



A weekly e-newsletter for civil society from CIVICUS!

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Poll question

This week's question: Civil society can best contribute to the reconstruction of Haiti by...

- b. Raising funds for reconstruction
 - c. Supporting the development of civil society
 - d. Ensuring indigenous and democratic rule
 - e. All of the above
- To answer the question, [click here](#)

Previous question: What could make the next climate summit more effective?

- a. A reformed UN
- b. Bridging the North-South divide
- c. Engaging more CSOs
- d. Making the summit more manageable
- e. Focus on developing countries

Results: a. - 11.1%, b. - 27.8%, c. - 5.6%, d. - 11.1%, e. - 44.4%

Get involved

Ways to help the people of Haiti
Source: CIVICUS

CIVICUS expresses its deep solidarity with the people of Haiti and makes an appeal for the solidarity and support of the whole world to help the people of Haiti respond and recover from the disaster. Immediate relief and long-term support must come from bilateral and multilateral agencies, from countries, municipalities, from international NGOs, civil society and community groups. Both individual donations and massive support are needed. For details on ways you can help, [click here](#).

Launch of India Food Banking Network, IFBN
Source: India Food Banking Network

Launch of The India Food Banking Network is a giant step towards the eradication of hunger which will surely enhance our strength in the fight against hunger. The Aidmatrix Foundation and The Global Food Banking Network hosted the launch of The IFBN Planning Forum in Delhi. The IFBN is a

From the Desk of the Secretary General

Africa for Haiti campaign launched

The world has watched in dismay as the scale of devastation caused by the earthquake in Haiti has been revealed. Each miraculous rescue or failed attempt has moved people to respond in any way they can. The UN, governments, NGOs, celebrities and millions of the people we often call ordinary have mobilised to offer support. Aid and aid workers have battled the massive infrastructure bottlenecks to save as many lives as possible and prevent further casualties.

CIVICUS is honoured to participate in a campaign, Africa for Haiti, initiated and inspired by Graca Machel. Ma Machel has brought her indefatigable energy and passion, as well as her many connections to mobilise a pan-African campaign, Africa for Haiti. The campaign, supported by Archbishops Desmond Tutu and Ndungane, among others will be co-ordinated by leading pan-African NGOs, the African Monitor and Trust Africa. It has already garnered support from NGOs, businesses and faith leaders in several parts of Africa and more are signing up each day.

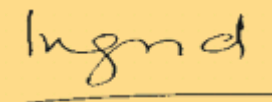
CIVICUS will play its role in convening members, partners and allies across Africa. The campaign recognises that countries and communities across Africa have received support on many occasions and aims to provide Africans from all walks of life the opportunity and channels to demonstrate their solidarity.

The resources mobilised will be deployed to assist local civil society organisations in Haiti to support communities in rebuilding their lives once the initial rescue and relief phase is completed.

To participate in the campaign, whether through financial contributions, by disseminating the appeal through your networks and communication channels, or suggesting Haitian organisations who could partner in the effort, please write to editor@civicus.org.

To read the Africa for Haiti press release, [click here](#).

With faith, gratitude and solidarity,



CIVICUS seeks nominations of individuals to stand for election to its Board of Directors. Deadline for nominations: midnight GMT, Friday 29 January 2010. For details, [click here](#).

Highlights from CIVICUS

Knowledge is power: CIVICUS and the Human Development Report

On 11 January 2009, CIVICUS attended a consultation with the [United Nations Development Programme](#) (UNDP) in order to share perspectives from global civil society with the office responsible for the [2010 version of the Human Development Report](#). In particular, CIVICUS reiterated support for the idea that the Human Development Report should address real dynamics of power in its consideration of participation, civil society, democracy and good governance. You can read the full submission made by CIVICUS (PDF, English only) by [clicking here](#). For more information, visit the [CSI blog](#).

Uzbekistan accuses artist of libel for her ethnographic work

By Sonia Zilberman, CIVICUS' Civil Society Watch programme

Umida Akhmedova, a leading photographer and cinematographer in Uzbekistan, has been charged with "libel" and "insulting" the Uzbek people, for her photo album "From Men and Women: from Dusk till Dawn", published with the support of the Embassy of Switzerland. Another of her works, created together with Oleg Karpov, the documentary "The Burden of Virginity" is also under question. This is the first time that a photojournalist is being tried for her work involving socio-ethnographic and not political themes. To view her photographs, [click here](#). To read more, [click here](#).

Respecting diversity – celebrating independence

By David Robinson, New Zealand Social and Civic Policy Institute; Board member of CIVICUS

The challenge facing civil society as we enter the second decade of the 21st century is to preserve the independence of citizens and their right to act collectively without Government direction or coercion – as individual citizens, as members of associations of all kinds and, when appropriate, in partnership with Government. Although sometimes criticised as having negative connotations the very strength of civil society is expressed by the definition of organised groups as NGOs (non-government organisations). These associations are created outside of government and, while they need to adhere to the general laws of a country, they are not creations of, or subject to direction by, the state. To read more, [click here](#).

system that will move food from donors to the people who need it the most and engage all sectors of society towards this effort. This food banking system will feed millions of people each year, become a vehicle for building public awareness about hunger and nutrition and serve as a powerful voice that drives policy decisions and initiatives that impact the food security of individuals and communities. 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

Sustainable microenterprise and development programme (SMDP)-Ghana

15 - 27 March, 2010, Achimota, Accra

The SMDP-Ghana is an intensive training programme, enterprise development leaders. As with our predecessor programme, the MDI-Ghana, the Carsey Institute is co-sponsoring the programme with our partner, the Ghana Microfinance Institutions Network GHAMFIN. For details, [click here](#).

Peace building training for practitioners

15 - 25 February, 2010, Nairobi, Kenya

The Coalition for Peace in Africa (COPA) will hold a ten day peace building training in Nairobi for peace and development practitioners from Sudan, Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda. The training is ideal for those wishing to build their skills in different thematic areas related to peace matters. The facilitation will start from basic applications and build up to the mid levels. This training is also ideal for people who may not have gone through peace building training before and persons who may have attended basic trainings. For details, [click here](#).

Seminar on "China's increasing engagement in Africa in the aftermath of the financial crisis"

25 - 26 March 2010, Tunis, Tunisia

The seminar is aimed at generating policy-oriented research on the impact of the rising strategic and economic role of and its economic and political governance. The seminar will be held in Tunis, Tunisia, on 25-26 March 2010. A selected number of papers will appear in a special issue of the African Development Review, which will be edited by Dr. Ibrahim Elbadawi, Director, Macroeconomic Research Department, Dubai Economic Council. This seminar is financially supported by the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID). For details, [click here](#).

Book Reviews

Small Change - Why Business Won't Save the World

Source: McGraw-Hill Europe

A new movement is afoot that promises to save the world by applying the magic of the market to the challenges of social change. Its supporters argue that using business principles to solve global problems is far more effective than more traditional approaches. What could be wrong with that? Almost everything, argues former Ford Foundation director Michael Edwards. In this hard-hitting, controversial exposé, he marshals a wealth of evidence to reveal that, in reality, a market approach hurts more than it helps. Real change will come when business acts more like civil society, not the other way around. For details, [click here](#).

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

Interview with Roneo S. Clamor, Deputy Secretary General of Karapatan, Alliance for the Advancement of People's Rights

Source: Civil Society Watch, CIVICUS

Karapatan monitors severe human rights violations in the Philippines including extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and torture. Karapatan has recently published its annual report on the state of human rights in the Philippines en-report, progress on getting justice for the victims of the horrific Ampatuan massacre in November and on the future of civil society and democratic reforms in the Philippines. To read the interview, [click here](#).

News in brief

Archbishop Tutu's statement on Haiti

Source: The Elders

The magnitude of the devastation in Haiti has shocked and saddened the world. Shock at the suddenness and dire impact of the earthquake; sadness at the number of lives lost - bringing tragedy and grief on an unimaginable scale. It is natural to want to respond. Our governments and millions of people around the world are already sending help. From donations, practical help and financial aid to prayers and moral support in times of trauma the desire to assist is an illustration of our human spirit of togetherness. Each of us can find a way to lend our support to the people of Haiti. For details, [click here](#).

Haiti: UN-backed quake relief operations expand beyond devastated capital

Source: UN News Centre

United Nations- expanding to areas away from Port-au-Prince, the capital, to smaller towns and communities as aid agencies struggle to ramp up their operations to meet the enormity of the task. In Leogane, UN peacekeepers from Sri Lanka are providing security while food is being distributed for some of the nearly 200,000 residents of the town, 18 miles (29 kilometres) west of the capital of the poorest country in the Western hemisphere. To read more, [click here](#).

Aid agencies anxious over peacekeepers' possible exit

Source: IRIN News

Aid workers in volatile eastern Chad are anxiously watching discussions over the possible exit of UN peacekeepers, after the government has said it wants the mission out when its mandate ends on 15

an aid worker in eastern Chad who requested anonymity. For details, [click here](#).

Assassinations continue in Guatemala

International Trade Union Confederation

The ITUC has strongly condemned the assassination of Evelinda Ramírez Reyes, leader of the resistance front for the defence of people and natural resources, FRENA, affiliated to the national resistance front, FNL, which is part of the Guatemalan labour, indigenous and campesino movement, MSICG. Last week, leaders from the San Marcos branch of FRENA went to the capital to meet with various representatives of the state authorities to denounce the arbitrary acts, abuses and illegalities committed by DEOCSA-UNION FENOSA and government authorities in their application of the "State of Prevention" declared by the government on 22 December 2009. For details, [click here](#).

IPS launches year of reporting on the World Social Forum

Source: IPS

Ten years ago the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre burst onto the world stage giving social movements and civil society the space to challenge the orthodoxies symbolised by the World Economic Forum. IPS global news agency was there, and now in 2010 is launching a year of coverage as World Social Forum 2010 promotes more than 35 global, regional and thematic events during the year, on every continent. For details, [click here](#).

Zimbabwe: Raising more money for HIV/AIDS

Source: IRIN PlusNews

A plan to expand the three percent AIDS levy to include those in the informal sector could have a negative impact on the lives of Zimbabweans, analysts have warned. In July 2009, the consultants carrying out a mid-term review of the Zimbabwe 2006-2010 National HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan recommended that the low level of funding for HIV/AIDS be improved by obtaining part of the money from value added taxation (VAT), a sales tax. For details, [click here](#).

CIVICUS Member profile

Heartbeat

In 2004 it was estimated that 12 million children had already lost one or both parents due to HIV globally; and that by 2010 that number would increase to 18 million children. In South Africa specifically it is estimated that 2.2 million children are orphans (12 % of children); by 2010 this number will increase to 3.1 million (18 % of children). Heartbeat was founded by Dr. Sunette (Pienaar) Steyn in 2000 as a response to this massive orphan challenge in South Africa. Since inception, Heartbeat has reached close to 34 000 orphaned and vulnerable children (OVC) through direct and indirect interventions. These include child-headed households, granny-headed households and potential orphans living with terminally ill parents. Heartbeat is present in all 9 provinces and has projects set up within the various communities. Heartbeat does not remove the child from his home, but rather allows OVC to try and lead normal lives through a big emphasis on education. Heartbeat has After School Centres established within our projects where the OVC can come and play, learn and get a healthy meal. Heartbeat cares for 3 400 OVC directly and through our partners we reach over 34 000 OVC. We aim to reach over 50 000 OVC by the end of 2010. For more information visit <http://www.heartbeat.org.za/>.

Resources

The End of Poverty? Film

Global poverty did not just happen. It began with military conquest, slavery and colonisation that resulted

Letters to the Editor

Dear Members and Friends of WACC,

I write to you as a member or friend of the World Association for Christian Communication (WACC) in recognition of our shared vision of advancing communication development and social justice worldwide. You may be aware that WACC has worked in Haiti for over two decades on community communication initiatives. WACC has supported the emergence and strengthening of community media that have been the heart of communities in urban and rural Haiti. Community media have enabled Haitians to share issues of concern to them and to learn how to respond to such issues. The community radio movement has been at the forefront of

triggering their response to their stark social realities.

have made it possible for women to add their voices to public opinion and participate in establishing a fairer, more equitable society. [read more.](#)

Randy Naylor
General Secretary

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<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.

Resource Mobilisation Manager (Application Deadline: 22 January 2010)

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

Location: Johannesburg, South Africa

For details, [click here](#).

Coordinator of the Open Forum Consortium (Application Deadline: 30 January 2010)

Open Forum Consortium

Location: Brussels, Belgium

For details, [click here](#).

Coordinator, D-1 (Application Deadline: 18 February 2010)

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Location: Bonn, Germany

For details, [click here](#).

Programme Officer, Transparent, Effective and Accountable Government (Application Deadline: 1 March 2010)

Ford Foundation

Location: Cairo, Egypt

For details, [click here](#).

in the seizure of land, minerals and forced labour. Today, the problem persists because of unfair debt, trade and tax policies -- in other words, wealthy countries taking advantage of poor, developing countries. Renowned actor and activist Martin Sheen narrates *The End of Poverty?*, a feature-length documentary directed by award-winning director, Philippe Diaz, which explains how today's financial crisis is a direct consequence of these unchallenged policies that have lasted centuries. Consider that 20% of the planet's population uses 80% of its resources and consumes 30% more than the planet can regenerate. At this rate, to maintain our lifestyle means more and more people will sink below the poverty line. For details, [click here](#).

World Report 2010

Source: Human Rights Watch

This 20th annual World Report summarises human rights conditions in more than 90 countries and territories worldwide. It reflects extensive investigative work undertaken in 2009 by Human Rights Watch staff, usually in close partnership with human rights activists in the country in question. For details, [click here](#).

COP15: Assessment of the Accord

Source: Greenpeace

Detailed assessment of the Copenhagen Accord in relation to the science-based demands put forward by Greenpeace in order to avoid catastrophic climate change. For details, [click here](#).

State of the world's indigenous peoples

Source: UNPFII

There are over 370 million indigenous people in some 90 countries, living in all regions of the world. The situation of indigenous peoples in many parts of the world is critical today. Poverty rates are significantly higher among indigenous peoples compared to other groups. While they constitute 5 per cent of the world's population, they are 15 per cent of the world's poor. For details, [click here](#).

Opportunities

Call for nominations for Gwangju prize for human rights 2010

Deadline: 1 March, 2010

Each year, the May 18 Memorial Foundation announces this award in a spirit of solidarity and gratitude to those who helped them in their struggle for democratisation. The award goes to one individual or organisation who has contributed to the promotion and advancement of human rights, democracy and peace in their work. Candidates eligible for the Gwangju Prize for Human Rights are nominated by other individuals or organisations. An individual cannot nominate himself or herself. For details, [click here](#).

Request for proposals: Measuring for development results (MDR)

Deadline: 26 January, 2010

The African Monitor, in an effort to drive the implementation of the Accra Agenda for action (AAA) on aid effectiveness, is piloting the implementation of the AAA, particularly by promoting accountability and transparency in the use of development resources. This exercise seeks to measure the development result of development projects. The African Monitor is an independent continental body set up to act as a catalyst to monitor development funding commitments, delivery and impact on the grassroots, and to bring strong additional African voices to the development agenda. The African Monitor aims to bring together targeted monitoring of development commitments to Africa, including grassroots monitoring of development performance in key sectors. The African Monitor is looking for a suitably qualified organisation or individual(s) to carry out an impact evaluation for 8 projects in four African countries. For details, [click here](#).

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