



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
Jessica Hume
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,

For civil society the events of the past 10 months evoked first shock – not at the events themselves, which many of us saw as utterly predictable, but at their pace and scale. Then some faint hope as world leaders promised support to the most vulnerable. Then disappointment as actions failed to live up to the promises made. And finally, outrage at the concerted attempts to block any efforts at substantive change to return instead as quickly as possible to business as usual.

The UN conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development represented for civil society and the communities we work with and represent, our first real opportunity to be heard at the global level and to seek to restore decision-making to its most legitimate venue. It is one step back from the brink of what essentially amounts to a hostile takeover of global governance by powerful elites. The beneficiaries of the status quo ante at national, regional and global levels have fought fiercely – overtly and covertly – to hold on to their positions of advantage, ceding only as little as necessary to do so.

To read my full statement at the Round Table 4 of the UN Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development please visit our website [here](#).

With gratitude, faith and solidarity,

Ingrid Srinath



Vilified but unscathed: UN Conference on world economic crisis withstands pressure to confer global legitimacy to G20

By Vicente García-Delgado, CIVICUS UN Representative (NY)

As I turn over in my head what really happened at last week's UN High-level Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development, the image of an attempted global putsch keeps coming to mind. While the Conference's Outcome Document (OD) does provide for a UN platform to continue the search for democratic and inclusive global solutions through a UN open-ended working group, this is, if anything, a pyrrhic victory: the OD represents the very minimum concession by the most powerful member states, sufficient barely to hold on to the status quo ante. *For details, [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.

Arab regional focus

Next week's issue of e-Civicus will be a special regional issue focusing on the Arabic world and issues that surrounds civil society in that region. Do you have a news item, opinion piece, resource or event you'd like us to include? Email your submissions to editor@civicus.org before Thursday, 9 July for consideration for inclusion.

CIVICUS Poll Question

This week's question:

Do you believe that the UN Conference on the Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development was...

- a. a step in the right direction but we'll have to see if anything actually comes of it
- b. a step closer to rule by the powerful (G20) and away from a legitimate forum (the UN)
- c. a waste of time and an insult to the citizen around the world suffering during the current crisis

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

Previous question: Which of [civil society's key recommendations](#) at the UN summit is important?

- a. International stimulus package for development
- b. Systemic reform to provide global financial & economic regulation
- c. Both

Results: a. - 9.5%, b. - 23.8%, c. - 66.7%

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CIVIL SOCIETY NEWS

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](#).

The imperative of learning about human rights as a way of life at the community level and the global economic crisis

By Shulamith Koenig, People's Movement for Human Rights Learning (PDHRE)

Not too long a while, in December 2008, the world celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Noting it, the Elders, led by Nelson Mandela, called out: 'All HUMANS have RIGHTS.' No doubt for the very worst-off humans, all human our rights talk marks a chasm between the politics of human hope and aspiration and lived realities. Even so, movement and struggles for aspiring of human rights constitute and mark as new politics of human hope and aspiration. We thus have to aspire for all women, men, youth, and children to engage in learning about human rights as a way of life, using this comprehensive framework as a guideline for sustainable economic, human, and societal development, for which we have no other option. *To read more, [click here](#).*



International trade union movement condemns coup in Honduras

Source: International Trade Union Confederation

The ITUC and its regional organisation, the Trade Union Confederation for the Americas (TUCA), have strongly and resoundingly condemned the military coup carried out in Honduras on 28 June with the aim of overthrowing President Manuel Zelaya and expelling him from the country. Foreign Minister Patricia Rodas was also detained. The ITUC and TUCA

have called for the immediate return of President Zelaya as the country's highest executive authority, together with full respect for the will of the people in the Republic de Honduras. *For details, [click here](#).*

No end to assassinations in Colombia

Source: International Trade Union Confederation

The ITUC, together with its regional organisation TUCA and its three national affiliates in Colombia, has strongly condemned the murder of Rafael Antonio Sepúlveda Lara, an affiliate of the national hospital workers' union, Asociación Nacional de Trabajadores Hospitalarios de Colombia (ANTHOC), and a member of the national executive of the public servants' federation, Federación Nacional de Servidores Públicos (FENASER-CTC). "This murder once again proves that trade unionists' right to life and the free exercise of trade union activities are not guaranteed in Colombia," said Guy Ryder, general secretary of the ITUC. "This assassination is yet another violation of International Labour Organisation (ILO) Conventions 87 and 98 ratified by Colombia. *For details, [click here](#).*

France: Move to ban the wearing of the burqa

Source: Association For Womens Rights in Development (AWID)

Earlier this month, a group of 58 law-makers introduced a parliamentary resolution calling for the creation of a committee of inquiry into the wearing of the burqa and niqab on French territory. A burqa is the most concealing of all Islamic veils as it covers the entire face and body, leaving only a mesh screen to see through. The niqab is a face veil that sometimes leaves the eyes clear and is sometimes worn with a separate eye veil. Government spokesman Luc Chatel said Friday that a law against wearing the burqa was a serious option. "If we see, very clearly, that wearing the burqa is contrary to republican principles, the government, the Parliament will draw all the necessary conclusions," he told France 2 television. Asked if that meant a law prohibiting the garment, he replied, "Why not." Junior Secretary for Urban Affairs Fadela Amara was more direct. "I am in favour of prohibition" of the burqa," she told France Info radio, describing it as "the visible and physical expression of fundamentalists." *For details, [click here](#).*

One small step forward: An agreement by all 192 UN states on the financial crisis acknowledges our global interdependence

By Joseph Stiglitz

Last week, something unusual happened: the international community, coming together at the UN to discuss the global financial crisis and its impact on the developing world, reached a consensus on an agreement. This spelled out the issues to be addressed and laid out the way forward. Many had said it would be difficult for 192 countries to reach consensus, and that was why discussions should be

limited to a self-selected group of 20. In fact, the UN agreement was stronger and more forceful than the G20 communique. It also demonstrated why it was important to have an inclusive process: the G192 were willing to raise key issues that the internal politics of the G20 may have made too sensitive. For instance, while the G20 focused attention on the role of bank secrecy in tax evasion, the UN agreement highlights corruption. *For details, [click here](#).*

UN conference on global crisis undercut by G20 indifference

By Nick Buxton, Transnational Institute

Maybe I was being a naïve activist, but I thought I would be covering an important and consequential event. The world is facing a devastating economic crisis, accompanied by a toxic mix of crises of climate chaos, food prices and even flu outbreaks, and here was chance for a smart, effective response to these pressing and interconnected issues. The international community had agreed back in November 2008 to develop a coordinated international response to an unprecedented global crisis - and to present its plan in summer 2009. Yet, here I am on the second day of that conference, and for the press it is as if the meeting did not exist. *For details, [click here](#).*



High diplomacy and fragile consensus limit UN to development cooperation

Source: Association For Womens Rights in Development (AWID)

The outcome document of the UN Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development was formally adopted by member states at yesterday's final session amidst a sober climate in the General Assembly. Overall, the text opens up possibilities but genuine reforms were not secured. The central role of the United Nations, or the G192, in economic governance nearly vanished! On the upside, the text contains some progressive language. There are ideas related to financial, structural, and systemic reforms, including debt relief, respect for policy space, right of countries to adopt countercyclical measures, reform of the global reserve system, need for effective regulation and oversight of the financial system, and more balanced trade, to name a few. Women's rights advocates welcome language that recognises women as facing "greater income insecurity and increased burdens of family care" and of women and children had been mostly impoverished by the crisis. The document further recognises that responses to the crisis needs to have a gender perspective, mitigation measures should take into account gender equality, among others, and leadership appointments in the International Financial Institutions (IFIs) should take regard of gender balance. *For details, [click here](#).*



UN finance declaration criticised

Source: Aljazeera.net

Groups campaigning to reduce poverty have criticised as weak a draft declaration by countries attending a UN conference aimed at tackling the global financial crisis. The declaration was agreed to on Friday by 140 members of the UN General Assembly attending the three-day talks. The document contains a call for increased UN involvement in global economic policy-making but is otherwise light on detail. *For details, [click here](#).*

Press conference by global social economy group on world financial crisis summit

Source: 7th Space Interactive

The outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development in its third day at United Nations Headquarters provided a means for continued discussion, but in no way measured up to the extreme gravity of the situation facing developing countries, representatives of civil society groups told correspondents today, also at Headquarters. "The Titanic is sinking and Governments are thinking about the arrangement of the deck chairs," Gemma Adaba, of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), said. Referring to the analysis and recommendations of the commission led by Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz, she added: "The way forward is a way of struggle to bridge the gap between the analysis, which shows what needs to be done, and the actions, which were very weak." *For details, [click here](#).*



2009 Global Development Awards and Medals Competition

Source: Global Development Network

The Global Development Network (GDN) is now accepting submissions for its annual competition for development research proposals/papers and development projects. Researchers and NGOs from developing and transition countries are invited to participate in the competition. The competition is generously funded by the Ministry of Finance, Government of Japan and other donors. The competition focuses on key issues such as globalisation, regional integration, climate change and international migration against the backdrop of the current global economic and financial crisis, the political and economic repercussions of which can already be felt across countries and regions. The impact of these crises on the architecture of developing countries cannot be understated. They have prompted many to challenge globalisation and they are also likely to hasten the structural shift in global economic power from Western countries to emerging markets. *For details, [click here](#).*

Annan and Geldof launch climate campaign

Source: FT.com, Financial Times

Kofi Annan, the former secretary-general of the United Nations, and Bob Geldof, the founder of Live Aid, launched a new "climate justice" campaign on Friday ahead of December's UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen. The campaign, dubbed "tck tck tck: Time for Climate Justice", will see advertising agencies and major organisations such as HSBC and Oxfam use mass marketing to call on world leaders to agree a "just and binding deal" on climate change. *For details, [click here](#).*

Did you notice last week's UN Conference on the crisis? Thought not...

By Duncan Green, Head of Research for Oxfam GB

In the end the UN Conference that considered Joe Stiglitz's Commission's report on the crisis was even more underwhelming than I predicted (given the chaotic preparations, which included a last minute postponement). Only 14 heads of state attended, 10 of them from Latin America; most of Stiglitz' recommendations bit the dust (e.g. his proposal for a new Global Economic Council); press coverage was minimal and the resulting communiqué was littered with 'best endeavours language' that commits countries to precisely nothing – lots of 'we encourage's and 'shoulds', but precious few 'shalls' or 'wills'. But at least they agreed on a text, which at one point seemed far from certain. *For details, [click here](#).*

GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS UPDATE



At the opening Session of the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development

Source: UN General Assembly

At this critical moment, we must all join our efforts to prevent the global crisis, with its myriad faces, from turning into a social, environmental and humanitarian tragedy. The challenges of the various crises are all interconnected and oblige us all, as representatives of the peoples of the Earth, to declare our responsibility one to another, and that together, with great hope, we will seek inclusive solutions. What better place than this United Nations General Assembly Hall to do so. This is the hall of world democratic inclusiveness par excellence, the Headquarters of the G-192. Obviously, each State has the option of determining its level of participation, in accordance with the importance it attaches to the topic of each meeting. *For details, [click here](#).*

Niger's continuing crisis imperils democracy, Secretary-General warns

Source: UN News

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today voiced deep concern about Niger's continuing political and constitutional crisis, warning that it threatens to destabilise the country and undermine recent progress towards democratic governance and the rule of law. The recent decisions taken by the

Niger Government “have made it extremely difficult for the country’s democratic institutions and the Constitutional Court to play their roles as guarantors of the rule of law,” Mr. Ban said in a statement issued by his spokesperson. *For details, [click here](#).*

[Read more...](#)

BOOKS, REPORTS & RESOURCES

First roundtable at UN Conference addresses role of UN in reform of international financial and economic architecture

By Bhumika Muchhala

The programme of four roundtables at the UN Conference involves presentations by key experts in the theme of each roundtable, followed by interventions and questions from the floor by member states as well as other stakeholders such as international organisations, civil society representatives and the private sector. The first roundtable, chaired by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia, His Excellency Mirko Cvetkovic, featured Professor Joseph Stiglitz, Nobel Prize winner in Economics and Chairman of the Commission of Experts of the President of the UN General Assembly on Reforms of the International Monetary and Financial System. *For details, [click here](#).*

Outcome document adopted at closing plenary of UN Conference; Member states make explanatory statements

By Bhumika Muchhala

At the closing plenary of the United Nations Conference on the World Economic and Financial Crisis, the President of the General Assembly (PGA), Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, announced that the outcome document has been adopted by consensus by all the members of the General Assembly. The adoption of the outcome document, produced after arduous and contentious negotiations between the negotiators of key country groups, represents to the PGA a “first step in a long process of putting the world on a new path towards solidarity, stability and sustainability.” *For details, [click here](#).*

Father Miguel's homily

Source: [San Fransisco Bay Guardian Online \(SFBG\)](#)

At 76, the U.S.-born naturalised Nicaraguan citizen doesn't look like a major threat to the established economic order. But as the elected president of the United Nations General Assembly, d'Escoto has touched a raw nerve among the world's most powerful nations. Since late May, European Union and U.S. negotiators have accused him of putting the entire U.N.'s credibility at stake. In the May 24 New York Times article "At U.N., a Sandinista's Plan for Recovery," reporter Neil MacFarquhar accused Father Miguel of "serious delusions of grandeur." At the end of June, the criticisms reached a loud crescendo as the whole United Nations met for a summit on the global economic crisis. *For details, [click here](#).*

Towards a renewed debt crisis? Risk profiles of the poorest countries in the light of the global economic slowdown

By Jürgen Kaiser, Irene Knoke, Hartmut Kowsky

Much of the debate on the global financial and economic crisis has focused on the advanced industrialised economies, although it is now increasingly recognised that developing countries are severely affected by the crisis. Quite contrary to the supposed decoupling of the growth dynamic in developing countries from the global economic cycle, developing countries are affected by the current crisis via several transmission channels, such as a decline in exports, falling commodity prices, reduction in remittances, currency depreciations, reduced or even reversed capital inflows and investment as well as reduced availability of credit. *For details, [click here](#).*

CONFERENCES & EVENTS

Reforming the Bretton Woods institutions

Application Deadline: 09 July 2009

Danish Institute for International Studies invites papers to be presented in a conference that aims to discuss the global economic governance for a more stable and resilient world economy. *For details, [click here](#).*

Fourth South Asia renewable energy conference

29 July 2009, New Delhi

ASSOCHAM, an apex body of the chambers of commerce in India, is organising the Fourth South Asia Renewable Energy Conference for the advancement and large-scale propagation of renewable energy in the region. *For details, [click here](#).*

CODESRIA programme announcement: 2009 Gender Symposium

23 – 25 November, 2009 Cairo, Egypt

In line with its mandate of developing, promoting, consolidating, and disseminating the highest quality of research on and about Africa, the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) will hold a Gender Symposium from November 23rd to 25th in Cairo, Egypt. The Gender Symposium is an annual event that provides a platform for gender-focused debates. The theme for the 2009 symposium is Gender and Sports in Africa's Development. *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

Civil Society Index (CSI) Research Intern

Application Deadline: 24 July 2009

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

Johannesburg, South Africa

For details, [click here](#).

Global Coordinator for Stand Up

Application Deadline: 12 July 2009

United Nations Millennium Campaign

Location: Cairo, Egypt

For details, [click here](#).

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