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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

It is with great pleasure and pride that I write this message as the Chair of the CIVICUS **Board of Directors**. I have been involved and committed to CIVICUS for many years in different roles and I have had the honour of being part of the many developments of our organisation. It is with so much joy and gratefulness that I can witness the growth in membership and the consolidation in relevance that 2016 has brought to CIVICUS. With different activities and always working in alliance with members and partners, we have worked to protect the rights of civil society, to strengthen civil society good practices and to increase the influence of civil society at national and global levels.

The International Civil Society Week in Bogotá, co-hosted by the Colombian Confederation of NGOs and CIVICUS, was probably one of the most important highlights of 2016. It brought together more than 800 participants from 102 countries to discuss some of the key global challenges facing civil society and humanity today. In addition, the CIVICUS Youth Assembly and the CIVICUS World Assembly also happened that week in Bogotá.

Our reports and research tools receive national and global recognition. The 2016 State of Civil Society Report featured 33 guest contributions from civil society activists, leaders and experts on the theme of exclusion and civil society. We are contributing to efforts to monitor and assess civic space through research initiatives like the Civil Society Watch annual report, which documented threats to civic space in more than 109 countries; the CIVICUS Monitor which, by October 2016, will categorise civic space in all UN recognised countries; the complementary Civic Pulse survey; and also the Enabling Environment National Assessment which has taken place in 22 countries since its inception in 2013.

Challenging projects such as the Civil Society Innovation Initiative (CSII) and the DataShift also saw important advances in 2016. The CSII aims to support civil society through the establishment of regional hubs that will connect organisations through peer-to-peer learning and provide them with much-needed tools to support their work and amplify the voice of civil society. The DataShift implemented pilot programme activities in several countries in order to build the capacity and confidence of civil society organisations to produce and use citizen-generated data, while also contributing to global knowledge.

It is an honour to work with a group of engaged colleagues at the Board of Directors and with a very committed group of staff members. Together we are to serve a diverse membership of thousands of organisations and individuals all over the world. Thank you for a stimulating and challenging year!

Anabel Cruz

CIVICUS Board Chair



SECRETARY-GENERAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome to this year's Annual Report.

Longstanding friends of CIVICUS will see that we have experienced substantial growth in the Secretariat's size and activities over the last twelve months. We are now a much larger organisation than ever before in our history. Of course, we are delighted that this has enabled us to launch a number of exciting new initiatives and add talented staff from all over the world to our team.

But we also recognise that our growth can, in large part, be attributed to a worrying deterioration in the conditions for civil society around the world. In 2015, we recorded serious threats to one or more civic freedoms in **109 countries**, up from 96 the year before. We are honoured that our members and donors see us as an organisation that can contribute to the important work of defending civic space and supporting citizen action; our fundamental challenge is now to use our resources as wisely as possible in pursuit of these aims, as well as to make a positive difference towards reversing the trend.

In order to help us do this, in the coming months, we'll be consulting our members about the strategic priorities that will shape our work over the next five years. Input from our wide network of members, partners and civil society allies will be crucial.

Much of our work in 2015 centred on the new Sustainable Development Goals. Having incubated and hosted the action/2015 campaign, which did so much to catalyse citizen action around the SDGs, we turned our attention to developing a new global platform that will help civil society to organise and mobilise around the SDGs over the coming 15 years. We hope that this new platform, Action for Sustainable Development, will help civil society to coordinate on policy and advocacy, public mobilisation, monitoring and accountability, and on civil society's own role in delivering sustainable development.

I'm also excited about the ways in which a number of our new initiatives have been consolidated over the last year. With DataShift, we have been learning how best to nurture the capacity and confidence of civil society to generate and use data, including using citizen-generated data to monitor progress on the SDGs. After much intense planning, the regional hubs that will form part of the Civil Society Innovation Initiative are ready to launch, in addition to some exciting global initiatives that will add real value to our regional work. And we are just about ready to launch the CIVICUS Monitor, a new tool that will provide real-time information on conditions for civil society across the world. I am convinced that these new initiatives, coupled with our ongoing activities, will help us serve civil society in more meaningful and varied ways.

Another important milestone in the last year has been the transition to a new Board. I am immensely grateful to the outgoing Board, which provided such valuable guidance to CIVICUS as an organisation and to me as an individual. I am also very excited to welcome our new Board: nine women and four men from six continents, led by our new Board Chair, the wonderful Anabel Cruz.

It is with great pride that I submit this year's Annual Report to our members.

Danny Sriskandarajah Secretary-General

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THE YEAR IN REVIEW



HIGHLIGHTS

- Co-hosted by Confederación Colombiana de ONG and CIVICUS, International Civil Society Week 2016 brought 818 participants from 102 countries to Bogotá, Colombia, to discuss some of the key global challenges facing civil society today. The CIVICUS Youth and World Assemblies ran in parallel to events hosted by 56 other civil society organisations, governmental and international institutions. In addition, ICSW\local was launched for the first time to provide a number of local partners with resources and support to host thematic discussions in their respective countries.
- The 2016 State of Civil Society Report, featuring 33 guest contributions from civil society activists, leaders and experts on the theme of exclusion, plus a Year in Review section summarising the key civil society stories of the last year, is referenced regularly as an authoritative source by national and international civil society organisations.
- CIVICUS and its members achieved greater impact than ever before at the UN Human Rights Council through side events and meetings and by influencing the inclusion and adoption of Universal Periodic Review recommendations and the passing of resolutions.
- Through our Crisis Response Fund, we enhanced our members' and partners' ability to respond to threats to freedoms of association, assembly and expression by engaging in targeted advocacy, facilitating network building and providing emergency advocacy support.
- Through the Sustainable Development 2015 initiative and Goal 16 consultations, CIVICUS contributed to improved multi-stakeholder engagement in sustainable development processes. We also supported global civil society coordination around sustainable development, firstly through the action/2015 campaign, advocating for ambitious, transformative commitments in the Sustainable Development Goals and Paris Climate Agreement, and secondly through the Action for Sustainable Development platform which aims to improve accountability around the delivery of these agreements.
- The incubation phase of the Civil Society Innovation Initiative was launched, aiming, through the establishment of regional hubs, to connect civil society organisations and activists through peerto-peer learning, providing them with key tools to support their work and amplify their voice.
- DataShift implemented pilot programmes in Argentina, Nepal, Kenya and Tanzania to build the capacity of civil society organisations to produce and

- use citizen-generated data and to contribute towards efforts to ensure that citizen-generated data is at the heart of the 'data revolution'.
- We made a significant contribution to global efforts to track and assess civic space through a range of existing and new initiatives: our annual **Civil Society Watch** report documented threats to civic space in more than 109 countries; our **Civic Pulse** survey regularly polls civil society leaders in 20 countries; and our **Enabling Environment National Assessments** have taken place in 22 countries since 2013.
- We continued to raise awareness on the importance of civic space and citizen action through our Be the Change campaign, which featured the eleventh edition of the CIVICUS Nelson Mandela-Graça Machel Innovation Awards, including a new category for Brave Philanthropy, and the third Global Day of Citizen Action.
- Based on members' interests and requests for more facilitated networking opportunities, CIVICUS strengthened its existing communities of practice, such as the Affinity Group of National Associations, while also establishing new communities like the Gender Working Group and Youth Action Team.



03

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES



PROTECTING FUNDAMENTAL CIVIL SOCIETY RIGHTS

STRENGTHENING HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS NETWORKS

Over the last year, CIVICUS has worked with a range of partner organisations to host workshops and consultation events all designed to strengthen the capacity of civil society's human rights defenders:

- We worked with Amnesty International to cohost a regional workshop with 30 representatives of civil society, academia, election-monitoring institutions and national human rights commissions to discuss ways in which civil society can address human rights violations during election periods in Africa.
- In conjunction with The National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders - Kenya, we brought together 42 representatives of civil society, plus members of the donor and diplomatic communities, to discuss ways of reclaiming space for human rights defenders.
- Working with the International Centre for Not-for-Profit Law, Article 19 and the World Movement for Democracy, we convened a meeting on how to create and maintain civic space in Sub-Saharan Africa, recommendations from which were presented at the 32nd UN Human Rights Council Session.
- In Nairobi, we worked with Amnesty International and the Open Society Institute of East Africa, to facilitate a strategy meeting with exiled human rights defenders from Burundi on the theme 'supporting human rights defenders in times of crisis'.
- A Middle East and North Africa regional consultation in Beirut, Lebanon brought together 20 human rights defenders from 13 countries to address regional deficits in civil society's interactions with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- The Nouvelle Société Civile Congolaise and CIVICUS organised a workshop on protecting

human rights defenders during elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

- In partnership with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, we held a consultation for Sub Saharan African human rights defenders on ways to create and maintain civic space.
- A workshop, co-hosted with The South Sudan Law Society, on the role of civil society in transitional justice brought together 25 representatives from the different regions of South Sudan.
- Working with Paradigm Initiative Nigeria, we organised a forum in Abuja on online freedoms and the proposed Frivolous Petitions Prohibition Bill for civil society, the media and independent bloggers.
- During the 58th Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, Amnesty International and CIVICUS organised a side event on advocacy strategies to address human rights violations in Burundi.
- During the 2016 Open Government Partnership Summit in Cape Town, we worked with the Campaign for Good Governance, the Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation and the National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders-Kenya to hold a side event – attended by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights Commissioner and more than 60 representatives of civil society – on the monitoring of human rights violations and civil society's response in Africa.
- During Swaziland's Universal Periodic Review in Geneva in May 2016, the International Trade Union Confederation and CIVICUS organised a side event on ways in which the international community can exert pressure on the government of Swaziland to implement reforms.

RESPONDING TO CIVIL SOCIETY UNDER THREAT

Through the Lifeline Embattled CSO Assistance Fund, supported by 17 governments and two philanthropic foundations, CIVICUS coordinates the **Crisis Response Fund** to resource emergency advocacy activities by civil society organisations and human rights defenders facing imminent threat. CIVICUS has previously drawn on the Crisis Response Fund to support over 100 organisations and activists at risk in every geographic region of the world.

During the last year, we supported a broad range of emergency advocacy initiatives:

- Hebun LGBTI to carry out essential advocacy pertaining to LGBTI individuals and civil society organisations in Turkey.
- Kenyans for Tax Justice to convene a workshop with representatives from grassroots organisations on developing a collective advocacy strategy to address shortcomings in the country's legal and policy framework.
- Pakistan for All for a multimedia and visual arts campaign that aims to document the legacy of slain human rights defender Sabeen Mahmood and to encourage others to sustain her important work.
- Desaparecidos, in collaboration with Karapatan, to take part in an advocacy mission to encourage US Congress to support an enabling environment for civil society actors, with a focus on land rights activists.
- The National Foundation for Democracy and Human Rights in Uganda to develop advocacy strategies with other Ugandan civil society actors and journalists designed to highlight attacks and threats to civil society in the lead-up to national elections.
- Voice of the Voiceless for an advocacy mission to the African Commission to raise awareness on the closing space for civil society in the lead up to the presidential elections in the DRC.
- Alejo Community Support Project in Zambia to form a consortium of NGOs to lobby the government on removing all legal and extra-legal restrictions on civil society operations, including the systematic targeting of organisations working on contentious issues.
- Accountability Lab Nepal to strengthen local civil

- society organisations working on relief following the earthquake and their advocacy dialogues with the government.
- Women in Need SOS FED Burundi to conduct advocacy activities designed to counter the dire situation for civil society in Burundi, in particular recommending the unfreezing of civil society organisations' bank accounts and revised policies to ensure protection for human rights defenders.
- Four organisations from the Asia Pacific region, Mexico, Mozambique and Kenya to take part in advocacy activities at the March 2016 UN Commission on the Status of Women in New York, addressing the need to create an enabling environment for women human rights defenders.
- Mawjoudin Tunisia and the National Women Human Rights Defenders Coalition of Guatemala to attend the UN 32nd Human Rights Council in Geneva to call for an enabling environment for women human rights defenders and organisations. A side event with the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women and the Canadian permanent mission enabled local women human rights defenders to share their experiences and to give specific recommendations to the Special Rapporteur.



TARGETED ADVOCACY

"The environment and conditions for civil society have gotten more challenging, but CIVICUS has been able to put a spotlight on this with reports, statements, etc."

CIVICUS conducts targeted advocacy to highlight both systemic and episodic threats to civil society around the globe. This work includes interviews with in-country civil society activists, leaders and academics about the specific and unfolding challenges they're facing; alerts, issued by CIVICUS to draw attention to new restrictions facing civil society or urgent challenges facing activists; and open letters or joint statements designed to highlight cases of civil society activists being persecuted because of their work and to call for specific actions to redress unjust situations.

Our advocacy work also includes the publication of our annual Civil Society Watch Report, which, in 2015, detailed serious violations of civil society rights in at least 109 countries.



PROMOTING CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AND A VIBRANT CIVIC SPACE

"CIVICUS genuinely values national voices, does not dominate and appreciates [local] identity."

PROMOTING VIBRANT CIVIC SPACE

The **Civic Space Initiative (CSI)** is an innovative collaboration between CIVICUS and three of the world's leading civic space advocates: Article19, the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law and the World Movement for Democracy. Its aim is to ignite a pushback against the closing of civic space by empowering civil society and its allies with better information, analysis, advocacy and skill-sharing opportunities.

Now entering its fifth year, the CSI has gained recognition as a core, frequently cited, source of information and research on the subject of civic space. At the intergovernmental level, the CSI and its Enabling Environment National Assessments were widely cited as an authoritative source on developing civic space norms. Most prominently, the CSI substantially informed the first ever UN Human Rights Council practical recommendations on promoting and protecting civic space.

During International Civil Society Week 2016, the CSI held a side event on the right to protest. The event's large audience shared stories of the constraints they faced in taking to the streets and speakers offered vital tools for those looking to create sustained and effective movements through the right to protest.

CIVIL SOCIETY INNOVATION

The Civil Society Innovation Initiative (CSII) aims to support and connect civil society through the establishment of six regional hubs that will connect organisations through peer-to-peer learning, providing them with tools to facilitate their work and to amplify their voice.

In the last year, regional planning workshops have been held in Senegal, Indonesia, Morocco, Panama City and, helping to build momentum in the MENA region, in Cairo, Tunis and Beirut. The first Central Asian regional

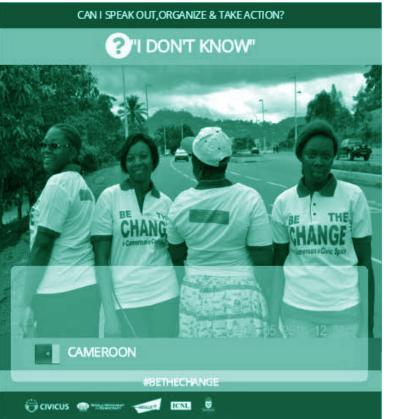
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consultation was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan and the first South Asian consultation in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Bangkok was chosen as the location for both the South Asian and East Asian regional hubs.

With the aim of creating one pan-African hub, the first bilingual pan-African workshop was held in Kampala, Uganda and the decision was taken to locate the pan-African hub in Nairobi.

These regional meetings – and the first meeting of an inter-regional cohort in New York during the 2015 UN General Assembly week – helped incubators to develop pitch packages for peer review at International Civil Society Week in Bogotá, Colombia in April 2016. There, they were also able to feedback to the CSIi incubate team and access expert input into their plans.

Photo: Global Day of Citizen Action, Cameroon



CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION

Through the Be the Change online platform and the 2016 iteration of the two core initiatives - Nelson Mandela – Graça Machel Innovation Awards and the Global Day of Citizen Action - CIVICUS has reached more than 3 million individuals, through events on the ground, online and print media, as well as radio and television. The success of the campaigns is evidenced in the overall increase of participants. Last year, the Be the Change website had 16,000 unique users; this increased in the past year to 41,070.

The CIVICUS Nelson Mandela – Graça Machel Innovation Awards, now in their eleventh year, recognise the growing need to support those involved in social change in a context where civic freedoms are increasingly being curtailed. We received 366 nominations to honour civil society activists and organisations for their excellence, innovation, and brave risk-taking. Alongside our existing categories, nominations were accepted for the first time for Brave Philanthropy, in recognition of donors that are prepared to take risks by supporting unpopular causes, or by funding grassroots or experimental projects. The awards serve as a reminder that, though many activists and organisers face localised challenges, collectively we are connected by our struggles and our victories.

The **Global Day of Citizen Action** held in May 2016, GDCA is part of an international campaign, led by CIVICUS through the Civic Space Initiative, to raise awareness about the importance of civic space and the role of citizens in driving change. In 2016, we had 71 events in 41 countries, and engaged 41,070 unique users from over *195* countries through the online platform.

3 THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA

"Influencing decision-making at the global level has had success, linking national and global level activity, of special note is the Human Rights Council and the Universal Period Review of member states, and the SDGs. CIVCIUS has been able to help members engage in governmental country review that they would not otherwise had access to. [We] have seen the improvement in resolutions on improving civic space via recommendations put forward by civil society organistions [helped by CIVICUS]."

ENGAGEMENT AT THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

During the 30th Session of the UN Human Rights Council, CIVICUS and its partners highlighted a broad range of thematic and country specific violations of fundamental civil society rights through joint and individual oral statements, panel discussions and advocacy letters. In particular, we highlighted the restrictive operating environments facing human rights defenders and civil society groups in Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Somalia and Sudan. We held discussions on Azerbaijan, elections in Africa, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia, South Sudan and the right to resources and funding for civil society organisations.

We advocated for the Council to establish an independent, international mechanism to document violations committed by all parties of the armed conflict in Yemen and urged member states to formally condemn human rights violations in Bahrain. Calling for member states to devise a coordinated response to reprisals against human rights defenders and civil society organisations, we provided recommendations on how to create a safe and enabling operating environment.

CIVICUS also provided logistical and strategic advocacy support for three human rights defenders from Azerbaijan and Ethiopia to participate in Council Session side events and to engage in high-level meetings with relevant government and UN stakeholders.

During the 31st UN Human Rights Council Session, a coalition of civil society organisations came together to highlight the treatment of human rights defenders in Ethiopia, Eritrea, Bahrain and South Korea. Over 200 NGOs called upon the Council to support a draft resolution on the protection of civil society space. And together, we issued a warning on the increasingly negative effects of inequality on development, the environment, women's and human rights to coincide with the World Economic Forum in Davos.

Working with our partner organisations, our involvement at the UN Human Rights Council also continued throughout the year, as we issued statements on serious civic space concerns, including systematic attacks and shrinking space for civil society, the use of excessive and lethal force against protesters, and, in particular, the unfolding situations in Syria, Egypt, Ethiopia and Bahrain.

PARTICIPATION IN THE UN UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

We provide substantial support to our national partners to enhance their engagement with the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). In the last year, this support has included publishing a new report on how to strengthen the UPR process from a civil society perspective; working with our partners to make five submissions on the rights to freedom of assembly, association, expression and the environment for human rights defenders in Hungary, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, and Thailand; and supporting the participation of an exiled Rwandan human rights defender in the UPR to present findings on civic space restrictions in Rwanda. We also held a post-UPR consultation in Swaziland to mobilise key civil society stakeholders and to develop a comprehensive advocacy strategy to ensure effective implementation of UPR recommendations.

In the last year, CIVICUS issued six joint and stand-alone UPR submissions on the space for civil society in South Sudan, Syria, Togo, Uganda, Venezuela and Zimbabwe and, working with a national partner organisation, issued a UN Human Rights Council Statement commending Sierra Leone for its global leadership in promoting and protecting civil society.

OFFICE OF THE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS

A resolution adopted at the 27th Session of the Human Rights Council mandated the development of practical recommendations to promote and protect civic space. In response to this, our Civic Space Initiative consortium hosted two civil society consultations - one for the Africa region in Johannesburg and one for the MENA region in Beirut. From both consultations we were able to submit comprehensive reports to the OHCHR on best practice in creating and maintaining safe, enabling operating and legal environments for civil society.

PROMOTING PEOPLE-POWERED ACCOUNTABILITY

Our DataShift initiative, currently midway through the second year of its pilot phase, aims to build the capacity and confidence of civil society organisations to produce and use citizen-generated data to monitor sustainable development progress, demand accountability and campaign for transformative change. Working primarily in four pilot countries - Argentina, Nepal, Kenya and Tanzania – we have provided capacity building support to national civil society organisations, as well as technical and strategic support to eleven organisations working on a broad range of thematic issues, from data collection to responsible data management and visualisation for campaigning.

The launch of our Learning Zone has included the publication of a series of case studies on citizen-generated data initiatives, reports on models for collaboration between government and civil society using official and citizen-generated data and the mapping of citizen-generated data initiatives against 17 Sustainable Development Goals. A newsletter and blog is also helping to engage and build a growing DataShift community.

Our policy influencing work has focused on ensuring citizen-generated data and civil society engagement are priorities for the Global Partnership on Sustainable Development Data. Through the work of the DataShift team, CIVICUS is now a key member of the Global Partnership's interim steering group.

ENHANCING MULTI-STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The **Sustainable Development 2015** programme was brought to a close in November 2015, after providing tools and opportunities for multi-stakeholder groups to participate in the global deliberations around the SDGs

and the wider post-2015 development agenda. Activities included publishing research briefings and a website providing analysis of the negotiation process; conducting training sessions to build the capacity of civil society organisations to engage with the UN, national governments and media; and supporting twelve civil society partners to develop and implement national advocacy plans. We also presented the findings of a broad consultation into how to improve participation in sustainable development governance to over 100 civil society, UN and government representatives.

Four CIVICUS national partners in Argentina, Colombia, India and Tanzania co-organised roundtables to discuss what Goal 16, on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, would mean in their respective countries and how it could be implemented and monitored effectively at the national level. Two of our national partners then presented their findings at a training session on Goal 16 implementation and advocacy tools at International Civil Society Week 2016.

CIVIL SOCIETY COORDINATION PLATFORMS

In 2015, CIVICUS acted as the global Secretariat to the **action/2015 campaign**, a global coalition aiming to increase public awareness of the opportunities and risks presented by this critical year in the fight against climate change, poverty and inequality, to inspire the public to take action through mobilisation activities, and to build a stronger movement of civil society organisations.

Considered to be the biggest global movement for change of its kind, as part of the action/2015 campaign, more than 2,200 organisations from 157 countries joined forces and took over 31 million actions to demand that world leaders play their part in tackling the most pressing issues of our time. Key mobilisation activities focused around the UN Financing for Development Summit, the UN General Assembly and the UN Climate Change Conference, with action/2015 completing its agreed schedule of campaigning activity in December.

As a follow-up to the action/2015 campaign, **Action for Sustainable Development (A4SD)** was launched to provide a global civil society platform to drive accountability around the delivery of the 2015 sustainable development agreements. The A4SD platform is also a response to a survey of CIVICUS members on how we should shape our engagement with the new SDGs.

CONNECTING CIVIL SOCIETY ACTORS ACROSS THE WORLD

CONNECTING NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

The CIVICUS Affinity Group of National Associations (AGNA) enables representatives of national umbrella organisations to share information and best practices and engage in learning exchanges. Currently boasting 87 members, AGNA continues to grow, adding 23 new members during the course of the last year.

Key activities have included mapping of national civil society organisation networks, regular newsletters and online engagement through the network's social media platform. Joint actions were launched around new funding regulations in Finland and Denmark and the restrictive conditions facing civil society in Japan, Pakistan, Nigeria, Uganda and Venezuela.

Workshops on multi-stakeholder engagement, advocacy, campaigning and communications helped to build member capacity, as did two peer learning exchanges held in Bangkok. Two staff exchanges focused on sharing best practice in social entrepreneurship, advocacy, communications and membership and an annual general meeting held in Bogotá ahead of International Civil Society Week 2016 enabled AGNA members to review progress, and identify priorities for the coming year.

AGNA members were also supported to engage in the wider work of CIVICUS, including in action/2015 mobilisations, in New Social Contract and Civic Space workshops, in Civic Space Monitor consultations, Civic Pulse pilot country surveys and joint Universal Periodic Review submissions. We also facilitated the participation of AGNA members in key UN and intergovernmental Summits.

INSPIRING NEW SOCIAL CONTRACTS

The **New Social Contract** is an action-research project that aims to define the terms of citizen engagement in governance processes. A two day workshop in Istanbul, with national civil society network representatives from nine countries, included training activities using the New Social Contract toolkit, methodology and case studies, as well as peer-learning exchanges around different practical experiences of multi-stakeholder dialogues.

CONVENING GLOBAL DIALOGUES

"The experience in Bogotá was unique, and the possibilities of networking almost endless. It was my honour to be there among such an impressive number of extraordinary people."

International Civil Society Week (ICSW) is a key global gathering designed to connect the different sources and forces of citizen action, to share tools and experiences for strengthening citizen engagement and to celebrate the power of civil society to affect social change.

Co-hosted by one of our long-standing members in Colombia, Confederación Colombiana de ONG, ICSW 2016 was held in Bogotá, under the banner of 'Active Citizens, Accountable Actions'. More than 800 participants from 56 civil society, governmental and intergovernmental organisations and foundations came from 102 countries. Four key themes - enabling environment, inclusion, participation and peace — guided the main ICSW programme, together with the CIVICUS World Assembly, the CIVICUS Youth Assembly and a number of side events, networking and cultural activities.



GENERATING AND COMMUNICATING KNOWLEDGE AND ANALYSIS

MONITORING CIVIC SPACE

The **CIVICUS Monitor** is a new platform designed to track civic space developments in real time, evaluating the level of civic space in national environments, providing narrative context and offering an overall rating according to five categories: open, narrowed, obstructed, repressed and closed. Through a dynamic online platform, the Monitor will present live civic space ratings and analysis for every country in the world.

Since the beginning of its development phase in October 2015, a global research collaboration involving twenty-one sub-regional civil society research organisations has been established and a sophisticated online platform for the Monitor has been launched.

Running in parallel to the CIVICUS Monitor, the **Civic Pulse** is a regular panel survey of a cross section of civil society leaders from around the world. The survey maps their views on the conditions for civil society in their country and gauges their confidence in creating social change. The tool is designed to be used primarily by civil society activists and organisations to make the case for improved conditions in their country and globally.

Pilot Civic Pulse surveys have been conducted in South Africa, Tajikistan, Poland, Jordan, Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and India and their findings published in two briefing papers.

CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH

"The State of Civil Society Report is now seen as a definitive report on challenges and health of civil society, referred to in many different forums."

The **2016 State of Civil Society Report** drew on a record 33 guest contributions from civil society activists, leaders and experts on the theme of exclusion and civil society. Contributions addressed a wide range of different forms of exclusion, including exclusion by gender, sexual identity, age, disability, mental health, ethnicity, refugee and migration status, faith, income and vulnerability to climate change.

The report also detailed civil society's response to profound human rights abuses and suffering caused by the conflicts and natural disasters of the past year. It examined how and why citizens took to the streets to demand change in countries all over the world, from Chile to South Africa, Armenia to South Korea, fuelled by public anger at unequal economic systems, corruption and the failure of governments to prioritise citizens' interests.

Highlighting the treatment of civil society activists in differing contexts around the world and the growing body of restrictions curtailing their ability to operate, the report also showcased civil society's successes on the global stage in 2015, in ensuring the SDGs and the Paris Agreement on climate change are both comprehensive and rights-based. Finally, the report looks ahead to the huge task facing civil society as it seeks to ensure these new agreements are implemented in full.



TOOLS FOR ASSESSMENT AND KNOWLEDGE

The Enabling Environment National Assessments (EENA) are an action-orientated research tool designed to assess the legal, regulatory and policy environment for civil society. Locally-owned, rooted in primary data collected at the local level and validated by a consensus-based, multi-stakeholder process, the EENAs are designed to strengthen the capacity of civil society to advocate for an enabling environment and to improve relations between civil society organisations and governments.

Six new EENA's were initiated during the last year, in the Philippines, Tajikistan, Benin, Tunisia, Honduras and Colombia. An advocacy workshop also took place in Istanbul, gathering 14 EENA partners to discuss their experiences of strategies designed to improve the environment for civil society in their countries.

ENGAGING WITH AND THROUGH MEDIA

Throughout the year, we worked to engage with our members and networks through a range of communication channels, including our e-CIVICUS bulletins, media and the CIVICUS website, which represents an important source of regular updates. We have continued to use social media as a key medium for connecting civil society and sharing information useful to our network. We have also developed a format for social media toolkits – pre-prepared posts, tags, and guidance – provided to partners and stakeholders during key moments, which has increased social media reach and diversity. Our social media reach has grown to 8000 twitter followers with over 5400 mentions and 1.7million impressions and 35,000 Facebook fans. Our website received over 140000 visits in the period.

In the past year we have also significantly increased our media outreach, and developed strategies to include more voices form the CIVICUS network. Innovations have included a Media Fellows programme at ICSW which resulted in 6 fellows publishing 40 unique pieces (not including translations and reprints). A brief survey with participating journalists indicated that ICSW deepened their interest in civil society and/ or gave then content for months to come. Finally, we enhanced the number of CIVICUS produced opinion pieces, and also widened the pool of writers by working with staff who do not usually write, ICSW partners, State of Civil Society Report contributors, and others to develop Opinion Editorials that we placed with media.



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EMPOWERING THE ALLIANCE AND WIDER NETWORK





The majority of our members originate from Africa, Asia and South America, closely reflecting the organisation's Global South identity.

AMERICAS, LATIN AMERICA, CARIBBEAN

AFRICA

EUROPE

ASIA, MIDDLE EAST OCEANIA

Argentina, Aruba, Barbados, Bolivia, Bonaire Saint Eustatius and Saba, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, United States Minor Outlying Islands, United States - Virgin Islands, Uruguay, Venezuela

Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo Republic of the, Congo The Democratic Republic of the, Cape Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Diibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania United Republic of, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia Republic of, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland,

Ukraine, United

Kingdom

Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Palestinian Territory Occupied, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Tajwan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam, Yemen

American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu

*AS OF AUGUST 2016

ANNUAL REPORT 2015/2016

MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

Our membership continues to be the heart of the CIVICUS alliance.

In November 2015, CIVICUS held a virtual Annual General Meeting, facilitating member participation regardless of physical location or time zone.

Seeking new ways to serve and work with our membership, we launched our first member working group to guide and input into our work on gender. The Gender Working Group will enable us to draw on the expertise of our alliance, involve members in cross-cutting issues, set up networks and support evidence-based research and policy initiatives.

We also established a Youth Action Team to mainstream youth and youth issues into our programmes and to champion youth engagement in civic space. The Team, comprising ten young men and women representing four continents, will provide strategic advice and support CIVICUS in its outreach by building new partnerships, mobilising resources for scaling up youth initiatives and by recruiting new young members to the CIVICUS alliance.

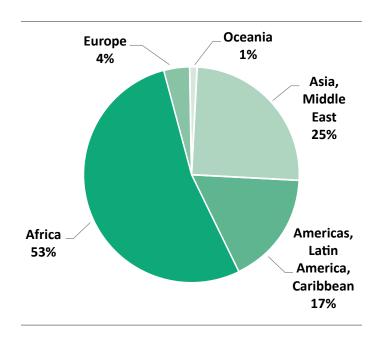
We also realised better integration and strengthening of relationships with key members and partners in our programmatic activities through the CIVICUS Monitor advisory groups, Enabling Environment National Assessments, Crisis Response Fund, Human Rights Defenders workshops, and UPR consultations, among others. Key engagement opportunities included the following:

Additionally, the CIVICUS Secretariat increased the number of team members based out of regional hubs, sitting with member organisations, or working virtually from 10 in July 2015 to 20 in June 2016, so that we are now also physically closer to our members.

IMPORTANTLY, WE
CONTINUE TO IN
COLLABORATION WITH OUR
MEMBERS AND PARTNERS
TO UNDERTAKE ACTION
AROUND THE WORLD.
IN THE PAST YEAR WE
DISTRIBUTED OVER US\$
2,000,000 IN SUB-GRANTS
AND TRAVEL SUPPORT.

- CIVICUS made joint UPR submissions with members in three countries during the 2015/15 reporting period.
- CIVICUS members hosted multi-stakeholder processes in Turkey, Pakistan, India, Jordan, Colombia and Mozambique.
- Members in 17 countries received sub-grants for national mobilisation activities.
- 6 members hosted events during ICSW 2016, while more than 100 members attended the CIVICUS members networking event.
- 8 members received financial and technical support for their national advocacy strategies.
- 61 members attended CSil regional consultation workshops.
- Members in Afghanistan, Kosovo, Pakistan, Turkey, Uganda, and Zambia received emergency advocacy support.
- 49 members received support to host their own GDCA events.
- The State of Civil Society Report featured contributions from 6 members.
- We engaged 76 members in the development of the DataShift implementation plan.

Total	\$ 1,773,036
Oceania	\$ 21,970
Europe	\$ 76,018
Africa	\$ 938,016
Americas, Latin America, Caribbean	\$ 301,162
Asia, Middle East	\$ 436,868



^{*}Note: Does not include Member and Partner support for Travel and Accommodation, Conferences, Meetings totalling approximately \$ 939,591 as well as in-kind support, such as fee waivers

SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS

- Affinity Group of National Associations Secretariat
- Action for Sustainable Development Founding Member
- Community of Democracies Member, Civil Society Space Group
- CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness Member
- Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations Board Member
- Global Call to Action against Poverty Member, Global Council
- INGO Accountability Charter Signatory; Board Member
- Leave No-one Behind Partnership Implementing Partner
- Multi-stakeholder Task Team for CSO Development Effectiveness & Enabling Environment –Member
- UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs Programme partner
- UN Department of Public Information NGO/DPI Executive Committee
- UN Development Cooperation Forum Member, Advisory Group
- UN Development Programme Member, Civil Society Advisory Committee
- UN Economic and Social Council General Consultative Status
- World Economic Forum Member, NGO Advisory Group
- Worldwide Initiatives for Grantmaker Support Member

Institutions that have supported CIVICUS in the last year include:

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
Danish International Development Agency
European Commission
Ford Foundation
Irish Aid

Lifeline: Embattled Civil Society Organizations Assistance Fund
Ministry of Foreign Affairs Finland
Ministry of Foreign Affairs the Netherlands
Ministry of Foreign Affairs Switzerland
Open Knowledge Foundation
Open Society Foundation Human Rights Initiative
Swedish International Development Agency
Taiwan Foundation for Democracy
The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

United Kingdom Department for International Development



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



MEET THE BOARD



ANABEL CRUZ
BOARD CHAIR
AND CHAIR OF
THE EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE

URUGUAY



AMITABH BEHAR VICE BOARD CHAIR

INDIA



ELISA PETER SECRETARY OF THE BOARD

UNITED KINGDOM



JULIA SANCHEZ
TREASURER &
CHAIR OF THE
OPERATIONS
COMMITTEE

CANADA



ANNE FIRTH MURRAY

NEW ZEALAND



AYA CHEBBI

TUNISIA



JOANNA KERR

CANADA



NILDA BULLAIN

HUNGARY



OYEBISI BABATUNDE OLUSEYI

NIGERIA



GUILLERMO CORREA

ARGENTINA



JESSE CHEN

UNITED STATES



PAULINE WANJA KAMAU

KENYA

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



CIVICUS: WORLD ALLIANCE FOR CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

CIVICUS AGGREGATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2016

CIVICUS AUGREGATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2010								
	12 months to 30/6/2016				12 months to 30/6/2015			
		Golden				Golden		
\$ - '000	RSA	Spot	US	Total	RSA	Spot	US	Total
Assets	621	(21)	3 299	3 899	547	(20)	2 818	3 345
Non-current Assets	243	44	5	204	274	(22)	3	255
 Land and Buildings 	-	151	-	1516	_	196	-	196
– Equipment	40	7	5	53	47	8	3	59
 Loan to Property Company 	202	(202)	-	-	226	(226)	-	-
							•	
Current Assets	347	1	3 295	3 643	274	1	2 815	3 090
– Accounts receivable	6	1	84	91	60	1	520	581
– Accrued income	-	-	940	940	35	-	716	751
– Inter office loan account	(654)	-	654	-	(832)	_	832	_
 Cash and cash equivalents 	996	-	1 616	2 612	1 010	_	748	1 758
Total Assets	621	(21)	3 299	3 899	547	(20)	2 818	3 345
RESERVES AND LIABILITIES	590	(43)	3 301	3 847	547	(20)	2 818	3 345
						· · ·		
Reserves	486	(44)	356	798	337	(21)	342	658
 Restricted funds 	_	_	_	-	_	_	_	_
 Unrestricted funds 	1 022	(218)	356	1 159	687	-192	342	837
– Share capital	_	0	_	0	_	0	_	0
– Revaluation surplus	_	95	_	95	_	109	_	109
– Foreign currency								
translation reserve	(536)	80	-	(457)	(350)	62	-	(288)
Current Liabilities	104	1	2 945	3 050	210	1	2 476	2 687
– Accounts payable	58	1	196	255	65	1	155	221
– Deferred income	-	-	2 749	2 749	115	-	2 321	2 436
– Provisions for leave pay	46	-	_	46	30	-	-	30
		'	1			'	,	<u> </u>
Total Reserves and Liabilities	590	(43)	3 301	3 847	547	(20)	2 818	3 345

CIVICUS: WORLD ALLIANCE FOR CITIZEN PARTICIPATION CIVICUS AGGREGATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For The Year Ended 30 June 2016

For the tear Ended 30 June 201	.0							
		12 m	onths to 30,	6/2016	1	12 months to	30/6/2015	
		Golden				Golden		
\$ - '000	RSA	Spot	US	Total	RSA	Spot	US	Total
Aggregated Income:	2 183	39	5 505	7 726	2 295	38	2 611	4 944
Grants and donations	310	-	7 096	7 406	297	-	4 395	4 692
Consulting income	-	-	-	-	15	-	-	15
Allocations	1 711	-	(1 711)	-	1 809	-	(1 809)	-
Membership dues	-	-	44	44	1	-	23	24
Rent received	-	39	-	39	-	38	-	38
Other income	124	-	56	180	156	-	1,30	157
Interest received	38	-	20	57	18	-	_	18
Aggregated Expenditure	1 848	65	5 491	7 404	2 206	80	2 476	4 762
Assets expenses directly	5	-	141	146	_	-	-	-
Communications	70	-	70	141	94	-	34	128
Depreciation	24	12	2	38	23	14	1	37
Financial charges	3	-	36	39	4	-	23	26
Governance/oversight	15	-	34	49	15	-	18	33
Hire, lease and maintenance of								
equipment	11	-	1	12	13	1	-	13
Occupancy	29	52	48	129	25	65	46	136
Office supplies and services	11	-	5	15	13	-	8	21
Other Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	108	108
Partner Travel, conferences and								
meetings	87	-	861	948	134	-	360	495
Professional services	57	1	682	740	147	1	332	480
Recruitment costs	1	-	9	10	7	-	15	22
Staff salaries and allowances	1 419	-	1 246	2 665	1 435	-	747	2 182
Staff travel costs	61	-	183	244	63	-	179	242
Sub-grants	2	-	1 809	1 810	1	-	584	585
World Assembly	53	_	365	418	233	_	20	253
Surplus/(Deficit)	335	(26)	13	322	88	(42)	135	182

CIVICUS AGGREGATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN RESERVES

For the year ended 30 June 2016

	RS	Α	GOLDEN SPOT			U		
\$ - '000	Unre- stricted FUND	Foreign Transla- tion RESERVE	Unre- stricted FUND	Revalua- tion Surplus	Foreign Transla- tion RESERVE	Re- stricted FUND	Unre- stricted FUND	TOTAL
Balance as at 30 June 2014	599	(243)	(156)	138	38	-	207	583
Net surplus (deficit) for the year	88	_	(42)	_	-	-	135	182
Revaluation of Buildings	_	_	5	(5)	_	_	_	-
Adjustment due to Foreign								
Translation	_	(107)	_	(24)	24	_	_	(107)
Balance as at 30 June 2015	687	(350)	(192)	109	62	-	342	658
Net surplus (deficit) for the period	335	_	(27)	_	_	_	13	322
Adjustment due to Foreign								
Translation		(186)	_	(14)	18	_	_	(182)
Balance as at 30 June 2016	1 022	(536)	(218)	95	80	-	356	798

CIVICUS: WORLD ALLIANCE FOR CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AGGREGATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ended 30 June 2016

For the year ended 30 June 201	6							
	12 months to 30/6/2016				12 months to 30/6/2015			
		Golden				Golden		
\$ - ' 000	RSA	Spot	US	Total	RSA	Spot	US	Total
Cash flow from operating activities								
Cash received from funders and tenants	2 119	39	6 124	8 282	2 306	39	3 778	6 122
Cash paid to programmes, suppliers and employees	(2 001)	(50)	(5 449)	(7 499)	(2 349)	(66)	(2 392)	(4 807)
Cash (utilised in)/generated by operations	118	(11)	676	783	(43)	(28)	1 386	1 315
Interest received	38	_	20	57	18	_	0	18
Interest paid	_	-	_	_	_	-	-	-
Taxation paid	_	-	-	_	_	-	-	_
Net cash (outflow) inflow from operating activities	156	(11)	695	840	(25)	(28)	1 386	1 333
Cash flow (utilised in) investing activities	(17)	34	(4)	13	(12)	31	(2)	17
Acquisition of equipment	(25)	-	(4)	(29)	(19)	-	(2)	(21)
Devaluation of PPE due								
to forex changes	8	34	-	42	6	31	-	38
Cash flow (utilised in) generated by financing activities	(153)	(24)	177	_	691	12	(893)	(190)
Loan receivable - Property company	24	(24)	_	_	(12)	12	_	_
Loan payable	_	-	-	-	_	-	(190)	(190)
Inter office loan account	(177)	-	177	-	703	-	(703)	-
	,	'				'	'	
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents	(15)	_	868	854	653	_	491	1 144
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	1 010	_	748	1 758	357	_	257	614
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	996	_	1 616	2 612	1 010	_	748	1 758



P O BOX 32707 BRAAMFONTEIN 2017 SOUTH AFRICA

TEL (011) 403 3835 FAX (011) 339 7762

COMPILATION REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

On the basis of audited financial statements provided by CIVICUS - Washington office (audit conducted by Gelman, Rosenberg & Freedman) and Johannesburg office (audit conducted by ourselves Douglas & Velcich), we have compiled in accordance with International Standards applicable to compilation engagements, the aggregated statement of financial position of CIVICUS as at 30 June 2016, and statements of aggregated comprehensive income and aggregated cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and explanatory notes set out on pages 2 to 23.

Management is responsible for these financial statements. We have not audited or reviewed these financial statements and accordingly express no assurance thereon.

Douglas & Velcich

Chartered Accountants (S.A.)

alutvilla

Registered Accountants and Auditors

Johannesburg

12 September 2016

D C DOUGLAS CA (SA)

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

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Statement of cash flows	5
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APPROVAL OF ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The annual financial statements set out on pages 2 to 23 have been approved by the Board of Directors and are hereby signed on their behalf by:-

Anabel Cruz

Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda

To request full financial statements as approved and signed by the Board of Directors, please contact finance@civicus.org









civicus.org info@civicus.org



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