technology tend to be neglected. PRSPs also emphasise governance as an important means of achieving the MDGs, but they focus mostly on economic governance rather than on democratic (participatory and equitable) processes. For more information, [click here](#).

[Read more...](#)

GET INVOLVED!

Action Alert: CSO Statement on the proposed “Global Summit” to reform the international financial system

Source: Choike.org, a portal on Southern civil societies

In recent weeks, leaders worldwide have recognised the deficiencies of the existing system and the need to meet to address a broader set of proposals to reform the global financial system and its institutions. The G20 are now set to meet in Washington DC on 15 November to begin these discussions. Civil society organisations support the fundamental and far-reaching transformation of the international financial and economic system. To serve this purpose, civil society supports the idea

of a major international conference convened by the UN to review the international financial and monetary architecture, its institutions and its governance. Full use should be made of the new UN task force on the global financial system, the upcoming UN Financing for Development meeting and other UN events to begin preparing such a global meeting. For further details of the global civil society 'Statement on the proposed "Global Summit", [click here](#).

Say NO to Violence against Women campaign

Source: United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)

UNIFEM's global internet-based advocacy campaign on ending violence against women, launched in November 2007, demonstrates that there is an ever-growing movement of people who raise their voices and demand that ending violence against women be a top priority. To date, more than 375,000 people have added their names to a "virtual" book as an expression of public support and call for action, helping to break the silence and give voice to women and girls who have experienced violence. Breaking new ground, UNIFEM's "Say NO" campaign is attracting significant support from Heads of States and Governments. To date, forty-four countries have publicly committed to elevate the issue, work with women's organisations, law enforcement, health providers, educators and other key players to change policies and practices. UNIFEM has set a goal of reaching at least one-million signatures by 25 November, the International Day to Eliminate Violence against Women. For more information on the campaign, [click here](#).

[Read more...](#)

ACCOUNTABILITY

EURODAD Charter on Responsible Financing

Source: EURODAD (European Network on Debt and Development)

The issue of 'responsible lending' by both official and private creditors has been rapidly gaining ground in international discourses on debt and aid. The main driver of international interest in the former is probably the increased prominence of developing country lenders such as China , India , Venezuela and Brazil , among others. This has unsettled many 'traditional' donors and creditors who are arguing - rightly or not - that 'new' lenders will contribute to new rounds of unsustainable and irresponsible debt in developing countries. Eurodad's Charter on Responsible Financing outlines the essential components of a responsible loan. These aims are to ensure that terms and conditions are fair, that the loan contraction process is transparent, that human rights and environments of recipient nations are respected, and repayment difficulties or disputes are resolved fairly and efficiently. For more information, [click here](#).

Donor conference lacks transparency and accountability, says Transparency International

Source: Transparency International (TI)

Secrecy and lack of consultation with Georgian parliament and civic organisations threatens accountable aid delivery, warns TI Georgia. TI Georgia criticised a lack of transparency and local consultation ahead of a conference on 22 October, where representatives of donor nations, multilateral institutions and the Georgian government gathered in Brussels in the wake of the Georgian-Russian conflict of August 2008. Commenting on the opaque decision-making process, Tamuna Karosanidze, Executive Director of Tbilisi-based TI Georgia urged that, "the lack of transparency in giving this aid makes it less likely that money will reach those most in need. If donors want aid to support Georgia's development, they must ensure that this aid is transparent and democratically accountable." For more information, [click here](#).

AccountAbility's leading sustainability assurance standards launched

Source: www.AccountAbility.net

AccountAbility has launched its leading sustainability assurance standards - AA1000AS 2008 & AA1000 APS after several months of thorough revision involving an extensive multi-stakeholder

process, national consultations in over 20 countries and the participation of over 4,000 individuals from 90 different countries via the innovative use of a wiki platform. The standards provide the requirements for conducting independent assurance on the nature and extent of an organisation's understanding of and response to its non-financial, sustainability issues and on the quality of its publicly disclosed information on its sustainability performance. For more information, [click here](#).

[Read more...](#)

CIVIL SOCIETY ACTIVISM AND GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS

Civil society has something to say

By Gustavo Capdevila, Inter Press Service (IPS)

Governments cannot deal with the current financial crisis on their own, and need the support of the people they govern, which is "best translated by the opinions of the civil society movement," said Werner H. Schleiffer, executive coordinator of CONGO, the global umbrella of NGOs. The responsibility of striving for solutions lies with governments, "because the market forces have demonstrated that they cannot solve the issues," said Schleiffer. "But governments do not have sufficient strength on their own, and must take into account the thinking of their own people as translated by civil society movements," he argued. CONGO, which is made up of national, regional and international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), is "a bridge, a two-way stream vis-a-vis civil society and vis-a-vis the UN," he explained. For more information, [click here](#).

Strategic cooperation and partnership to promote decent work and global labour markets

Source: International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

Leaders of 43 Asian and European countries met last Friday, 24 October, in Beijing for the 7th ASEM Summit. They issued two important declarations, the first on sustainable development and the second on the international financial situation. The Declaration on sustainable development includes a number of important commitments on development, climate change and social issues. "There are huge challenges in front of us. Climate change is one of them, and it cannot be seen in isolation from achieving progress on other key issues, such as the creation of decent work or meeting the UN Millennium Development Goals. The food, finance and energy crisis we are now facing illustrate the failure of a model. The time has come to define a new model where people and planet will be more important than profit," said Guy Ryder, ITUC general secretary. For more information, [click here](#).

Civil society and Youth leaders at the 2008 Annual Meetings

Source: The World Bank

Over 350 civil society representatives from over 50 countries attended the 2008 Annual Meetings, a marked increase from previous years. These represented a wide diversity of CSOs from trade unions and NGOs, to foundations and professional associations. Of these, 26 CSO representatives from developing countries were sponsored to attend the Annual Meetings, in order to ensure that Southern perspectives were heard. These were identified by World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF) country offices, CSO networks, and donor agencies and based on such criteria as geographic coverage, constituency diversity, and gender balance. For more information, [click here](#).

[Read more...](#)

CAPACITY BUILDING

Toolkit to Combat Trafficking in Persons

Source: UN Global Programme against Trafficking in Human Beings

The Anti-Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Unit of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is pleased to announce that the English language version of the Toolkit to Combat Trafficking in Persons is now available. Like the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, the overarching goals of the Toolkit are to prevent and combat trafficking, protect and assist its victims, and promote international cooperation. It is hoped that in providing guidance, showing promising practices and recommending resources, the toolkit may inspire and assist policymakers, law enforcers, judges, prosecutors, victim service providers and members of civil society who are working in interconnected spheres towards these same objectives. For more information, [click here](#).

[Read more....](#)

PROFILES



DONOR: The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund

The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund is an independent grant-giving charity established in September 1997 to continue the Princess's humanitarian work in the United Kingdom and overseas. In the first nine years of its existence, the Fund pledged some £76 million in grants to over 350 organisations around the world. Following the Princess' example, the Fund is not afraid to respond to emerging issues of the day and speak out on behalf of causes that are not widely recognised or popular. The Fund is proud to support groups and causes that would otherwise find it difficult to gain funding. From 2007 to 2012, the Fund's grant-making activities will be grouped under three initiatives, each of which has a desired outcome and a set of strategic objectives to be achieved over five years. For further details, [click here](#).



MEMBER: Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development (ACORD)

ACORD is a Pan-African Organisation working for social justice and development. ACORD works in common cause with people who are poor and those who have been denied their rights to obtain social justice and rights-based development and be part of locally-rooted citizen movements. ACORD is present on the ground in 17 countries including East, West, South and Horn of Africa. They are engaged in practical work, research and advocacy in relation to conflict, gender, livelihood and HIV/AIDS. Food sovereignty is the priority for the Pan-Africa programme. Local ownership and strengthening of civil society is integral to all ACORD work, to build the momentum for social action of poor citizens and their networks around an agenda articulated and owned by people and with systematic local and global links. For more information about their work and how they may be able to collaborate with you, please contact them by e-mail at info@acordinternational.org or visit the website, [click here](#).

[Read more on the 3 previous member profiles...](#)

BOOKS, REPORTS & RESOURCES

New Reality of Aid report finds aid relationships fundamentally unchanged

Source: Reality of Aid

The new 2008 Reality of Aid report, released in September in Accra, focuses on aid effectiveness and finds there is a long way still to go before the world's poor can truly benefit from foreign aid. The Report says that aid has not been effective in delivering real progress for many of the world's poor, despite the signing of the Paris Declaration in which donors and governments pledge on making aid actually work for development. This is rooted in the failure of donors and governments to recognise that aid can only be effective when human rights and democratic ownership of peoples are respected and prioritised. The report argues that "the only true measure of aid's effectiveness is its sustained

gender equality, deepening democracy and promoting environmental sustainability.” For further details on the report, [click here](#).

Trade and Development Policy Brief entitled 'Rebuilding Financial Multilateralism'

Source: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

The UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has released its latest Policy Brief entitled 'Rebuilding Financial Multilateralism'. The paper argues that global cooperation and global regulation are imperative in both trade and finance, and that the United Nations is the most credible international organisation to spearhead the design, discussion and launching of such efforts. For more information, [click here](#).

Ten Years for Media Freedom - An OSCE Anniversary: Current and Forthcoming Challenges

Source: OSCE, Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe

To commemorate the tenth anniversary of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, the Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFOM) hosted an expert panel discussion in Vienna on 29 February 2008, initiated by the Finnish Chairman-in-Office. For ten years now, the Representative has scrutinised challenges to press freedoms in all geographical areas of the OSCE region. The Office has intervened in countless cases where reporters were harassed or even murdered; where pluralism was restricted by governmental or private ownership concentration; where the media were denied the right to investigate their governments; or where offending or critical views were criminalised as extremism, defamation, or hate speech. For more information, [click here](#).

[Read more...](#)

CONFERENCES & EVENTS

Alert: NGOs National Platforms International Conference, Paris , 27-30 October 2008

On 27 and 28 October, Coordination SUD organised a get-together reserved for NGOs national platform representatives from more than 80 countries. Besides a discussion on good practices and advices drawn from singular experiences, the conference was intended to create conditions for a better participation of NGOs from the South in international debates, and facilitate the creation of a global network or a NGO national platforms alliance. Meetings between NGOs platforms representatives and international actors will take place on 29 October. CIVICUS was then represented by its Secretary General, Ingrid Srinath. For more information, [click here](#).

7th Global Conference on Human Development

17-21 November 2008, Takayama, Japan

The 7th Global Conference on Human Development is the next in a sequence of quadrennial conferences organised by the Institute of Cultural Affairs International (ICAI) since 1984. The aim of the Global Conferences on Human Development is to explore and document global human development challenges and innovative policy and practitioner responses. The 7th conference will bring together more than 1 000 key stakeholders from civil society, government, academia, and the private sector for five days. For more information, [click here](#).

Durban Review Conference

15 to 17 April 2009, Durban, South Africa

The second Substantive Session of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) for the Durban Review Conference met in Geneva from 6 to 17 October 2008. It followed a first substantive PrepCom session which was held from 21 April to 2 May 2008. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Navanethem Pillay, opened the session by underlining the need to embrace a multi-faceted approach to achieve the maximum gain from the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA). At its second substantive session, the Preparatory Committee for the Durban Review Conference decided to hold a third substantive session from 15 to 17 April 2009 . Therefore, the

deadline for receiving applications from new NGOs that wish to be accredited to the Durban Review Conference has been moved forward to 10 February 2009. For more information, [click here](#).

[Read more...](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

2008 STARS Impact Awards

Application Deadline: 28 November 2008

Building on the success of the 2007 Impact Awards, the STARS Foundation is delighted to announce the final shortlist of six African organisations for the 2008 STARS Impact Awards. These organisations were selected from 150 applicants spanning 25 countries across Africa. The annual Awards recognise three organisations operating in the fields of health, education and protection which have the greatest impact on the lives of children through their commitment to good practice. Each recipient will receive US\$100,000 in unrestricted funding as well as consultancy support. For more information, [click here](#).

2009 Ford Foundation International Fellowships Programme (IFP)

Application Deadline: 15 January 2009

The Ford Foundation International Fellowships Programme (IFP) seeks to build a new generation of social justice leaders worldwide. Ford Fellows come from groups and communities that have little access to higher education, and are selected on the strength of their academic achievement, leadership skills and social commitment. By building on Fellows' familiarity with grass roots problems, IFP seeks to raise the Fellows' capacity - through knowledge, skills and networks - to become effective leaders in the struggle to improve lives in their communities, countries and regions. For more information, [click here](#).

[Read more...](#)

WORKSHOPS & COURSES

International Human Rights Training Programme

14 June- 3 July 2009, Montreal, Canada

Application deadline: 21 November 2008

Since 1980, this annual three week training session brings together approximately 120 participants from over 60 countries. The IH RTP provides a unique opportunity for human rights workers to deepen their understanding of human rights and of the essential role of human rights education in effecting change. As recognised by the United Nations: "There is a growing consensus that education in and for human rights is essential and can contribute to both the reduction of human rights violations and the building of free and peaceful societies. Human rights education is also increasingly recognised as an effective strategy to prevent human rights abuses." For more information, [click here](#).

Creative and Strategic Thinking course

3-5 December 2008, London, UK (3 days: Non-residential)

Source: International NGO Training and Research Centre (INTRAC)

NGO work requires strategic thinking and action. Be creative and get involved in a dynamic process to be able to respond to changing circumstances. The International NGO Training and Research Centre course explores the dynamics of strategic and creative thinking, allowing you to understand the process of strategy formation, reflect on issues surrounding strategic planning and practice, and develop an understanding of the process of making strategic choices. Development planners and

however, many face challenges in practically applying it. In this course participants will benefit from how to analyse and plan the gender perspective into effective development practice. For more information, [click here](#).

[Read more...](#)

CALL FOR PAPERS, SUBMISSIONS, SURVEYS & NOMINATIONS

Call for nominations: PACE Human Rights Prize

Application Deadline: 31 December 2008

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) is calling for nominations for an annual Human Rights Prize, which will reward "outstanding civil society action in the defence of human rights in Europe". Individuals and NGOs can be nominated for the prize, which will be selected by a seven-member panel from nominations put forward by at least five sponsors. The first Prize will be awarded at a ceremony in Strasbourg during the summer plenary session (22-26 June 2009) of the Assembly, which brings together 636 parliamentarians from 47 Council of Europe member states. "We depend on civil society to 'speak truth to power' when it comes to human rights," said PACE President Lluís Maria de Puig, launching the prize. For more information, [click here](#).

[Read more...](#)

APPOINTMENTS

This week, new civil society job openings have been added to the CIVICUS website. Please [click here](#).

Should you wish to publish a **NEW VACANCY**, please click on [Add job](#). Please add an expiry date for applications.

JOBS OF THE WEEK

Membership Manager

Application Deadline: 24 November 2008

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

Location: Johannesburg, South Africa

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

Chief Executive Director

Application Deadline: 15 December 2008

Forum International de Montréal (FIM)

Location: Montréal, Québec, Canada

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@civics.org.

Unsubscribe: To unsubscribe from e-CIVICUS, get a password reminder, or change your subscription options by entering your subscription email address: [Click here](#).