



World Alliance for Citizen Participation

# e-CIVICUS

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

Please send contributions, comments and questions to [editor@civicus.org](mailto:editor@civicus.org)

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

**e-CIVICUS WELCOMES CONTRIBUTIONS**  
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](mailto:editor@civicus.org). All contributions must focus on civil society issues or have a civil society angle. To read

## FROM THE DESK OF CIVICUS' SECRETARY GENERAL



Dear friends and colleagues,

There have been several perspectives on the G20 meetings – big promises – but there remains uncertainty about follow through. Here's Vicente García-Delgado, CIVICUS' Representative at the UN, reporting from New York:



### **The G20: A financial, economic, ecological and social perestroika?**

By Vicente García-Delgado, CIVICUS Representative at the UN

Global civil society's positions on the G20 London meeting last week keep flowing in from all corners of the world. The commentary, statements, and assessments vary in emphasis and perspective, and their mood goes from the moderately celebratory to the extremely critical. For me, as someone without an Economics background but engaged as a citizen trying to form a reasonably informed opinion, the answers remain elusive: Did the G20 meeting set the world in the right direction in terms of global governance, and particularly with regard to the global economy? What degree of credibility (and ability) is the G20 entitled to receive, considering that the global financial meltdown and the ensuing economic recession happened under their watch? How democratic is it for G20 to decide for all of us?

[Read more...](#)

We are also extremely excited about the launch of our French issue e-CIVICUS, which will also be a weekly publication, beginning before the end of the month. Please do let us know if you – or your colleagues – would like to receive it by emailing [subscriptions@civicus.org](mailto:subscriptions@civicus.org) marked 'French edition of e-CIVICUS'.

With gratitude, faith and solidarity,

Ingrid Srinath

### **G20: One size does not fit all**

Analysis by Sanjay Suri, IPS News

There is on the face of it a fairness in the language hanging over the G20 summit that is quite seductive. "A global crisis requires a global solution," everyone who matters seems to be saying, at least towards the richer end of the G20 spectrum. There is also something of a united nations kind of

the contribution guidelines, [click 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](http://www.civicus.org).

speaking about the G20 gathering. The leaders of the 20 rich and emerging economies, it is announced, represent 90 percent of global gross national product (GNP), 80 percent of world trade and two-thirds of the world's population. *For details, [click here](#).*

### Reality behind the hype of the G20 Summit

By Martin Khor, South Centre

The G20 Summit in London on 2 April last was projected by the organisers and the Western leaders as having agreed to a USD 1,100 trillion package of measures to boost the sagging world economy, and especially to help developing countries. The trillion figure was what caught the headlines. But as serious analysis shows, this figure purporting to be new money was more hype than reality. Some of it had already been decided long before the Summit, and some of it reflected only an intention rather than concrete pledges. *For details, [click here](#).*

### National Service as a Strategy in challenging economic times

By Innovations in Civic Participation

Earlier this month, much of the world's eyes were looking toward Europe and the meeting of the G-20 nations addressing possible solutions to the economic crisis. Sixty years ago President Roosevelt identified national service as a strategy for combating the U.S.'s economic crisis and created the Civilian Conservation Corps, which enabled young men to earn money for their families while working on constructive projects for the nation. Now, when faced with great economic challenges again, President Obama is calling on Americans to serve through the greatest expansion in U.S. national service since Roosevelt's time. *For details, [click here](#).*

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### Letters to the Editor

e-CIVICUS publishes selected correspondence from its readers - and visitors to the CIVICUS website - in a new section called 'Letters to the Editor'. Please keep such letters short (preferred length of 50 to 200 words) and mention 'Letters to the Editor' in your message or heading. These may be sent to [editor@civicus.org](mailto:editor@civicus.org)

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### CIVICUS Poll Question

#### This week's question:

The launch of the French edition of e-CIVICUS later this month would be

- a. Super
- b. Useful
- c. I don't understand French

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

**Previous question:** Will G20 leaders deliver on the promises in their final communiqué?

- a. No, it's all talk.
- b. Yes, they have a real commitment to change.
- c. There wasn't enough detail in the communiqué - who knows what they're going to do?

**Results:** a. - 43.8%, b. - 18.8%, c. - 37.5%

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



CIVICUS launches its 1 for 1 membership campaign

Are you one of the missing 85?

One CIVICUS member for every UN member state, that's the goal of CIVICUS' 1 for 1 Membership campaign, [click here](#).

## JOIN e-CIVICUS - BECOME A CONTRIBUTOR

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.

Why don't you suggest to your friends to register for a free subscription? They can send an email to [subscriptions@civicus.org](mailto:subscriptions@civicus.org) or fill out the subscription form [here](#). Alternatively, please forward their email addresses to us and we'll contact them on your behalf. Please send your contributions by Monday every week to [editor@civicus.org](mailto:editor@civicus.org). All contributions must be focused on civil society issues or have a civil society angle.

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## CIVIL SOCIETY NEWS

### NGO reaction to the financial crisis

By Jeff Powell, Political Finance

Clearly NGOs around the world are too diverse to allow meaningful generalisations of their reactions to the evolving crisis. Some have seized the opportunity, embracing new ideas and reaching out to different actors and constituencies. Others are grafting new issues on to an old agenda: add crisis and stir. Still others are finding their agenda drowned out, at the same time as direct debits get cancelled and stock-market dependent foundations pull up the funding drawbridges. *For details, [click here](#).*



### Role of civil society in the eleventh Five Year Plan: Reports and proposals

Source: WADA NA TODA

A national consultation on the 'Role of Civil Society in the Eleventh Five Year Plan' was organised in December 2008 with the purpose of identifying mechanisms to strengthen the engagement of civil society with the Planning Commission and their contribution to all stages of the Five Year Plan process.

The consultation brought together more than 250 civil society representatives from 19 states to interact with representative of the Planning Commission, other National Commissions and Ministries for the identification of possible avenues for sustained collaboration on key themes of the national development agenda. *For details, [click here](#).*

### A story of citizen participation from Kashmir

By Ena Jesani, Director at Saxon Consulting London Ltd

Amidst all the conflict and consequent global attention on Kashmir, comes a story of citizen participation, an effort of true humanitarian spirit. When visiting Kashmir last year, I met a young, bright female doctor Dr Zamrooda, who asked me for help with fundraising, and upon further questioning; she blew me away with her story. *For details, [click here](#).*

### Development aid at its highest level ever in 2008

Source: The Canadian Council for International Co-operation (CCIC)

In 2008, total net official development assistance (ODA) from members of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) rose by 10.2 per cent in real terms to USD 119.8 billion. This is the highest dollar figure ever recorded. It represents 0.30 per cent of members' combined gross national income. *For details, [click here](#).*

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## GET INVOLVED!

### **The CIVICUS Civil Society Index Blog is now online!**

Keep abreast of recent activities within the CSI team and program. Visit <http://civilsocietyindex.wordpress.com> and share the link with your colleagues, networks and stakeholders. This new blog will provide CSI partners as well as interested parties all over the world a more informal and interactive way of giving and getting updates during this implementation phase, and will serve as a hub of information for you to disseminate, access and interact with throughout the project. *For details, [click here](#).*



### **Fight for fair trade in your own country!**

Source: Fairfood International

The production and trade in the food and beverage industry worldwide is fraught with unfairness. Almost all products that are consumed bear traces of social, economical and environmental problems. Fairfood International is fighting for better working conditions across the globe, to make an end to these environmentally unfriendly practices and to make global trade fairer. This is done to contribute to the fight against worldwide hunger and poverty. With the support of people all over the world, especially from those who are suffering from unfair trade practices, Fairfood is able to make a change. To change these circumstances and realise them; we do need your support! *For details, [click here](#).*

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## **GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS UPDATE**

### **G20 fails to deliver real change**

Source: Jubilee Debt Campaign

Jubilee Debt Campaign has expressed its disappointment at the G20 summit's failure to agree radical changes to address the economic crisis. Instead, the G20 communiqué shows world leaders clinging to many of the policies that have caused the crisis in the first place. *For details, [click here](#).*

### **General Assembly agrees terms for UN conference on financial and economic crisis in June**

Source: UN News

The United Nations will convene a global summit in June to assess the impact of the world economic crisis on development, it was announced today, after the General Assembly agreed on the arrangements for the conference. "In the midst of the most serious economic downturn since the Great Depression, we now have the opportunity and the responsibility to search for solutions that take into account the interests of all nations, the rich and the poor, the large and the small," Assembly President Miguel D'Escoto stated after the 192-member body adopted a resolution at the June summit. *For details, [click here](#).*

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## **PROFILES**



### **DONOR: MacArthur**

MacArthur is one of the USA's largest independent foundations. Through the support it provides, the Foundation fosters the development of knowledge, nurtures individual creativity, strengthens institutions, helps improve public policy, and provides information to the public, primarily through support for public interest media. *For details, [click here](#).*



#### **PARTNER: Luciérnaga Association**

Guatemala is a resource centre for the consultation, dissemination, development and production of educational materials that support learning processes and information of civil society through the use of audiovisual media. These activities are targeted at populist and indigenous groups in Guatemala, supporting these sectors in their overarching goals of promoting gender, the environment, culture and human rights. Luciérnaga- Guatemala also acts as a regional support for the coordination with Luciérnaga Nicaragua, and as a strategy the dissemination and exchange of materials and techniques across the region. Their vision is to develop the educational and cultural processes that require technical support in the areas of communication in order to develop the creation of a national identity that respects differences and can serve as the base for a sustainable society.

[Read more profiles...](#)

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#### **BOOKS, REPORTS & RESOURCES**

##### **Is street-level public and institutional xenophobia increasing in Johannesburg?**

Source: Wits and Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in South Africa (CoRMSA)

After the widespread xenophobic violence of May 2008, various public figures expressed their commitment that such violence and discrimination targeted at foreign nationals would never happen again. Nonetheless, dispersed attacks have continued around the country with only isolated efforts by government bodies to bring perpetrators to justice or protect victims. There has also been little concerted effort to address the every-day forms of harassment foreigners face from public institutions in their every-day lives, including from police, the Department of Home Affairs and public service providers like clinics. *For details, [click here](#).*

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#### **CONFERENCES & EVENTS**

##### **The World Civic Forum 2009**

COEX, Seoul, Korea, 5 - 8 May 2009

The World Civic Forum (WCF), jointly initiated by Kyung Hee University and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), will hold its inaugural forum on 5-8 May, 2009 at the COEX in Seoul, Korea under the main theme of "Building Our Humanitarian Planet." The WCF 2009 emerges from the leading collaboration between the UN and institutions of higher learning, and aims to develop into an ongoing global institution with the partnership of like-minded actors such as NGOs, international organisations, governments, private enterprise, and the media. As a venue for global reflection and dialogue to enhance future civilizations, it will address the internationally agreed development goals including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) from various perspectives of education, research, and practice. WCF 2009 will be followed by succeeding ones bi-annually hereafter. *For details, [click here](#).*

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#### **WORKSHOPS AND COURSES**

**People to People International offers a four month internship in Berlin-Charlottenburg**

### Berlin-Charlottenburg 27 April - 28 August 2009

Interns will work together with the PTPI European office staff and learn about international programs, volunteer organisations, international communication and project planning. Applicants should be prepared to work within the following fields: Assist the European Chapters with information on PTPI programs and support their activities; Assist the office and, where applicable, the chapters with day to day work in the office, including website maintenance. *For details, [click here](#).*

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

#### Commonwealth People's Forum - Call for expressions of interest now open.

Deadline: 30 April 2009

The Commonwealth Foundation, organisers of the 2009 Commonwealth People's Forum (CPF), would like to invite civil society organisations to express their interest in participating at the CPF assembly. Using lessons learned from the 2007 CPF in Kampala, and in order to have the maximum impact on Commonwealth governments at the forthcoming 2009 CHOGM, the Commonwealth Foundation's Civil Society Advisory Committee (CSAC) has established eight topics within which discussions will be held. These topics will allow participants to focus on delivering messages to Commonwealth governments. The topics are: Human Rights, Financial Crisis & Economic Development, Environment & Climate Change, Gender, HIV & AIDS, Peace & Conflict, Deepening Democracy & Governance, Creativity & Innovation. *For details, [click here](#).*

#### UN trust fund to end violence against women

Deadline: 17 April 2009

The UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women is accepting applications for its 14th grant cycle (2009) from government authorities at the national and local levels, civil society organisations and networks — including non-governmental, women's and community-based organisations, coalitions and operational research institutions — and UN Country Teams in partnership with governments and civil society organisations. Applications should be centred on supporting implementation of national and local policies, laws and action plans on ending violence against women. *For details, [click here](#).*

#### Deadline extension for CIVICUS Nelson Mandela Graça Machel Innovation Awards

Deadline: now 4 May 2009

CIVICUS invites applications for the Nelson Mandela Graça Machel Innovation Awards from those organisations who attended the CIVICUS World Assembly in Glasgow in June 2008. These awards are aimed at providing seed funding for innovative ideas emerging from organisations or groups of participants at the CIVICUS World Assembly. The broad idea is to support community based and grassroots initiatives with an emphasis on the overall WA theme: Acting Together for a Just World. The deadline for applications for the Nelson Mandela Graça Machel Innovation Awards has been extended to 4 May 2009. For more information, see: [English flyer](#), [French flyer](#), [Spanish flyer](#), [Portuguese flyer](#). *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

**Vice-President International Services**

Application Deadline: 17 April 2009

The Canadian Executive Service Organisation (CESO)

Location: Toronto, Canada

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

**The world's largest anti poverty alliance, the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP), is seeking to recruit three full-time positions at its Global Secretariat.**

**GCAP Campaign Director**

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

**GCAP Global Secretariat Assistant**

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

These unique and challenging roles require dynamism and the flexibility to work within a diverse global anti-poverty alliance. The successful candidates can be located anywhere that enables them to work in multiple time zones using Skype, e mail and telephone to stay in touch.

**See [www.whiteband.org/about-gcap/jobs](http://www.whiteband.org/about-gcap/jobs) for full job descriptions. Interested candidates should send their CV and a covering note describing their suitability for the position to: [rajiv@whiteband.org](mailto:rajiv@whiteband.org)**

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