



World Alliance for Citizen
Participation

e-CIVICUS

e-CIVICUS World Assembly Reflection

A Free Weekly Electronic Newsletter Promoting Civic Existence, Expression & Engagement

Please send contributions, comments and questions to editor@civicus.org.

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CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen
Participation

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ABOUT e-CIVICUS

The CIVICUS weekly electronic publication is keeping tens of thousands of people informed of the developments taking place in civil society, the factors that are affecting them and the impact they are having on creating an informed and knowledgeable civil society.

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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 by Monday for publication in the coming week to

FROM THE DESK OF CIVICUS' SECRETARY GENERAL

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



Davos Doctrine: Dead or Defunct?

By Ingrid Srinath, CIVICUS Secretary General

Dear friends and colleagues,

I'd like to believe that worshippers at the temple of free-market capitalism at the World Economic Forum came away with some sense that their cult is waning. They must have had some realisation too that blind faith in sacred cows, like the enlightened self-interest of the market and the wisdom of invisible hands, is utterly misplaced. And that there are no magic mantras that will permit a rebound to the bad old days of multi-million-dollar bonuses and exorbitant expense accounts. As with the followers of other malignant superstitions, however, these devotees too seem unable or unwilling to challenge the failed ideological idols that have brought even the most prosperous and powerful economies and institutions to their knees. They continue to pay obeisance at altars of greed and inequity -- built at the cost of basic human rights and dignity of over a billion people and the health of the beleaguered planet we share. *To read this week's column, [click here](#).*

As a way out of the crisis, Another World is Possible

By Jana Silverman, Social Watch

The World Social Forum 2009 was characterised by the strong presence of Brazilian human rights groups, community organisations, and trade unions (activists from the host country were estimated as accounting for between 70-80 % of the total participants), and the emphasis on crucial current issues related to the struggle for indigenous rights in the Americas, the war on Gaza, and of course the actual and potential social impacts of the economic crisis. The multitudinous opening march on 27 January, marred but not detained by torrential rains, reflected these themes. It was led by a vanguard of indigenous leaders in traditional dress, with over 60,000 members of global civil society participating, many carrying signs calling for peace in Palestine and the necessity of a new economic order in the wake of the crisis. *For details, [click here](#).*



Global Education at Davos: World leaders, your Homework is Due

Meighan Stone, communications advisor to the Global Campaign for Education "Class of 2015"

As the World Economic Forum (WEF) collected its usual group of corporate leaders, governments, social entrepreneurs and influencers, I've been at Davos talking about a different kind of "economic stimulus package". One not for banks or financial markets, but for the world's poorest people: full funding of global education. Although not seen at the Belvedere Hotel lobby or wearing

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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Civil Society Watch Monthly
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their WEF badges, there are 75 million children of primary school age who still have never been to school. Instead, they work in factories, on farms or caring for their sick parents. For those fortunate enough to make it to school, millions struggle to learn, as they share teachers with up to 100 other students, have few or no textbooks, and receive only a few hours teaching a day. *For details, [click here](#).*

CIVICUS Poll Question

This week's question:

Do forums such as the World Economic Forum provide space for views from civil society?

- a. Yes, the voice of civil society is getting heard!
- b. No, not at all
- c. I don't believe in such global forums!

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

Previous question:

Can civil society bring about a convergence of social and economic solutions to tackle global crises?

- a. Yes, our problems need an integrated solution
- b. No, there are two different sets of problems
- c. Let our political and business leaders sort out their own mess!

Results: a. - 88.9%, b. - 11.1%, c. - 0%

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e-CIVICUS keeps tens of thousands of people and organisations informed of the many developments taking place in civil society around the world. This e-publication seeks to encourage and amplify the voices of those struggling for a more just world. As a subscriber, you know the value e-CIVICUS can bring to your work.

Do you have friends who work for a more just world? Why don't you suggest they register for a free subscription? They can send 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 your contributions by Monday every week to editor@civicus.org. All contributions must be focused on civil society issues or have a civil society angle.

Civil society activists press African Union for firm action on Zimbabwe

Source: OneWorld

Pressure is mounting on the administration of Robert Mugabe with over 35,000 people from 190 countries fasting in solidarity with the Zimbabwean people's struggle for survival, justice, and democracy. People are fasting in 30 countries across the African continent and in countries as far away as Argentina, Burma, and Papua New Guinea. Kumi Naidoo, Save Zimbabwe Now activist

The CIVICUS e-newsletter Civil Society Watch Monthly Bulletin is an action-oriented newsletter distributed to over 7,400 people, featuring insightful interviews, updates on threats to civil society, and analyses of current situations. Read more at www.civicus.org.

CIVICUS blog

Our recently launched blog gives you the opportunity to use your voice and engage with the rest of civil society. Please visit <http://civicus.civiblog.org>.

and CIVICUS Honorary President is on his 16th day of a three-week hunger strike that initiated this coordinated global action. Naidoo is attending the African Union (AU) heads of state and government summit to appeal to African leaders to urge the government of Zimbabwe to restore human and democratic rights and declare a national disaster in the embattled southern African country. "Given the repeated failures of Southern African Development Community (SADC) to adequately address the desperate humanitarian, economic, and political crisis in Zimbabwe, we are here to demand that the African Union acknowledge and accept its role and responsibilities in finding an appropriate, just, and democratic resolution to the crisis," Dr. Naidoo told OneWorld. *For details, [click here](#).*



CIVICUS launches its 1 for 1 membership campaign

Are you on of the missing 86?

One CIVICUS member for every UN member state, that's the goal of CIVICUS' 1 for 1 Membership campaign. Why? To ensure that every country is represented in one of the largest civil society alliances in the world. CIVICUS works to protect the rights, strengthen best practice, and increase the influence of civil society around the world. But CIVICUS cannot accomplish all these goals alone. We depend on our members to inform us of the issues, needs and desires that are most pertinent and relevant to civil society. Without members in every country, CIVICUS and its network may be less effective in achieving its ambitions. To learn more about the campaign and how you can help, [click here](#).



Zimbabwe: Key imperatives for the unity government

By Mandeep S. Tiwana, CIVICUS Civil Society Watch Programme Officer

As of 6 February, 38000 people around the world have pledged to fast in solidarity with the people of Zimbabwe. They demand that the African Union (AU) and Southern African Development Community (SADC) stops its policy of quiet diplomacy and recognises that there is no legal government in Zimbabwe. They demand dignity and rights for Zimbabweans as guaranteed in the African Charter on Human and People's Rights and the Declaration and Treaty of the SADC. *For details, [click here](#).*

e-CIVICUS DIALOGUES

Stateless peoples' defend diversity at World Social Forum

By Mario Osava, Inter Press Service (IPS) TerraViva

The immense diversity of peoples was apparent at the World Social Forum (WSF), in Belem, in the Brazilian Amazon region. The presence of 1,900 indigenous people representing 190 ethnic groups as well as 1,400 Quilombolas (people of African origins living in traditional communities) was conspicuous among the 133,000 participants from 142 countries. They had their own tents, discussions and celebrations at the event. For the first time, there was also a tent for the Collective Rights of Stateless Peoples, initiating a reflection at the WSF about a "radical democracy" that upholds the self-determination of peoples, said Arnau Flores, a Catalan journalist responsible for communication at the Escarrà International Centre for Ethnic Minorities and Nations (CIEMEN). *For details, [click here](#).*

Hope emerges despite gloomy economic mood at Davos 2009

By Alec Hogg, MoneyWeb

Easily the most dramatic moment of 2009's annual meetings of the World Economic Forum (WEF) was the walkout from a plenary session by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan muttering "I don't think I'll come back to Davos after this". (Watch the video [here](#)). Davos 2009 is more likely to be remembered as the event where seeds were sown for unprecedented partnership between the world's 185 countries. What emerged from Davos this year is the realization that only through co-ordinated global action can the world be hauled out of its most serious economic crisis since the Great Depression of the 1930s. *For details, [click here](#).*

Presidents for Feminist Socialism at the World Social Forum

By Mario Osava, Inter Press Service (IPS)

"True socialism is feminist," and is already being built, said Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez, standing next to three other South American presidents, all of them men, at a dialogue that took place at the World Social Forum (WSF). "A new world is being born. Utopia is here in South America," continued Chávez, in a speech in which he repeatedly mentioned Fidel Castro as the precursor of the wave of leftwing presidents elected in the region in the past few years, and of the Bolivarian Alternative for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA). The presidents were speaking at the Dialogue on Popular Integration of Our America, organised by Via Campesina, an international network of rural movements and groups. "Ethnic equality" or a society that is inclusive of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants, and "intergenerational equity" are other differences, he said. *For details, [click here](#).*

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CIVIL SOCIETY NEWS



Civil society leaders urge President to reconsider media law in UAE

By Samir Salama, The Nation, Associate Editor

Civil society leaders appealed to President His Highness Shaikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan to intervene to reconsider the new media draft law, which was passed by the Federal National Council. A petition signed by more than 100 academics, lawyers, journalists, artistes, human rights activists and non-governmental organisations (NGO's) members, said the law "does not live up to ambitions seeking to raise the level of freedoms especially the freedom of the speech and the Press". *For details, [click here](#).*

Iran panel explores link between human rights record

By Robert Wiener, New Jersey Jewish News

A long list of suggestions -- from sanctions against multinational corporations to organizing college professors to writing members of Congress -- capped an afternoon of discussions on how to deal with Iran's human rights record and its potential nuclear threat. Five experts on Iranian policies and politics took part in the 1 February conference at Drew University in Madison. "There isn't much time to waste," moderator Barbara Slavin told the 150 people in attendance. "Iran has about 4,000 centrifuges spinning already, and it could conceivably have enough low-enriched uranium to make a nuclear weapon." *For details, [click here](#).*

Bridging the gap between academia, media and power

Source: Hurriyet DailyNews

There is a relationship between the decision-making process, academia, civil society and the media, says Sylvia Tiryaki, but the question is about how this chain can be more functional. The GPOT Center has been established to deal with this question, she says. As a new think tank in Turkey, The Global Political Trend Center, or GPOT, aims to bridge the gap between decision makers and academia, according to its deputy director, Dr. Sylvia Tiryaki. "Due to lack of time, policymakers sometimes follow international politics in view of micro-trends," Tiryaki told the Hürriyet Daily News & Economic Review in an interview last week. "Moreover, the decision-making process is so battered by regional and bilateral problems; such a micro-outlook generally results in the loss of global tendencies from sight." *For details, [click here](#).*

Civil society groups call for a conference on Sudan's crisis

Source: Sudan Tribune

A group of 47 civil society leaders, journalists and human rights activists called for a conference in Khartoum in response to Sudan's current crises. The proposed conference, entitled "Seizing the Final Opportunity or Allowing Further Chaos?" will seek to address Sudan's multi-dimensional political conflict, including the Darfur civil war and democratic transformation of the country as articulated in

the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) of 2005, parts of which are not implemented or are extremely delayed. No date has yet been set for the conference and spokesman Monim Elgak noted that participants need to have "courage" to launch this civil society initiative. Organisers argued that the announcement of international criminal charges against Sudanese President Omer Al-Bashir and "various official reactions to it" have generated confusion and uncertainty about Sudan's political future, threatening to inflame an already volatile, war-torn nation. *For details, [click here](#).*

NGO Bill imperils civil society funding in Egypt

Source: Carnegie Endowment

The Egyptian government has shown remarkable skill in responding to pressures for democratic reform at home and abroad through measures that seemingly address those demands while actually consolidating authoritarian rule. A bill modifying Egypt's law regulating non-governmental organizations, expected to be introduced before the current parliamentary session ends this summer, falls squarely within that framework. Although the text of the bill most likely will not be made public before its formal introduction, some provisions have emerged through public remarks by members of the drafting committee and ensuing discussion in the NGO community. While it appears that some of the objectionable aspects of the current law will be improved in the new bill, other provisions -- including a possible mechanism to choke off foreign funding to certain NGOs -- are emerging that would have dire consequences. *For details, [click here](#).*

Chadian civil society suggests solution to looming political unrest in France

Source: Afrique en ligne

The Chadian civil society presented a plan aimed at averting the looming political unrest in Chad. "The political situation is blocked in the country. The rebellion has reorganised itself and is on the point of attacking again. The power in Djamena is not in the same frame of mind; it wants to go to clashing," warned Delphine Djiraibe, president of the Follow-up Committee of the call for Peace. Speaking at a press conference organised with the support of the French civil society, Mrs. Djiraibe estimated that the Chadian people needed a pacified security environment. *For details, [click here](#).*

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GLOBAL CALL TO ACTION AGAINST POVERTY (GCAP) AND UN MILLENNIUM CAMPAIGN (UNMC)

GCAP final day at World Social Forum a success

Source: Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP)

The World Social Forum ended with a gathering of the Assembly of Assemblies, in the main site at the Rural University in Belem . During the forum a number of Assemblies were organised to run throughout the forum focusing on specific subjects. These Assemblies were conceived as spaces where NGOs, social movements and other actors could discuss, debate, share and build alliances, and more importantly where they could start to design joint strategies for action. Some of the Assemblies were of special interest to GCAP, in particular: *Together for Climate Justice in Copenhagen* and *for a global response to the financial crisis*. *For details, [click here](#).*

Chronic Poverty Report 2008-09 -- Escaping Poverty Traps

Source: Chronic Poverty Research Centre

In July 2008, the Chronic Poverty Report 2008-09 was published and launched in London. The report focuses on the policies and actions necessary to end chronic poverty. An important resource for policymakers, academics, activists and others engaged in the struggle to eradicate poverty. The report will be presented by a panel of speakers and the launch will be attended by representatives of bilateral and multilateral agencies, research institutions, non-governmental organisations, and representatives from developing country governments. *For details, [click here](#).*

Fighting poverty to build peace

Pope Benedict's challenge to the world

By Howard J. Hubbard

How will the world most effectively achieve peace? By fighting poverty. This central insight of Pope Benedict XVI's 2009 World Day of Peace message has powerful implications for the current challenges facing the United States. Our nation's internal economic struggles threaten to turn our focus inward rather than internationally. Pope Benedict's focus on poverty around the world proposes a much more global vision, because difficult times demand a complex and comprehensive response. He points out a different way forward, a way inspired by the Prince of Peace. Humanity, Pope Benedict reminds us, is one family in God. *For details, [click here](#).*

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGs)

Germany, International Groups: Crisis needs cooperation for implementation of MDGs

Source: EasyBourse

The current global crisis requires global solutions and greater cooperation is important to strengthen the international financial architecture, according to a joint statement by Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel and the directors of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the International Labor Organisation, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, and the World Trade Organisation. "It is more important than ever that the international community remain committed to its goals of fighting poverty and promoting economic development in poorer countries, thereby resolutely advancing the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals in particular," the statement said. *For details, [click here](#).*

Climate Change to undermine Millennium Development Goals

Source: Oisahoin Ifijeh, This Day online

Climate change has the potential to undermine poverty reduction efforts and could compromise the Millennium Development Goals such as the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger by 2015. The scale of action needed to tackle climate change is unprecedented and it involves two concurrent approaches. One is to tackle the causes of climate change, such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Another is the actions that minimise the consequences of actual and expected changes in the climate. The degree to which society needs to adapt depends on the extent of climate change, which depends on greenhouse gas emissions. *For details, [click here](#).*

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GET INVOLVED!

Appeal: Build a New Agenda for Women's Human Rights

MADRE, www.madre.org

Let's write a powerful message to President Obama and participate in the process of getting the US to engage with the world, not just occupy it. Add your ideas to ours and help us build a new women's human rights agenda for the Obama administration. Send a powerful message to President Obama and participate in the process of getting the US to engage with the world, not just occupy it. Add your voice and help build a new women's human rights agenda for the Obama administration. *For details, [click here](#).*

Calls for End of the Harassment of Ghada Jamsheer

Source: ARTICLE 19

ARTICLE 19 has written to Sheikh Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa, King of Bahrain, asking him to ensure that women's rights activist, Ghada Jamsheer, is protected from harassment and guaranteed her right to free expression. Jamsheer is leader of the Women's Petition Committee which works to protect women and advocate for improved women's rights in the country's sharia courts. She has been repeatedly harassed in the course of her work and has been effectively banned from the country's media since 2007. *For details, [click here](#).*

Act to stop the imminent forced eviction of 5000 people in India

Source: World Organisation Against Torture

The International Secretariat of the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) has received reliable information from the Banglar Manabadhikar Suraksha Mancha (MASUM), a member of the SOS Torture Network, that another forced eviction is taking place in Howrah, West Bengal, India. Following an order of the Kolkata High Court more than 5000 people, all from Dalit and poor communities, are about to be evicted from land that is said to be in their lawful possession near Belgachia Bhagar, the municipal garbage dumping ground of Howrah. *For details, [click here](#).*

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ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

Saudi Arabian Responsible Competitiveness Index (SARCI) launched

Source: AccountAbility, www.accountability21.net

On 25 January under the patronage of His Majesty, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, the first Saudi Responsible Competitiveness Index was launched at the opening ceremony of the Global Competitiveness Forum in Riyadh. SARCI is the first in-depth assessment -- based on AccountAbility's global Responsible Competitiveness Index (RCI) framework -- of how Saudi companies are creating value through responsible business practices like attracting women and creating low-carbon products. 40 companies volunteered to participate in this first year and devoting three hours of senior management time to meet and engage with a small team of analysts. The top three performing companies -- National Commercial Bank, Al Fanar Company and Zamil Industrial -- were recipients of the inaugural King Khalid Responsible Competitiveness Award, presented by His Royal Highness Prince Faisal bin Khalid. *To download the full report, [click here](#).*

80 per cent of governments don't account for spending

Source: Open Budget Index 2008

Eighty per cent of the world's governments fail to provide adequate information for the public to hold them accountable for managing their money, according to an extensive new report by the International Budget Partnership (IBP). Nearly 50 per cent of 85 countries whose access to budget information was carefully evaluated by IBP provide such minimal information that they are able to hide unpopular, wasteful, and corrupt spending. These new findings are based on the IBP's just published Open Budget Survey 2008 -- a comprehensive analysis and survey that evaluates whether central governments give the public access to budget information and opportunities to participate in the budget process. The Survey also examines the ability of legislatures and auditors to hold their governments accountable. *For details, [click here](#).*

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CIVIL SOCIETY ACTIVISM ON GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS

Broken global financial system needs redesigning

Source: New Straits Times

If world leaders -- business, political and civil society -- expected the Magic Mountain in Switzerland to provide answers for a quick fix to the global economic meltdown, they were sadly mistaken. Instead, there was much "gloom and doom" among those who made it up to the snow-capped mountains of Davos. Jeroen van der Veer, chief executive of Royal Dutch Shell, added to the economic chill by stating that "the behaviour of companies accelerates the crisis. But we don't really have a choice because we have to do what is best for the company". He was referring to layoffs, and cautioned against expecting solutions to work immediately. "Don't think you'll have a package today and things will immediately get back to normal," he said. "It will take time." *For details, [click here](#).*

Promoting global peace

By Nora O. Gamolo, The Manila Times

All over the world, civil society is agog over possibilities following a new administration in the United States, and changes in the political regimes of many other countries. Never mind that the much-ballyhoed and recently concluded Davos Forum has not churned out any significant commitment for development or for the world's marginalized, except for identifying caveats and a skillful pass-over of the usual motherhood statements and the required paychecks to see to their fruition. *For details, [click here](#).*

Middle East set to play a vital role in shaping post-crisis world

By Staff Writer, Emirates Business 247

The Middle East will play a vital role in shaping the post-crisis world, said leaders at the 39th World Economic Forum in Davos. Nearly 100 government heads and business leaders from the Middle East attended the five-day summit in Davos, participating in panel discussions and generated debates on topics as wide-ranging as sovereign wealth fund to sustainable development. The deliberations and call for action taken up at Davos will be further revisited at the World Economic Forum on the Middle East 2009, which will be held from 15 May to 17 May at the Dead Sea, Jordan, under the theme 'Home-grown Strategies for Global Success'. *For details, [click here](#).*

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CLIMATE JUSTICE

Global plea to launch a "Green New Deal"

By Gabriela Baczynska and Megan Rowling, Reuters

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called on the world's business and political leaders to use the current economic crisis to launch a global "Green New Deal" that will create jobs and fight climate change by investing in renewable energy and technological development. "Climate change threatens all our goals for development and social progress. Indeed, it is the one true existential threat to the planet," he said at the World Economic Forum in Davos. The gathering drew parallels from the Global Compact of corporate responsibility launched 10 years ago by former Secretary-General Kofi Annan. "On the other hand, it also presents us with a gilt-edged opportunity. By tackling climate change head-on, we can solve many of our current troubles, including the threat of global recession," he said. *For details, [click here](#).*

WSF 2009: Climate justice Assembly Declaration

Source: Choike.org

The Climate justice Assembly Declaration adopted at the World Social Forum 2009 calls on everyone -- workers, farmers, fisher-folk, students, youth, women, indigenous peoples, and all concerned humans from the South and the North -- to join in this common struggle to build the real solutions to the climate crisis for the future of planet, societies, and cultures. All together, societies are building a movement for climate justice. The Declaration supports the mobilisations against the G20 summit and on the global crisis from 28 March to 4 April, and the 17 April 2009 mobilisation of La Via Campesina.

Indigenous Rights on 12 October 2009 . The Declaration also call for mobilisations and diverse forms of actions everywhere, in the lead up to, during and beyond the UN climate talks in Copenhagen, especially on the Global Day of Action on 12 December 2009. *For details, [click here](#).*

Green paper gold: Bailing out the planet

Brendan Smith, Guardian.co.uk

Green paper gold could provide a much-needed fiscal stimulus while protecting the planet from climate change. As the rag-tag army of social movement activists, NGO representatives and other advocates from global civil society wend their way home from the Amazonian city of Belem and the World Social Forum (WSF), they have reason to believe they have won the debate on globalisation. Global economic catastrophe and global climate catastrophe have demonstrated to people the world over -- including the new president of the United States -- that unfettered capitalism is leading to unfettered disaster. *For details, [click here](#).*

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CAPACITY BUILDING

Toolkit: How to establish a National Association

Source: CIVICUS Affinity Group of National Associations (AGNA)

This resource guide has been prepared by the CIVICUS Affinity Group of National Associations (AGNA). In 2006, AGNA conducted a survey aimed at scoping national associations' needs, interests and activities. This identified capacity building as a priority area of concern, for both national associations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that compose their memberships. The guide is intended to enable the board and staff of existing national associations to manage their organisations more effectively and also to guide civil society leaders in countries where national associations of NPOs and NGOs do not exist. In this way, this resource guide hopes to reduce the learning curve, avoid re-inventing the wheel and strengthen national associations around of the world. *For details, [click here](#).*

New tool distills guidance on writing strong Global Fund HIV proposals

Source: World Health Organisation (WHO)

As applicants prepare their proposals for the next round of HIV funding, Round 9, UNAIDS and WHO have jointly developed an online resource kit to provide guidance in planning and writing strong Global Fund proposals. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund) is a financial mechanism that provides grants in support of evidence-informed, technically sound and cost-effective programmes for the prevention and treatment, care and support of persons infected and directly affected by HIV, tuberculosis and malaria. The resource kit has been designed to focus on the essential points which are presented in a user friendly way. *For details, [click here](#).*

PROFILES

DONOR: The Global Fund for Children

 The Global Fund for Children's mission is to advance the dignity of children and youth around the world. GFC pursues its mission by making small grants to innovative community based organizations working with some of the worlds most vulnerable children and youth complemented by a dynamic media programme that through books documentary photography and filming, highlights the issues affecting children and celebrates the global society in which we live. GFC made its first grants in 1997 using royalties from its children's book publishing venture. Since then, GFC's grant making capacity has grown dramatically, from \$ 3,000 in 1997 to approximately \$ 2 mn during the 2005 -2006 fiscal year. To date, GFC has disbursed over \$ 12 mn in 69 countries to

323 grantee partners. *For details, [click here](#).*

MEMBER: INTRAC

INTRAC is a non-profit organisation working in the international development and relief sector - supporting NGOs and civil society organisations by strengthening management and organisational effectiveness, and by exploring policy issues. It strengthens civil society by providing: Training, Consultancy, Research, Regional and thematic programmes, Conferences, Publications. INTRAC seeks to increase the effectiveness of civil society organisations (CSOs) that are committed to international human development, including gender equity, participation of the socially excluded, social justice, security and peace, in all parts of the world. INTRAC believes that civil society is key to establishing democratic societies and those CSOs play a key role in promoting sustainable development in a just society. Maintaining and valuing a degree of autonomy, CSOs have the potential to provide views, policies and action supportive of and/or alternative to those promoted by government and the private sector. *For details, [click here](#).*

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

BOOKS, REPORTS & RESOURCES

CIVICUS World Assembly 2006-2008 in Glasgow, Scotland -- What did it mean to you?

Deadline for survey: 15 February 2009

Did you attend the CIVICUS World Assembly in Glasgow , Scotland between 2006 and 2008? We are very interested in finding out whether you have undertaken any activities, made new partnerships, or joined new networks as a result of your attendance. What is the legacy of the World Assembly for you, and what impact has attending the conference had for your work? Please complete our brief survey, [click here](#).

Declaration of Assembly of Social Movements at World Social Forum 2009

Source: New Socialist

The social movements are faced with a historic opportunity to develop emancipatory initiatives on a global scale. Only through the social struggle of the masses can populations overcome the crisis. In order to promote this struggle, it is essential to work on consciousness-raising and mobilisation from the grassroots. The challenge for the social movements is to achieve a convergence of global mobilisation. It is also to strengthen our ability to act by supporting the convergence of all movements striving to withstand oppression and exploitation. *For details, [click here](#).*

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CONFERENCES & EVENTS

Civil and Uncivil Society in the 21st Century

26-27 February 2009, London, United Kingdom

The Centre for Civil Society and the CINEFOGO Network of Excellence invites participants for this forthcoming international conference, which investigates the role of organisations and movements that fall outside conventional civil society analysis and aims to develop new perspectives on issues of transnationality, migration and citizenship in and beyond Europe. The conference covers three broad themes. The first theme will explore the role of civil society organisations beyond the NGO sector. These include churches, mosques, religious movements, migrant networks, criminal groups and gangs. The second broad theme will explore the engagement of governments with social organisations outside the formal NGO sector. The third broad theme will examine civil society theory

in the light of recent challenges, which have seen notions of civil society as European or Western impositions, and criticised their deployment within European and World Bank policies. *For details, [click here](#).*

The Durban Review Conference

20-24 April 2009, Geneva , Switzerland

The Durban Review Conference will evaluate progress towards the goals set by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in Durban , South Africa , in 2001. The Review Conference will serve as a catalyst to fulfilling the promises of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action agreed at the 2001 World Conference through reinvigorated actions, initiatives and practical solutions, illuminating the way toward equality for every individual and group in all regions and countries of the world. *For details, [click here](#).*

Concept note on civil society national conference in Zimbabwe

7 February 2009 , Harare , Zimbabwe

Source: Nehanda Radio Blog

Zimbabwe may be possibly on the verge of political transition that is defined through the Southern African Development Community (SADC) mediated Global Political Agreement (GPA). One of the key aspects of the GPA, outlined in Article 6 of the power sharing agreement is a constitutional reform process that is guaranteed by the three main political parties and to be led by the Parliament of Zimbabwe. Zimbabwean civil society organisations therefore propose that, in order to ensure that constitutional reform is not lost in the milieu of negotiable issues in terms of SADC communiqués as well as the GPA, it is imperative that there be convened a Civil Society National Constitutional Conference as soon as possible, preferably 7 February 2009 . *For details, [click here](#).*

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FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



American Express Building Leadership Award

Deadline for nominations: 16 February 2009

The American Express Building Leadership Award was established in 1999 to recognize outstanding organizations for their leadership in investing in the people of the charitable community, through an emphasis on the development of internal staff, board, and volunteer leadership. This honor was previously known as the Leadership IS Award. The 2009 award, which includes a monetary prize of \$ 10,000, will be presented at the Independent Sector Annual Conference in Detroit , Michigan , 4-6 November. The award also covers conference registration, travel and accommodations for two representatives from the honored organisation. *For details, [click here](#).*

Fellowship for Distinguished Developing Country Candidates

Application Deadline: 28 February 2009

The Center for Global Development (CGD) is seeking exceptional applicants for a visiting fellows program sponsored by Canada 's International Development Research Centre (IDRC). CGD is currently accepting applications from leading scholars based in developing countries for a one-year sabbatical position. The ideal candidate is engaged in policy research in at least one area of CGD focus and will have a proven track record of applying quantitative research to practical, real-world policy problems. These fellows will enhance their work during a year based in Washington D.C. , USA . *For details, [click here](#).*

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WORKSHOPS AND COURSES



A summer certificate course on the policies, politics and practices of environmental management

1-30 June 2009, Delhi, India

A month-long certificate course for students and young professionals will -- through lectures, readings, debates, weekly outings, reportage and a five-day field tour to rural India -- explore the complexities underlying the environment-development debate in the country. Several fellowships are available to support students -- outstation (non-Delhi) candidates are particularly encouraged to apply. The Agenda for survival course is inspired by a concern that animated the work of eminent environmentalist Anil Agarwal, whose ideas on environment and sustainability remain relevant even today: the need to balance economic growth and ecological concern. He called it 'the challenge of the balance'. For details, [click here](#).

International Program for Development Evaluation Training

Building Skills to Evaluate Development Interventions

IPDET was designed to meet the needs of evaluation and audit units of many different types of organizations involved in development work. This comprehensive international program is designed to help a range of development specialists conduct significant evaluations of development interventions at the project, program, and policy levels. It is both an educational experience and an opportunity to advance career objectives. For details, [click here](#).

CALL FOR PAPERS, SUBMISSIONS, SURVEYS & NOMINATIONS



Call for Proposal: Civil Society Fund in the Philippines

Application Deadline: 28 February 2009

The Civil Society Fund (CSF), formerly Small Grants Programme supports activities related to civic engagement by providing small grants administered through World Bank Country Offices. The CSF seeds and supports activities that empower and enable citizens to take initiatives to enhance and influence development outcomes. Activities strengthen mechanisms for inclusion, accountability, and participation. Activities also strengthen partnerships with public sector, other civil society organisations, and the private sector. The CSF supports activities whose primary objective is civic engagement. CSF '09 shall support innovations on dissemination of information or promotion of knowledge sharing on social dimensions of climate change particularly in terms of their implications to vulnerable Filipino families/ households and communities. For details, [click here](#).

Call for Applicants for Voices of Our Future

Applications Deadline: Open Process

Voices of Our Future is a program for emerging grassroots women leaders who will learn to speak for ourselves to the world using Web 2.0; face barriers and challenges to achieving our dreams through empowerment coaching; and raise awareness about the real issues we, our families and communities face through publication in World Pulse magazines. World Pulse Media is pleased to announce a Call for Applicants for Voices of Our Future, an exciting new international women's correspondent network. World Pulse will choose up to 30 applicants who are beginning to use new media to speak for themselves to the world, transform their communities, and change their own lives. Women's organisations, NGOs, and other civil society groups to encourage women in their networks to apply for this exciting opportunity. For 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

Web and New Media Editor

Application Deadline: 13 February 2009

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

Location: Johannesburg, South Africa

For details, [click here](#).

Support Officer for IANGO

Application Deadline: 13 February 2009

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

Location: Johannesburg, South Africa

For details, [click here](#).

CONTACT e-CIVICUS

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