



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.

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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

FROM THE DESK OF CIVICUS' SECRETARY GENERAL



Dear friends and colleagues,

Durban Review Conference Statement delivered by Renate Bloem

Civicus, a movement of civil society with members and partners in over 110 countries, welcomes the opportunity to address the Durban Review Conference. We offer our support to this United Nations gathering which is united in the battle against racism. All the more we deplore the absence of some countries, in particular the boycott of the US delegation. Having affirmed a new spirit and commitment to deal with the world's problems, we see this as a missed opportunity for the Obama administration to demonstrate its support for the UN and its multilateral processes. Walking away from the table does not benefit the UN whose cause would be best served if all UN member states remain engaged in the process. We are reminded of the words of a member of the US delegation who after 9/11 and Durban had said: "Durban teaches us that there is a high price to pay when we disengage from global diplomacy".

[Read more...](#)

With gratitude, faith and solidarity,

Ingrid Srinath

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

CIVICUS Poll Question

This week's question:

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

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.

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

To answer the question, [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 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. All contributions must be focused on civil society issues or have a civil society angle.

CIVIL SOCIETY NEWS

UN anti-racism conference winds down amid NGO expulsions for bad behaviour

Source: Human Rights Education Associates (HREA)

The ongoing United Nations anti-racism conference in Geneva concluded its general debate today after hearing statements on new forms of racist discrimination and expelling three non-governmental organisations (NGOs) for disruptive behaviour. A number of the UN agencies spoke at the five-day Durban Review Conference, which comes to a close tomorrow, including the International Labour Organisation (ILO), which warned that saying no to racism in the work is key to promoting respect, tolerance and inclusiveness. *For details, [click here](#).*

ECOPOLIS Graduate Research and Design Awards (formerly known as Agropolis)

Source: International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

The ECOPOLIS Graduate Research and Design Awards promote research and design projects that help lighten the environmental problems borne by the urban poor and enhance their financial, human, resource, and social and political assets. Awards will be granted to cover expenses related to master's or doctorate-level research projects in developing countries where the researcher has formed a partnership with organisations such as local research institutions, NGOs, national and/or international organisations, and city governments. In principle, IDRC supports research on all parts of the developing regions of the world. At this time, the Ecopolis Graduate Research and Design Awards Program is not supporting awards which involve research in Burma, Cuba, Iran, Iraq, Eastern Europe or Central Asia. *For details, [click here](#).*

Durban Review Conference: Civicus statement

By Renate Bloem

Civicus, World Alliance for Citizen Participation, a movement of civil society with members and partners in over 110 countries, welcomes the opportunity to address the Durban Review Conference. We offer our support to this UN gathering united in the battle against racism.. All the more we deplore the absence of some countries, in particular the boycott of the US delegation. Having affirmed a new spirit and commitment to deal with the world's problems, we see this as a missed opportunity for the Obama administration to demonstrate its support for the UN and its multilateral processes. Walking away from the table does not benefit the United Nations whose cause would be best served if all UN

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](#).



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member states remain engaged in the process. We are reminded of the words of a member of the US delegation who after 9/11 and Durban I said: "Durban teaches us that there is a high price to pay when we disengage from global diplomacy". *For details, [click here](#).*

The World Organisation Against Torture

Source: SOS-Torture Network

The World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) welcomes the decision of President Barak Obama to declassify and release information confirming that senior officials in the Bush Administration authorized extreme interrogation techniques, including water-boarding, on suspected terrorists in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks and calls for a full investigation of these facts and prosecution of those suspected of having committed or otherwise participated in, or authorised, whether expressly or tacitly, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. *For details, [click here](#).*

Obama at 100 days — Assessments of government transparency and regulatory reform efforts

Source: OMB Watch

In November 2008, OMB Watch, together with a diverse set of organisations and individuals, presented Barack Obama (who was then President-elect) and Congress with recommendations on how to improve government transparency, advance Americans' right to know, reform the regulatory process, and ensure that federal agencies are working to advance the public interest. The recommendations were included in two separate reports, Moving Toward a 21st Century Right-to-Know Agenda and Advancing the Public Interest through Regulatory Reform. Both reports included actions for President Obama to undertake within the first 100 days of his presidency. *For details, [click here](#).*

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](#).*

[Read more...](#)

GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS UPDATE



UN's new development chief aims to cut poverty despite crises

Source: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The new administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) vowed today to sharpen her agency's focus on cutting poverty despite the multiple crises currently facing the world. "A new deal for the world economy and a new deal for the environment should also be capable of tackling poverty, including tackling energy poverty and providing a low carbon footprint route to development," Helen Clark said as she was welcomed to the UN's New York Headquarters in a Maori ceremony of her native New Zealand, for which she formerly served as Prime Minister. *For details, [click here](#).*



ITUC May Day Declaration, 2009

Source: International Trade Union Confederation (ITCU)

The world is facing its gravest economic crisis in over 60 years. Tens of

millions of jobs are being lost due to the greed, plunder and incompetence which have, through decades of free market deregulation, led the world into deep recession. Global poverty and inequality are increasing fast, and working women and men everywhere face levels of insecurity unprecedented in recent times. Trade unions demand far-reaching, urgent and coordinated action to pull the world out of recession. Governments must act to keep people in work and create new jobs, to avoid an even deeper and longer-lasting crisis. These actions are essential, but alone they are not sufficient. *For details, [click here](#).*

[Read more...](#)

PROFILES

MEMBER: Health Action International Bolivia (AIS Bolivia) Bolivian Committee for Consumer's Rights Protection (CODEDCO Bolivia)

Working since 1988 AIS-CODEDCO Bolivia are non-profit NGOs and that together form a human right and social development organisation. The mission of AIS-CODEDCO Bolivia is to promote the exercise of human rights, public health, access to health care and medicines, rational use of medicines, patients and consumer rights and respond mainly to deprived population's interests. AIS - CODEDCO Bolivia keep good channels of collaboration with similar organisations around the world and are part of the Global Call Against Poverty (GCAP), working on issues such as North-South political and trade relationships, Millennium Development Goals, poverty eradication, influencing public policies, fair trade, and other related. AIS-CODEDCO Bolivia are members of the Bolivian Oversight Mechanism, the Bolivian Human Rights Chapter and the Permanent Bolivian Human Rights Assembly.

AIS-CODEDCO Bolivia is quite interested in strengthening collaboration with similar organisations, working on analogous issues, with similar philosophy, strategies, perspectives and genuine commitment to promote human rights. The organisation offers independent and updated information and education and tries to raise public awareness through lobby, advocacy and mobilization of groups (at community level, trade unions, professionals associations and universities) and cooperation with other institutions activities and actions. These organisations ensure follow-up to national health and trade policies and international health regulations and trade agreements, advocating for the right to health for all and to put first health than trade interests. *For more information, please contact Oscar Lanza Van den Berghe at aisbol@entelnet.bo.*

[Read more profiles...](#)

BOOKS, REPORTS & RESOURCES

Knowledge To Policy - Making the most of development research

Source: International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

Does research influence public policy and decision-making and, if so, how? This book is the most recent to address this question, investigating the effects of research in the field of international development. It starts from a sophisticated understanding about how research influences public policy and decision-making. It shows how research can contribute to better governance in at least three ways: by encouraging open inquiry and debate, by empowering people with the knowledge to hold governments accountable, and by enlarging the array of policy options and solutions available to the policy process.

Knowledge to Policy examines the consequences of 23 research projects funded by Canada's International Development Research Centre. Key findings and case studies from Asia, Africa, and

Latin America are presented in a reader-friendly, journalistic style, giving the reader a deeper grasp and understanding of approaches, contexts, relationships, and events. *For details, [click here](#).*

UN Anti-Racism Conference closes its Geneva Chapter

By Renate Bloem

After a rich and exhaustive week, bouncing between despair and hope, the final curtain came down last Friday on this Review Conference, dubbed Durban II, when 182 member States unanimously adopted the Conference Report which contained the by now famous Outcome document. Moments of deep emotion following the acclamation saw literally high Diplomats in quite unusual embrace with each other or with civil society representatives. This spirit of unity will hopefully remain as the Geneva legacy to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance – the full name of the conference - after a long and thorny preparatory process. *For details, [click here](#).*

CONFERENCES & EVENTS

Evening Debate: “Free movement of persons in the recession period”

11 May 2009, Brussels

This debate is the first part of the event. It will address a number of questions concerning the impact of the economic crisis on mobility as well as preventing protectionism and xenophobic reactions to the free movement of persons. We hope the Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Mr. Vladimír Špidla will deliver a keynote speech. Given the profile of the speakers, we expect to attract around 200 participants. *For details, [click here](#).*

“Who is responsible for the vulnerable intra-EU migrants and how does the current economic crisis affect them?”

12 May 2009, Brussels

The conference will be held at the European Economic and Social Committee. It opens with a Citizen's Group as the first item on the agenda and closes with a summary of conclusions and recommendations. We hope to have a wide range of professional groups in attendance, including European and national level decision makers, local authorities, various non-government organisations and academics. *For details, [click here](#).*

WORKSHOPS AND COURSES

Making Governance Gender Responsive (MGGR)

23-30 July, 2009 - Asian Institute of Management Conference Center Manila (ACCM)

"Making Governance Gender Responsive (MGGR)" is a generic course that can be adapted and modified to suit the needs of the different countries in Asia-Pacific. Content-wise, the course starts with the conceptual definition of gender and governance. The training module will also have inputs on key aspects of governance (domains and exercise of authority) as well as the attributes of gender-responsive governance. The course also introduces the tools for identifying and analyzing the gender biases in governance. *For details, [click here](#).*

Impact assessment

06 - 08 May 2009, Oxford

With increased pressures on delivery and accountability, the need has never been greater for civil society and other development organisations to assess the long-term impact of their work. In three fruitful days you will explore the current state of the debate about impact assessment as well as reviewing current practice and methodologies. Learn to assess the effectiveness of your work. *For details, [click here](#).*

Workshop series for NGOs "Opportunities in Challenging Times"

22-23 May 2009, YMCA International (18, YMCA Road, Mumbai Central)

Do you think organisations like yours would be affected by the economic downturn, and other significant changes in the income tax provisions, FCRA and funding trends? Do you need to know of the opportunities and challenges not just to cope with it but also to play a more influencing role? If YES, here's an opportunity for YOU. CSO Partners is presenting "Opportunities in Challenging Times – A Workshop for NGOs" a series of workshops in six cities across India. The workshop will comprise panel discussion with participants from corporate and social sector, group discussions and one-on-one clinics with experts in social sector. *For details, [click here](#).*

CALL FOR PAPERS, SUBMISSIONS, SURVEYS & NOMINATIONS

University for peace-IDRC doctoral research awards and full study PhD fellowships

Deadline: May 31, 2009

The University for Peace Africa Programme and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) are jointly supporting doctoral research awards and full study PhD fellowships in peace research and related fields. This funding will be strictly allocated to African students studying at African institutions. This awards program is part of CTAP's Southern Junior Researchers Awards Program. *For details, [click here](#).*

The Atkin Fellowship for Arab-Israeli dialogue

Deadline: 08 June 2009

Thanks to the generosity of the Atkin Foundation, ICSR is offering young leaders from Israel and the Arab world the opportunity to come to London for a period of four months. The purpose of the fellowship is to provide young leaders from Israel and the Arab world with an opportunity to develop their ideas on how to further peace and understanding in the Middle East through research, debate and constructive dialogue in a neutral political environment. The Atkin Fellowship is aimed at promoting new thinking among young leaders - typically from government, business, academia, and the media - who occupy positions from they can shape politics and public opinion in Israel and the Arab world. *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

Participatory Governance Programme Manager

Application Deadline: 22 May 2009

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

Location: Johannesburg, South Africa

For details, [click here](#).

Civil Society Index Programme Officer

Application Deadline: 08 May 2009

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

Location: Johannesburg, South Africa

For details, [click here](#).

Civil Society Watch Programme Officer

Application Deadline: 08 May 2009

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

Location: Johannesburg, South Africa

For details, [click here](#).

Civil Society Watch Programme Manager

Application Deadline: 08 May 2009

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

Location: Johannesburg, South Africa

For details, [click here](#).

CONTACT e-CIVICUS

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