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Poll question

This week's question: What would be the most important human rights challenge during 2010?

- Freedom of expression
- Violence against women
- Children and education
- Refugees
- Climate change

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

Previous question: What do you think will be most important to Obama and other leaders at COP 15?

- Signing a real deal
- Expenses of climate regulations
- Kyoto protocol
- Future impact of not signing a real deal
- Having talks about talks

Results: a. - 42.9%, b. - 14.3%, c. - 0%, d. - 28.6%, e. - 14.3%

Get involved

Seal the Deal

Source: *UN Seal the Deal Campaign*

The United Nations has launched the "Seal the Deal" campaign that encourages users to sign an online, global petition which will be presented by civil society to the governments of the world. The petition will serve as a reminder that our leaders must negotiate a fair, balanced and effective agreement in Copenhagen and that they must seal a deal to power green growth, protect our planet and build a more sustainable, prosperous global economy that will benefit all nations and people. For one last chance to seal the deal, [click here](#).

Petition to the 110 Presidents and Prime Ministers negotiating in Copenhagen

Source: *Avaaz.org*

We call on each one of you to work for a real deal, to keep us all safe from a catastrophic rise of more than 2 degrees in the earth's temperature. Your agreements must be fair, ambitious and binding. Act now, decisively and together: the world wants

Hear from the CIVICUS Board

Dear CIVICUS friends,

The end of a year (and this time the end of a decade!), is a good time to look back, reflecting on achievements, on the challenges we faced and to look forward, to see what we need to accomplish and how well prepared we are to answer new demands in the next year. Our organisation has worked hard in 2009, trying to represent and reflect the needs of our membership and collaborating with many partners around the world. CIVICUS Programmes have crystallised in different forms in many countries, cities and communities, and CIVICUS has been present in many international fora, conveying the voice of excluded people at the United Nations or other international organisations. We are proud to be implementing, together with our committed partners and members, the CIVICUS Civil Society Index in more than 50 countries. In 2009, the Participatory Governance programme published an excellent anthology and the Civil Society Watch programme has worked together with organisations in different countries to develop an Early Warning System, just to mention some of the results of our work this year.

We hope that the knowledge we have contributed to generate, that the information we have contributed to disseminate and that the tools we have helped to develop, will be relevant to our constituencies and constructive in the fulfilment of our mission. We can look ahead into the new decade with confidence and hope. We know that there are vast problems and challenges ahead. But we also know that to defend the space for civil society and to promote good practices of civil society are the right resources to meet those challenges.

On behalf of the CIVICUS Board and CIVICUS staff, I want to thank you all - members, partners, donors, civil society activists and allies, who have trusted CIVICUS and worked with us during 2009. Thank you all and I wish you all the very best for the new year ahead.

Anabel Cruz
CIVICUS Board Chair

Please note: We will not be publishing e-CIVICUS on 25 December 2009 or 01 January 2010.

News in brief

This week's issue is a Special Issue on the recent COP15 climate change summit held from 7 - 18 December 2009 in Copenhagen.

CIVICUS appalled at attacks on protestors at UN Climate Summit in Copenhagen

Source: *CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation*

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation is deeply appalled at the indiscriminate targeting of peaceful protestors by law enforcement agents during the World Climate Summit in Copenhagen, Denmark. According to on the ground sources, hundreds of protestors have been detained since the Summit began on December 7. A large number of protestors have been severely assaulted by officers using batons, tear gas and pepper spray, requiring them to receive medical treatment. To read the press release, [click here](#).

Video: AfricaAdapt interview with Kenneth Amoateng, Ghana National Youth Coalition on Climate Change and GCAP Ghana

Source: *GCAP*

...time is running out, we need to act now. We're calling on our leaders to be bold. Civil society, millions of people are supporting them to be bold. We are with them. To view the video, [click here](#).

Kyoto proponents win first round

Source: *UN Climate Change Conference*

A "victory for the developing world", writes British daily The Guardian, concluding that rich nations have "abandoned an attempt to kill off the Kyoto protocol in a last-gasp effort to salvage a deal at the climate change summit in Copenhagen". Several countries - including China - have expressed ambitions to resuscitate the talks despite huge differences over levels of emissions cuts, financing and monitoring, the newspaper reports. To read more, [click here](#).

Q&A: Global economic apartheid is obstacle to fair climate deal

Source: *IPS News*

Climate change is an opportunity to deal with all the issues of equity and justice that we have been struggling for all along," said Kumi Naidoo, Executive Director of Greenpeace International in an interview with IPS in Copenhagen. "And perhaps this is why there is such resistance from rich countries: they know that if they do the right thing in Copenhagen, they have to begin to share economic power and to have a

a real deal in Copenhagen. For details, [click here](#).

Crisis in Copenhagen - Urgent action needed

Source: *tckctck*

If you've been watching the news lately, you know that the Copenhagen summit to stop the climate crisis is at risk of failing. We've determined that only massive public pressure can save it. We need to get to 15 million supporters by the weekend to make leaders listen. For details, [click here](#).

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](#).

COP15 webcast

7 - 18 December, 2009

For the duration of the conference, all official meetings and press conferences will be available live and on-demand in original languages and in English translation. Shortly after the close of each meeting, on-demand files will be available. Also, a selection of side events will be available on-demand in original languages. For details, [click here](#).

Book Reviews

Climate Justice for a Changing Planet

Source: *NGLS*

A Primer for Policy Makers and NGOs shines a light on the important intersection of equity and justice in the context of the current climate change debate. The book explores climate justice as an emerging concept and as a key to understanding the global debate. The book demonstrates that climate justice is not only an ethical imperative, but also an economic and social one. For details, [click here](#).

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

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<http://www.youtube.com/user/civicusworldalliance>

more equitable trading system because all of those things have to follow, otherwise you cannot deal with climate change." For details, [click here](#).

Zenawi stands alone in Copenhagen

Source: *IPS News*

Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi says Africa must compromise and be flexible towards other countries if the UN Climate Conference ending on 18 Dec is to reach an agreement. Speaking to the press in the Danish capital, Zenawi - ostensibly leading the African front on climate change - said the continent would suffer the most should the world fail to seal a deal. For details, [click here](#).

New climate change deal in sight, Ban says, as Copenhagen talks near end

Source: *UN News Centre*

With only one day left before the scheduled end of the historic United Nations climate change talks in Copenhagen, Denmark, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is optimistic that a new agreement will be reached and is holding intensive discussions with world leaders to pave the way towards a new accord. For details, [click here](#).

Will Geneva render trade and climate justice?

Source: *The Financial Express*

The world is anxiously waiting for the outcome of two crucial events scheduled at the close of the year 2009. One such event is the three-day Seventh WTO Ministerial Meeting beginning in Geneva from November 30 and the other is the four-day UNFCCC's 15th Conference of Parties (CoP-15) on climate change beginning from December 7 in Copenhagen. The results of these two crucial events are likely to be on the expected lines. At this particular time of global financial crisis and accompanying recession the developed nations are unwilling to make any substantial commitments that would ensure free and fair practices in the multilateral trading system and give a level-playing field to the developing and least developed countries. For details, [click here](#).

Global warming: "Fixing the climate data around the policy"

By *Michel Chossudovsky*

It is worth noting that key decisions and orientations on COP15 had already been wrapped up at the World Business Summit on Climate Change (WBSCC) held in May in Copenhagen, six months ahead of COP15. The WBSCC brought together some of the World's most prominent business executives and World leaders, including Al Gore and UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon. The results of these high level consultations were forwarded to the Danish government as well as to the governments of participating member states. A so-called summary report for policymakers was drafted by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, on behalf of the corporate executives participating in the event. This report has very little to do with environmental protection. It largely consists of a profit driven agenda, which uses the global warming consensus as a justification. For details, [click here](#).

Interview with Feliciano Reyna, President of Sinergia, Venezuelan Association of civil society organisations

Source: *Civil Society Watch*

Sinergia, Venezuelan Association of civil society organisations was registered in 1996 in order to create a space for NGOs from different areas of social development to come together, strengthen their work through sharing of experiences, and make a collective contribution to social public policies for a more just and equitable society. Given the political changes taking place in Venezuela in the past few years, which pose threats to democracy and human rights, Sinergia has broadened its membership to include human rights organisations and now strongly promotes and advocates for the rights to freedom of association and participation. To read more on the interview with Feliciano Reyna, [click here](#).

Uzbekistan: Stop attacks, harassment of activists

Source: *Human Rights Watch*

The Uzbek Government should stop obstructing the work of human rights activists and allow them to operate in the country freely and without fear for their safety, Human Rights Watch said. In recent days, Uzbek authorities in Karshi and Margilan have detained human rights advocates to prevent them from meeting with a Human Rights Watch researcher. In Karshi, the Human Rights Watch researcher was also attacked by an unknown assailant, then detained and forced to leave the city. The attack appeared to be a setup. For details, [click here](#).

CIVICUS Member profile

The Economic Research Center

The Economic Research Center is a policy-research oriented non-profit think-tank with a mission to facilitate sustainable economic development and good governance in the New Public Management system of Azerbaijan. ERC is dedicated to strengthening participatory governance and overall economic growth. The mission of the ERC is to promote the provision of sustainable economic development and good governance. To realise this mission, the ERC is based on the following objectives: increasing the transparency and accountability of public funds, raising public awareness in the economic and business field of responsibilities, increasing the level of public involvement in decision-making on social public funds and to achieve a social dialogue. In order to reach these objectives, ERC implements a range of activities. All of these activities are reflected in various projects implemented by ERC. Since its establishment, the organisation has implemented more than 100 projects that cover economic, social, good governance, health and other fields of the country. Due to its fruitful activity, ERC has some electronic products: "Inflation calculator", "Municipality tax calculator", etc. ERC has many publications, among them: Annual report brochure in 2006, 2007, 2008; "From social assistance to rehabilitation" (book), "Arranging initial health care and financing" (3 books), "Targeted social assistance: justice, targeting, equality principles" (book), "Budget and education" (book), "Budget guide" (book), "Budget terms" glossary, "Three views of EITI implementation in Azerbaijan" (book), "Azerbaijan and World Trade Organisation", and many others. ERC is a member of networks such as PASOS, CIVICUS, PWYP, ENTO, IBP and EITI Secretariat in Oslo, Norway, etc. For more information, please visit www.erc-az.org.

Resources



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.

Civil Society Index Programme Manager (Application Deadline: 15 January 2010)

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

Location: Johannesburg, South Africa

For details, [click here](#).

Africa Situations Liaison for Francophone Africa (Application Deadline: 31 December 2009)

Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC)

Location: Certain African countries

For details, [click here](#).

Regional Training and Development Manager (Application Deadline: 11 January 2010)

International Network of Street Papers (INSP)

Location: International

For details, [click here](#).

Project Coordinator (Application Deadline: 15 January 2010)

Face 2 face fundraising (F2F)

Location: MSF South Africa Joburg and Cape Town office

For details, [click here](#).

Major Donors and Fundraising Partnerships Coordinator (Application Deadline: 15 January 2010)

MSF-SA

Location: MSF South Africa

For details, [click here](#).

Research Fellows

Institute of Development Studies

Location: Brighton, UK

For details, [click here](#).

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

What is the greenhouse effect and global warming?

Source: Ministry of Climate and Energy of Denmark

The most recent assessment report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) says that the earth's average temperature has risen by 0.74 degrees in the period from 1906 to 2005, and that the average temperature will continue to rise. For details, [click here](#).

GreenVoice Perspectives - 2010 (calendar)

Source: ICVolunteers.org

Diverse Perspectives on the Environment, Citizenship and Volunteerism: ICVolunteers, a non-profit organisation, has mobilised its international network of volunteers with a call for creative photography. As a result 350 pictures were received showing views from 60 countries. 12 of them are reproduced in this calendar which contributes to the GreenVoice initiative, a project focusing on environmental education. Calendar size and type: 11" x 8.5", coil binding, white interior paper (100# weight), full-colour interior ink. For more information about ICVolunteers, see <http://www.icvolunteers.org>.

Why CSR is a thing of the past

By Stephen B. Heintz

As we look out over the next decade and on toward mid-century, it is clear that we are living in revolutionary times as humankind faces a number of unprecedented social, economic, environmental, political and security challenges. The nature and scope of these profound challenges underscore the fundamental reality of our age – global interdependence. Six and a half billion human beings inhabit Earth along with some 1.8 million other known species, sharing one planetary ecosystem, one climate, and, increasingly, one polity. The reality of global interdependence is that people all across the globe will experience the profound challenges ahead, albeit in different ways and with variable intensity. Finding solutions to these problems will require innovative new forms of broader and deeper global cooperation, among nations, peoples, and the public, private and nonprofit sectors. For details, [click here](#).

Critical Currents

Source: Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation

Since the late 1990s an increasingly critical global movement has come into existence, mobilising against the G8 and its agenda. It questions and challenges the role of this self-formed club, the basis of its governance, the authority it tends to assume and its hegemonic power. The G8 leaders are held responsible by their critics for being, inter alia, decisive actors in creating a global architecture based on a neoliberal paradigm. But often the analysis of the context and its consequences is secondary to political activism. For details, [click here](#).

Opportunities

Call for applications: UN Democracy Fund

Deadline: 31 December 2009

The window for applications for UNDEF's Fourth Round of Funding is open from 16 November to 31 December 2009. Only applications using the UNDEF on-line system in English or French and received before the deadline will be accepted. The selection process is expected to be highly rigorous and competitive, considering that for the Third Round, some 70 project proposals were selected out of more than 2,100 received. For details, [click here](#).

A Debt-for-Climate-Change-Swap: a proposal for COP15?

Source: Planetary Association for Clean Energy

There are only a few days left for decisions to be reached at Copenhagen with regards to a fair and equitable climate change deal. There are mainly two points that are sticky: the amount of CO2 to be reduced and the amount of money the industrialised world will be making available to the developing countries. Here is one proposal that I would like to suggest, one that is based on the debt-for-nature swaps that have been used since the 1970's. It can basically be explained as follows: a NGO provides around \$1 million to purchase anywhere from \$10 million to \$24 million of the country's debt from the U.S. Treasury. The \$24 million can then be considered as cancelled. However, the country continues to make its regular debt payments, but instead of making them payable to the U.S. Treasury, the payments go into a national Trust Fund setup in their own country. The NGO helps manage the fund, which is then used to finance forest conservation over a period of years. For details, [click here](#).

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