



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

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Ingrid Srinath

MANAGING EDITOR

Eric Muragana

EDITORS

Nastasya Tay
Katsuji Imata

OCCASIONAL CONTRIBUTORS

Carol Baloyi
Elizabeth Robson
Gara LaMarche
Guy Holloway
Henri Valot
Natalia Kirytopoulou
Tania Gobena
Tanzilya Salimjanova
Vicente Garcia-Delgado

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.



Mind the Gap: Matching rhetoric with reality

By Ingrid Srinath, CIVICUS Secretary General

Dear friends and colleagues,

Recent public pronouncements from Downing Street, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the United Nations (UN) have all urged that the current financial crisis be seen not as an excuse for turning inward, renegeing on commitments on aid, trade, poverty reduction and climate justice, nor that action is restricted to papering over the cracks in regulatory frameworks. Instead, these august bodies have unanimously advocated that the global community seize the opportunity to reinvent the global economic order and redress the imbalances that are, in no small measure, at the root of the current turmoil. This weekend the leaders of the world's economic powerhouses, current and emerging, meet in Washington DC. Their actions must match their rhetoric. If not, they will be responsible for the dire consequences they have themselves described. Millions more pushed over the brink of survival, to add to the 100 million added by the food and energy crises, over and above the billion that the MDGs were attempting to lift out of poverty. Climate change will render almost as many displaced, starving or trapped in the crossfire of conflict. To read more on this week's column, [click here](#).



Fostering Participatory Governance: Tools for Real Change

By Guy Holloway, CIVICUS Participatory Governance Intern

It is clear that the world is increasingly in need of change in the way it manages itself. The global economic meltdown, the ongoing food shortage, and the inescapable truth of climate change have all thrown into the limelight the need for greater citizen involvement in decisions that affect their lives and the lives of those around them. 'Representative democracy', a term which describes most of the world's states and thus the predominant decision-making system around the globe, is in reality often only skin deep and means that decisions are frequently taken irrespective of popular will, and without consultation or citizen participation. The responsibility for this lack of involvement, however, rests not only with elected representatives, but also with the wider population who rarely demand or exercise their rights of consultation and participation. In fact, in the "diminishing democracies" of the North, statistics show decreasing involvement of citizens in political processes. Creating a culture of citizen involvement in processes of public deliberation and decision-making is the starting point for real change. For further details, [click here](#).

CIVICUS Poll Question

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

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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

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This week's question:

Do you think this weekend's G20 meeting in Washington will help prevent an acceleration of the global financial crisis and its impact on poverty?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Don't Know

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

Previous question:

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

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

Results: a. - 9.6%, b. - 32.5%, c. - 15.7%, d. - 42.2%

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Vacant office space is available at CIVICUS House

Size - 198m² without partitioning. The space has recently been re-vamped and includes 24 hour manned security. Please contact Estelle Baker on +27 11 833 5959 or e-mail at Estelle.baker@civicus.org.

e-CIVICUS DIALOGUES



It's up to civil society to make this a transformational Presidency

Source: Transformational Presidency Katrina Vanden Heuvel of The Nation

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>



www.whiteband.org

Grassroots engagement and record-shattering turnout contributed mightily to Obama's decisive victory. Moving forward, this small-d democratic movement --broad-based and energized--will be critical in overcoming the timid incrementalists, the forces of money and establishment power, which are obstacles to meaningful change. And it will be needed to forge the fate and fortune of a bold progressive agenda. We know the Democratic Party is not the only vehicle for change. Historically, the party's finest moments have come when it was pushed into action from the outside by popular social movements. That same pressure is needed now. Retreat and timidity are losing strategies for addressing economic crisis, a shredded social compact, two wars which must be ended, and a damaged reputation abroad--especially with stronger majorities in Congress and a new president who has raised expectations and promised real change. To read more, [click here](#).

Key elements of a Global Deal on Climate Change

By Sir Nicholas Stern, Chair of the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment

In this report, Stern evaluates trends and progress made since the publication of the Stern Review, and presents a framework to be used to negotiate the renewal of the Kyoto Agreement. He notes the importance of paying attention to land use, land use change, and forestry, and argues for globally coordinated standards to raise energy efficiency especially in the consumer appliances/electronics, auto, and building sectors. Stern goes further, and observes that all countries will need to adapt to a changing climate, for example, through more resilient infrastructure, buildings, agriculture and enhanced social protection. Development plans, he emphasises, have to place climate change - both in terms of mitigation and adaptation - at their core. For further details, [click here](#).



The State of our Union in Crisis: Widening the lens of children and families

By Gara LaMarche, President and CEO, The Atlantic Philanthropies

This is an extraordinary moment to gather and reflect, as we have planned to do in these few days, on how our society best protects the endangered rights, meets the mounting needs, and advances the fragile opportunities of every family - most particularly, for the children who depend on them, and on all of us. In twenty days, Americans will go to the polls to make their choices in one of the most consequential Presidential elections of the last century. At the same time, we reel daily from the greatest financial crisis since the Great Depression. No analyst or pundit can predict with authority when will it end or how deep it will cut. Much that those of us in this room do each day, not only in our professional but also our personal lives, will be affected. This is not the time, obviously, for standard bromides about philanthropy and social policy. For further details, [click here](#).

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CIVIL SOCIETY NEWS

World's Trade Unions put recovery and reform plan to G20

Source: International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

Trade union leaders from the G20 countries will put forward a comprehensive plan to turn around the global economy, in meetings with world leaders in Washington DC on the eve of the financial crisis summit hosted by the US government on 15 November. The detailed union proposals are set out in a recovery and reform programme entitled the "Washington Declaration". "Immediate action is needed to get the world economy moving and boost employment. Governments need to be prepared to make further, coordinated, cuts in interest rates and to front-load investment in infrastructure, education and health to help stimulate demand growth and reinforce public services. This needs to be accompanied by tax and spending measures to support the purchasing power of low- and middle-income earners, and concrete steps to launch investment in green goods and services, to help address climate change", said John Evans, General Secretary of the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD-TUAC. For further details, [click here](#).

Civil society in European Commission 2008 Progress Report on Turkey

Source: Turkish Weekly

Especially in the last two decades, civil society has gained a role as an important actor in giving voice to citizens' demands and strengthening the social bases of politics at the societal level in Turkey. Indeed, there have been sincere intentions to create a civil society which can make positive contributions to political pluralism. However, Turkey's 2008 Progress Report from the European Union emphasises several topics related to civil society which have been undermined or have remained weak. For further details, [click here](#).

Civil society demands voice at Americas Summit

Source: Peter Richards, Inter Press Service (IPS)

Caribbean civil society groups say they want to have direct input at the Fifth Summit of the Americas to be held in Trinidad and Tobago next April, and are urging hemispheric governments to begin implementing some of the 600 recommendations that have been agreed upon at previous summits dating back to 1994. "We are happy that Trinidad and Tobago is focusing on implementation at the Apr. 17-19 summit, and we are lending our expertise to that process," said Dr. Kris Rampersad, director of Lobby, Advocacy, Research and Public Relations of the Network of NGOS of Trinidad and Tobago for the Advancement of Women. For further details, [click here](#).

Africa Commission on Human Rights endorses defence of civil society

Source: Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA)

The African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights (ACHPR), together with delegates to the Forum on the Participation of NGOs in the 44th Session of the ACHPR, on 8 November 2008 endorsed the "Defending Civil Society" report that focuses on legal barriers facing civil society and the principles that must be defended against violations by governments. The 45-page report, co-authored by the World Movement for Democracy at the Washington-based National Endowment for Democracy and the International Centre for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL), is based on extensive research and wide consultation with NGOs around the world, particularly those working on the advancement of democracy and human rights. For further details, [click here](#).

Open letter to President-elect Barack Obama on Human Rights

By Julie Mertus, Foreign Policy In Focus

The Bush administration had eight years to run our country's reputation on human rights into the ground. It succeeded not only in tarnishing America's image, but also in derailing the entire international human rights movement. As a professor of human rights who has studied the opportunities and challenges for the White House in transition periods, I know that the window of opportunity for distinguishing yourself from your predecessor is now open, but you must act quickly and decisively, if you are to get human rights back on track. The Bush administration treated human rights advocates as enemies and shrugged off their reminders of international standards as inconvenient roadblocks. The Obama administration should consider these same groups to be allies and even partners in promoting human dignity and freedom at home and worldwide. For further details, [click here](#).

Restrictive Religion Law adopted by Kyrgyzstan Parliament unanimously

By Mushfig Bayram, Forum 18

Kyrgyzstan's proposed new Religion Law has been adopted unanimously by the country's parliament today (6 November), Forum 18 News Service has found. The Law will go to President Kurmanbek Bakiev around 15 November, who then has at least a month to sign it or return it to Parliament. The Law as passed states that 200 people will be needed to register a religious organisation, contrary to assurances that Deputy Zainiddin Kurmanov, the main author of the Law, gave a visiting delegation from the European Parliament. For more information, [click here](#).

Zimbabweans worried about aid with strings attached

Stanley Kwenda, Inter Press Service (IPS) UN TerraViva

Aid with strings attached frequently does not translate into the improvement of the lives of the people

for whom that money was ostensibly sourced in the first place. Most of the capital received in aid is used to pay back debt owed to Western donors. These were the views of participants at a Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development (ZIMCODD) conference held in Zimbabwe's capital of Harare last week. ZIMCODD is a civil society organisation working towards social and economic justice. The conference was convened to discuss how the Zimbabwean economy can be kick-started once the Southern African Development Community's (SADC) political settlement for the country is in place. Already there has been talk of a plethora of donors lining up to offer aid to the new Zimbabwean Government of Unity. For more information, [click here](#).

Journalists join forces to promote civil society issues in Yemen

Source: Yemen Times

In a first of its kind initiative in Yemen, sixteen journalists from state, political parties and independent newspapers, as well as freelancers, came together to promote civil society issues through their work. The journalists agreed to create a coordination committee of three journalists who will align the efforts of the rest of the group and hence a campaign for a particular topic relating to civil society each month. This initiative came as a result of a five-day training workshop on basic journalism skills organised by the Investing in the Future program for the sixteen journalists. For further details, [click here](#).

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MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS & GLOBAL CALL TO ACTION AGAINST POVERTY

G20 must prioritise tackling poverty to prepare for the storm ahead, says GCAP

Source: Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP)

Days before the G20 summit, The Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) alliance is appealing to leaders to tackle head on the emergency currently devastating millions of people living in poverty and maintain their aid commitments despite the tough economic climate. The alliance calls on Brazil, Argentina, South Africa and India in particular, to bring the needs of the less developed countries to the table in Washington this weekend, and act in the interests of those suffering most from the aftershocks of the crisis.



"We need to see some moral courage from our leaders now. Things are already in a state of deep crisis in several developing countries and there is an unprecedented storm ahead for millions of people living in abject poverty. We need to see the same urgency now that leaders demonstrated when it came to bailing out banks just weeks ago," said Kumi Naidoo, CIVICUS Honorary President and Co-Chair of the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) from Washington this week.



"We in Africa are starting to see this financial crisis hit us but the worst is to come. We want to see positive and practical measures come out of this and subsequent Summits that consider our fate and not just the fate of the banks," said Adelaide Sosseh, GCAP Co-Chair, Gambia.



"The current financial system and power held by the International Financial Institutions is by its nature exclusive and outdated. The balance of power between countries is unequal, the conditions imposed are untenable and proven to fail, so this needs to change and now is the best opportunity we have had for a long time to do it," said Sylvia Borren, Co-Chair of GCAP. For further details on GCAP statement, [click here](#).

Oxfam urged G20 leaders to fight against poverty at the Center of Global Economic Reforms

Source: Oxfam International

The G20 must avoid small-scale tinkering and instead take immediate, aggressive action to tackle poverty while laying out an ambitious vision for reforming the world economy at its Financial Crisis Summit. In a new report, *If Not Now, When?*, international relief and development agency Oxfam

says that people living in poverty will be hit hard by the financial crisis unless urgent action is taken, adding that the poor should not have to pay for rich countries' mistakes. "Poor people had little to do with creating the crisis, but will carry the heaviest burden, whether it is families evicted from their homes in Detroit, or children dying in Mali for want of basic medical care," said Oxfam spokesperson Gawain Kripke. For further details, [click here](#). For more information on Oxfam briefing notes, [click here](#).

Millennium Development Goals Report 2008

Source: United Nations, mdgs.un.org

This report summarises progress towards the eight Millennium Development Goals across regions. The assessment is based on data available as of June 2008 on all official MDG indicators, including the new ones on decent work for all; universal access to reproductive health and treatment for HIV/AIDS; and to reduce biodiversity loss by 2010. This report is based on a master set of data that has been compiled by an Inter-Agency and Expert Group on MDG Indicators led by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, in response to the wishes of the General Assembly for periodic assessment of progress towards the MDGs. For further details, [click here](#).

MDGNet: coherence at work?

Source: UN Development Group

It took time for the United Nations System to push effectively and coherently on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). MDGNet is making progress in terms of information dissemination, as shown by the comprehensive monthly MDG News update, prepared by the MDGNet. MDGNet is a platform for practitioners to exchange information and experience about issues such as the design and implementation of policies and strategies in support of achieving the MDGs, monitoring and reporting of MDG progress, and MDG advocacy and campaigning activities, and others. Its membership consists of representatives of UN agencies and other development partners. To join the Network, please e-mail at mdg-net@groups.undp.org and to access the monthly MDG News update, [click here](#).

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GET INVOLVED!

Act now on the G20 Summit: Civil society messages to the leaders

A global response to a global crisis. Intelligence and responses towards a so-called "Bretton Woods 2"

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

The past few months have seen one of the most significant financial crises in history. In recent weeks, world leaders have recognised the need to reform the global financial system and its institutions. On 15 November, members of the Group of 20 are set to meet in Washington to begin the discussions. Civil society is deeply concerned that the proposed meetings will be carried out in a rushed and non-inclusive manner, and as a result, will neither address the comprehensive range of changes needed, nor fairly allocate their burden. Please endorse the civil society statement asking for an inclusive negotiation process (already more than 2500 signatures) and the new substantive statement calling for new principles and rules to build an economic system that works for the people and the planet. To sign the statement, [click here](#). For more information on the G20 Summit, see the Bretton Woods Project, [click here](#).

EVERY HUMAN HAS RIGHTS Vote in the Every Human Has Rights media awards

The public vote is now open!

Source: Every Human Has Rights campaign

Now is your chance to help reward the best report on human rights amongst the 30 winners

from all regions around the world. Each piece shows different faces of the struggle to make human rights a reality in every corner of the planet. The journalists who bring stories to you and the organisers of this competition request your time and attention to rate as many reports as you can! Give the best ratings to the reports you find the most eye opening, and be a part of this public prize for the 60th anniversary of the signature of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. To cast your vote, [click here](#).

Views from the Frontline - Call for participating organisations

Source: Keystone, www.keystoneaccountability.org

The Global Network for Disaster Risk Reduction would like to invite national civil society organisations as well as international NGOs with local presence in developing countries to take part in the "Views from the Frontline" project as participating organisations. The project aims to provide an independent assessment from the local level of progress made towards the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action for Disaster Reduction. For further details and a list of participating countries, [click here](#).

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ACCOUNTABILITY



Ownership or oversight? Accountability and regulation of global financial institutions

Source: Michael Hammer, Executive Director, One World Trust

In light of the current credit crisis, One World Trust Executive Director Michael Hammer argues that the return of Western governments' control over global financial institutions raises as many concerns about accountability in global governance as it is expected to answer. Therefore, governments should begin laying out their plans for relinquishing control after the 'rescue'. Long-term sustainable responses to the accountability challenge in the financial markets will need to emerge from a balanced combination of control and pressure towards self-regulation, rather than over-reliance on ownership based models. As a result of both power and shares, ownership models privilege the governments of the most powerful economies, and risk undermining the aim for equitable participation of citizens from all backgrounds in the benefits of globalisation. For further details, [click here](#).

Progress of the World's Women 2008/2009: Who answers to women? - Gender and Accountability

Source: United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)

This report argues that realising women's rights and achieving the Millennium Development Goals depends on strengthening accountability for commitments to women and gender equality. The report argues that women's empowerment and gender equality are drivers for reducing poverty, building food security, reducing maternal mortality, safeguarding the environment, and enhancing the effectiveness of aid. For further details on the report, [click here](#).

World's largest companies put through more robust accountability assessment

Source: www.AccountAbility.net

On 13 November, AccountAbility, CSRnetwork and Asset4 will launch the annual Accountability Rating of the world's largest corporations (G-100). Now in its fifth year, the Accountability Rating measures the extent to which companies build responsible practices into the way they do business and their impact on the economies, societies and environments in which they operate. It does this through assessing information made available by the companies themselves across four domains: strategy, governance and management, engagement and operational performance. For 2008, the methodology for assessing corporate impacts has been strengthened. It now covers a much larger number of social and environmental impacts, while focusing on metrics that are comparable between companies and sectors. For further details, [click here](#).

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CIVIL SOCIETY ACTIVISM AND GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS

CIVICUS calls for industry to lead toward a sustainable economy at BSR conference

Source: GreenBiz.com, a registered trademark of Greener World Media

Panelists at the Business for Social Responsibility (BSR) conference Wednesday, 5 November, George Kell, executive director of the United Nations Global Compact, and Kumi Naidoo, Honorary President of CIVICUS and the co-chair of the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP), called on governments and businesses to recognise and address the "imbalances" with which we live. "The leadership that is required for governments, businesses and civil society right now is for us to be able to recognise that this world is out of balance and that we have to recognise that finding the answers to re-balance this world is going to be difficult," Naidoo said. "But if there is political will, this can be achieved." Naidoo advised the business community to align itself with the civil society and push the new Obama administration to turn the campaign rhetoric into action. For further details, [click here](#).

G20 leaders urged to support Global Green New Deal

Source: Environment News Service

Gary Gardner and Michael Renner, senior researchers with the environmental research organisation Worldwatch Institute, issued a detailed proposal that they hope will focus the attention of the G20 leaders on what they are calling a "Global Green Deal." "The challenge for global political leadership, including US President-elect Barack Obama, is not merely to kickstart the global economy, but to do so in a way that creates jobs and stabilises climate, increases food output using less water and pesticides, and generates prosperity with greater equality of incomes," write Gardner and Renner. For further details, [click here](#).

South Centre calls for revamping the Global Financial Architecture

Source: Statement by Board Members of the South Centre

The financial crisis has shown how dysfunctional the current international financial architecture is, when it comes to managing today's global economy, with its myriad of interconnections through which financial turmoil spreads, and with its revealed and significant regulatory deficit. In the 1980s, the debt crisis in Latin America, Africa and other parts of the developing world, and in the late 1990s, the succession of the Asian, Russian and Latin American crises had already revealed that something was deeply wrong with that architecture. The industrial world did not understand the need for serious rethinking of the governance of global finance. The fact that this time developed countries are at the centre of the storm may now lead them into action. For more information, [click here](#).

Civil society demands Haiti debt cancellation

Source: Norman Girvan's Website, www.normangirvan.info

Organisations representing Caribbean civil society and social movements have written to G8 finance ministers, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), to demand an immediate and unconditional cancellation of Haiti's external debt. The letter states that four recent hurricanes and tropical storms have created a disaster that has left hundreds of thousands of Haitians homeless and much of the country's basic infrastructure destroyed. The existing crisis of high food prices has been made worse with Haitian farmers losing their crops and much of their livestock. The Caribbean organisations note that the Haitian government is struggling to help people still without food and drinking water over a month after the last hurricane struck. For further details, [click here](#).

Obama victory inspires hope, envy in Postcommunist World

By Nenad Pejic, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

In countries where politics is less open, some look on in envy at Barack Obama's victory in the US presidential election, Certainly all of my colleagues were sharing their impressions and, in doing so,

were revealing bits of the cultures and countries where they grew up, and which they now spend their days covering as journalists. For more information, [click here](#).

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PROFILES



DONOR: The King Baudouin Foundation

The King Baudouin Foundation (KBF), named after Belgium's late head of state, was established in 1976. KBF supports projects and citizens with a commitment to build a better society. Both a grant-making and an operating foundation, KBF aims to spur change. It looks for sustainable ways to bring about justice, democracy and respect for diversity. To optimise its impact and its visibility, KBF currently concentrates its unrestricted resources on four programmes: Social Justice, Civil Society, Health and Philanthropy. These programmes make use of a wide variety of methods: bringing together people from different backgrounds, funding research, organising conferences, networking, and offering both project support and structural financing for organisations. Located in Brussels, the capital of the European Union and the site of NATO headquarters, KBF is mainly active at the Belgian and European levels. Through specific initiatives, such as the King Baudouin International Development Prize or its activities on HIV/AIDS in Central Africa, it is also present in the developing world. For further details, [click here](#).



MEMBER: Youth Net and Counselling (YONECO)

YONECO was established in 1997 to address the socio-injustices affecting youth, women and children in Malawi. YONECO's vision is a self-reliant HIV/AIDS-free society that respects democratic values and principles. YONECO is committed to empowering the youth, women and children; combating the spread of HIV; mitigating the impact of AIDS; and, promoting human rights and democracy for socio economic development. YONECO has four key programmes that include Youth Development, Women and Children, Care and Support and Human Rights and Democracy. The programmes are interrelated and focus on development of youth leadership, youth NGO and CBO capacity building, life skills for youth, counselling, drug demand reduction, youth participation at various levels, advocacy for recognition of youth initiatives. For further details, [click here](#).

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

BOOKS, REPORTS & RESOURCES

World Development Report 2009: Reshaping Economic Geography

Source: World Bank, 6 November 2008

Economic growth will be unbalanced, but development still can be inclusive. That is the main message of this year's World Development Report. The report proposes that spatial transformations along various dimensions will be necessary: *Higher density* as seen in the growth of cities, Tokyo, the world's largest city is home to 35 million - a quarter of Japan's population - but stands on just four percent of its land; and *shorter distances* as firms and workers migrate closer to economic opportunities. Eight million Americans change states every year, migrating to reduce distance to economic opportunity. The new World Development Report challenges the assumption that economic activities must be spread geographically to benefit the world's most poor and vulnerable. For more information, [click here](#).



Working Paper on Human Rights and Corruption

Published by Transparency International (TI)

"Working Paper No. 5/2008: Human Rights and Corruption" published by leading Berlin based anti-corruption organisation Transparency International (TI) explores the commonalities between human rights and anti-corruption. The paper reflects the findings of the research conducted on the subject by the International Council on Human Rights Policy (ICHRP). For further details, [click here](#).

MDG Good Practices Booklet launched

Scaling up efforts on the ground

Source: MDG-Gateway.org

On 23 September 2008, the UNDG MDG Policy Network launched the *MDG Good Practices Booklet: Scaling up efforts on the ground* at their partnership event on Local Poverty Reduction and MDG Localisation. The publication features practical projects and programmes that governments and their partners have developed in their efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The booklet was prepared for the High-Level Event on the MDGs in New York. The publication is based on cases submitted through UN agencies from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and the CIS countries, Latin America and Caribbean and the Arab States. Beyond capturing experiences on MDG-based national development strategies, this booklet focuses on implementation on the ground. For further details, [click here](#).

World Food Security Report - High-Level Conference

Source: Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)

The report of the High-level Conference on World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy conference is now available. The report includes the final declaration, the main statements and the results of the roundtables held during the conference. To download the report, [click here](#). For further details on the Declaration, [click here](#).

Paper: Conditionality and ownership from the South: More strings attached?

Antonio Tujan, director of IBON International and chairperson of the Reality of Aid. Wim De Ceukelaire is with IBON Europe

The aid system (or 'non-system' would be more precise) faces tremendous challenges in less than a century of its existence. While the Millennium Declaration of the UN has called for clear cut targets in reducing poverty, scaling up aid and achieving clear results, there is general agreement that the aid regime is in dire need of serious reform. This non-system is increasingly becoming chaotic with 23 bilateral donors, besides several global funds and multilateral donor institutions, not to mention private foundations and CSOs. As a result, channels of delivery are even more fragmented, and yet new non-DAC donors such as the so-called BRICS (referring to Brazil, India and China not to mention Venezuela, Thailand and South Africa) and private foundations have been added to the complexity putting further strain on relatively fragile efforts for reform. These new players pose a challenge to the current aid architecture, as well as to current efforts to reform aid practices. For further details, [click here](#).

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CONFERENCES & EVENTS

Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD)

29 November to 3 December 2008, Doha, Qatar

Doha 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, which will be immediately preceded by the Doha Global Civil Society Forum from 26 to 27 November 2008. The Monterrey Consensus of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development

General Assembly [resolution 62/187](#) mandates the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to "assess progress made, reaffirm goals and commitments, as well as new challenges and emerging issues". CIVICUS will be represented in the Doha Global Civil Society Forum and Review Conference by its Secretary General Ingrid Srinath and Henri Valot, Policy Advisor. For more information, [click here](#).

International Parliamentary Conference: Scrutinising Aid Effectiveness

16-22 November 2008, London, UK

Following the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the forthcoming High Level Forum in Accra, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) UK will be holding its November Conference on the topic of 'International Development: Scrutinising Aid Effectiveness'. Over 100 Members of Parliament from Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth legislatures, UK parliamentarians and observers from NGOs and civil society organisations will attend the conference to address how parliamentarians can better hold their executives to account on the issue of scrutinising aid effectiveness. For more information, [click here](#).

48th Session of the International Conference on Education

25 - 28 November 2008, Geneva, Switzerland

The International Conference on Education (ICE) is a major international forum for education policy dialogue among Ministers of Education and other stakeholders (researchers, practitioners, representatives of intergovernmental organisations and civil society). The theme of the 48th session of the ICE is "Inclusive Education: the Way of the Future" and it will be held in November 2008 in Geneva. It is organised by the International Bureau of Education (IBE) and the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). For further details, [click here](#).

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FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Open Society Justice Initiative Fellows Programme for 2009-2011

Application Deadline: 26 January 2009

The Open Society Justice Initiative, an operational programme of the Open Society Institute (OSI), joins with Central European University (CEU) to announce the Justice Initiative Fellows Programme for 2009-2011. The aim of the Justice Initiative Fellows Programme is to support and further develop a network of lawyers and activists working internationally on human rights-related issues. Since its start in 1996, 165 fellows have graduated from the Justice Initiative's Fellowship programme. The Fellows Programme is a two-year programme of study and practical work experience. Up to ten applicants will be selected to participate in the 2009 programme. Applicants from the following regions and countries are eligible: Central and Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, Africa, East, South and Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Central and South America. Applicants must be nominated by a non-governmental organisation concerned with human rights. The first year is spent at Central European University, the second in the applicant's home country, working with the nominating NGO. For further details, [click here](#).

2009 Best Practices in Global Health Award

Application Deadline: 13 February 2009

The Best Practices in Global Health Award is given annually to celebrate and highlight the efforts of a public health practitioner or organisation dedicated to improving the health of disadvantaged and disenfranchised populations, and to recognise the programmes that effectively demonstrate the link between health, poverty and development. The person or organisation selected for this award must be able to demonstrate the success of the programme(s), measurable results in the field, as well as possess the ability and expertise to share, inspire and extend best practices for improving health. For further details, [click here](#).

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WORKSHOPS & COURSES

Beyond the Tipping Point: Latin American Development in an Urban World

22-24 May 2009, Buenos Aires, Argentina

United Nations University (UNU) - World Institute for Development Economics Research (WIDER)
Project Workshop

Throughout history, cities have played a defining role in social, political and economic transformations. And yet, in the past 50 years, development research and policy has placed a primary emphasis on national development strategies and rural poverty alleviation. The resilience of the 'urban bias' thesis has obscured the extent of urban poverty, as well as the specific challenges and opportunities posed by urban development. The workshop is intended for researchers and policymakers from the academic, government, and development communities. The workshop is open to advanced PhD students in economics or other social science disciplines. For further details, [click here](#).

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CALL FOR PAPERS, SUBMISSIONS, SURVEYS & NOMINATIONS

Call for papers for the 7th International Conference on Education and Information Systems, Technologies and Applications

Submissions Deadline: 26 November 2008

The Education and Information Systems, Technologies and Applications (EISTA) is announcing a Call for Papers for the 7th International Conference on Education and Information Systems, Technologies and Applications. The Conference will take place in Orlando, Florida USA, from 10-13 July 2009. Relationships between education/training and information communication technologies (ICTs) are increasingly accelerating, sometimes in unexpected ways, with original ideas and innovative tools, methodologies and synergies. The main objective of EISTA 2009 is to bring together researchers and practitioners from both areas, in order to support the bridging process between education/training and information communication technologies (ICTs) communities. For further details, [click here](#).

Call for proposals of Small Grant Applications from Community Based Groups and Small Scale Farmers in southern Africa

Application Deadline: 8 December 2008

The Southern Africa Trust has issued an open call for proposals entitled "Call for Small Grant Applications from Community Based Groups and Small Scale farmers to Support Innovative Practices in agricultural Food Production in southern Africa". The Southern Africa Trust is an independent agency that supports deeper and wider regional engagement to overcome poverty in southern Africa. Agriculture is an extremely important sector in southern Africa. Applications will be accepted from community based organisations, smallholder farmers, and farmer associations working to increase food production in southern Africa. For more information, [click here](#).

Call for WAGGGS Centenary Ambassadors

Deadline for Nominations: 31 December 2008

Would you like to play a part in shaping the centenary celebrations for the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)? Do you want to be one of the first people in your Association to hear about WAGGGS' exciting plans for its three year celebrations? Do you want to make sure that the rest of WAGGGS know about your Association's centenary celebrations? WAGGGS is calling for

representatives to join its team of centenary ambassadors. Each Member Organisation can nominate up to two centenary ambassadors. As an ambassador you will be the link person between WAGGGS and your National Association. Your main responsibility will be to promote WAGGGS centenary activities to your National Association and to let WAGGGS know what your Association plans to do at a national level. For further details, [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](#).

Consultant for drafting an outreach toolkit

Application Deadline: 20 November 2008
Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness
Location: Brussels, Belgium
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.

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