



A weekly e-newsletter for civil society from CIVICUS!

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Poll question

This week's question: To have more impact on civil society in the North, CIVICUS needs:

- a. An agenda
- b. Relevant purpose
- c. Clear messaging
- d. All of these

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

Previous question: To what extent are your work and policies based on participation of all involved and affected by them?

- a. Very
- b. Only internally
- c. Only externally
- d. More on Paper than in Practice
- e. Not at all

Results: a. - 50%, b. - 18.8%, c. - 0%, d. - 18.8%, e. - 12.5%

Get involved

AccountAbility begins online revision of world's first international stakeholder engagement standard

Source: AccountAbility

The new AA1000SES needs to provide a mechanism for engagement that can be robust at the global level but flexible enough for local application that looks beyond process to outcomes and impact evaluation. The first draft of the standard has now been uploaded onto the re-developed wiki platform marking the first phase of public participation and review. Learn more on the wiki www.accountabilityaa1000wiki.net to participate.

No-cost to low-cost ways to save energy and money

Source: Clean Air Cool Planet

Become a part of the solution in preventing the harmful effects of climate change with residential tips to saving energy as well as money. For details, [click here](#).

We Welcome

From the Desk of the Secretary General



A couple of weeks ago we shared with you the key issues the CIVICUS Board would grapple with at its semi-annual meeting. One of these was the question of CIVICUS' role vis-à-vis civil society in the 'North'. Our Board member, Martin Sime, Chief Executive of the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO), presented his thoughts on the subject in a manner designed to challenge conventional thinking and provoke deeper insights. Your responses to the issues he raises are vital to CIVICUS' strategy going forward. Please write in to tell us what you think - whether you consider yourself Northern, Southern, active in civil society or not.

CIVICUS and the North?

By: Martin Sime, Chief Executive of the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO)

"An idea or, more accurately, a question has been brewing in my mind for a couple of years now about the issue of how CIVICUS might broaden its reach into domestic civil society networks in the north. I raised this in a rather different way recently- what, I asked, is the CIVICUS proposition for these organisations? Where can it add value to their work and campaigns?

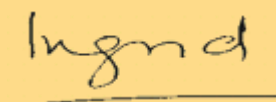
Then I read the Secretary General's insightful report to the CIVICUS Board:-

"It is still not clear how civil society is going to achieve any coherent and cohesive action.....It seems to me that the missing link is the activation of grassroots networks in the North. CIVICUS has to cast a wider net to reach these through our members/donors"

This set me thinking, so here are a few ideas, questions and challenges to consider."

For details, [click here](#).

With faith, gratitude and solidarity,



Special Issue on the second World Democracy Day on 15 September

We would like to invite you to contribute to a special edition of e-CIVICUS on the second World Democracy Day on 15 September.

Commemorating the adoption of the Universal Declaration on Democracy by the Inter-Parliamentary Union in 1997, and also marking the twentieth anniversary of the International Conference of New or Restored Democracies, the UN General Assembly adopted 15 September 2008 as the first World Democracy Day. This will be an annual event dedicated to 'stressing the continuing need to promote democratisation, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms'.

CIVICUS will dedicate a full issue of e-CIVICUS to World Democracy Day. We are very pleased to invite you to contribute to this issue and welcome contributions on:

- any democracy-related topic written from a civil society angle or
- addressing the role of civil society in democratisation, whether it is:
 - an opinion article
 - an event announcement, or
 - a news story on an initiative that your organisation is undertaking to promote democratisation.

The issue will be published on 14 September, which means that contributions will be due on 10 September. Please forward your contributions to editor@civicus.org.

News in brief

CIVICUS comments on the Iraq draft Law of Non Governmental Organisations, 2009

By: Mandeep Tiwana: Civil Society Watch (CSW)

The Iraq draft Law of Non Governmental Organisations which is currently under consideration by the country's Parliament has been the subject of severe criticism by civil society. Enactment of the draft Law in its present form will severely curtail the activities of NGOs providing substantial support to the people of Iraq and assisting in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. For details, [click here](#).

Contributions

e-CIVICUS is 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. To read the contribution guidelines, [click here](#).

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Events

Regional Conference - "Quality of Growth: Approaches to inclusive development in Asian Societies"

14 - 16 September 2009, New Delhi, India

The conference aims to discuss and identify, together with high ranking representatives and experts from different Asian and European countries, ways of enhancing existing systems that combine economic, social and ecological factors in order to achieve more sustainable and inclusive growth. More specifically, it is intended that they will reflect on how to realise this objective. In these discussions the financial and economic crisis has to be considered as well. For more details, [click here](#).

Intensive Course on Justiciability of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: Theory and Practice

9 - 13 November, Turku/Åbo, Finland

This one-week intensive course offers participants an opportunity to develop specialist-level knowledge in the field of economic, social and cultural rights (ESC rights), with a particular focus on justiciability at the national, regional and international level. Application deadline is 14 September 2009. For details, [click here](#).

Book Reviews

The United Nations and Civil Society

Source: Zed Books

The UN is able to recognise key global challenges, but is beset by difficulties in trying to resolve them. In this, it represents the current global political balance, but is also the only international institution that could move it forward. Civil society can be a catalyst for this kind of change. In this book, Nora McKeon provides a comprehensive analysis of UN engagement with civil society. The book pays particular attention to food and agriculture, which now lie at the heart of global governance issues. For details, [click here](#).

For more book reviews, [click here](#)

Letters to the Editor

Dear colleagues,

I agree with you on Africans having a culture of human rights within their communal rights from way back. I am a mother of three minor children and I have undertaken to impart human rights knowledge using cultural instruments including Mbira, hosho and drums. I have been working with adults engaging in dialogue to awaken them to their rights and obligations through participation in their community problems, but I feel that there is a gap in the way we have been trying to empower our communities. Our children do not have that culture of participation and therefore are not empowered in terms of claiming their rights and fulfilling their obligations...

To Read more, [click here](#).

Francisca Mandeya
Inkanyenzi Child Rights Projects, Zimbabwe

Drought relief not reaching the rural poor

Source: Action Aid India

The woes of the rural poor go much beyond an insufficient rainfall. Corrupt ration officials, weak NREGA, and erratic midday meals and anganwadis are leading to rampant starvation. These are critical times for agriculture and farmers in India. According to Union Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar, 47 percent of India is reeling under a drought thanks to an insufficient monsoon rainfall. For details, [click here](#).

Trust and renewed multilateralism keys to tackling today's crises

Source: UN News Centre

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon highlighted the importance of trust – both among States and in the United Nations – in tackling a range of global crises, while calling for a renewed multilateralism that delivers results for the world's people. "A renewed multilateralism that delivers real results for real people in need," he stated, "a multilateralism where countries and regions engage with each other in a spirit of trust, cooperation and mutual reliance." For details, [click here](#).

Parents Forum has entered the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Ashoka's Changemakers Competition

Source: Parents Forum

Parents Forum, founded by CIVICUS member Eve Sullivan, has entered the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Ashoka's Changemakers Competition, Rethinking Mental Health: Improving Community Wellbeing, a global competition to recognise innovative community mental health solutions and the programme has been invited to become a network partner for the competition. Eve Sullivan has been invited to be a featured commentator for this Ashoka competition and welcomes direct contact from CIVICUS members and friends on Twitter or by email to [eve\(at\)parentsforum.org](mailto:eve(at)parentsforum.org). The Parents Forum entry is at www.changemakers.com/en-us/node/54679. Comments are welcome, after registration at www.changemakers.com, on this entry as well as on other entries in any Ashoka Changemakers competitions. Readers can post comments at www.changemakers.com until 22 November, 2009. Then, registered Changemaker community members can vote for winners from among the competition's finalists, selected by judges, between 22 November and 9 December, 2009.

Aid workers now sixty days as hostages in Darfur

Source: Head Down Eyes Open

It is now some sixty days since Dubliner Sharon Commins and her Ugandan colleague Hilda Kuwuki were seized by gunmen from their base in the town of Kutum, North Darfur, Sudan. Kidnapping of aid workers is an upward trend in Darfur and the case of Sharon and Hilda is the longest saga to date. HDEO hopes for the best. For details, [click here](#).

Uzbekistan: Tashkent shootout stokes fears of independence day clashes

Source: Eurasianet.org

Reports of shootings in Tashkent on the evening of August 29 have sparked fears the Uzbek government is using the cover of independence celebrations to crack down on alleged militants. For details, [click here](#).



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](#).

CIVICUS Member profile

GuideStar International (GSI)

GuideStar International (GSI) is building a global network of websites with detailed reports on a country's civil society organisations (CSOs). We promote transparent reporting, which makes the work of CSOs more accountable, robust, effective and vibrant, as well as facilitate collaboration among CSOs, donors and supporters across borders. The GuideStar model has its origins in the United States where the first GuideStar information service for charities was founded in 1994. GuideStar US is now considered to be the primary source of online information on all American nonprofits. GuideStar UK, which provides information on all 169,000 charities in England and Wales, followed in 2002. The success of these services sparked interest from sector leaders in countries throughout the world. To respond effectively to this interest, GuideStar International was established in October 2004. GSI works with CSOs, governments and international development agencies to source and display information about all CSOs in a country on a free public website. We are currently working with leading organisations in Hungary, Ireland, Germany, the Netherlands, South Africa, Canada, India, South Korea and with the UN Economic Commission for Africa to develop a pan-Africa GuideStar service. For more information, please visit www.guidestarinternational.org.

Resources

World Movement - Defending civil society country reports

Source: World Movement for Democracy

Through this project, the World Movement exposes the increasingly restrictive environments for civil society work and helps develop practical strategies and build solidarity groups to meet the challenges of new repressive NGO laws. Country reports are now available analysing the legal frameworks governing civil society in several countries in Africa and Latin America/Caribbean. For details, [click here](#).

The South African generals' report on post-election violence in Zimbabwe

Source: Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR)

In May 2008, then President Thabo Mbeki commissioned six retired South African Generals to report on allegations of violence committed in the aftermath of the first round of Zimbabwe's elections of March

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You Tube

Check out our video channel:
<http://www.youtube.com/user/civiciusworldalliance>

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.

Director of Operations

Application Deadline: 11 September 2009

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

Location: Johannesburg, South Africa

For details, [click here](#).

Regional Director, East Africa

Application Deadline: 7 September 2009

The ELMA Philanthropies Services (U.S.) Inc.

Location: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

For details, [click here](#).

Senior Researcher - Security Sector Governance in Africa

Application Deadline: 15 September 2009

Institute for Security Studies (ISS)

Location: Pretoria, South Africa

For details, [click here](#).

Junior Researcher - Security Sector Governance in Africa

Application Deadline: 15 September 2009

Institute for Security Studies (ISS)

Location: Pretoria, South Africa

For details, [click here](#).

Advocacy and Networking Officer

Application Deadline: 21 September 2009

European Network on Debt and Development

Location: Brussels, Belgium

For details, [click here](#).

Program Manager, Civil Society

Application Deadline: Open Until Filled

Institute for Sustainable Communities

Location: Thailand

For details, [click here](#).

2008. That report has never been made public and the Presidency now maintains that a written report was never compiled. The report was commissioned under the auspices of Mbeki's SADC-appointed role as facilitator of political dialogue in Zimbabwe. The existence, or non-existence, of the report has implications for the obligations owed by former President Mbeki and the current South African government to SADC, and for the obligations of SADC itself. Those obligations are specified in this report. For details, [click here](#).

Alliance magazine September 2009: Discontinuous thinking for a crisis

Source: Alliance

Guest editor for this Alliance special feature is The Economist's Matthew Bishop, who calls for fresh ideas from foundations, social enterprises and charities in response to the economic upheaval and poses two vital questions: how has the world changed? And what are the new opportunities for philanthropy? For details, [click here](#).

Opportunities

UNV Online Volunteering Award 2009

Deadline: 13 September 2009

Do you consider your online volunteering experience to have been particularly successful? If so, submit your nomination for the award. Nominations can be submitted by organisations or by volunteers. Organisations may nominate their volunteers, and volunteers who worked on an assignment together with other volunteers may nominate their team. For details, [click here](#).

Call for Nominations on the Graca Machel Initiative: Multiplying Amplifying Voices

Deadline: 30 September, 2009

The initiative seeks to start a continental network of African women whose faces and voices are not so well known but who are excelling in the fields of Agriculture, Business, Media and Science & Technology. For details, [click here](#). To download the entry form, [click here](#).

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