



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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EDITORS-IN-CHIEF
Devendra Tak
Ingrid Srinath

EDITORS
Nastasya Tay
Daniel Gray

OCCASIONAL CONTRIBUTORS
Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane
Carol Baloyi
Ciara O'Sullivan
Judith Seda
Henri Valot
Mandeep S. Tiwana
Tania Gobena
Vicente García-Delgado

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

e-CIVICUS WELCOMES CONTRIBUTIONS
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,

An Urgent Call to Action

Even as this issue of e-CIVICUS goes out, the dispute between the President of the UN General Assembly and a group of Northern countries over the draft outcome document for the 1-3 June UN Conference on the World Economic and Financial Crisis and its Impact on Development remains unresolved. The stated reasons for the divergence are the lack of transparency and inclusivity on the part of the President, H.E. Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, in compiling the final draft outcome document - which apparently differs from the draft originally submitted by the two Co-Facilitators from the Netherlands and from St. Vincent and St. Grenadines. The Co-Facilitator from the Netherlands and several representatives of developed nations have gone so far as to threaten withdrawal from the process.

[Read more...](#)

With gratitude, faith and solidarity,

Ingrid Srinath



CIVICUS is turning 16 years old at the end of May 2009!

Therefore, we would like to hear from all our members, partners and interested stakeholders about your experiences of CIVICUS over the past 16 years. We invite you to share with us your personal/organisational experiences with CIVICUS, and/or provide suggestions for us to better serve you in the next 16 years, and beyond. And don't forget: Your opinions and input might be published in an upcoming issue of e-CIVICUS, or on our website (www.civicus.org).

Please write to editor@civicus.org with your reflections, memories, contributions, suggestions or opinions. We look forward to hearing from you!

the contribution guidelines, [click here](#).

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CONTACT US

P.O. Box 933
Southdale, 2135
South Africa
Tel: +27 11 833 5959 Fax: +27 11 833 7997

1112 16th Street NW,
Suite 540
Washington D.C.
20036 USA
Tel: +202 331-8518
Fax: +202 331-8774

Websites:

www.civicus.org
www.civicusassembly.org

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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.



17 May 2009, World Telecommunication and Information Society Day

The purpose of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) is to help raise awareness of the possibilities that the use of the Internet and other information and communication technologies (ICT) can bring to societies and economies, as well as of ways to bridge the digital divide. 17 May marks the anniversary of the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention and the creation of the International Telecommunication Union. *For details, [click here](#).*

CIVICUS Poll Question

This week's question:

Which of CIVICUS' information and communication technology (ICT) products do you find the most useful?

- e-CIVICUS
- www.civicus.org
- [CSI blog](#)
- [Facebook profiles](#)
- [You Tube channel](#)
- Programme newsletters/bulletins
- All of the above

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

Previous question: As CIVICUS turns 16 this May, do you feel that CIVICUS has achieved more than its years?

- Yes, of course, it has made its presence felt strongly
- Kind of – it indeed has a few achievements
- It has the potential to do much more

Results: a. - 61.5%, b. - 38.5%, c. - 0%

[Become a CIVICUS Facebook fan](#) and get updates on our activities right in your news feed!

[Join the CIVICUS Facebook group](#) and engage with other CIVICUS supporters!

Watch our videos on <http://www.youtube.com/user/civicusworldalliance>

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.

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](#).

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

Uzbek civil society activists detained for commemorating 2005 massacre

Press release, CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation, 13 May 2009

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation has expressed concern over the detention of well-known civil society activists in Tashkent, Uzbekistan for commemorating the anniversary of the 2005 "Andijan Massacre". Civil society activists Oleg Sarapulov and Tatyana Dolblatova from the Committee for the Freedom of the Prisoners of Conscience in Uzbekistan, and Elena Urlaeva, Salomatoy Boymatova, Anatoly Volkov and Victoria Banjenova from the Human Rights Alliance of Uzbekistan were detained for most of today at the Tashkent Police Department for peacefully paying tribute to the memory of those killed in Andijan on 12-13 May 2005. *For details, [click here](#).*



UN SG urges support for press freedoms, protection of journalists' legal rights

Source: UN News Centre

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today called on Member States to uphold press freedoms and support the work of independent media. Speaking at a United Nations Headquarters event in observance of World Press Freedom Day, marked annually on 3 May, Mr. Ban said a free press contributed to democracy and stability. *For details, [click here](#).*

Assassinations continue in Colombia



Source: International Trade Union Confederation

The ITUC has strongly condemned and denounced the murders in April and May of five trade union activists dedicated to improving the lot of workers in Colombia. The national, regional and international trade union movements have joined with the three Colombian union confederations, CUT, CGT and CTC, in their unwavering condemnation of the relentless attacks on the Colombian trade union movement, committed in blatant violation of the core ILO Conventions ratified by Colombia. These attacks take the form of intimidation, persecution and threats along with continuous murder of trade union members and leaders for simply trying to defend workers' rights. *For details, [click here](#).*

The place of aid in Africa's solutions to its problems

By Archbishop Njonge Ndungane, African Monitor

So much has been written about aid in the recent past, largely sparked off by Dr Moyo's book, *Dead Aid* and Wangari Mathai's *The Challenge for Africa*. Let us face it; under present circumstances aid resources are vital for human survival and the development of many people in Africa. Bad governance and poor administration of aid should not be mistaken for non-potency and therefore lead to blanket condemnation of the potentially beneficial aid. *To read more, [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](#).*

Call for Action: 128 organisations call for an effective review Mechanism

Source: United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) Coalition

Corruption undermines democracy, the rule of law, human rights, civil liberties and sustainable development. The UNCAC Coalition believes that the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), with its worldwide membership and comprehensive anti-corruption framework, is key to dealing effectively with global corruption. The Coalition is convinced that UNCAC's success in reducing corruption on-the-ground will depend greatly on the adoption of an effective and participatory review mechanism at the next Conference of the State Parties (CoSP) in Doha, in November 2009. The Coalition underlines the importance of civil society and its engagement in any review process and reminds Governments of the commitments they have made to support civil society participation and to receive civil society inputs. *For details, [click here](#).*

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GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS UPDATE

Recommendations of Commission of Experts of the President of General Assembly on Reforms of International Monetary and Financial System

Source: United Nations General Assembly

The outbreak of the financial crisis in 2008 originated in the advanced developed countries, but it has spread quickly to become a world economic crisis affecting all countries, including the emerging economies and less developed countries. To review the workings of the global financial systems and to explore ways and means to secure a more sustainable and just global economic order, I have convened a Commission of Experts, chaired by Professor Joseph Stiglitz, 2001 Nobel Prize winner in economics, comprising a group of outstanding economists, policymakers, and practitioners from Japan, Western Europe, Africa, Latin America and South and East Asia. These experts were chosen based on their comprehensive understanding of the complex and interrelated issues raised by the workings of the financial system. The members of the Commission are also individuals recognized for their strong grasp of the strengths and weaknesses of existing multilateral institutions as well as their sensitivity to the particular challenges facing countries from different regions of the world and at different levels of economic and social development. *For details, [click here](#).*

The UN and world governance

By: Arnaud Blin & Gustavo Marin

A forum was created — the United Nations — where all nations could join forces to affirm the dignity and worth of every person, and to secure peace and development for all peoples. Here states could unite to strengthen the rule of law, recognise and address the needs of the poor, restrain man's brutality and greed, conserve the resources and beauty of Nature, sustain the equal rights of men and women, and provide for the safety of future generations. *For details, [click here](#).*

Human Rights at the UN

By Navanethem Pillay, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

For the first time, the United States is becoming a member of the U.N. Human Rights Council, the world's main human rights forum. President Obama's decision to seek membership is a welcome step to restoring international trust in U.S. support for human rights. Critics of the council point to the fact that among its 47 members there are countries with less-than-pristine human rights records. Why would the U.S. want to join human rights violators, they ask? *For details, [click here](#).*

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BOOKS, REPORTS & RESOURCES

'What Assures Consumers in an Economic Downturn?'

Source: AccountAbility

The fifth report in the 'What Assures?' series: 'What Assures Consumers in an Economic Downturn: Reviewing the agenda in the global economic crisis' was launched on 23 April at the Lloyd's Register HQ in London. The report offers a timely analysis of the changing nature of consumer trust and the impact of the credit crunch on business strategies related to sustainable development. The study is based on findings from two online surveys of 2000 people across the UK, across a range of income, age and gender groups, conducted through YouGov in December 2008 and January 2009. *For details, [click here](#).*

The International Journal of Not-for-Profit Law

Source: The International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL)

The International Journal of Not-for-Profit Law (IJNL) is ICNL's quarterly journal of analysis on global civil society. IJNL addresses legal topics as well as social, cultural, political and economic issues affecting the legal environment. Our readers include attorneys, government officials, grantmakers, scholars, and activists. *For details, [click here](#).*

CONFERENCES & EVENTS

6th World Conference of Science Journalists

30 June - 2 July, 2009, Central Hall, Westminster

The 6th World Conference of Science Journalists in 2009 (WCSJ2009) will bring established and aspiring reporters, writers and science communicators from around the world to debate, network, develop their professional skills and report on the latest advances in science and technology. *For details, [click here](#).*

2009 European Pro Bono Forum

5-6 November 2009, Budapest, Hungary

The Public Interest Law Institute (PILI) is pleased to announce that registration is now open for the 2009 European Pro Bono Forum. Now in its third year, the Forum provides a dynamic multi-national platform for information exchange, skills transfer, and networking related to pro bono activity in Europe. The 2009 European Pro Bono Forum will tackle the effects of the global economic crisis on pro bono practice, focusing particularly on how to meet the changing needs of NGOs through innovative solutions. PILI is a leading advocate for institutionalising pro bono practice (volunteer legal assistance) in Europe and beyond. By promoting and providing technical assistance for organized pro bono, PILI helps ensure that more disadvantaged and vulnerable groups have access to the legal resources they need. The Forum is one such activity that seeks to bridge the gap between lawyers who seek to take on pro bono matters and NGOs that often lack the resources to find and secure professional legal representation. *For details, [click here](#) or [here](#).*

Peoples' voices on the crisis

30 May, New York, Location TBA

This event to take place on 30 May in New York will bring together people from the South and the North, from the US and abroad, women and men, workers and unemployed on the eve of the UN Summit Conference on the Economic and Financial Crisis. *For details, [click here](#).*

WORKSHOPS AND COURSES

Workshop series for NGOs “Opportunities in Challenging Times”

22 - 23 May 2009, YMCA International (Mumbai India)

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? CSO Partners is presenting “Opportunities in Challenging Times – A Workshop for NGOs” a series of workshops in six cities across India. Ten leading expert organisations and leaders from various sectors will be involved in presenting the series. *For details, [click here](#).*

2nd International Summer Academy: The Art of Conflict Transformation, annual theme: Culture and Conflict

12 - 17 July 2009 in Berne, Switzerland

Conflict work requires manifold competencies in order to deal constructively with different forms of life, value systems, convictions, traditions and beliefs. The lectures, expert’s dialogues and workshops, held by internationally renowned experts, will allow participants to address cultural aspects of conflict on different levels. Furthermore, participants will get the chance to present own projects and to network among professionals. *For details, [click here](#).*

CALL FOR PAPERS, SUBMISSIONS, SURVEYS & NOMINATIONS

Make change happen with a Sheila McKechnie International Young Campaigner Award

Deadline: 30 June, 2009

The International Young Campaigner Award recognises campaigners who are 24 or younger, who are based outside the UK, in many of the least developed countries of the global South. Eligible campaigners will be working to achieve social, economic or environmental justice in their home countries – and specifically on issues relevant to girls and young women. The young person who wins the award will benefit from mentoring, coaching and guidance from experienced campaigners to help them achieve results with their campaign. This is a fantastic opportunity for young people who want to make change happen, and receive a bespoke package of support relevant to their campaign, their skill level, and their age. *For details, [click here](#).*

External evaluation of the Global Monitoring Report for Education for All

Deadline: 20 May 2009

The United Nations Educational, Science and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) is planning to undertake an Evaluation of the Global Monitoring Report for Education for All and invites potential providers to submit a proposal. *For details email, <mailto:j.heiss@unesco.org>.*

[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

Manager of Global Advocacy Programs

Application Deadline: Until position filled
Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)

Location: Geneva, Switzerland
For details, [click here](#).

OPAL Support Coordinator

Application Deadline: 22 May 2009
Oxfam: IFIS International division Oxford
Location: Oxford, England
For details, [click here](#).

Participatory Governance Programme Manager

Application Deadline: 29 May 2009
CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation
Location: Johannesburg, South Africa
For details, [click here](#).

CONTACT e-CIVICUS

e-CIVICUS is a free weekly online publication keeping tens of thousands of people, organisations and programmes informed of the many developments and factors that affect civil society and their impact on creating a more just world.

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