



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.

e-CIVICUS WELCOMES CONTRIBUTIONS

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 editor@civicus.org. All contributions must focus on civil society issues or have a civil society angle. To read the contribution guidelines, [click](#)

FROM THE DESK OF CIVICUS' SECRETARY GENERAL

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



Reflecting on the US Economic Climate and Reforming Global Finance for Civil Society
By Ingrid Srinath, CIVICUS Secretary General

Dear friends and colleagues,

The health metaphor in the article below struck me as being particularly evocative. It also sparked renewed concern that the treatments currently being administered do not address any of the fundamental conditions diagnosed. It caused me to speculate what a similar lens applied to civil society might reveal.

With gratitude, faith and solidarity,

Ingrid Srinath

Diagnosing the Economic Body Politic

Source: Ethical Markets

Mainstream media in 2008 was replete with diagnoses of the sickness of the US economy. Central bankers, politicians and their economic advisors sought to explain the economy's swoon in medical terms. The economic patient was described as having a heart attack, a seizure, a collapse, a loss of animal spirits, loss of confidence. Our body economic was described as being in shock, needing liquidity injections, going to the emergency room, on life support, on the operating table, responding to the medicine and, hopefully, in the recovery room. [To read more, click here.](#)

International CSO Steering Group (ISG) on Aid Effectiveness meets in Johannesburg

Source: International CSO Steering Group (ISG)

The International CSO Steering Group (ISG) is meeting this week in CIVICUS House, Johannesburg, to renew its mandate and composition and finalize its work plan following its last meeting in Accra. The meeting is chaired by the co-chairs of the ISG: Cecilia Alemany, form AWID and Tony Tujan Jr, from IBON Foundation. The ISG's mandate is 'To coordinate and facilitate international engagement by civil society organisations (CSOs) promoting reforms in international cooperation for development and aid effectiveness through the global CSO Better Aid Platform'. [For details, click here.](#)

CIVICUS Poll Question

[here.](#)

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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, featuring insightful interviews, updates on threats to civil society, and analyses of current situations. Read more at www.civicus.org.

This week's question:

The health of the global economy will definitely improve in

- a. 2009
- b. 2010
- c. It will take longer than 2010

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

Previous question: Civil society crises in smaller countries deserve more global attention

- a. Yes, of course. The world is too obsessed with 'big' international issues
- b. No. The global crises need all the attention they are getting
- c. I care only about what's happening in my part of the world!

Results: a. - 51.7%, b. - 23.2%, c. - 19.6%

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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.

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CIVIL SOCIETY NEWS

Prominent Uzbek Human Rights Activist Detained

Source: Radio Free Europe Radio Liberty

Human rights activist and journalist Dilmurod Sayyid has been taken into custody in Tashkent on suspicion of extortion, RFE/RL's Uzbek Service reported. Sayyid is an outspoken critic of human rights violations in Uzbekistan and has been under pressure from officials since 2005, when he sharply criticized the country's rights situation in an article in the "Advokat-press" newspaper. *For details, [click here](#).*



Right time to develop free media, say WSF campaigners

By Rahul Kumar, Inter Press Service (IPS) TerraViva

Activists are looking at the constructive side of the global economic meltdown. Media activists at the World Social Forum (WSF-2009) in Brazil, say the crisis has provided a historic opportunity to strengthen the free media movement because the mainstream media has colluded with the corporate world in bringing the worldwide financial chaos upon everyone. Speaking at a panel discussion on Monday (26 January), just a day before the formal inauguration of the WSF, Altamiro Borges of the Vermelho association said: "The bulk of the media organisations are guilty for the crisis as most of them supported the conditions that lead to the meltdown. The mass media

CIVICUS channel on YouTube:
'Time 2 Act' Go to YouTube, [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, [click here](#).

played an important role in maintaining and furthering the hegemony of the corporates." *For details, [click here](#).*

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGs)

Press Briefing: PIGA DEBE for Women's Rights Campaign

Source: Linda Odhiambo, UN Millennium Campaign

The United Nations Millennium Campaign has commissioned a study to review the progress African governments are making towards meeting Millennium Development Goals with specific reference to Gender equality and empowerment of Women (Goal 3) and Improving maternal health (Goal 5). The study will be used to launch a campaign "PIGA DEBE" for Women's Rights" in the month of March 2009. PIGA DEBE in Swahili literally means to make noise or shout. The "PIGA DEBE" campaign draws its inspiration from women's voices in Africa who have repeatedly shouted over the years that "Enough is enough, no more deaths in child birth". While many African countries are making tremendous progress, there are gaps in achieving MDGs and risks of backsliding in some of the areas where targets are being met. *For details, [click here](#).*

Agriculture and Achieving the Millennium Development Goals

Source: International Food Policy Research Institute

In 2000, the member states of the United Nations adopted the Millennium Declaration as a renewed commitment to human development. The Declaration includes eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), each with quantified targets, to motivate the international community and provide an accountability mechanism for actions taken to enable millions of poor people to improve their livelihoods. About 70 percent of the MDGs' target group live in rural areas, particularly in Asia and Africa, and for most of the rural poor agriculture is a critical component in the successful attainment of the MDGs. Thus, a necessary component in meeting the MDGs by 2015 in many parts of the world is a more productive and profitable agricultural sector. *For details, [click here](#).*

Food, Climate and Financial Crises Threaten Sustainable Development Goals – UN Official

Source: UN News

A range of challenges from food and financial crises to climate change are threatening global efforts to achieve development that is sustainable, or that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, a top United Nations official said today. "These multi-dimensional challenges do not have purely economic solutions, nor purely social or environmental ones. They require integrated solutions that combine economic, social and environmental elements," Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs Sha Zukang told a UN meeting on sustainable development that began today in New York. *For details, [click here](#).*

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GET INVOLVED!

Call for Action Speak out to stop the displacement of 1500 Palestinians from East Jerusalem

Source: Joint Advocacy Initiative

Israeli authorities ordered on 23 February, the demolition of eighty-eight Palestinian homes in East Jerusalem, which will displace some 1500 residents. The Joint Advocacy Initiative urges all YWCAs, YMCAs, and the international community with its various organizations to call on their respective governments to pressure the Israeli Government to immediately put an end to these demolitions and comply with the international law. As the Israeli Committee Against Housing Demolition says, "House demolitions have become the hallmark of the Occupation. Indeed, since 1967 Israel has demolished over 12,000 Palestinian homes, leaving some 70,000 without shelter and traumatized. The

systematic demolition of Palestinian homes is an attack on an entire people, an attempt to make the Palestinians submit to a mini-state or worse, an 'autonomous' set of islands - under Israeli control. We need to struggle against the Occupation so that both our peoples will eventually enjoy the fruits of a just peace." *For details, [click here](#).*

Press Release Situation Update - Zimbabwe

Source: Save Zimbabwe Now Campaign

A lot of attention has been focused on the charade of Unity Governance over the past week. But the violence that has been taking place in Zimbabwe since the signing of the agreement, culminating in the arrest of Deputy Minister of Agriculture designate and MDC Treasurer General Mr. Roy Bennett on Friday, should be heard as piercing screams of alert to the unfolding crackdown by the state and the complete disregard being shown towards the fragile deal so desperately enforced by SADC. Despite assurances to the MDC that Roy Bennett would not be arrested he was picked up and charged with treason. If South Africa fails to speak out and condemn what is happening they will be complicit in what follows. This arrest is only part of an unfolding pattern of violence. *For details, [click here](#).*

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CIVIL SOCIETY ACTIVISM ON GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS

ASIA-PACIFIC: Hunger a growing threat to region

Source: IRIN News

COLOMBO - Long-term hunger looms large for millions of people in the world's fastest-growing region, the Asia-Pacific, unless governments invest heavily in agricultural production and put more money in the hands of the poor, a leading economist has warned. Poverty-stricken rural communities are paying more for their food than people in urban centres, seeing their farm land shrinking due to urbanisation and, despite impressive economic growth, cannot find alternative employment, Hafiz Pasha, former UN diplomat and now dean of the School of Social Sciences in Lahore, Pakistan, told legislators at the Asia-Pacific Parliamentarians' Forum on Inequality and Hunger in Sri Lanka on 16 and 17 February 2009. "The region has made incredible progress in achieving MDGs, but hunger is not one of them," said Pasha, adding that most governments had focused on achieving economic growth and neglected food security. The MDGs are development targets that world leaders have pledged to achieve by 2015. *For details, [click here](#).*

Africa Gets Additional Seat on Bank Executive Board

By David Theis, World Bank

The Bank's Board of Governors has approved a first phase of reforms to increase the influence of developing countries within the World Bank Group, including adding a seat for Sub-Saharan Africa to allow developing countries a majority of seats on the Executive Board, and expanding voting and capital shares. "Adding another seat for Africa, reaching developing country majority on the Board, expanding developing country shares and laying the groundwork for further reforms represent real change," said Bank President Robert B. Zoellick. These reforms were initially agreed at the Bank's Annual Meetings in October 2008. With the Governors' approval, the amendment to the Bank's Articles of Agreement to increase basic votes, which benefit smaller shareholders, now moves to the 185 member countries for final approval. *For details, [click here](#).*

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CLIMATE JUSTICE

Huge new platform to tell world leaders 'to put people first'

Source: Put People First

A huge new platform of unions, development agencies, faith and environmental groups plans to tell world leaders attending the G20 summit in April that only just, fair and sustainable policies can lead the world out of recession. The alliance, which includes the TUC, Oxfam, ActionAid, Friends of the Earth and CAFOD, is calling on people to join a major demonstration for jobs, justice and climate in London on Saturday 28 March, five days before the summit. Under the banner Put People First - March for Jobs, Justice and Climate, the groups will demand decent jobs and public services for all, an end to global poverty and inequality, and a green economy. The organisations backing Put People First say: "Recession must not be an excuse for putting off action for global justice or to stop climate chaos. The only sustainable way to rebuild the global economy is to create a fair distribution of wealth that provides decent jobs and public services for all, ends global inequality and builds a low carbon future." For details, [click here](#).

Seeking Feedback for a Climate Change Strategy for South Asia

Source: The World Bank

The Bank's South Asia Region is in the process of seeking feedback from interested parties on its draft climate change strategy. "Towards a Climate Change Strategy for South Asia" will articulate the guiding principles for the Bank's climate-related work in the region. This is part of an ongoing consultation process that will be held around the region from February to March, 2009. The region is seeking the views of representatives from governments, donor agencies, civil society, and other stakeholders, on the document. Your feedback will be essential to help shape, strengthen and define the strategic approach. For details, [click here](#).

African youth to climb Kilimanjaro, joining UN campaign for climate change

Source: UN News Centre

25 February 2009 – A group of young people from impoverished urban areas in Kenya, Tanzania and Ghana, will set off on a gruelling trek to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro under the United Nations banner to draw attention to the effects of climate change. Ten underprivileged youth will join 25 other people from the private and public sectors in the fourth annual ascent to the "rooftop of Africa" organized by the Kilimanjaro Initiative, a Nairobi-based non-governmental organization (NGO), in partnership with the "UNite to Combat Climate Change" global campaign. "This year's climb will highlight – with the melting ice of Mount Kilimanjaro as a backdrop – how global warming has a direct impact on the living conditions of individuals and communities throughout the world," said Wilfred Lemke, Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace. For details, [click here](#).

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PROFILES



DONOR: The Vodafone Foundation

The Vodafone Foundation received recognition as registered charity number 1089625 from the Charity Commission for England and Wales on 4 December 2001. The Foundation is at the centre of a network of global and local social investment programmes. Globally, The Foundations make social investments by funding projects which support disaster relief and preparedness or fund sport and music projects which benefit some of the most disadvantaged young people and their communities. Locally, the social investment is delivered by a unique footprint of 23 Vodafone Foundations and social investment programmes (with one currently being registered). Organisation can apply through the local organisations or by email groupfoundation@vodafone.com. These foundations respond to the needs of the communities in which Vodafone operates and celebrate their diversity and the tangible contribution and difference they make to the people's lives.. For details, [click here](#).



MEMBER: CERANEO - Centre for Development of Non-Profit Organisation

Association, established in 1995 to promote recognizable role of civil society in development processes in Croatia. CERANEO is a think tank organization dedicated to collecting, analysing and researching problems in the social policy, promoting new initiatives and advocating more important role for civil society. Since it was founded CERANEO has been a key resource centre for development of civil society in Croatia. It has contributed to establishing both an appropriate legal framework for the non-profit organizations and has acted as the voice of the sector. CERANEO has developed projects of strategic importance for development of civil society in Croatia, also implemented CIVICUS Civil Society Index in Croatia 2001, 2003-2005, and 2009 underway. CERANEO is headquartered in Zagreb / Croatia. *For details, [click here](#).*

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BOOKS, REPORTS & RESOURCES

Final NGLS report on the Civil Society Consultation

From the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS)

The final NGLS report on the Civil Society Consultation on the Work of the President of the UN General Assembly's Commission of Experts on Reforms of the International Monetary and Financial System has been released. The report was sent to the Office of the President of the General Assembly yesterday and was forwarded to Prof. Stiglitz earlier today, for consideration at the upcoming meeting of the Commission of Experts in Geneva on 10-11 March. The report as well as individual NGO submissions will be available on the NGLS website. *For details, [click here](#).*

MiniAtlas of Millennium Development Goals: Building a Better World

Source: The World Bank

The greatest challenge of the 21st century is to provide every human being on the planet with a long, healthy, and fulfilling life, free of poverty and full of opportunities to participate in the life of their community. The Millennium Development Goals - signed by 189 countries in 2000 - set clear targets for reducing poverty and other sources of human deprivation and for promoting sustainable development. But how far are we towards meeting these goals? And what resources are needed to help those countries that are not on track? The third volume in the miniatlas series is an at-a-glance guide to the world's most pressing problems and challenges. Illustrated in a clear and accessible format, the miniatlas presents colorful world maps and engaging graphics that provide a wealth of information for over 200 countries and territories on today's key global issues, from eradicating poverty and reducing child mortality to eliminating HIV/AIDS and promoting environmental sustainability. *For details, [click here](#).*

CONFERENCES & EVENTS

International Women for Peace Conference: Women as Creative Agents for Peace

5 - 6 March 2009 Dili Timor Leste

"Women as Creative Agents for Peace," is the theme of the second International Women for Peace Conference which will bring together some 200 participants on 5 – 6 March, 2009 in Dili, Timor Leste. Issues to be explored include the use of creative formats like drama, songs, visual arts and storytelling to address issues of justice, peace and security. Discussions will also consider ways of acknowledging traditional cultural values while reducing their negative impact on society and will offer women an opportunity to share their experiences on conflict transformation and reconstruction, including solidarity building. *For details, [click here](#).*

Youth Dialogue Series (Videoconference) - Embracing Diversity and Fostering Dialogue for Development

AIM-World Bank Distance Learning Resource Center, Asian Institute of Management, Makati City Today, globalization has made our world much closer and more interconnected than ever before. With it, come new challenges and new threats. While globalization has the power to transmit and encourage the flow and exchange of ideas and knowledge, it can also bring about ignorance, xenophobia and conflict. Dialogue helps to open up spaces for young people to learn and understand people, cultures and issues. Young people under the age of 25 constitute half of the world's population and are poised to inherit a world more complex than ever before. They are the forefront of the social change and the most receptive to new trends and ideas and are keen to connect, learn and explore new initiatives for a better world. *For details, [click here](#).*

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WORKSHOPS AND COURSES

Standardising Social Responsibility: ISO 26000

FNB Conference and Learning Centre, 114 Grayston Drive, Sandown, Johannesburg, South Africa The African Institute of Corporate Citizenship (AICC) kindly invites you to a seminar on Standardising Social Responsibility: ISO 26000 in Johannesburg. Your invaluable experience and expertise will be greatly appreciated in identifying gaps and assessing the adequacy, practicality and applicability of the guidance on organizational governance, human rights, labour practices, the environment, fair operating practices, consumer issues and community development as proposed in the ISO 26000 International Standard on Social Responsibility. *For details, [click here](#).*

CALL FOR PAPERS, SUBMISSIONS, SURVEYS & NOMINATIONS

Call for papers: Conference on Classes and Civil Society

Application Deadline: 31 March 2009

The relationship between social classes and the civil society has been one of the central themes in sociology and social sciences in general from the 19th century to the present. However, it seems that since the 1980s this theorization has been carried out partly with avoiding the use of class theoretical conceptualisations. The purpose of this seminar organised by CINEFOGO, an acronym for Network of Excellence "Civil Society and New Forms of Governance in Europe" is to get together researchers studying various aspect the class -- civil society relations for developing method(ological) solutions for empirical research. *For details, [click here](#).*

Call for Nominations: 2009 Raymond Georis Prize for Innovative Philanthropy in Europe

Application Deadline: 3 April 2009

We have the pleasure of announcing the launch of the sixth annual Raymond Georis Prize for Innovative Philanthropy in Europe, established by The Network of European Foundations' Mercator Fund. The Prize will be awarded at a ceremony in Rome on the occasion of the European Foundation Centre's 20th Annual General Assembly which will take place on the 14-16 May, 2009. The Prize rewards exceptional and innovative European Philanthropy and is described in detail on the Call for Nominations brochure attached. Candidates must be proposed by a Nominator in order to be considered for the Prize, thus offering the opportunity to attribute recognition to a project, foundation, organisation or individual's contribution to European Philanthropy. *For details, [click here](#).*

[Read more...](#)

APPOINTMENTS

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

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

JOBS OF THE WEEK

Full-time Media Coordinator (maternity cover)

Application Deadline: 3 March 2009

Global Call to Action Against Poverty

For details, [click here](#).

Senior Researcher

Application Deadline: 2 March 2009

DARA Humanitarian Response Index (HRI).

Location: Madrid, Spain

For details, [click here](#).

Knowledge Management Officer

Application Deadline: Position open until filled

The International Center for Transitional Justice

Location: New York, USA

For details, [click here](#).

CONTACT e-CIVICUS

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