



# 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](mailto:editor@civicus.org).

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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,

**FROM THE DESK OF CIVICUS' SECRETARY GENERAL**

Send your comments and contributions to [editor@civicus.org](mailto:editor@civicus.org).



**Can the change we need become change we can believe in?**

By Ingrid Srinath, CIVICUS Secretary General

Dear friends and colleagues,

This week I had the privilege of attending the 13<sup>th</sup> International Anti-Corruption Conference. It was heartening that the conference did not restrict itself entirely to a narrow definition of corruption - outright criminality, fraud or the abuse of power or influence. Such a definition would have, I believe, addressed only the tip of a vast, deeply flawed iceberg. One whose underlying structure has been exposed by the recent financial meltdown. A structure best described, in my opinion, by Mahatma Gandhi as being composed of "wealth without work, pleasure without conscience, knowledge without character, commerce without morality, science without humanity, worship without sacrifice and politics without principles." Whether at the most micro level of a child deprived of her right to education, or an indigenous community displaced to make room for a power project or bio-fuel plantation, or at the broader macro level of global institutions like the United Nations (UN), the World Bank (WB), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Trade Organisation (WTO) etc., the greater betrayal is the corruption of the very notions of democracy and citizenship. To read more on this week's column, [click here](#).



**Analysing threats to civil society around the world**

By Sue Le-Ba, CIVICUS Civil Society Index (CSI) Research Fellow

A review of CSI country data from 2003-2007

Since September 11, 2001, the United States and other governments have frequently asserted that threats to national peace and security warrant restricting civic rights and clamping down on civil society organisations (CSOs). For many repressive and even democratic regimes, the attacks of 9-11 have served to legitimise state abuse of civic rights in the name of national security, political stability and non-interference in a country's internal affairs (Sen and Morris, 2008). However, some regimes have consistently suppressed civic rights and freedoms regardless of their adherence to the 9-11 security agenda. South Korea is a case in point, whereby the government routinely misuses the National Security Law to detain people who oppose the established political view but who pose no security threat. In light of the current security agenda and the on-going threats to civic rights, this article examines restrictions to civil society and CSOs around the world from the 2003-2007 Civil Society Index project findings of over 54 countries. For more information, [click here](#).

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**CIVICUS Poll Question**

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](mailto: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

#### This week's question:

Do you think that Barack Obama's new administration will help improve the lives of those living in poverty around the world?

- Yes, most definitely;
- Yes, but this remains to be seen, given the current financial crisis and other global challenges;
- No, but Obama's symbolism as US President might have positive effects;
- No, the issues are structural and it will take years for the world leaders in concert to make any fundamental changes.

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

#### Previous question:

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

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

**Results:** a. - 18.2%, b. - 63.6%, c. - 18.2%

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#### 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?

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#### e-CIVICUS DIALOGUES



#### CIVICUS and GCAP welcome Barack Obama's opportunity for change

CIVICUS and the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) have welcomed the election of Barack Obama as the 44<sup>th</sup> President-Elect of the United States. Embracing President-Elect Obama's message of change and inclusivity, civil society representatives look forward to seeing him fulfil campaign pledges on poverty eradication while working together towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Kumi Naidoo, Honorary President of CIVICUS and Co-Chair of the Global Call to Action against Poverty said, "If Obama stands firm on his campaign promise of doubling US aid, and integrating the Millennium Development

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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](http://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>



Goals into policy, then his election could spell the biggest step towards ending poverty in our lifetimes, that we have seen in over thirty years." Ingrid Srinath, CIVICUS Secretary General commented: "Many people in the US and around the world see Barack Obama's election as symbolic of a generational change, from top-down decision-making to participatory democracy, from the predominance of financial and military muscle to the values of equity, justice, freedom. If that were to happen, we might truly begin to see the change we need, become change we can believe in." For more information, [click here](#).



#### Celebrity diplomacy between engagement and entrapment

By Renate Bloem, CIVICUS UN Representative in Geneva

"What role can celebrities play in world politics and how seriously should they be taken in world affairs? Do celebrities' media power and related transparency serve decision-making in global affairs?" These were some of the questions we discussed at the international Conference 'Celebrity Diplomacy, Unconventional Ways of International Politics', held on 30-31 October at the Clingendael Institute in The Hague, The Netherlands. The Clingendael Institute is a think tank and training institute on International Affairs and is renowned for its international diplomatic training programmes and research in the field of security, diplomacy and global governance. The organisers gathered an audience of academics, policy makers, civil society representatives and journalists who, they felt, were qualified to contribute to the 'celebrity-diplomat' theme, to discuss more in-depth the opportunities, consequences and challenges of this development. For more information, [click here](#).



#### Mandela joins civil society in hailing Obama after election victory

Source: Mail & Guardian online

Anti-apartheid icon Nelson Mandela and one of the founders of The Elders on Wednesday congratulated United States president-elect Barack Obama on his election victory, saying he was an inspiration to people all over the world. "Your victory has demonstrated that no person anywhere in the world should not dare to dream of wanting to change the world for a better place," Mandela said in a letter to Obama. "We note and applaud your commitment to supporting the cause of peace and security around the world. We trust that you will also make it the mission of your presidency to combat the scourge of poverty and disease everywhere. "We wish you strength and fortitude in the challenging days and years that lie ahead. We are sure you will ultimately achieve your dream of making the United States of America a full partner in a community of nations committed to peace and prosperity for all," said Mandela. For more information, [click here](#).



#### Taking account of Race: A Philanthropic Imperative

By Gara LaMarche, President and CEO, The Atlantic Philanthropies

You might ask a question, seeing me, and don't worry that it might hurt my feelings. What gives me the right to make a speech about race? Well, first off, I have a race. That might seem obvious, but we are so inured to whiteness as the default position, deeply internalised by virtually all white people and even many people of colour, that race is something that only black and Latino and Asian and Native American people are thought to have. So yes, I am white, and more specifically a white male who by virtue of that carries with him a set of privileges of which finding it easier to hail a taxi going uptown or walk alone on a dimly-lit street at night without fear of being sexually assaulted are just the beginning. At least in the critical earlier stages of my career, whatever my individual merits, I got taken more seriously because I was a white man, certainly by the white men who had a virtual monopoly on selection and hiring, and I competed in admission and employment pools that were woefully lacking in the available talent of women and people of colour. For more information, [click here](#).

#### Amid the financial storm: redirecting climate change

Mike Hulme, professor in the school of environmental sciences at the University of East Anglia  
Source: Open Democracy

What impact will the global economic downturn have on arguments about climate change? The answer lies within ourselves as much as the weather, says Mike Hulme. Climate change is often described as the greatest environmental crisis faced by the world. So what is the significance of the unfolding global financial crisis for the "climate crisis"? Might it lead to a retreat from concern, a

resurgent interventionism or a reflection on society's deeper dilemmas? "Climate change" involves far more than a measured description of evolving trends in regional or global weather statistics, or an uncomplicated account of the changing biogeochemical functions of the Earth system. For more information, [click here](#).

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## CIVIL SOCIETY NEWS

### **Center for Global Development calls on Obama not to neglect poverty, insecurity and disease in the developing world**

Source: Voice of America

The Center for Global Development (CGD) agrees that poverty, insecurity and disease in the developing world threaten the well-being of the international community to a far greater degree than ever before. They say Washington's influence on the world stage, as well as deepening globalisation, means that the next president belongs not only to the United States, but also to the world. Experts at the Center for Global Development (CGD) in Washington, DC, put their heads together to consider what they regard as the most pressing problems in the developing world that the new president should urgently address. Their insights are collected in a recent book, *The White House and the World: A Global Development Agenda for the Next U.S. President*, which includes chapters on fragile or failing states, climate change, trade and infrastructure, and what the new American administration can do to help developing countries. For more information, [click here](#).

### **Watchdog says Prosperity no guarantee of Press Freedoms**

By Andrew F. Tully

Source: Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

Advocacy group Reporters Without Borders has found that peace and "the spirit of democracy" - and not simply prosperity - are reliable guarantors of media freedom. In its 2008 Press Freedom Index, the group, known by its French initials RSF, saw little improvement in media freedoms this year compared with 2007, especially in some former Soviet countries. In fact, Turkmenistan, along with North Korea and Eritrea, remains part of what RSF calls "the infernal trio" at the very bottom of the press-freedom rankings. For more information, [click here](#).

### **New voluntary standards could safeguard Freedom of Expression**

Internet Rights Protection Initiative

Source: Human Rights Watch

A new voluntary standard that internet and telecom companies have agreed on could help safeguard freedom of expression and human rights in China and other countries where the internet is censored, Human Rights Watch said. Participants in the Global Network Initiative (GNI) include Human Rights Watch, Google, Microsoft, Yahoo, and a host of other major companies, human rights organisations, investors, and academics. In countries such as China, Iran, and Russia, governments regularly censor information and persecute bloggers and other online activists whom they see as a threat to their rule. In some cases, companies have been complicit in those abuses. China, for example, has pressured Yahoo to turn over to its secret police the names of political dissidents who send information over e-mail that it considers sensitive. For more information, [click here](#).

### **Civil society reps withdraw from Presidential Commission of Inquiry in Sri Lanka**

Source: Sumaiya Rizvi, Daily Mirror

The organisations representing civil society withdrew its representation from the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (Col) to investigate and inquire into serious violations of Human Rights. "The commission had 55 witnesses who testified and they have another 70 witnesses to take the stand and even with the extension of their mandate, it seems an unlikely task," K. Gamage Attorney-at-Law appearing for the six civil society organisations said. They cited the absence of Video conferencing,

delay in legalising the witness protection act and the possible biasness of the Attorney General's Department into the proceedings of the commission as the reasons for their withdrawal. For more information, [click here](#).

### **Kimberly King receives Humanitarian Award**

Source: The Peace Company

The Women's International Center has named Kimberly King the first recipient of the Eleanor Roosevelt Global Humanitarian Award. "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is one of the most important documents created in the 20th century," said Dr. Dee Aker, Executive Director of the Joan Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice. "In the year in which we celebrate the 60th anniversary, it is a most appropriate time to inaugurate the Eleanor Roosevelt Global Humanitarian Award at the Living Legacy Awards." The Living Legacy Awards (R) has honored global leaders and social innovators for more than 25 years. For more information, [click here](#).

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## **MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS & GLOBAL CALL TO ACTION AGAINST POVERTY**

### **Poverty goals to be hit by global crisis in Cambodia**

Source: Phnom Penh Post

Global financial turmoil and rising domestic inflation will likely keep Cambodia from reaching its poverty-reduction target this year. While Cambodia continues to post impressive economic growth estimated at around 6.5 percent, roughly a third of the population is still living on less than \$1 a day. Some officials fear the global market turmoil could impact the ability of donors to continue doling out massive aid packages to poor nations like Cambodia, which depends on international funds for a significant percentage of its national budget. For more information, [click here](#).



### **Where there is a will there is a way**

Source: Vita de Waal, Planetary Association for Clean Energy, Canada

We have seen it now with trillions poured into funds

A few days ago, the UN Secretary General Ban ki-Moon expressed his concerns that "the financial crisis does threaten to undermine all the UN's achievements and all its progress" and that "it would be the final blow that many of the poorest of the world's poor simply cannot survive". With the potential of the present world situation to worsen globally, especially on the political and on the humanitarian fronts in developing and underdeveloped countries, these concerns are shared by many. Due to the ramifications of the current crisis there is a possibility that the industrialised world might focus primarily on their problems at home and that the targets set regarding aid, development, climate change and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by developed nations might not be honoured. For more information, [click here](#).

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## **GET INVOLVED!**

### **Global Call to Action to Demand a New Economic System**

Source: Lidy Nacpil, [Inacpil@jsouth.org](mailto:Inacpil@jsouth.org)

US President George Bush and other G8 leaders have called a summit of governments of the world's 20 biggest countries on 15 November, to respond to the international financial crisis. This summit is fundamentally flawed. It excludes many countries whose citizens will also suffer the impacts of the crisis, and provides no space for the in-put of citizens groups, social movements, people's organisations, and other civil society formations. In responding to the summit, civil society is now

urging all social movements, peoples' organisations, coalitions, networks and citizens formations worldwide to organise various forms of actions on 15 November. This is the start of many more actions to fight for citizen rights and bring forth a new, just, equitable, democratic and sustainable global order. For further details on the call, [click here](#). The call is also available in [French](#) and [Spanish](#).

### **Take Action: Global Sign-On Statement on the proposed "Global Summit" to reform the international financial system**

Source: [Choike.org](#), a portal on Southern civil societies

The G20 are now set to meet in Washington DC on 15 November, to begin discussions on the reform of the global financial system and its institutions. Civil society organisations support the fundamental and far-reaching transformation of the international financial and economic system. Due to overwhelming demand, the global statement on the proposed Global Summit to reform the international financial system has been re-opened for sign on. Close to 700 organisations in more than 100 countries have already signed. The final statement will be presented to governments at the 15 November summit meeting in Washington DC, USA. Please sign the statement by 5:00 pm GMT on Thursday, 13 November, [click here](#).

### **EVERY HUMAN HAS RIGHTS Join the Every Human Has Rights campaign**

Source: [Every Human Has Rights](#)

In the 60th year of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, The Elders are joined by CIVICUS, the Global call to Action against Poverty (GCAP), and many other organisations around the world, to launch the Every Human Has Rights campaign. 2008 is the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is time for a global conversation about human rights and the values that unite us as one human family. But it can also be a time when each of us chooses to take human rights into our daily lives, by joining a powerful people network to protect the rights of your fellow global villagers and encourage others to do the same in your communities, workplaces and schools. Sign your personal Declaration, [click here](#).

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## **ACCOUNTABILITY**

### **Global Witness calls for improvement in transparency of the World Bank, IMF Mega Projects**

Source: [Alison Raphael](#), Inter Press Service (IPS) TeraraViva UN

The World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) came under fire last week for failing to adequately promote transparency in extractive industry operations in resource-rich countries where the two institutions work. Global Witness and the Bank Information Centre (BIC) carried out an assessment covering 57 countries, where the two international financial institutions provided funding and other support to extractive industries - such as oil, gas and mining - from June 2003 until April 2008. "Our study found that while the World Bank and IMF raise the issue of transparency in many resource-rich countries, disclosure of revenues is not always mandated, disclosure of contracts is largely lacking, and meaningful civil society participation often goes unaddressed," said Corinna Gilfillan, head of Global Witness's US office. For more information, [click here](#).

### **Accountability Principles of Research Organisations Report**

Source: [One World Trust](#)

The Accountability Principles of Research Organisations (APRO) report provides a framework for establishing accountability good practices and principles for policy-oriented research organisations working in developing countries. It discusses how One World Trust's core principles of accountability - participation, transparency, evaluation and complaints handling - can be applied to research. In addition to providing arguments for both the ethical and instrumental need for accountability to a wide range of stakeholders, it also acknowledges the tensions and challenges that different organisations

will face in formulating accountability principles. For more information, [click here](#).

### **Global Fund falling foul of strict accounting procedures**

Source: IRIN PlusNews

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria was formed in 2001 for the purpose of setting up an innovative approach to providing finance to combat the three diseases that kill more than six million people worldwide every year. Since its inception, the Fund has committed US\$11.3 billion to 136 countries, about half of which has been disbursed. Funding to beneficiary countries is based on performance, and failure to meet targets can lead to delays, suspension, discontinuation or termination of grants. For more information, [click here](#).

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## **CIVIL SOCIETY ACTIVISM AND GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS**

### **Civil society calling for a fundamental and far-reaching transformation on the international financial system**

Source: Jim Lobe, Institute for Policy Studies, Yahoo News

Two weeks before US President George W. Bush hosts an economic summit to address the six-week-old financial crisis that has wreaked havoc on the world's capital and stock markets, a coalition of nearly 600 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) from 88 countries is calling for a "fundamental and far-reaching transformation on the international financial and economic system." In a statement, the groups demanded that the upcoming Group of 20 (G20) meeting on 15 November implement a much broader and more inclusive reform effort, in which all of the world's governments and international civil society should participate. "It is of course imperative to agree on immediate measures to address the crisis, and we emphasise that priority must be given to responses to the impacts on ordinary employees and workers, low-income households, pensioners and other extremely vulnerable sectors," according to the statement signed by Friends of the Earth, ActionAid, and Social Watch, among other international civil society groups. For more information, [click here](#).



### **Robinson to lead efforts to strengthen global immunisation**

Source: GAVI Alliance

New GAVI Executive Board Chair Mary Robinson (right) with Chairman Graça Machel, former first lady of Mozambique and a GAVI founding member are both members of The Elders and campaigners in Every Human Has Rights campaign. Former President of Ireland and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson will lead the GAVI Alliance's new executive board, created today to strengthen the organisation's ability to meet global health challenges. "I feel humbled and honored to be elected," said Robinson. "Over these past few years, I have witnessed GAVI achieve extraordinary success through its unique public and private approach to improving the health of the world's poor, especially children. The new board structure embodies this approach and will enable us to meet the challenges ahead." For more information, [click here](#).

### **Amid the turmoil, do not forget the poor**

By Kofi Annan, Michel Camdessus & Robert Rubin

Source: Financial Times

There are two lessons that history and our personal experience teach us. One is that when crises occur, the least responsible are usually the worst affected and the least able to cope. The second is that crises can provide the momentum for reform and radical change. The Group of Eight leading industrialised nations and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development countries must honour their existing commitments, particularly aid levels, to the developing world and not use the crisis as a pretext for abandoning them. For more information, [click here](#).

### **Food shortage to worsen crisis in Asia**

Source: Inquirer

The global financial crisis has the potential to be far worse than previous meltdowns because of high food prices and food shortages, and the steady erosion of agriculture and rural economies, the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation has warned. Developed countries have been urged to follow through on commitments they made during the Food Security Summit in Rome last June, when they pledged \$11 billion for immediate food aid, and for investing in and revitalising the agricultural sector to boost crop production. On the other hand, developing countries must invest in agriculture, including improved infrastructure, to make it sustainable, rewarding, and sufficiently productive. For more information, [click here](#).

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### **CAPACITY BUILDING**

#### **Accountability Toolkit for Research Organisations**

Source: Brendan Whitty, One World Trust

This toolkit provides a set of good accountability practices for research organisations working in developing countries. The recommended good practices are based on four key principles of accountability: participation, evaluation, transparency and feedback management. Drawing on a study conducted with sixteen research organisations, which reflect the diversity of innovators and evidence-gatherers in developing countries, the Accountability Toolkit has identified nine processes which are common to most research organizations, and which offer opportunities for improved accountability. The toolkit also presents two key policies which can help research managers to structure and formalise their accountability. For more information, [click here](#).

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### **PROFILES**



#### **DONOR: TrustAfrica**

TrustAfrica is an independent foundation that strives to secure the conditions for democracy and equitable development throughout the continent. First known as the Special Initiative for Africa, it began in 2001 under the aegis of the Ford Foundation, and in 2006, became a truly African foundation with the opening of a new headquarters in Dakar, Senegal. TrustAfrica seeks to strengthen African initiatives that address the most difficult challenges confronting the continent. It currently focuses on three critical areas: securing the conditions for democracy; fostering African enterprise and achieving broadly shared prosperity; and cultivating African resources for democracy and development. TrustAfrica works principally through collaboration and partnership with like-minded institutions and donors. As a catalyst and convener, TrustAfrica is committed to generating and testing new ideas. TrustAfrica also strive to practice good governance and promote it among their grantees. TrustAfrica believe in facilitating collaboration among African institutions and building long-term relationships with grantees; maintaining the highest standards of institutional performance, including sound management, accountable and transparent governance, effective communication, and sustainable results. TrustAfrica seeks ways to forge closer ties with the African diaspora to strengthen global alliances for the continent. For further details, [click here](#).

#### **MEMBER: Association For Rural Society (ARS)**

ARS is a rights' NGO which started working in southern part of Bangladesh in 1998. The mission of ARS encompasses the promotion of citizen rights of religious minorities and ethnic peoples by

helping to implement their right to vote, as well as promoting basic human rights. ARS carries out a variety of activities in pursuit of its mission, namely, raising awareness through workshops, drama based demonstrations and posters and leaflets distribution; defending rights by community-based surveillance, advocacy meetings, lobbying campaigns and legal shelter campaigns to protect various minority groups from alleged threats and violence; and monitoring elections through volunteer training, poll centre visits, the distribution of awareness material and temporary hotline to track vote-casting. For further details, please contact the Executive Director, Shakawat Hossain, [click here](#).

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

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## BOOKS, REPORTS & RESOURCES



### **Paper: Taking the Pulse of Civil Society Worldwide**

By Jacob Mati, CIVICUS Civil Society Index (CSI), Researcher

CIVICUS Civil Society Index paper presented at the 8th conference of the International Society for Third Sector Research, Universitat de Barcelona

This paper gives an overview of the CIVICUS Civil Society Index (CSI) framework, the key findings from the CSI implementation between 2003 and 2007, and contributes to knowledge of civil society in various regions, as well as CSI-inspired actions of civil society strengthening around the world. The CSI has generated a fascinating picture of the current state of civic activism around the world. Its findings reaffirm the vital role that the civil society is playing in governance and development, and reinforces a need to continue strengthening citizen action and civil society throughout the world, as humanity collectively seeks solutions to the challenges it is facing. For more information, [click here](#).



### **Inequalities in the Age of Financial Globalisation**

Source: New study by International Labour Organisation (ILO) research

Despite strong economic growth that produced millions of new jobs since the early 1990s, income inequality grew dramatically in most regions of the world and is expected to increase due to the current global financial crisis, according to a new study published by the research arm of the ILO. The new report, entitled *World of Work Report 2008: Income inequalities in the age of financial globalisation*, produced by the ILO's International Institute for Labour Studies also notes that a major share of the cost of the financial and economic crisis will be borne by hundreds of millions of people who haven't shared in the benefits of recent growth. "This report shows conclusively that the gap between richer and poorer households widened since the 1990s," said Raymond Torres, Director of the Institute. For more information, [click here](#).

### **Bringing the voice of at-risk communities in global disaster risk reduction policy and practice**

Source: [www.KeystoneAccountability.org](http://www.KeystoneAccountability.org)

The Global Network of CSOs for Disaster Reduction and Keystone are collaborating in a participatory action research project undertaken by CSOs at the local level in more than 30 countries around the globe with the aim to assess progress made towards the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action. The project intends to bring the voices of those affected by disasters to the heart of global policy and practice for disaster risk reduction, and through this to strengthen public accountability for implementation of the framework by enhancing the ability to measure progress at the local level. For more information, [click here](#).

### **Global Fundraising Confidence Survey Report**

Source: The Management Centre

The results of a global survey reveal the implications of the financial crisis for non-profit fundraising organisations worldwide, citing the need for fundraisers to take action and fight for market share. Conducted by The Management Centre at the International Fundraising Congress in Holland (13-17 October 2008), the survey explores the views of 100 leading fundraising thinkers from around the world about how serious the financial crisis is for the non-profit sector, which organisations will be

most affected and what strategies fundraisers should adopt. For more information, [click here](#).

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## CONFERENCES & EVENTS



### **11th International Forum on Women's Rights and Development**

14-17 November 2008, Cape Town, South Africa

The 11th Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) International Forum is expected to be attended by up to 1,500 women's rights leaders and activists from around the world to discuss the power of movements. The International Forum on Women's Rights and Development is both a conference and a call to action. The largest recurring event of its kind, the AWID Forum brings together women's rights leaders and activists from around the world every three years to strategise, network, celebrate, and learn in a highly charged atmosphere that fosters deep discussions and sustained personal and professional growth. For more information, [click here](#).



### **World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse**

19 November 2008, National Day

**Why a World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse?**

WWSF Women's World Summit Foundation

Child abuse, especially sexual abuse, is a universal and alarming problem and increased attention and efficient protection skills and prevention measures are necessary at family-, local-, national- and international level. After a long tradition of silence, sexual child abuse is being more and more denounced and becoming a public and political topic. Alerting Governments and civil society organizations to play a more active role in the promotion of and respect for the rights of the child (article 19 and 34 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child), and contribute to the prevention of child abuse, WWSF launched in 2000 the World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse, a Day to be commemorated every 19 November in synergy with the anniversary of the International Day for the rights of the child (20 November) which has as its objective to be a rallying point around the issue of child abuse and the need for urgent effective prevention programmes. For more information, [click here](#).

### **WSF 2009 deadline for registrations Extended until 14 November**

27 January - 01 February 2009, Belem (Para, Brazil)

Source: World Social Forum (WSF)

The deadline for registration of organisations that wish to propose self-managed activities during the World Social Forum 2009 in Belem, was extended until 14 November. The WSF 2009 will have hundreds of self-managed activities, proposed and made by civil society organisations from around the world. As defined in the International Council (CI) of the 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](#).

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## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### **United Nations Democracy Fund opens Third Round of Funding**

Application Deadline: 31 December 2008

The United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) opens its third round of funding from 10 November to 31 December 2008. Applications can be filled out online and must be completed in either English or French. Projects should focus on one of the following themes: democratic dialogue and support for constitutional processes; civil society empowerment; civic education; citizens' access to information; and participation rights and the rule of law in support of civil society. UNDEF's primary purpose is to strengthen the voice of civil society and ensure the participation of all groups in democratic practices. For more information, [click here](#).

### **Jonathan Mann Award for Global Health and Human Rights**

Application Deadline: 15 January 2009

The Jonathan Mann Award for Global Health and Human Rights was established in 1999 to honor Dr. Jonathan Mann and highlight the vital link between health and human rights. Sponsored in 2007 by four organisations, Association François-Xavier Bagnoud, Doctors of the World, John Snow, Inc. and the Global Health Council, the award is bestowed annually to a leading practitioner in health and human rights and comes with a substantial financial reward to allow its recipients a measure of freedom to pursue their work in the important area of global health and human rights. The Award will be presented in Washington, DC at a special Awards Ceremony during the Global Health Council's Annual International Conference, 26-30 May 2009. For more information, [click here](#).

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## **WORKSHOPS & COURSES**

### **Strategic Time Management Workshop**

20-22 November 2008, Karachi

The Timelenders workshop is divided into, first, working towards a clear vision and second, creating a balance in all roles in life. The different dimensions and functions of vision and purpose are introduced. The workshop will highlight the importance of having clarity in both. The workshop explains why personal organisation and leadership skills are important for achieving personal organisational vision. Spread over 20 instructional hours, the workshop has lecture sessions, individual and group exercises, presentations by participants and quizzes. Different modules are developed and brought together at the end. Depending upon the participants, the workshop's layout is customised. A minimum of three days are required. Sometimes on request, the number of days is increased to reduce the hours per day. For more information, [click here](#).

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## **CALL FOR PAPERS, SUBMISSIONS, SURVEYS & NOMINATIONS**

### **Call for Expressions: Enhancing capacity to apply research evidence in policymaking**

Application Deadline: 16 January 2009

The Wellcome Trust and the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research (HPSR) have launched a new initiative to promote the use of research evidence in developing health policy. Policymaking is a complex process, influenced by a multitude of factors and stakeholders, including civil society organisations, such as advocacy and interest groups and the media. Research evidence is just one of the many factors that influences policy, but for policymakers who may not be schooled in research; it can be challenging to assess the quality of the research. In addition, research results are often complex and nuanced, without clear evidence that a particular policy or strategy is effective under all conditions. "This new partnership aims to help bridge the gap that often exists between researchers and policy makers," said Dr Jimmy Whitworth, Head of International Activities at the Wellcome Trust. For more information, [click here](#).

### **Call for Proposals: Computers Freedom and Privacy Conference 2009 - Creating the Future**

Application Deadline: As soon as possible

The 19th annual Computers, Freedom, and Privacy (CFP) conference is now accepting proposals for panels, workshop sessions, and other events. CFP is the leading policy conference exploring the impact of the internet, computers and communications technologies on society. It will take place on 1-4 June 2009. For more than a decade, CFP has anticipated policy trends and issues and has shaped the public debate on the future of privacy and freedom in an ever more technology-filled world. CFP focuses on topics such as freedom of speech, privacy, intellectual property, cybersecurity, telecommunications, electronic democracy, digital rights and responsibilities, and the future of technologies and their implications. To submit a proposal or idea, [click here](#).

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### **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](#).

#### **Climate Campaigner**

Application Deadline: 24 November 2008

Oxfam Hong Kong

Location: Hanoi/Bangkok

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

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### **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](mailto:editor@civicus.org).

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