



World Alliance for Citizen  
Participation

# e-CIVICUS

e-CIVICUS World Assembly Reflection

A Free Weekly Electronic Newsletter Promoting Civic Existence, Expression & Engagement

Please send contributions, comments and questions to [editor@civicus.org](mailto:editor@civicus.org).

30 January 2009

ISSUE No. 423

#### PUBLISHER

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen  
Participation

#### EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Devendra Tak  
Ingrid Srinath

#### MANAGING EDITOR

Eric Muragana

#### EDITORS

Nastasya Tay

#### OCCASIONAL CONTRIBUTORS

Carol Baloyi  
Judith Seda  
Henri Valot  
Mandeep Tiwana  
Tania Gobena  
Vicente García-Delgado

#### ABOUT e-CIVICUS

The CIVICUS weekly electronic publication is keeping tens of thousands of people informed of the developments taking place in civil society, the factors that are affecting them and the impact they are having on creating an informed and knowledgeable civil society.

#### e-CIVICUS WELCOMES CONTRIBUTIONS OF CIVIL SOCIETY NEWS

e-CIVICUS offers 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

#### FROM THE DESK OF CIVICUS' SECRETARY GENERAL

Send your comments and contributions to [editor@civicus.org](mailto:editor@civicus.org).



#### **Business (Not Quite) As Usual**

By Ingrid Srinath, CIVICUS Secretary General

Dear friends and colleagues,

Three things are certain amidst the pervasive talk of uncertainty at the annual gathering of those whom Tom Wolfe would dub as the 'Masters of the Universe' in Davos, Switzerland:

1. Despite all the warnings of past years and the precipitous events of 2008, 'Davos-man' is only just beginning to get a grasp of the enormity of the crises we face.
2. The shift in the centres of geo-political power is a reality that only the most obtuse can now deny.
3. Those who, for the past few decades, have presumed to prescribe solutions to governments, civil society and the peoples of the world have very little clue as to what brought us to this pass -- and where the solutions might lie.

Denialism may also finally be on the run here in Davos. There are still many who came here hoping to hear some reassurance that we can stave off the longest, deepest economic recession in six decades. *To read this week's column, [click here](#).*

#### **World Social Forum looks for major change in global economy**

By Stephen Brown, Ekklesia -- A new way of thinking

The global economic crisis offers an opportunity to create a more just financial system, a representative of the World Council of Churches has said during the World Social Forum in Belem, Brazil (27 January to 1 February). "If we miss this point again we are going to repeat history with another crisis," Rogate Mshana, the church grouping's programme executive for poverty, wealth and ecology, told Ecumenical News International, a global gathering addressing exploitative globalisation. "It's a question of the market," said Mshana, a Lutheran attending the WSF in the northern Brazilian city of Belem. "The market is a gift from God because people cannot live without a market ... But that relationship must be just. It should not be dogmatized in such a way that it is left free to go without any rules." *For details, [click here](#).*

#### **Trade unions bring tough message at World Economic Forum**

Source: International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

A team of global and national trade union leaders will deliver a tough message to business at this year's Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland (28 January - 1 February

[editor@civicus.org](mailto:editor@civicus.org). All contributions must focus on civil society issues or have a civil society angle. To read the contribution guidelines, [click here](#).

#### REPRODUCTION OF e-CIVICUS

The content of this newsletter can be translated into another language and reproduced in other publications, as long as due acknowledgment is made to CIVICUS.

#### e-CIVICUS DISCLAIMER

Although CIVICUS makes all reasonable efforts to obtain prima-facie reliable content for e-CIVICUS, CIVICUS cannot guarantee the accuracy of the reports, views or opinions of third-party content providers, nor does CIVICUS necessarily endorse the views reflected therein.

#### CONTACT US

P.O. Box 933  
Southdale, 2135  
South Africa  
Tel: +27 11 833 5959 Fax: +27 11 833 7997

1112 16th Street NW,  
Suite 540  
Washington D.C.  
20036 USA  
Tel: +202 331-8518  
Fax: +202 331-8774

#### Websites:

[www.civicus.org](http://www.civicus.org)  
[www.civicusassembly.org](http://www.civicusassembly.org)

To watch videos and CIVICUS initiatives on Zimbabwe, [click here](#).

To subscribe or unsubscribe: email: [subscriptions@civicus.org](mailto:subscriptions@civicus.org)

#### TELL A FRIEND

Would you like to share this newsletter with a friend? Please forward their e-mail address to [subscriptions@civicus.org](mailto:subscriptions@civicus.org)

#### Support CIVICUS

To make an on-line donation [click here](#).

#### Join CIVICUS

Join or renew your CIVICUS Membership on-line now [click here](#).



Civil Society Watch Monthly Bulletin  
Civil Society Watch Monthly Bulletin

2009), pointing to the potential social time bomb caused by rising unemployment, home repossessions and lost savings and pensions. "We warned business and politicians at Davos last year of dangerous instability in the global economy, but most were more than happy to continue to reap the short-term benefits of the failing model of deregulation and speculation. Business and governments created this crisis on their own, but they won't be able to solve it unless they work with unions to stop the global jobs haemorrhage, kick-start the world economy and put a proper regulatory framework in place," said ITUC General Secretary Guy Ryder. *For details, [click here](#).*

---

### CIVICUS Poll Question

#### This week's question:

Can civil society bring about a convergence of social and economic solutions to tackle global crises?

- a. Yes, our problems need an integrated solution
- b. No, there are two different sets of problems
- c. Let our political and business leaders sort out their own mess!

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

#### Previous question:

Are African leaders playing a positive role in Zimbabwe?

- a. No, you've got to be kidding!
- b. Yes, they are doing their best
- c. Somewhat, though they can do much more

**Results:** a. - 71.2%, b. - 10.6%, c. - 18.2%

---

### JOIN e-CIVICUS - BECOME A CONTRIBUTING FRIEND

e-CIVICUS keeps tens of thousands of people and organisations informed of the many developments taking place in civil society around the world. This e-publication seeks to encourage and amplify the voices of those struggling for a more just world. As a subscriber, you know the value e-CIVICUS can bring to your work.

Do you have friends who work for a more just world? Why don't you suggest they register for a free subscription? They can send an e-mail to [subscriptions@civicus.org](mailto:subscriptions@civicus.org) or fill out the subscription form [here](#). Alternatively, please forward their e-mail addresses to us and we'll contact them on your behalf.

Please send your contributions by Monday every week to [editor@civicus.org](mailto:editor@civicus.org). All contributions must be focused on civil society issues or have a civil society angle.



#### Zimbabwe: Enough is Enough, A Time to Act Now

By Kumi Naidoo, CIVICUS Honorary President and Mandeep Tiwana, CIVICUS Civil Society Watch Programme Officer

Over Christmas, CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation visited Zimbabwe to authenticate

The CIVICUS e-newsletter Civil Society Watch Monthly Bulletin is an action-oriented newsletter distributed to over 7,400 people, featuring insightful interviews, updates on threats to civil society, and analyses of current situations. Read more at [www.civicus.org](http://www.civicus.org).

## CIVICUS blog

Our recently launched blog gives you the opportunity to use your voice and engage with the rest of civil society. Please visit <http://civicus.civiblog.org>.

reports about the total breakdown of civic services in the country and to express solidarity with civil society activists whose courage remains alive despite the insidious repression let loose upon them by the state. We met with over 100 church leaders, NGO members, human rights lawyers and ordinary men, women and children and found that the situation in Zimbabwe is much worse than what is believed by Africans and the international community alike. People are starving on such a large scale that it can be termed a passive genocide through mass starvation. *For details, [click here](#). **Appeal for fasting with*** Kumi Naidoo, CIVICUS Honorary President who is entering the ninth day of a 21-day hunger strike in solidarity with the people of Zimbabwe, [click here](#).

**Must Watch** - videos of the Zimbabwe campaign and other CIVICUS initiatives, [click here](#).

### CIVICUS joins African Participatory Governance reflections

#### CIVICUS Participatory Governance Programme

CIVICUS has teamed up with the London-headquartered Overseas Development Institute (ODI) and Johannesburg-based Inter-Press Africa in a bid to implement a programme to "Strengthen citizen demand for good governance using evidence-based approaches". This programme, supported by DfID's Governance and Transparency Fund, will be implemented in 8 African countries. On 15 - 16 January 2009, CIVICUS took part in a national level consultation meeting in Zambia. Consultation processes are already underway in Malawi and Ghana, and will soon be initiated in Sierra Leone, Uganda, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Swaziland. *For details, [click here](#).*



### 'Save Zimbabwe Now' is watching SADC leaders on Zimbabwe crisis

Source: Louise McAuliffe, Sowetan

Nomboniso Gasa of the South African Commission for Gender Equality warns SADC that the 'Save Zimbabwe Now' initiative is going to put their own checks in place to monitor SADC's success after Monday's summit. Gasa joined other concerned members - Bishop Paul Verryn, Kumi Naidoo, Richard Smith, Nixon Nyikadzino and Prof Tinyico Maluleke at a press conference in Johannesburg (Braamfontein), South Africa. "One of our indicators is that Jestina must be returned home." Gasa here refers to Human rights activist, journalist and director of The Zimbabwe Peace Project, Jestina Mukoko who was abducted in December 2008. In this regard, Gasa also asks if the victims of torture will see justice. "We can say that our second indicator is that there should be a right of assembly and freedom of speech." *For details, [click here](#).*

---

## e-CIVICUS DIALOGUES



### Invisible hands, visible failures: The dire consequences of a misplaced belief in the magic of the Market

By Vicente García-Delgado, CIVICUS UN Representative (NY)

I find it ironic that the Great Financial Meltdown of 2008 and its devastating economic effects around the world should have originated in the United States, a country where the popular dictum "there's no free lunch" is universally accepted as being self-evident. Unfortunately this sensible dictum has been collectively overlooked by consumers, corporations, the financial system and political leaders since an "anything goes" economic growth mentality took hold after the fall of the Soviet Union. 20 years ago. *For details, [click here](#).*



### NGOs are part of the problem in Pakistan

Irfan Mufti, member of the Pakistan National Steering Committee and the co-convenor of the organising committee of the WSF-Karachi, spoke with IPS correspondent Zofeen Ebrahim

As the ninth edition of the World Social Forum (WSF) opened in Belem, capital of the north Brazilian state of Para, half way around the globe in Pakistan the movement seems to have run out of steam. At the closing of WSF-2006 in this Pakistani port city, one of the four polycentric fora, noted writer and political campaigner Tariq Ali predicted gloomily that the Forum would "fail to bring about new social movements" because he perceived non-governmental organisations (NGOs) taking

people away from politics. The problem is that it is being run by NGOs. This has ruined the spirit of the forum in Pakistan. It was a conscious decision to initiate it through NGOs and gradually open it to others and hand it over to social movements. However, I think the process has taken too long to achieve that objective. *For details, [click here](#).*

[Read more...](#)

---

## CIVIL SOCIETY NEWS

### **New law crippling civil society in Ethiopia**

Source: CIVICUS Civil Society Watch Programme

Despite severe criticism from donors, civil society and foreign governments, on 6 January, the Ethiopian Parliament passed a controversial law restricting the activities and funding for civil society organisations (CSOs). The law, “Proclamation for the Registration and Regulation of Charities and Societies”, will prevent CSOs from taking part in democracy building initiatives and acting as a check and balance against human rights abuses. “The Law will have a crippling effect on civil society in Ethiopia. We are deeply disappointed that Parliament has passed this regressive law which undermines democratic values and the people of Ethiopia”, said Ingrid Srinath, CIVICUS Secretary General. *For details, [click here](#).*

### **Civil society activists condemn Obama’s decision to continue drone strikes**

By Ali Usman, Daily Times in Pakistan

Civil society representatives and human rights activists on Sunday condemned US President Barack Obama’s decision to continue drone strikes into Pakistan. According to the US media reports, the first meeting of Obama’s National Security Council had focused on Pakistan and Afghanistan. The President ordered the continuation of the drone strikes in Pakistan. Collateral damage: Civil society and human rights activists said counter-terrorism strikes mostly killed civilians and could potentially ‘produce’ more terrorists. *For details, [click here](#).*

### **Civil society to monitor future elections in Cote d'Ivoire**

Worried by the constant political crisis in Cote d'Ivoire, the nation's civil society convention (CSCI), on Friday formed an observation team to monitor future elections and ensure that such elections are conducted in a peaceful atmosphere. CSCI which groups professional organisations, trade unions, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) as well as representatives of religious organisations and traditional institutions is financed by the European Union. *For details, [click here](#).*

### **Africa Democracy Forum expresses concern about political deadlock in Zimbabwe**

Source: Africa Democracy Forum (ADF)

ADF is a network of over 450 democracy and human rights organisations throughout Africa, expresses its deep concern about the political deadlock, the escalation of political violence against democracy and human rights activists, and the deteriorating economic, health, and humanitarian crises in Zimbabwe. We are disturbed by lack of progress in implementing the Global Political Agreement, which was signed by ZANU-PF and two factions of the Movement for Democratic Change in September 2008. The Agreement was to end all forms of political violence, restore rule of law, safe-guard the freedom of the media, allow access to humanitarian aid for those in need, work towards the writing of a people driven democratic constitution and to establish an inclusive government. *For details, [click here](#).*

### **Civil society appeals for Gaza aid**

By Farhan Zafar, Daily Times in Pakistan

Prominent personalities hailing from different sections of society, including artists, media personalities and doctors, spoke at length about the plight of the people of Gaza, in the wake of the 22-day conflict between Israel and Palestine. They were gathered at a seminar titled “Gaza Crisis: a Humanitarian

Crisis" organised by United Producers Association on Thursday. Palestine Embassy Deputy Secretary Husni Abu Ghaus said that over 1,500 Palestinians were killed in indiscriminate bombing by Israeli warplanes, while 6,000 people suffered fatal injuries and 80,000 were rendered homeless. *For details, [click here](#).*

### **Women of the Royal Family prosecuted in Islamic courts**

Source: Women Petition Committee

The Women Living Under Muslim Laws (WLUML) international solidarity network is deeply concerned by the recent harassment campaign taken against Ms. Ghada Jamsheer, a woman human rights defender. Ghada Jamsheer is the president of the Women's Petition Committee, an organisation which campaigns for the rights and dignity of women in the shari'ah family courts. While Ghada Jamsheer was attending the AWID (Association for Women's Rights in Development) conference in South Africa between 14 and 17 November 2008, her home was reportedly entered by a state security agent and detailed photographs were taken. Her house phone, mobile phone, and email account are reportedly under surveillance. *For details, [click here](#).*

[Read more...](#)

---

## **GLOBAL CALL TO ACTION AGAINST POVERTY (GCAP) AND UN MILLENNIUM CAMPAIGN (UNMC)**

### **GCAP calls for urgent action on poverty in World Social Forum 2009 and launches new report**

Source: Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP)

In 2009 World Social Forum (WSF), GCAP alliance is focusing on influencing the agendas of the upcoming G20 and G8 Summits as well as building accountability supported by more grassroots mobilisations. "There is deep frustration at the lack of commitment from governments to tackle poverty more seriously or urgently, The growing numbers taking part in mass mobilisations since 2005(116.9 million in October 2008) calling for aid delivery, debt cancellation and just trade, have been Southern-led. The people most affected are voicing their demands, holding their own leaders accountable but seeing little in return," said Kumi Naidoo, GCAP co-chair. *For details, [click here](#).*

### **Madrid Talks: In the right direction but lack urgency and funds**

Source: Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP)

As UN Secretary General, General Ban ki Moon and Spanish Premier, José Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, close the Madrid High Level Meeting on Food Security and Agriculture, GCAP calls for a move from the right words to urgent action by making sufficient funds available immediately, particularly to local governments and local civil society. "There is an insufficient sense of urgency or new funds compared to the money spent on unsustainable financial systems. The right to food is the basis of all human rights so this slow route highlights the present moral crisis. Private profits including food speculation and food dumping are still allowed. Sufficient and timely political responsibility for the welfare of people (food, water, health, education and decent work) is lacking. Not just in failed states like Zimbabwe - but in developing and developed countries alike," said Sylvia Borren, Co-Chair of the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP). *For details, [click here](#).*



### **GCAP Africa demanding extraordinary results from African Union**

Christophe Zoungana, Coordinator of the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP Africa)

From the 26 January to 3 February, the African Union will be holding an African Executives meeting in Addis Ababa . The Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP Africa) is calling African leaders (who are mostly members of the executive arms of government in African countries) attending the meeting to truly look into building up infrastructure. "Part of the agenda is to discuss the current issue of Palestine. While GCAP Africa sympathizes greatly with the situation of the Middle Eastern nations, we must not forget that massacres and gross abuses of human rights are still going on in our very own Democratic Republic of the Congo and Zimbabwe. We need to

prioritize! We cannot help others if we ourselves are in a big mess as we currently are!" says Christophe Zoungrana GCAP -Africa Coordinator. *For details, [click here](#).*

---

## MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGs)

### Education for all and Millennium Development Goals

Min Bahadur Ranabhat, University of London, UK

Economic growth and development will have no meaning if poverty continues and people live without having enough food to eat, and basic education and health services for their capacity building. As such, countries have targeted for its alleviation. This is reflected in the Millennium Summit of 2000 where 189 countries had agreed to set targets known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Since 1950s, Nepalese education services have been offered by the several policy, planning and development efforts of the school education in Nepal. *For details, [click here](#).*

[Read more...](#)

---

## GET INVOLVED!



### Petition for killers of Human Rights Defenders in Russia to be brought to justice

Source: Human Rights First

On 19 January, Stanislav Markelov, a human rights defender and lawyer, was gunned down in the middle of the afternoon in downtown Moscow. Anastasia Baburova, a freelance reporter working for the newspaper Novaya Gazeta who was with Markelov and tried to intervene, was also shot and died hours later. Markelov was a well-known and respected figure in Russia's human rights community. He was the president and founder of the Rule of Law Institute, an organization formed to protect human rights and the rule of law. *For details, [click here](#).*

### Join the solidarity fast to 'Save Zimbabwe Now' on Facebook

Source: Save Zimbabwe Now campaign

To support the campaign search Facebook for events called "Save Zimbabwe Now" for details of the Johannesburg launch. The Save Zimbabwe Now initiative has selected a relay fast as the first campaign to mobilise regional public awareness and build pressure on South African Development Community (SADC) governments to influence the Zimbabwean state to restore dignity, human and democratic rights to its people. The act of purposively going without food is also symbolic. It recognises the worsening food shortages in Zimbabwe, and the deepening humanitarian crisis. Please invite your friends to come along too. Get people to join the solidarity fast. Kumi Naidoo, CIVICUS Honorary President is fasting for 21 days and others are fasting every Wednesday. *For details, [click here](#).*

[Read more...](#)

---

## ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

### Simon Zadek live from World Economic Forum- 'Sands into Snow'

By Simon Zadek, Chief Executive of AccountAbility

My annual pilgrimage to the Magic Mountain is always a transcendent experience of departure and arrival...this year more than most, not only because of the extraordinary circumstances but because my point of departure was Riyadh. Saudi Arabia's Global Competitiveness Forum precedes Davos each year with shortened flights for dignitaries in rotation from one to the other. The Kingdom's

headline topic for this year was, appropriately, 'Responsible Competitiveness'. Thankfully, the back-slapping moments of last year's Davos were completely absent, with still-in-post chief executives and political leaders providing some humbling thoughts on the disaster. *For details, [click here](#).*

[Read more...](#)

---

## CIVIL SOCIETY ACTIVISM ON GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS

### **Decent Work Decent Life Campaign acts on financial crisis in World Social Forum**

Source: International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

The Decent Work Decent Life Campaign, led by the International Trade Union Confederation, Solidar, the Global Progressive Forum, World Solidarity and the European Trade Union Confederation, is organizing – two years after the launch of a worldwide campaign in Nairobi, Kenya – three major activities in the 2009 World Social Forum in Belém. The activities will focus on the global welfare state, the campaign itself and on the new global financial architecture.

"The Washington consensus has reached its limits, and there is an urgent need for a new paradigm," said Borell, Chair of the Global Progressive Forum. *For details, [click here](#).*

### **Obama repeals global gag rule**

Center for Reproductive Rights applauds President, urges further action

"President Obama has taken a tremendous step in righting the wrongs perpetrated against women around the world by the Bush administration. Under the Global Gag Rule, countless women were condemned to illegal and unsafe abortion, organizations' free speech rights were trampled upon and their advocacy efforts crippled," said Nancy Northup, president of the Center for Reproductive Rights." *For details, [click here](#).*

### **Unlocking the power of Constitutional Rights in Africa**

By Stephanie Nieuwoudt, Inter Press Service (IPS)

Jurisprudence in Africa has improved a lot since the early 1990s, but a lot of work still has to be done to improve justice structures across the continent. Speaking to IPS at the first ever World Conference on Constitutional Justice, held in Cape Town from 22-24 January, Gianni Buquicchio, secretary of the Venice Commission, said that there can be no real democracy in a country without an independent judiciary. The conference was hosted by the Constitutional Court of South Africa and the Venice Commission, an advisory body of the Council of Europe on constitutional issues. "We are holding a mirror to the world in which all the defective court systems across the globe are reflected. Courts fail the people when they abuse public trust and don't function effectively," Chief Justice Pius Langa of South Africa told IPS. *For details, [click here](#).*

[Read more...](#)

---

## CLIMATE JUSTICE

### **UNICEF's 2009 Humanitarian Action Report highlights effects of Climate Change**

Source: CLIMATE-L. ORG

The 2009 Humanitarian Action Report was launched in Geneva, Switzerland, by UN Children's Fund (UNICEF). The Report highlights the plight of children and women around the globe in humanitarian emergencies, such as conflict situations and natural disasters. The Report outlines UNICEF's ongoing and proposed actions to deal with the humanitarian emergencies described, and the funding required for these actions. *For details, [click here](#).*

### **2009 Development Marketplace Competition on climate change adaptation**

### Open for submissions in early February 2009

This year's Development Marketplace global competition aims to stimulate innovative technologies and approaches on climate change adaptation. The World Bank and its partners will bring the 100 most promising innovators to Washington DC in November 2009 to compete for 20-30 grants and participate in a series of knowledge sharing sessions. Stay tuned and check the Development Marketplace website for more information including eligibility requirements, selection criteria and maximum grant size. *For details, [click here](#).*

[Read more...](#)

---

## CAPACITY BUILDING

### Project Cycle management : CBO training toolkit

Authors: CARE; International AIDS Alliance

Publisher: Communities Responding to the HIV/AIDS Epidemic, 2006

This training toolkit aims to build the confidence and skills required by community-based organisations (CBOs) to develop and manage their HIV/AIDS projects more systematically through project cycle management. While the toolkit was developed for use by facilitators involved in the training of these CBOs, it can also be used by NGOs/CBOs themselves to implement training within their organisations. The toolkit describes a workshop scenario providing a range of participatory activities which can be carried out to build skills. *For details, [click here](#).*

---

## PROFILES



### DONOR: EMpower, Enriching lives in emerging markets

Founded in 2000 by financial professionals from the emerging markets community who were "doing well" and also wanted to "do good", EMpower UK was formed in 2007 out of the interest of emerging markets professionals, from London and Continental Europe, to deploy resources in support of marginalised communities in Emerging (EM) countries. EMpower provides funding and some technical support to community-based organizations in EM countries that are working to improve the lives of young people in the priority areas of [education](#), [health](#), [leadership](#) and [livelihoods](#). Countries of focus are Argentina, Brazil, China, Colombia, India (Gujarat, Maharashtra, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal), Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Russia, South Africa, Thailand, Turkey and Vietnam. They support organisations with an annual budget that does not exceed US\$ 1.5 million. *For details, [click here](#).*



### MEMBER: World Vision International

World Vision is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. It is an international partnership working in close to 100 countries, serving more than 100 million people. Its principal focus is on children, but the work is integrated and holistic, because it believes the best way to improve children's lives is through community-based transformational development. *For details, [click here](#).*

[Read more on the previous member profiles...](#)

---

## BOOKS, REPORTS & RESOURCES



### **Defending Civil Society Report**

Co-authored by World Movement for Democracy secretariat & International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL)

Democracy will not flourish unless citizens can freely engage in politics and social change, and for many years civil society groups have been providing citizens with the means to do so peacefully. While civil society organisations are thus central to building and defending democracy, they face serious threats around the world. The report on "Defending Civil Society" provides illustrative examples of legal barriers facing civil society; defines the principles, noted above, that must be defended against violation by an increasing number of governments; and calls for building solidarity among, and in support of, NGOs now confronting the spread of restrictive legal environments. *For details, [click here](#)*. The Defending Civil Society report is available in [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [French](#), [Russian](#) and [Spanish](#).



### **Media as partners in education for sustainable development**

Authors by Eleanor Bird, Richard Lutz and Christine Warwick

Source: UNESCO Series on Journalism Education

This UNESCO media training and resource kit aims to provide media professionals with interdisciplinary knowledge so they can become partners in education and development by performing their professional function as journalists. This publication is available online in English. Readers are invited to post their comments through a blog created for this purpose. *For details, [click here](#)*.

### **Publications: Speaking Out: How the voices of poor people are shaping the future**

Oxfam GB publications

This set of 12 papers brings together experiences, lessons, and good practice from Oxfam GB and its partners' global programme work on the theme of 'the right to be heard'. The papers describe different ways to strengthen the participation of people in poverty so that they become active citizens and shape policy decisions. Many poor people around the world are denied the opportunity to have their say. These papers cover different approaches, lessons learned, and useful case examples on issues ranging from local community budget monitoring to popular mobilisation and media work. *For details, [click here](#)*.

### **Human Rights Watch 2009 World report**

The report documents ongoing human rights abuses by states and non-state armed groups across the globe, including attacks on civilians in conflicts, political repression, violations by governments trying to curb terrorism, abuses against women, children, refugees, workers, gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people, among others. The report addresses abuses against women, children, refugees, workers, gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people, among others. The report outlines steps the United States and other governments that purport to support human rights should take if they want to reclaim the initiative for human rights from the "spoiler" nations that today so aggressively and effectively oppose them. *For details, [click here](#)*.

[Read more...](#)

---

## **CONFERENCES & EVENTS**

### **Civil society and the upcoming High Level Meeting for Food Security for All**

26-27 January 2009, Madrid, Spain

The World President Rev. David Beckmann was one of only three civil society leaders to address the 2008 summit in Rome. This year's U.N. High Level Meeting for Food Security for All aims to offer continuity to the United Nations Global Action Plan, and to design a road map that will guarantee the fulfillment of the objectives and commitments made during the last summit. President Obama faces many challenges as he enters office. Fighting the hunger crisis must be a priority issue. This will

require him to put in place the structure and funding needed for the U.S. to show global leadership by reworking the way it handles foreign aid. The G8's proposal for a global partnership on food and agriculture is a good idea. This partnership needs to include voices from outside of governments, especially civil society. *For details, [click here](#).*

[Read more...](#)

---

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### **World Bank's 2009 Youth Essay Competition on Climate Change**

Application Deadline: 22 February 2009

The World Bank's 2009 Youth Essay Competition aims to tap into the ideas of the next generation of green entrepreneurs for dealing with the pressing problem of climate change. The Essay Competition invites youth aged 18-25 to share ideas on how climate change affects them, and how it can be addressed through youth-led solutions. For the first time, the competition will also include photo and video categories which will also vie for prizes ranging from \$ 1,000 to \$ 5,000. Submissions can be in English, French or Spanish. Participants may submit entries in more than one category (essay, video and photo), but only one submission per category is allowed. *For details, [click here](#).*

[Read more...](#)

---

## CALL FOR PAPERS, SUBMISSIONS, SURVEYS & NOMINATIONS

### **Call for NGO consultation on Reforms of International Monetary & Financial System**

Round of consultations is running from 26 January to 13 February 2009

The President of the UN General Assembly, Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, set up a commission of experts chaired by Nobel Prize Laureate Joseph Stiglitz, whose mandate includes putting forward "credible and feasible proposals for reforming the international monetary and financial system in the best interest of the international community". The Commission of Experts of the President of the UN General Assembly on Reforms of the International Monetary and Financial System will present its final report in early April 2009. The Office of the President of the General Assembly has asked United Nations Non-governmental Liaison Service (NGLS) to consult with civil society groups across the globe and to compile their views into a single report that will be presented to the Commission as an official input to their deliberations. NGLS has set up an on-line consultation open to all civil society organisations to support this effort. *For details, [click here](#).*

### **Call for Research Proposals on the World Bank**

Application Deadline: 16 February 2009

The Researchers Alliance for Development ( RAD ) is partnering with the World Bank on a series of workshops for doctoral students whose main area of research is the World Bank Group. Each workshop brings together some 20 PhD students, World Bank staff and academics from other institutions (universities, research institutes). Paper proposals are invited from current doctoral students and early career postdoctoral researchers (up to three years post-PhD) conducting research on the World Bank Group and other international economic organizations in any social science field. The next workshop will be held on April 26-27, 2009 in Washington DC . *For details, [click here](#).*

[Read more...](#)

---

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.

### **JOBS OF THE WEEK**

#### **Web and New Media Editor**

Application Deadline: 13 February 2009  
CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation  
Location: Johannesburg, South Africa  
*For details, [click here](#).*

#### **Support Officer for IANGO**

Application Deadline: 13 February 2009  
CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation  
Location: Johannesburg, South Africa  
*For details, [click here](#).*

#### **Civil Society Index Programme Officer**

Application Deadline: Position vacant until filled  
CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation  
Location: Johannesburg, South Africa  
*For details, [click here](#).*

#### **Consultant: Literature Review for Platform Human Rights Development 2010**

Application Deadline: 08 February 2009  
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)  
Location: New York, United States of America (USA)  
*For details, [click here](#).*

---

### **CONTACT e-CIVICUS**

e-CIVICUS is a free weekly online publication keeping tens of thousands of people, organisations and programmes informed of the many developments and factors that affect civil society and their impact on creating a more just world.

We value your comments and suggestions. Please send these to the Editorial Team at [editor@civicus.org](mailto:editor@civicus.org).

**Unsubscribe:** To unsubscribe from e-CIVICUS, get a password reminder, or change your subscription options by entering your subscription email address: [Click here](#).