



WORLD ASSEMBLY HISTORY

The first CIVICUS World Assembly took place in **1995** in **Mexico City, Mexico**. Throughout the event, delegates worked to create the five goals that would guide CIVICUS through the initial years. Although now consolidated, the same goals remain at the core of CIVICUS' work – to influence decisions, to connect the sources and forces of citizen action, and to enable civil society to work effectively.

In **1997**, the World Assembly moved to **Budapest, Hungary**, attracting more than 500 people from 76 countries and six continents. Participants reviewed CIVICUS' activities and immersed themselves in issues around visibility, resource mobilisation and creating an enabling legal environment for civil society.

In **2001**, shortly after “anti-globalisation” protests spread throughout the world, the CIVICUS World Assembly was held in **Vancouver, Canada**. 730 people from 87 countries came together to reflect on the role of voluntary action in shaping social and economic change. Youth played the most prominent role yet, voicing their perspectives through the Youth Engagement Project.

In **2004** the CIVICUS World Assembly took place in **Gaborone, Botswana**, under the theme “Acting Together for a Just World.” This was also the launch of the CIVICUS Nelson Mandela Graça Machel Innovation Awards, which have since become a central feature of the CIVICUS World Assembly.

The CIVICUS Board made the decision to annualise the event in 2006, privileging a three-year cycle in one venue. Accordingly, the **2006, 2007** and **2008** World Assemblies were held in **Glasgow, Scotland**. It was during this series that the Youth Assembly was introduced. The Youth Assembly aims to bring together the world's most dynamic young activists and enable them to engage effectively with other World Assembly delegates.

The most recent CIVICUS World Assembly series took place in **2010, 2011** and **2012** in **Montreal, Canada**. The series culminated in the Montreal Declaration that presents 15 civil society commitments for civil society personnel to implement as they seek to work more effectively to challenge and change the rules of engagement between citizens, the state and other holders of power.

In **2013**, CIVICUS undertook an evaluation and redesign of the CIVICUS World Assembly, which will be implemented during the current strategic period (2013-2017). The next CIVICUS World Assembly series will retain the core elements our various constituents have come to expect, while also introducing new innovations and a more sustainable format.