



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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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

FROM THE DESK OF CIVICUS' SECRETARY GENERAL



Dear friends and colleagues,

From G-20 to B-20

How does one make sense of, and prioritise amongst, the swirl of news alerts, research reports, policy papers, meetings, workshops and summits all competing for civil society's time and attention? How does one choose between the demands of election monitoring versus pressing for the release of imprisoned activists, or challenging impending legislation versus deciphering the fine print of summit communiqués, navigating new accountability paradigms versus strategising concerted action on the key challenges of our time? Where among the myriad competing calls on our time and resources do we make the physical time and mental space to look beyond the urgent to the critically important longer-term questions? To build the relationships of trust and collaboration we so sorely need if we are, in fact, to grasp the unprecedented opportunities for substantive change which the current crises offer?

To read more, please visit our website [here](http://www.civicus.org).

With gratitude, faith and solidarity,

Ingrid Srinath



New leadership at Greenpeace International

Source: Greenpeace International

Greenpeace will soon have a new leader. Kumi Naidoo will take up the role of Executive Director of Greenpeace International in November 2009, when Gerd Leipold steps down after nearly nine years as the activist-in-chief. Kumi was part of the successful struggle against apartheid in South Africa. He is an activist and a Rhodes Scholar. For ten years he was the Secretary General of CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation.

Today he sits on the board of Greenpeace Africa and chairs the Global Campaign for Climate Action (GCCA). For details, [click here](#).



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.

"All of us at CIVICUS feel a strong pride because of the appointment of Kumi Naidoo as the new Executive Director of Greenpeace International. I want to specially convey the congratulations of our Board of Directors. We are grateful to Kumi for his vision and commitment to CIVICUS for so many years and we are proud of his new role. Congratulations dear Kumi, you will do great!" - Anabel Cruz, Chair of the Board, CIVICUS

"I would like to congratulate CIVICUS' Honorary President, Kumi Naidoo, on his exciting new appointment as Executive Director of Greenpeace International. Kumi will take office from November 2009, and we wish him every success!" - Ingrid Srinath, Secretary General, CIVICUS

CIVICUS's sweet 16!

We would like to continue hearing 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. Your opinions and input may be published in an upcoming issue of e-CIVICUS as with the opinions below, or on our website (www.civicus.org).



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

Here are some reflections and comments from staff and Members which we have received so far:

Every CIVICUS World Assembly I have looked around the room and seen NGOs, NGOs, NGOs. By which I mean aid dependent CSOs. This, brothers and sisters, is not civil society - or shall I say, it is only a small part of civil society. Where are the people's organisations, the associations, the trade unions, the cooperatives, the professional associations, the faith based groups, and all the panoply we keep repeating when we define Civil Society. In Botswana, 2004 I got up and said so. In 2008 in Glasgow Kumi recognised me from the floor and proudly said he had brought trade unions to the World Assembly. OK, it's a step. Let us collectively widen our understanding of civil society. Please look at www.akdn.org/civilsociety and see the book "Beyond NGOs". There are 15 CSOs INTRAC and I found to illustrate the range of civil society beyond NGOs!

Richard Holloway

Civil Society Programme Director
Aga Khan Development Network

I would like to congratulate CIVICUS with 16th birthday on behalf of Economic Research Center. We wish you good luck and success in your activity. Thank you for sending us all the useful information about various events, thank you for enlightening us about issues going around world and thank you for letting us to share ours with you. Be always one of the first and best.

Nigar Mammadova

External Communications Officer
Economic Research Center (ERC)

[Read more contributions...](#)

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



CIVICUS' 1 for 1 membership campaign
Are you one 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](#).

CIVICUS Poll Question

This week's question:

Participation of all member states at the [UN Conference on the Economic Crisis](#) this month is

- a. Imperative
- b. Preferable
- c. I haven't heard about this summit!

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

Previous question: At 16, which of CIVICUS' three Strategic Directions is the most important?

- a. Protect rights of civil society actors
- b. Strengthen good practice within civil society
- c. Strengthen civil society's ability to influence policies & practices of Govts/Int institutions/Pvt sector
- d. All of these!

Results: a. - 40%, b. - 40%, c. - 10%, d - 10%

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

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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.

Why don't you suggest that your friends 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

CIVICUS condemns violence, encourages peaceful dialogue in Peru

Press Release: CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation condemns the violence stemming from protest in Peru and supports the resumption of peaceful dialogue and cooperation between the Government of Peru and the Interethnic Association for the Development of the Peruvian Amazon (AIDESEP). For details, [click here](#).

Largest human exodus in Pakistan: Time to help

By Irfan Mufti - South Asia Partnership Pakistan (exclusive to e-CIVICUS)

The military action against religious extremists called 'Talibans' in many parts of North West Province of Pakistan has created the largest human exodus in the recent history as more than three million people from have been forced to move to other area for temporary shelters. The UN official responsible for looking after 'internally displaced persons' has suggested that the displacement of people by the military's action in the valley of Swat and in the districts surrounding has reached proportions last seen in the Rwandan genocide in 1994. This internally displaced population living in makeshift tents, school buildings and other temporary shelters is without any proper food supply or life support systems. Most of them are traumatised due to violence, bloodshed and other gruesome violence they have experienced in the recent days. *For details, [click here](#).*

Citizens must engage and respond to new global crises

Source: UN Development Programme

Climate change and the current global economic crisis bring an unprecedented opportunity to transform global governance, which must start giving priority to human development and citizen engagement. This was one of the main conclusions of a two-day consultation between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and 25 representatives of civil society organisations and foundations in New York on June 5 and 6. This meeting was attended by CIVICUS and GCAP. *For details, [click here](#).*



ITUC annual survey of trade union rights violations

Source: International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

2008 was another difficult and often dangerous year for trade unionists around the world, according to this year's ITUC Annual Survey of Trade Union Rights Violations, which details abuses of fundamental workers' rights in 143 countries. 76 trade unionists were killed due to their actions to defend workers' rights, and many more were attacked physically or subjected to harassment, intimidation or arrest by the authorities. While the worldwide total of killings fell from 91 the previous year, the number of killings in Colombia, which is notorious as the most dangerous place on earth for trade unionists, reached 49 – an increase of 10 over the previous year. The upsurge in killings took place despite assurances by the Administration of Colombian President Alvaro Uribe that the situation was improving. *For details, [click here](#).*

GET INVOLVED!

World campaign for prevention of child abuse

Source: Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF)

Join the WWSF International Coalition for making prevention of abuse and violence against children a global priority. Last year, 933 organisations from 135 countries joined the international coalition marking the World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse, organising activities and events on 19 November or supporting the Day in general. Be counted among the 2009 coalition members and celebrate the power of partnership in creating a global culture for prioritising prevention. *For details, [click here](#).*

[Read more...](#)

GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS UPDATE

IMF gains illusory strength

By Aldo Caliari - Asia Times

As the financial crisis reached global and historic proportions last year, many commentators identified one institution as the debacle's great winner: the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Just two years ago, the IMF seemed to be on an inexorable downward path: its credibility and effectiveness in question, its portfolio of borrowers severely reduced, its legitimacy and governance structure under challenge, and its own finances in disarray. In fact, the fund had started "downsizing" its staff as the only way to avoid running one of the deficits that it so strongly advises client countries to steer away from. Against this backdrop, the world's credit drought offered the international financial institution a lifeline. Observers predicted it would propel countries that had closed their programs with the IMF to have to reapply. Big IMF loans were back. The Group of 20 (G-20) summit in London in early April, with its dizzying figures in new funding for the IMF (The Wall Street Journal and other major outlets reported a US\$750 billion pledge) only made the feeling a distinct belief. *For details, [click here](#).*

Global photography campaign on humanising development

Source: UN Development Programme

This Global Photography Campaign aims to show examples of people winning the battle against poverty, social exclusion and marginalization. It is intended to raise awareness of the successes in the development process. The campaign is intended to counterbalance the frequently shown images of desolation and despair. A photo gallery will to be permanently located at IPC-IG office and open for public visitation. A series of photo exhibitions will also be organised in several cities around the world. *For details, [click here](#).*

[Read more...](#)

BOOKS, REPORTS & RESOURCES

June issue of Alliance

Source: Alliance Magazine

Past, present and future, philanthropy's role in promoting democracy and civil society in the post-communist world is reviewed in this issue of Alliance magazine. Funders' perspectives come from Ford Foundation governance and human rights pioneer Bill Carmichael, Pavol Demes of German Marshall Fund, Fabrice de Kerchove of King Baudouin Foundation, Sandra Breka of the Robert Bosch Foundation and OSI president Aryeh Neier. The special feature also includes Olga Alexeeva on the fragile state of democracy and civil society in Russia and reflections on South Africa and Latin America from Christa Kuljian and Anabel Cruz, plus the views of a range of young activists on democracy and civil society. *For details, [click here](#).*

Success at a Price: How NGO advocacy led to changes in South Africa's People's Housing Process

By Susan Carey - Planact

This brief report has been prepared by Susan Carey with the support of Planact and Rooftops Canada. It draws on the experiences of a group of South African NGOs involved in housing policy reform in order to inform future advocacy and policy processes. Valuable lessons are drawn out for NGOs, government and other stakeholders. We firmly believe that policy outcomes, program design and implementation benefit from transparency and sharing of information and experiences. This report demonstrates that not working this way has the opposite effect – desired outcomes are not achieved and there can be considerable delays along the way. *For details, [click here](#).*

The New Socialism: Global collectivist society is coming online

By Kevin Kelly, Wired Magazine

Bill Gates once derided open source advocates with the worst epithet a capitalist can muster. These folks, he said, were a "new modern-day sort of communists," a malevolent force bent on destroying the monopolistic incentive that helps support the American dream. Gates was wrong: open source

zealots are more likely to be libertarians than commie pinkos. Yet there is some truth to his allegation. The frantic global rush to connect everyone to everyone, all the time, is quietly giving rise to a revised version of socialism. *For details, [click here](#).*

CONFERENCES & EVENTS



UN Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development

24 - 26 June 2009, New York

The UN is convening a three-day summit of world leaders from 24 - 26 June 2009 at its New York Headquarters to assess the worst global economic downturn since the Great Depression. The aim is to identify emergency and long-term responses to mitigate the impact of the crisis, especially on vulnerable populations, and initiate a needed dialogue on the transformation of the international financial architecture, taking into account the needs and concerns of all Member States. *For details, [click here](#).*

e-Discussion on Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development

Source: UN Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis

A moderated e-discussion on the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development, jointly organised by the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and UNDP, will be held as part of the preparatory process for the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development. *For details, [click here](#).*

Global Economic Crisis: Implications for Future Economic Policies

16 June 2009, Sarova Panafric Hotel, Nairobi

The Kenya Alliance of Resident Associations (KARA) in partnership with Hanns Seidel Foundation and the Ford Foundation has lined up an informative Bi-monthly Talk Series (BTS) on yet another current and topical subject, in the public interest. The BTS program brings to light discussions from various points of view, Government on one hand, and civil society, private sector and development partners on the other. The discussion includes 15 minutes presentations from each keynote speaker. Thereafter, a question and answer session follows. *For information about Kara, [click here](#).*

WORKSHOPS AND COURSES

Call for expressions of interest: Skills-building workshop on Participatory Governance for practitioners in the MENA region

Deadline 16 June 2009

CIVICUS' Participatory Governance Program, in conjunction with CARE Egypt, is organising a Participatory Governance skills-building workshop for the Middle-East and North Africa region in Cairo, Egypt from 5 to 9 July 2009. The objective of this regional skills-building workshop is to enhance participants' practical skills in undertaking participatory governance. If you are an organisation based in the MENA region that has the following criteria, please make sure to apply:

- Be committed to promoting and practicing participatory governance at local and/or national level and have an organisational mandate to do so;
- Be committed to and have the requisite institutional capacity to translate the learning into practical interventions that seek to promote government-civil society collaboration and joint action;

If you are interested in receiving a bursary to participate in this event please complete the questions below and share the answers with Mahi Khallaf (mahi@civicus.org) as soon as possible.

1. Name of organisation:
2. Country:
3. Type of organisation:
4. CIVICUS member: Yes/No
5. Short profile of organisation:
6. Name of participant:
7. Position in organisation:
8. What particular merits do you see in attending the participatory governance skills-building workshop in Cairo, Egypt?
9. What kind of participatory governance activities/innovations would you like to implement in your country after the workshop?

Please, [click here](#) to view the draft programme.

Monitoring Women's Rights.

Deadline 15 June 2009

This distance learning course is a basic introduction to measuring and monitoring the status of women and gender equality, including basic health and welfare, education, civil rights and freedoms, and special protection measures. The course will address the full cycle of monitoring, including tool development; methodologies for carrying out monitoring; and the application of results for improving the respect, protection and realisation of women's human rights. *For details, [click here](#).*

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: 22 June 2009

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

Location: Johannesburg, South Africa

For details, [click here](#).

Senior Programme Coordinator, Global Advocacy and Legal Advice Centres Programme

Application Deadline: 15 June 2009

Transparency International

Location: TI Secretariat, Berlin, Germany

For details, [click here](#).

CONTACT e-CIVICUS

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