



## CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR PARTNER EVENTS AT INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY WEEK 2016

### International Civil Society Week 2016

Over the coming months important global decisions will be made which will affect the way the world deals with key issues such as poverty, inequality and climate change. On 25-27 September 2015, world leaders meet to agree on a new set of Sustainable Development Goals for the next fifteen years, and in December key targets for climate change reduction will be set. However, there is still an urgent need for clarity on the delivery of these goals and targets, and without the engagement of local citizenry and civil society in their implementation, follow-up and review in every country, they will remain an empty promise. At the same time, the role of civil society in contributing to development and to participate in the construction of public life, is being challenged by a number of governments, through increased regulation, restrictions to foreign funding and reductions in freedom of expression, association and assembly. In light of these pressing challenges, CIVICUS and CCONG, the Colombian national platform of NGOs (Confederación Colombiana de ONG) have partnered to organise the next International Civil Society Week in April 2016 in Bogotá, Colombia around the theme '*Active Citizens, Accountable Actions*'.

International Civil Society Week (ICSW) is a key global gathering for civil society, donors, academia and other stakeholders to engage constructively in finding common solutions to global challenges. International Civil Society Week 2013 - 2014, hosted in Johannesburg, tested a new partnership approach, in which multiple organisations pool their resources together to convene a diverse international group of leaders in civil society issues. [ICSW 2014](#) was a highly successful event that brought together over 700 delegates during a week-long programme of more than 40 partner-led events.

ICSW 2016 will bring together concerned citizens in different sectors, themes, regions and backgrounds. We are pleased to host ICSW 2016 in Bogota, Colombia, and provide a space for dialogue to promote social, professional, and cultural exchanges, as well as to encourage and strengthen links between the international delegates and local civil society, in particular in relation to peace.

Since 2013 in Colombia, there is a dialogue between the national government and the FARC (Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia) to seek a negotiated solution to put an end to a more than 50 year old armed conflict. On the other hand, recently, the Colombian Government established a High Level Intergovernmental Commission, to enable the implementation of the post-2015 agenda in Colombia, which shows the commitment

expressed in the National Development Plan to generate dialogue mechanisms between government and other stakeholders to take on the challenges which the new development agenda requires.

### **CIVICUS World Assembly**

Following the new format from ICSW 2014, the next CIVICUS World Assembly will be an integral part and a flagship event of ICSW 2016. The CIVICUS World Assembly will gather inspiring people and curate panel discussions to share best practices and celebrate citizen action. For more information about past CIVICUS World Assemblies, please visit the CIVICUS website [here](#).

**We invite you to use this partnership opportunity and take an active role in this important event!**

### **Partner event requirements**

Partner-led events during ICSW 2016 should align to the theme for the Week “Active Citizens, Accountable Actions” and deliver one or more of the three ICSW objectives:

- **Connect:** Bringing together the different sources and forces of citizen action to discuss how different actors can work together more effectively to address common challenges;
- **Share:** Facilitating the sharing of tools and strategies for enhancing citizen action through workshops or training sessions;
- **Celebrate:** Showcasing case studies of successful people-powered or citizen actions that have led to positive social change.

Partner-led events can take the form of workshops, seminars, small conferences or film screenings, among other formats. All events should be highly participatory in nature.

ICSW 2016 will accommodate up to 700 delegates and partner-led events must be open to ICSW 2016 delegates who wish to take part. However, partners can impose size limitations for their respective events and allocate up to 50% of the places available to designated delegates.

Finally, ICSW 2016 partners will have to contribute to the vibrancy of the Week through their respective networks and contacts, to achieve participant diversity (regional, sectoral, thematic, etc.).

### **Roles and responsibilities**

CCONG & CIVICUS as the host organisations will provide key support for partners that wish to organise an event during ICSW 2016, with:

- Centralised logistical support centre, including venue sourcing, flight and accommodation booking, visa assistance;
- Centralised website, registration system and communication hub for all internal and external ICSW communication;
- Dedicated physical space for networking, exhibitions and information booths.

What CCONG and CIVICUS require from ICSW 2016 partners:

- Pay for a partner's event fee, which will cover direct costs associated with event hosting (i.e. venue, registration system, catering, AVI, etc.);
- Provide a certain number of bursaries for delegates (registration fees, accommodation, flights);
- Promote your own and other ICSW events to your organisation's contact lists.

### **Partnership benefits**

- Opportunity to sit on ICSW 2016 International Steering Committee and shape the programme of an internationally recognised event;
- Leverage resources and share financial burden of hosting international event with other ICSW 2016 partners for bigger impact and reduced financial risk;
- Enhanced visibility through dedicated event space at ICSW 2016, logo and branding on all marketing materials, and media exposure;
- Outreach beyond current constituency and opportunity to engage with civil society (including CIVICUS' global constituency), donors, academia and other stakeholders.

### **Closed events**

ICSW 2016 also offers the opportunity for partners to host their own and relevant events or hold their annual meetings during the course of the Week. While ICSW organisers cannot offer registration, logistics, marketing or communication support to partners hosting closed events, we would be happy to provide advice and coordinate efforts.

For more information on International Civil Society Week 2016, please contact us on [icsw@civicus.org](mailto:icsw@civicus.org).

**Deadline for applications: 13 September 2015**

**To apply for partner involvement in ICSW 2016, please fill in the application form and [submit it here](#).**