



A weekly e-newsletter for civil society from CIVICUS!

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Poll question

This week's question: How much time do we have to respond to climate change?

- Less than 10 years
- About 50 years
- About 100 years
- Till 7-18 Dec 2009 (COP15 UN Conference in Copenhagen)

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

Previous question: The focus in December's UN climate summit in Copenhagen should be...

- a strong and binding deal
- greenhouse gas reductions
- renewable energy
- reduction of Co2 emissions
- financial aid for impacted developing countries

Results: a. - 27.8%, b. - 5.6%, c. - 22.2%, d. - 11.1%, e. - 33.3%

Get involved

'Sign a Real Deal' global day of action

Just as the climate negotiations start to heat up, the world needs to rise up and tell our leaders that it's time to Sign a Real Deal. At the 12th hour of the 12th day of the 12th month the world will come together in the massive Sign a Real Deal action – the most important global signing event for the future of the world. This massive action will send a simple, clear message to their leaders: It is time to sign a fair, ambitious and binding climate treaty. For details [click here](#).

Call to action: Regulate global finance now!

It's time for citizens around Europe to raise our voices and demand that the fundamental causes of this crisis be addressed! Today's crisis isn't just another economic downturn – it's a systemic crisis bursting across the globe: a crisis of unregulated financial markets driven by neoliberal ideology that have sold out long-term investment, jobs, wages, the environment and the general well-being of the planet and its people for the benefit of a few. For details [click here](#).

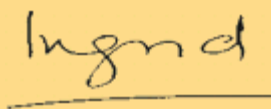
From the Desk of the Secretary General

Tear down these walls

I happened to be in Berlin at the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Wall was commemorated with speeches, ceremonies, rituals, parties and satire. Speaking to the United States Congress a week earlier, Angela Merkel remarked, 'I am convinced that, just as we found the strength in the 20th century to tear down a wall made of barbed wire and concrete, today we have the strength to overcome the walls of the 21st century, walls in our minds, walls of short-sighted self-interest, walls between the present and the future.' Amidst the reams of analysis, nostalgia and sentiment surrounding the commemorations it is perhaps appropriate to take the opportunity to list some other walls that still scar our planet. The physically substantive one in Palestine that ghettoises a nation and the heavily policed borders in other parts of the world that bar people from seeking refuge from persecution or simply a better life. Each week hundreds of people risk their lives crossing these in much the same way as those who sacrificed theirs crossing the Berlin wall. There are prison walls that incarcerate thousands of political prisoners, human rights defenders and activists around the world as well as the electrified fences that protect the privileged in gated communities. Dams and other 'development projects' displace millions, depriving them of their livelihoods, their ways of life and their very dignity.

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

With faith, gratitude and solidarity,



Building the relationship between civil society and the media: how you can get involved!

Do you sometimes think that your civil society organisation would have been able to shed some light on the latest news story – if only you'd been asked? Do you want to make the expertise of your organisation more accessible to the media? If yes, you'll want to take part in this initiative. CIVICUS, in collaboration with the Inter Press Service (IPS) is developing a database to facilitate the relationship between civil society and the media. This database will contain the names and contact details for civil society organisations as well as their fields of expertise and the regions in which they work. The database will allow the media to quickly and easily find sources for their stories within civil society on a wide variety of themes. If you would like to be part of this database, [please complete the form](#). If you have any questions, please email us at [communication\(at\)civicus.org](mailto:communication(at)civicus.org).

News in brief

Special issue on International Volunteer Day (5 December 2009)

The first issue of e-CIVICUS in December will be dedicated to celebrating International Volunteer Day (5 December). Articles on the theme of volunteering, especially those that show the work of volunteers and their impact on civil society, should be sent to [editor\(at\)civicus.org](mailto:editor(at)civicus.org) by 3 December 2009.

Special issue on Human Rights Day (10 December)

International Human Rights Day (10 Dec) will mark the 61st Anniversary of the Universal Declaration for Human. This year, the day will focus on non-discrimination. The famous first line of the declaration is "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights". Yet today, the fight against discrimination remains a daily struggle for millions around the globe. To mark this day and support the fight for non-discrimination and human rights for all, e-CIVICUS will produce a special issue on 10 December. Please provide your articles and commentary on whatever moves you about the theme of human rights to [editor\(at\)civicus.org](mailto:editor(at)civicus.org) by 8 December 2009.

CIVICUS demands greater space for civil society in the lending framework of the IFC

Source: CIVICUS

CIVICUS is particularly interested in the Review Process of the International Finance Corporation (IFC), and applauds the IFC's dedication to ensuring that the Process incorporates civil society's comments by means of thorough and transparent consultations. We hope to work with the IFC to ensure that groups from all global regions and social sectors will have a role in the formulation of IFC Policy and Performance Standards on Social and Environmental Responsibility that will raise the bar for private sector accountability. For details, [click here](#).

Call to action

COP15, the Copenhagen climate change negotiation conference is nearly upon us – only 25 days left. We need you to do your bit and help enact change while we can. CIVICUS urges you to stay on top of the issues involved and find out what your government is doing. More than anything we urge you to do something for yourself. This is a call to be aware and act. We only have one planet to live on and possibly

We Welcome 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

COP-15 Copenhagen climate conference 7 - 18 December 2009, Copenhagen, Denmark

From 7-18 December, more than 15,000 people including government officials and advisers from 192 nations, civil society and the media from nearly every country in the world, will come together in the Danish capital, Copenhagen in one of the most significant gatherings in history. It is being called the most complex and vital agreement the world has ever seen. For details, [click here](#).

Developing volunteer management systems workshop 16-17 November 2009, Chennai, India

iVolunteer Institute of Volunteer Management (IIVM) is back with its Volunteer Management Workshop for 2009 at Chennai which would be conducted by iVolunteer's best Volunteer Management Facilitators and Trainers. iVolunteer (www.ivolunteer.in) a non-profit working in India to promote volunteering, set up iVolunteer Institute of Volunteer Management (IIVM) to enhance volunteer management and training capacities of the non-profit organisations. The Institute has organised 27 volunteer management workshops across India and has trained over 500 professionals from social development sector in India and abroad. For details, [click here](#).

3rd residential training on case story & study writing 12-15 December 2009, Jaisalmer, India

Usually the NGOs or Government agencies keep on depending on external consultants for documenting the case stories/studies, but strengthening own capacities is sustainable and cost-effective way. Residential training program is to impart skills among project executives of how to write case and success stories and to compose case studies. This residential training will focus more on practice than the theory, and would be participatory. For details, [click here](#).

Book Reviews

The Attack on World Poverty Source: Global Development Forum

The author argues that the forces that buffet the poorest countries in the world, most of them in sub-Saharan Africa, are far greater than the resources available to fight them. Climate changes that result in the advance of deserts, decrease in water reserves and loss of arable land; population explosion, emigration of the most qualified people, lack of ethnic homogeneity, HIV/Aids, corruption, poor governance, unequal trade, sales of arms, the flight of capital, are together far more powerful than those forces that strive to make development possible. Official statistics tend to obscure the fact that any increase in wealth in Africa has been shockingly uneven and most sub-Saharan people have a lower standard of living in 2009 than 50 years ago. Some \$5 leaves Africa for every new \$1 of aid. According to FAO in a paper prepared for the World Food Summit in 2009, some 2 billion people live in permanent 'hidden hunger'. For details, [click here](#).

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

only one opportunity to create sustainable change. Through e-CIVICUS and the CIVICUS website, we are providing updates on a regular basis through November and December 2009. You may also want to look at these links for more information and to discover ways that can help you to make a difference. Links to follow: www.tckctck.org, www.gc-ca.org, www.350.org.

G20 finance meeting: Action for employment welcome, but many questions remain Source: International Trade Union Confederation

The world's trade union movement has welcomed the decision by G20 Finance Ministers meeting in St Andrews, Scotland, to keep jobs high on the agenda for economic recovery and reform, and to "maintain government support for the recovery until it is assured". The meeting also decided that the ILO will have a role in assessing the effectiveness of G20 policies for "strong, sustainable and balanced growth", although the major players in this process will still be the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. The clear commitment from the meeting to reform the international financial institutions is also welcome, as is progress on ending tax havens. For details, [click here](#).

Climate change: Copenhagen must not fail Source: Source: International Trade Union Confederation

With governments ending their discussions in Barcelona in the final preparatory negotiation before the December Copenhagen climate change conference, the trade union movement has again stressed the need for an ambitious, fair and legally-binding agreement. For details, [click here](#).

Say NO-UNITE to end violence against women Source: United Nations

The United Nations kicked off a campaign today mobilising people around the world to take part in a drive to stop the pandemic of violence suffered by women at the hands of men. The [UN Development Fund for Women \(UNIFEM\)](#) launched a website to inspire individual efforts aimed at eradicating violence against women, such as reaching out to school students, volunteering at local shelters, advocating for legislation or donating funds for programmes that protect women and girls. For details, [click here](#).

Barcelona wraps up. The clock is tick-ing down to Copenhagen Source: TckTckTck

The final intersessional meeting here in Barcelona has wrapped and there's only 30 days left before the big show in Copenhagen. So where do we stand? Well, I wish I could tell you that our political leaders are ready to sign a fair, ambitious and binding climate treaty, but at the moment it looks like we (and they) have our work cut for us. For details, [click here](#).

Health care for women still far below need and expectation, UN report finds Source: UN News Centre

Many of the world's countries continue to fail to meet the health-care needs of women at key stages of their lives, such as when they reach adolescence or when they are elderly, a new United Nations report has found. The report, issued today by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in Geneva, said urgent action is required to improve the health and lives of women, despite considerable progress in recent decades. For details, [click here](#).

Health Care Without Harm warns of health impacts from climate change Source: TckTckTck

TckTckTck partner Health Care Without Harm held a press conference today in Barcelona to call on the international community to move aggressively in order to prevent further human health impacts from climate change. "It is impossible to have healthy people on an unhealthy planet," said Health Care Without Harm spokesperson Josh Karliner. For details, [click here](#).

State of the planet, in graphics Source: BBC News

Globally human populations are growing, trade is increasing, and living standards are rising for many. But, according to the UN's latest Global Environment Outlook report, long-term problems including climate change, pollution, access to clean water, and the threat of mass extinctions are being met with "a remarkable lack of urgency". For details, [click here](#).

Seal the deal: Invasive species pose huge threat to ecosystems, UN says Source: UN News Centre

It's no longer than a grain of rice. But the mountain pine beetle is an insidious environmental predator, laying waste to swathes of forest in north-western Canada and exposing the local ecosystem to what could be a devastating new front in the battle against climate change. For details, [click here](#).

Volunteering for our Planet: Every hour counts. Make yours count too Source: Volunteering for our Planet

In the build-up to the UN Climate Conference in Copenhagen, the United Nations Volunteers programme (UNV) has launched a global campaign to highlight the importance of volunteerism in coping with the effects of climate change. [Volunteering for our Planet](#) is tracking the time environmental volunteers worldwide spend volunteering in the six months between World Environment Day, 5 June, 2009 and International Volunteer Day, 5 December, 2009. Volunteerism is a key way for people to adapt to, innovate or mitigate environmental issues. More than 325,000 hours have already been registered, demonstrating that people around the world are concerned and willing to take direct action. The total number will be presented to the delegates of the Climate Conference in Copenhagen, adding a strong message to the UN -wide campaign to 'Seal the Deal' for a binding, fair and sustainable climate agreement. You can join the campaign and register your hours of volunteering [here](#).

Peace watch - Why are civil society people being arrested for holding meetings? Source: The Zimbabwean

For the establishment of a peaceful and just society a balance has to be drawn between the right of people to go about their legitimate business peacefully, a right that is protected by law, and the rights of people to peaceful association and freedom of expression which are also protected by law. For details, [click here](#).

CIVICUS Member profile

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I read your column regularly and it seems to me that you perform a very useful role. I would however urge you to concentrate in the near future on two or three issues that I believe do not seem to get the right level of attention. Firstly, the fact that there is so much land being taken over by companies and institutions from the Far east and the Near East in Africa is ignored by policy makers. The reason is very simple; there is no security of tenure and it means that the poorest lose out and this is simply awful. [read more](#).

Regards,
Benny Dembitzer

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YouTube

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

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.

DevNetJobs: International Development Jobs Network

<http://www.devnetjobs.org>

DevNetJobs.org lists jobs and consulting opportunities arising within NGOs and CSOs globally free of charge. The objective is to enable these organisations to attract qualified human resources for their projects and activities. Over 9000 NGOs currently benefit from its services at no cost. To post jobs within your non-profit organisation, simply email them to jobs@devnetjobs.org

Civil Society Index Programme Officer

(Application Deadline: 13 November 2009)

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

Location: Johannesburg, South Africa

For details, [click here](#).

Legitimacy, Transparency and Accountability (LTA) Programme Officer

(Application Deadline: 20 November 2009)

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

Location: Johannesburg, South Africa

For details, [click here](#).

Resident Director

National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI)

Location: Khartoum, Sudan

For details, [click here](#).

Resident Director

National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI)

Location: Juba, Sudan

For details, [click here](#).

Internship Programme

Africa in Democracy and Good Governance (ADG)

Location: The Gambia, West Africa

For details, [click here](#).

Civil Society Advisory Committee Member

(Application Deadline: 30 November 2009)

Commonwealth Foundation

Location: International

For details, [click here](#).

Subcontract Manager

CARE USA

New Era Educational and Charitable Support Initiative (NEEDCSI)

New Era Educational and Charitable Support Initiative (NEEDCSI) is a Nigeria –based registered non-profit committed to the revival of human values that transcend religious, ethnic and cultural differences. These values include a sense of belonging to a common humanity, respect and consideration for all people, compassion and non-violence, a commitment to preserving the natural environment, and a social service ethic. NEEDCSI's mission is to support and supply local communities with array of educational programmes that encourage individual creative self-expression, exploration and experimentation, and to increase awareness, understanding and appreciation of the creative process by facilitating communication and interaction among educators, learners and the general public. NEEDCSI is committed to helping young people discover and develop their inherent gifts, talents and abilities, and to help raise ethically responsible, self-disciplined and creative social citizens capable of participation in a positive and sustainable society. NEEDCSI has 5 major programmes through which it hopes to achieve its vision of a peaceful and a better habitable world. These programmes include: Character and Social Responsibility Programme Leadership Education and Training Programme, Interfaith Youth Dialogue Forum, Values in African Thought Education Programme, Peace Education and Civic Engagement Programme. For details, [click here](#).

Resources

Embedding gender in sustainability reporting - A practitioners' guide

Source: Global Reporting Initiative

The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) & the IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, are pleased to announce the publication of 'Embedding Gender in Sustainability Reporting: A Practitioner's Guide' which was launched at the 2009 CSR Asia Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, today. Supported by the governments of Germany, Iceland, and Switzerland, this guide is intended for companies that want to establish themselves as leaders in managing gender issues. The Practitioner's Guide demonstrates the value of creating business opportunities through promoting gender equality, provides guidance on improving gender management through sustainability reporting, and helps to improve the quality and scope of gender reporting. For details, [click here](#).

Human rights education in the school systems of europe, central Asia and North America: A compendium of good practice

Source: Human Rights Education Associates

The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE/ODIHR), the Council of Europe, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) have jointly published Human Rights Education in the School Systems of Europe, Central Asia and North America: A Compendium of Good Practice. HREA was retained to develop the Compendium under the guidance of these partners. For details, [click here](#).

Civil society in action: A summary of two CIVICUS Civil Society Index training workshops at the Sida Civil Society Centre

Source: Swedish International Development Agency (Sida)

This publication is the result of two CSI training workshops held at the Sida Partnership Forum (SCSC) in Hårnösand, Sweden in September 2008. Sida is a long-time supporter of the CIVICUS CSI programme and graciously hosted the workshops at the SCSC, which is a residential and conference space created by Sida for generating discussion and capacity-building for civil society actors. For details, [click here](#).

Opportunities

Call for proposals – Swedish special initiative for democratisation and freedom of expression

Deadline: 31 December 2009

The Government of Sweden has decided on a special initiative for democratisation and freedom of expression. The initiative aims at supporting actors for change, individuals, groups and civil society organisations working for democratisation and freedom of expression. Sida invites eligible organisations to submit a Concept Note for projects which might be considered under this support mechanism. For details, [click here](#).

Call for nominations, Africa: 2010 Archbishop Tutu fellowship

Source: Peace and Collaborative Development Network

The goal of the African Leadership Institute (AfLI) is to nurture and enhance leadership capability across Africa, with particular focus on the promising leaders of the future. AfLI's aim is to create a network of high-potential young Africans who have attended our programmes, and who are expected to rise to top leadership positions in their sphere of activity over the next 5-20 years. AfLI will provide leadership learning activities that enhance their experiences, insights, tools and confidence, and provide a support network that will better enable them to become drivers of the transformation of Africa. For details, [click here](#).

The Fund for American studies program scholarship

Deadline: 31 January 2010

The spring of 2002, People to People International (PTPI) forged a relationship with The Fund for American Studies (TFAS). The goals of TFAS's programs, American Institute on Political and Economic Systems, Prague; International Institute for Political and Economic Studies, Greece; and Asia Institute for Political Economy, Hong Kong; are very similar to the mission of PTPI. We invite qualified registrants of TFAS to apply for a PTPI scholarship. For details, [click here](#).

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Location: Atlanta or Washington, DC, USA
For details, [click here](#).

Chief of Party – Civic Education

Mercy Corps

Location: Tbilisi, Georgia

For details, [click here](#).

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