



World Alliance for Citizen Participation

# e-CIVICUS

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

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

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### 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 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 no later

## FROM THE DESK OF CIVICUS' SECRETARY-GENERAL

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



### My best day at CIVICUS

By Kumi Naidoo, CIVICUS Secretary General

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Last Wednesday, I left Johannesburg to go to Ethiopia. The primary purpose of my visit was to address a conference on an enabling environment for civil society in Ethiopia organised by a CIVICUS member, The Forum for Social Studies. A day earlier, a delegation including the former Archbishop of Cape Town, Njongonkulu Ndungane, Salil Shetty of the UN Millennium Campaign, and CIVICUS Board member Marta Cumbi from Mozambique, met with the Prime Minister of Ethiopia to appeal for the release of Daniel Bekele and Netsanet Demissie. Clare Doube, CIVICUS Civil Society Watch Manager, also travelled with the delegation to support their trip. As you may recall, Daniel and Netsanet are both civil society leaders and co-ordinators of the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) in Ethiopia. They have been detained for the last two years and five months for their peaceful civil society work, particularly related to their involvement in co-ordinating legitimate election monitoring activities by local civil society organisations during the May 2005 election. Since then, CIVICUS and GCAP, along with many other organisations around the world, have been calling for their release. To read more on the column, [click here](#).

### Counter-Terror bill will undermine democracy and human rights globally

CIVICUS Open Letter to Prime Minister Gordon Brown

Kumi Naidoo, CIVICUS Secretary General has expressed deep concern about the UK Counter-Terrorism Bill, which had its second reading in Parliament on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April. In a letter to Prime Minister Gordon Brown on behalf of CIVICUS, Mr Naidoo stated that if the Bill is passed, it will not only undermine hard-won human rights and civil liberties, but will also set a disturbing global example. In the letter, CIVICUS points out that: "This Bill has been proposed without any evidence that it will improve security and safety, but with considerable indication that human rights and civil liberties will be forfeited". For more information, [click here](#).

### CIVICUS Open Letter to President Thabo Mbeki on Zimbabwean elections

By Kumi Naidoo, CIVICUS Secretary General

In an open letter to President Mbeki of South Africa, CIVICUS raised concerns expressed by civil society partners in Zimbabwe and called on the President to show leadership in calling for transparency around the polls in Zimbabwe, to prevent further tragedy. As the letter said: "We respectfully request on behalf of our brothers and sisters in Zimbabwe, and our members in Africa and worldwide, that you do all you can to ensure that the Zimbabwean government respects the will of the people." For more information, [click here](#).

than Tuesday for publication in the coming week to [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, please visit [www.civicus.org/new/media/e-civicuseditorialguidelines-finalDraft.doc](http://www.civicus.org/new/media/e-civicuseditorialguidelines-finalDraft.doc).

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**CIVICUS Poll Question**

**This week's question:**

Does international civil society contribute to protecting human rights defenders?

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

**Previous question:** Is there scope for civil society participation in the 2008 Spring Meetings of the World Bank (WB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF)?

**Results:** Yes - 34%, No - 50%, Don't Know - 16%

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**TELL A FRIEND ABOUT e-CIVICUS**

The e-CIVICUS newsletter keeps tens of thousands of people and organisations informed of the many developments taking place in civil society around the world. As a subscriber you know the value e-CIVICUS can bring to your work. So why keep it to yourself?

Do you have a friend who works for a more just world? Would you like to share this newsletter with them? Why don't you suggest they register for a free subscription?

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**COUNTDOWN TO THE 2008 CIVICUS WORLD ASSEMBLY**

**CIVICUS looks forward to your participation in the World Assembly. Let's Act Together for a Just World!!!**



**8<sup>th</sup> CIVICUS World Assembly - 74 Days to go!!**

Source: CIVICUS World Assembly Team

There are only 74 days to go until the 8<sup>th</sup> CIVICUS World Assembly begins. The highly anticipated 4-day event will take place in Glasgow, Scotland from 18-21 June 2008. This will be the last of the 3-year Glasgow series and the programme promises to live up to the legacy of previous World Assemblies. The World Assembly will bring together members of civil society, government, donors, business and media who will explore "Acting together for a just world" through the focus theme of "People, Participation and Power". For additional information on the programme and what to expect, browse through our e-flyer available in [English](#), [Spanish](#) and [French](#).

**Spotlight on Participatory Governance at the 8<sup>th</sup> CIVICUS World Assembly**

Source: CIVICUS World Assembly Team and Participatory Governance Programme

The CIVICUS Participatory Governance Programme will hold a two-day World Assembly pre-event from the 17 to 18 June on the theme of "How to Build Political Will for Participatory Governance". The conference will focus on the critical issue of building broad-based support for participatory governance initiatives. The choice of this topic is based on the realisation that one of the key challenges faced by participatory governance practitioners is lack of political will. Although participatory governance offers important concrete benefits for citizens and state actors alike, there is often initial resistance from political actors and government officials who are unfamiliar with such approaches. The objective of this conference is to explore and understand reasons for *political won't*

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#### 2008 CIVICUS World Assembly

The World Assembly will take place between 18-21 June 2008, Glasgow, Scotland. Building on and continuing the success of past World Assemblies, the overall theme for this event is *Acting Together for a Just World*. This overall theme will be explored through the focus theme of *People, Participation and Power*.



#### Civil Society Watch Monthly Bulletin

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

and, most importantly, to share and learn about strategies and tools that have proved successful in building *political will*. For more information, [click here](#).

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## e-CIVICUS DIALOGUES

### A Response to David Bonbright: What do we need to know?

By Shelagh Gastrow

In response to David Bonbright's article on "Making Social Investment Decisions - What do we need to know?" which was published on the SANGONeT Portal last week, a number of issues came to my mind while I was reading it. The issue of measurement has become a new industry in the non-profit sector. Whilst measuring output, outcomes and impact is critical for every organisation as well as those who support them, it has become an over-complicated process and the assumptions made about certain measurements being "good" for social change needs to be challenged at various levels. For more information, [click here](#).

### The temperature is RISING - Global warming, climate change and your health

By Eulalee Thompson


The theme for World Health Day on 7 April is 'Protecting health from climate change'. Jamaica's policy statement to the 62nd session of the United Nations General Assembly, last October, at the very least indicates an ongoing governmental awareness of global warming and climate change. Dr Kenneth Baugh, deputy prime minister and foreign trade minister who delivered the address said: "Implementing a global response to climate change must remain a priority as we seek consensus for combating global warming beyond 2012 when the Kyoto Protocol expires. As we prepare for the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Bali, Indonesia, we are encouraged that the recent high level event on climate change and the General Assembly informal debate on climate change reinforced the urgency with which issues pertaining to environmental sustainability have to be tackled." For more information, [click here](#).

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## CIVIL SOCIETY NEWS

### Algiers conference promotes civil society's role in fight against terrorism

By Nazim Fethi

 Having long been confined to a marginal role consisting of occasional demonstrations and demands that victims of terrorism receive proper care, associations are now making an active contribution to the fight against terrorism. For the first time since the emergence of terrorism in Algeria, one of the country's many non-governmental organisations sponsored an international gathering aimed at better understanding the phenomenon and boosting civil society's participation in the global anti-terror effort. For more information, [click here](#).

### Civil society warn Nepal leadership to end ongoing blame-game among parties

Source: Kantipur Online

Civil society leaders on Monday met the leadership of three ruling parties and suggested them to proceed practicing patience to end the mounting blame-game among the parties and end the increasing skirmish among their activists in different places countrywide. Prime Minister and Nepali Congress President Girija Prasad Koirala, CPN -UML General Secretary Madhav Kumar Nepal and CPN -Maoist Chairman Prachanda participated in the meeting with the civil society leaders at Baluwatar capital. Civil society leaders warned the top three leaderships that the ongoing blame-game and mounting clashes could cause hindrances in drafting a new constitution. For more information, [click here](#).

### Zimbabwe civil society petitions SADC and African Union over election results

## CIVICUS blog

What do you think? Have your say on the CIVICUS Blog! CIVICUS seeks to amplify the voices and opinions of ordinary people and give expression to the enormous creative energy within civil society. Our recently launched blog gives you the opportunity to use your voice and engage with the rest of civil society. Have your say by visiting <http://civicus.civiblog.org>



### Source: Association for Zimbabwe Journalists

Zimbabwe civil society has petitioned the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the African Union (AU) heads of state to exert the necessary diplomatic pressure on President Robert Mugabe to ensure that election results are released immediately without being tampered with. Addressing a press conference in Harare, civil society spokesperson Macdonald Lewanika implored SADC and AU heads of state to urgently demand that President Robert Mugabe and his government allow elections results to be released. "We the civil society organizations from Zimbabwe implore the SADC and AU heads of state and government to exert necessary diplomatic pressure to force President Mugabe to allow elections results be released immediately without being tampered with," Lewanika said. For more information, [click here](#).

### A greater mandate for civil society in Taiwan

By Yen Chueh-an

There is no denying the fact that Taiwan is a divided society and a fragile democracy. Although the presidential election ended peacefully, one would be hard pressed to see it as symbolic of a mature democratic system and culture. Since the turn of the millennium and possibly because of pressure from China, Taiwan has just barely been able to hold itself together with the help of "shared interests." However, the Democratic Progressive Party's (DPP) landslide loss to the Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) in both the legislative and presidential elections presents a crisis. For more information, [click here](#).

### Tribal women leaders interface with civil society in India

Source: OneWorld South Asia

Indigenous and tribal people represent about five per cent of the world's population, but over 15 per cent of the world's poor. Amongst them, the plight of tribal women is more precarious than their male counterparts as they often encounter additional barriers related to gender. To deliberate on some of the important issues concerning tribal women, Centre for Youth and Social Development (CYSD) organised a "State Level Tribal Women Leader's Summit" from 21-23 March 2008 in India. The objective was to help explore enabling and disabling factors for transformation of tribal women's leadership, deepen their understanding on issues affecting tribal society and promote self-esteem, self-confidence and self-help among them. For more information, [click here](#).

### Independent media targeted by authorities in Belarus

By Michael Scollon

Raids on the offices of independent media outlets, journalists' private apartments, and the recent mass arrests of opposition activists in Belarus have evoked a harsh reaction by the West, criticism has apparently fallen on deaf ears. The Belarusian authorities this morning resumed their crackdown, a day after dozens of journalists were detained for questioning by the KGB. Many of them also had their private apartments searched. In a telephone interview with RFE/RL, independent journalist Alena Stsyapanava described the KGB's search of her home in Vitsebsk. For more information, [click here](#).

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## ACCOUNTABILITY

### Turning the tables: aid and accountability under the Paris framework

Source: European Network on Debt and Development

Three years ago aid donors and recipients signed up to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. Have donors delivered on their pledges? Is aid becoming more effective and accountable for impoverished people? This report focuses on progress against two principles of the Paris Declaration - ownership and accountability. These principles are the bedrock of aid reform but the area where least attention has been directed. While both donors and recipients have responsibilities to make aid more effective, this report concentrates on the responsibilities of donors to make sure aid contributes to addressing the many challenges faced by developing countries. It reveals that some development agencies have introduced new policies and procedures, but many are slow to change. This is a joint

NGO report written by the European Network on Debt and Development (Eurodad), based on analysis of aid effectiveness using factual data and interviews conducted in seven countries such as Cambodia, Honduras, Mali, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Niger and Sierra Leone. For more information, [click here](#).

### **The first draft period of the AA1000AS Wiki Revision Process is closing soon**

Source: AccountAbility.net

The wiki-platform for the revision of AccountAbility's non-financial AA1000 Assurance Standard (AA1000AS) was opened on 24 January this year. The volume of traffic to the website has been very encouraging in the first two months of its launch and the level of discussion and comment has increased as more people become used to the unique way in which this standard is being developed. On 4 April, the first drafting session of the Wiki Revision of AA1000AS will be closed for public edits for approximately 3 weeks. However, the standard in its current form will be available for views and downloads. The Technical Committee will take into account all existing comments when producing the draft ready for the second public wiki consultation period. For more information on the AA1000AS, [click here](#).

### **Civil society seeks greater transparency in Nigeria**

By Senator Iroegbu

Concerned stakeholders in the health sector are seeking greater transparency in all the activities involving this vital sector through enhanced monitoring and evaluation of various projects around Nigeria; and improved collaboration between governments and civil society on health issues. Calls were made at a Civil Society Roundtable held in Abuja which was organised by the Civil Society for HIV/AIDS in Nigeria (CiSHAN), an umbrella organisation co-ordinating over 3,000 NGOs, CBOs and faith-based organisations working on HIV/AIDS response in the country. For more information, [click here](#).

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## **GET INVOLVED!**



### **Join the World Harmony Run to sprint to fight hunger**

More than one million people will take part in the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)-backed World Harmony Run, the world's longest global relay, which made a running start in a bid to tackle hunger and poverty. The World Harmony Run is a global relay that seeks to promote international friendship and understanding. As a symbol of harmony, runners carry a flaming torch, passing it from hand to hand travelling through over 100 nations around the globe. The World Harmony Run does not seek to raise money or highlight any political cause, but simply strives to create goodwill among peoples of all nations. For more information, [click here](#).

### **Online Petitions generate global attention**

Online petitions have become a springboard for advocacy groups to generate global attention and support for local issues. These online petitions are engaging and educating millions, while garnering mainstream media's attention. In 2007, Facebook and other social networking sites were used as a channel to promote awareness of global issues. Seeking mainstream attention and action, Facebook groups such as 'Support the Monks' Protest in Burma' were created. In 2008, online petitions have become the catalyst and driving force behind global reform, translating online publicity into offline action. The tools are free and make creating a petition simple and easy. For more information, [click here](#).

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## **MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS & GLOBAL CALL TO ACTION AGAINST POVERTY**



**Get ready to Stand Up and Take Action for the MDGs: October 17**

Last year, more than 43 million people all over the world stood up and spoke out, sending a clear and powerful message to governments: Keep your promises to end

poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals. This year we are inviting you to Stand Up and Take Action, to be a part of the growing global movement determined to stamp out poverty and inequality. The UN Millennium Campaign has reached the halfway mark to 2015, the target date for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. There has been some progress, but there is still a long way to go. The Campaign needs to take urgent and inspired action now, to remind our governments we expect them to deliver. That's why this year we're focusing on country-specific actions in support of the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Millions will be Standing Up and Taking Action, locally, nationally and globally. For more information, [click here](#).

### **Beyond the Millennium Development Goals**

By Rupert Walder

The UK Government's spending on maternal health is increasing every year. But much more needs to be done with governments, the United Nations, and non governmental organisations if the global community is to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015," says Gillian Merron, the UK Government's Under-Secretary Of State For International Development. Merron was speaking at a Women and Children First conference in London at the beginning of March, where experts met to discuss how to promote a greater focus on reproductive health in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). For more information, [click here](#).

### **Poverty in Focus: PSIA - Assessing Poverty Impacts**

Source: International Poverty Centre

Poverty and Social Impact Analysis (PSIA) and Poverty Impact Assessment (PIA) are recently developed tools for analysing the distributional impact of policies, programmes and projects on the well-being of the population, with particular focus on the poor and vulnerable. Both approaches provide a comprehensive framework for analysis while drawing on a wide range of well-established approaches and tools covering economic, social, political and institutional issues. The International Poverty Centre (IPC) is administering a joint United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) / World Bank Project on PSIA. The overall objective is to promote capacities in developing countries for analytical work on the impact of national policies and to use these results to influence poverty reduction strategies. This involves adjusting policy design in light of the impact of policies on poor women and men, and providing evidence to inform national policy dialogue. For more information, [click here](#).

### **Towards Achieving Authentic National Ownership**

Source: Better Aid, [www.betteraid.org](http://www.betteraid.org)

The aid system (or 'non-system' to be more precise) has faced tremendous challenges in less than a century of its existence. While the Millennium Declaration of the UN has called for clear-cut targets in reducing poverty, scaling up aid and achieving clear results, there is general agreement that the aid regime is in dire need of serious reform. This non-system is increasingly becoming chaotic with 23 bilateral donors, besides several global funds and multilateral donor institutions, not to mention private foundations and CSOs. This situation underscores the urgency for aid effectiveness reform in addressing a wide range of criticisms and demands for better aid management and governance and achieving development results for poor people. For more information, [click here](#).

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## **CIVIL SOCIETY ACTIVISM AND GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS**

### **Innovative Public Private Partnership to strengthen civil society response to AIDS in China**

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Total (China) Investment Co. Ltd have signed an agreement to recruit and support four Chinese national United Nations Volunteers ( UNV ) to provide targeted technical assistance and outreach capacity support for local civil society organisations and projects supporting people living with HIV (PLHIV) and other highly vulnerable groups. To promote the sustainable involvement of civil society in China's AIDS response, it is essential to understand the civil society sector, assess its capacities and weaknesses, and develop

appropriate support mechanisms and tools to strengthen multi-sectoral collaboration with civil society organisations. "The AIDS epidemic is unusual in its scope and magnitude, and by its very nature affects the poorest and most marginalised in society", said Renaud Meyer, UNDP Deputy Country Director. For more information, [click here](#).

### **IPDC Council unanimously endorses new set of media development indicators**

The Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) yesterday unanimously endorsed the new set of media development indicators proposed by the international expert group. After a long debate, the Council agreed that the proposed set of indicators is an important diagnostic tool for all stakeholders to assess the media development in a given country and thereby to determine the areas for assistance. The debate was chaired by the new Chairperson of the IPDC Council, Walter Fust. The Council also requested its Bureau and other stakeholders working in the area of media development to apply these indicators to assess the media sector of a given country and identify its needs, and to take them into account when determining, in tandem with national authorities, communication development strategies within the overall context of national development. For more information, [click here](#).

### **New climate change treaty negotiations begin in Bangkok**

By Andrew Gilmore

Negotiations on a new international treaty to combat global warming began in Bangkok. The week-long negotiations, part of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) are intended to establish an agenda for the negotiation of a new agreement to replace the expiring [Kyoto Protocol](#). Pursuant to the [Bali Roadmap](#) negotiated in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2007, the 187 participating nations pledge to finalise a new agreement at an upcoming meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark, by the end of 2009. The new deal is expected to enter into force by 2013, following the expiration of the Kyoto Protocol in 2012. For more information, [click here](#).

### **Right to information is fundamental for development, UNESCO experts say**

Right to access information held by public bodies and its contribution to transparency, media pluralism, good governance, empowerment and poverty eradication were the focus of debates during the international experts meeting on "Freedom of Information and Sustainable Development, Sealing the Link" held last week at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. During a two-day session on 17 and 18 March, more than 20 experts from developing countries of four continents, canvassed a range of issues central to the actual enactment of freedom of information frameworks. Representatives from specialised NGOs, professional media associations and intergovernmental organisations elaborated a stock of best practices and lessons learned, which were presented in an open session ([listen](#) and [read](#) transcripts of main presentations). For more information, [click here](#).

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## **CAPACITY BUILDING**

### **A toolkit for communities on Impacts and Benefits Agreements**

Impacts and Benefits Agreements (IBAs) are negotiated between companies and local indigenous communities. They are designed to help manage the impacts of mining, oil and gas, or other major developments and to secure economic benefits for communities affected. But there is very little publicly available information on best practices or models for negotiating IBAs. Though most commonly used in mining, an IBA may also be negotiated for an oil or gas project, hydro or forestry development or even for a national park or protected area. Depending on the region, IBAs may be referred to by such names as *Access Agreements* or *Access and Benefit Agreements*. For more information, [click here](#).

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## **PROFILES**

**Public Welfare FOUNDATION** **DONOR: Public Welfare Foundation**

The Public Welfare Foundation is a non-governmental grant-making organisation dedicated to supporting organisations that provide services to disadvantaged populations, and working for lasting improvements in the delivery of services that meet basic human needs. Grants have been awarded in the areas of criminal justice, disadvantaged elderly and youth, environment, population, health, community and economic development, human rights and technology assistance with a focus on countries that are in political transition, including El Salvador, Haiti, Mexico, Northern Ireland and South Africa. For more information, [click here](#).



**MEMBER: The Cameroon Association for the Protection and Education of the Child (CAPEC)**

CAPEC is a non-governmental organisation (Reg. No: G39/014/5/252) working in Cameroon. Since its inception in 2002, the organisation has been working with children/youth, parents, government bodies and inter-governmental bodies in the promotion of community welfare. It works to identify the needs of the child especially the rural child/youths, the underprivileged and the weaker sections of society through participatory approaches. Its objectives are to protect and make known the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child through education, to assist the needy child irrespective of tribe, origin, sex, religion, in the domain of social welfare, to protect the child from sexual exploitation and child labour, assist children in prisons, orphanages, centres for the disabled and street children, organise youth leadership training and youth exchange programmes, actively take part in the prevention of HIV/AIDS especially in children/youth and women, and volunteering. For more information, [click here](#).

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**BOOKS, REPORTS & RESOURCES**

**A Critical Approach to the Aid Effectiveness Agenda**

Source: Better Aid, [www.betteraid.org](http://www.betteraid.org)

Betteraid.org is a campaign website, published by the Civil Society International Steering Group (ISG) towards the Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Accra in September 2008, reviewing the [Paris Declaration](#). It aims to provide information and updates on aid effectiveness issues, especially related to the CSO parallel process towards the Third High Level Forum. The International Steering Group (ISG), initiated during the World Social Forum in Nairobi in January 2007, is actively voicing CSOs concerns and is preparing the CSO parallel Forum in Accra under the chairmanship of IBON Foundation and ISG active partners. For more information, [click here](#).

**Earth Charter Guidance Paper on synergies with Global Reporting Initiative**

The Earth Charter, an inspiring and visionary set of widely endorsed values and principles on how to build a just global society, has a strategic alliance with the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI). Both initiatives involve working on the sustainable development agenda and represent the work of thousands of people worldwide, from multiple stakeholder groups. However, they also take different approaches, and have some important differences of scope and approach. This guidance paper deals with how they fit together, how they can build on their respective strengths, and how they can be used to drive change. For more information, [click here](#).

**Globalization - Poverty Channels and Case Studies from Sub-Saharan Africa**

Guest edited by Machiko Nissanke and Erik Thorbecke  
*African Development Review*

This special issue explores how the forces of globalisation influence poverty; describes and discusses the main transmission channels and mechanisms; and analyses the impact of globalisation on Africa through six case studies. Access to this journal is available free online within institutions in

the developing world through the AGORA Initiative with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), and the OARE Initiative. For more information, [click here](#).

### **Britain documents crumbling human rights situation in Russia**

The latest edition of a human rights report from the British Foreign Office finds new lows in the arena of human rights in Russia. The report, revealed on March 25th by Great Britain's Foreign Secretary, David Miliband, puts Russia among the list of countries that raises the most worry on the part of the foreign policy department. Russia and Belarus are the only European nations on the list. Separate chapters are also devoted to Afghanistan, Myanmar, China, Columbia, Cuba, the Democratic Republic of Congo, North Korea, Iran, Iraq, Israel and the Palestinian territories, Nepal, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Vietnam and Zimbabwe. For more information, [click here](#).

### **Civil Society Report on Climate Change in India**

"Civil Society Report on Climate Change" was prepared by the Liberty Institute and Civil Society Coalition on Climate Change. The report, by 40 civil society organisations from around the world, alleges that rich countries were putting pressure on India, China and other poor countries to sign up to binding emission targets. It says cutting greenhouse gas emissions is not a cost-effective way to address climate change. Rather, policies must promote economic growth and empower the poor so that they are able to solve problems and adapt to future needs. For more information, [click here](#).

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## **CONFERENCES & EVENTS**

### **Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness**

2-4 September 2008, Accra, Ghana

In September 2008, ministers from over 100 countries, heads of bilateral and multilateral development agencies, donor organisations, and civil society organisations from around the world will gather in Accra for the Third High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (2-4 September). Their common objective is to help developing countries and marginalised people in their fight against poverty by making aid more transparent, accountable and results-oriented. The Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (Third HLF) will review progress in improving aid effectiveness, broaden the dialogue to newer actors and chart a course for continuing international action on aid effectiveness. For more information, [click here](#).

### **Capital Campaign Fundraising Conference**

29-30 April 2008, Colombia

The conference is sponsored by the National Development Institute, a certification programme for development professionals committed to continuing education. The conference will bring together non-profit executives, development officers, board members, and other non-profit staff who want to increase their knowledge and skills in the areas of non-profit advancement, fundraising, and development. Participants will learn what is involved in launching a successful capital campaign, including how to identify new donors and conduct a feasibility study. For more information, [click here](#).

### **The Global Anti-Corruption, Compliance and Ethics Conference**

16-17 April 2008, Chicago, USA

Corporate corruption scandals have increased drastically over the last few years throughout the United States. High profile cases are now regularly reported in the global media and continue to highlight the massive risks for both the companies and the executives involved. It is no wonder that many US companies are now taking the lead on developing their anti-corruption programmes and policies. This conference will cover everything you need to know to develop and manage an integrated and global anti-corruption, ethics and compliance programme. Practical solutions including

the latest tools, technologies and training methods from many of the world's leading organisations. The event provides a powerful forum for the sharing of information with numerous networking opportunities available to clarify this often complex area. For more information, [click here](#).

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## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### **Donner Canadian Foundation Awards**

Application Deadline: 15 May 2008

Non-profit social service agencies have an opportunity to win a share of \$70,000 in prize money through the Donner Canadian Foundation Awards for Excellence in the Delivery of Social Services. The Donner Awards encourage best practices and greater accountability by recognising Canadian non-profit organisations that excel in providing social services. Award recipients are selected based on a ranking of their performance in ten key areas, including management and governance, the use of staff and volunteers, innovation, programme cost, and outcomes monitoring. The top organisations in each of the nine categories of social service delivery will win \$5,000 awards while the \$20,000 *William H. Donner Award for Excellence* will be presented to the highest performer. For more information, [click here](#).



### **Global Youth Fellowships**

Application Deadline: 10 April 2008

In 2005, the Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation launched a new programme of grant-making called Global Citizenship. One objective of this programme is "to support initiatives that educate young Canadians about key international aid, security and development challenges and engage them in the pursuit of practical, just and sustainable solutions." In 2006, as a complement to its grant-making activities, the Foundation initiated the Global Youth Fellowship programme. The fellowship programme is targeted towards young and emerging leaders in Canada who have demonstrated a commitment to international issues. The fellowship provides financial as well as other forms of support that enable recipients to deepen their understanding of global policy issues. For more information, [click here](#).

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## CALL FOR PAPERS, SUBMISSIONS & NOMINATIONS

### **Call for Participants in Survey on Civic Space in USA, Kazakhstan and Ethiopia**

Deadline Extended: 11 April 2008

CIVICUS is developing a *Civic Space Barometer* to monitor the perceived space for civil society around the world. As part of this project, CIVICUS is searching for civil society actors (including individuals involved in the media, non-governmental organisations, trade unions and faith-based organisations, among others) in the USA, Kazakhstan and Ethiopia to participate in a survey on the space for civil society in their countries. Applicants should have an understanding of civil society in their countries, and be willing to complete approximately four simple surveys over the next two years. For more information, [click here](#) or e-mail [cswatch@civicus.org](mailto:cswatch@civicus.org).

### **Call for Statements of Interest - Partner organisations for the implementation of the CIVICUS Civil Society Index**

Deadline Extended: 30 April 2008

Due to the strong interest for participation from civil society organisations around the world, the application deadline for statements of interest to partner with CIVICUS on the Civil Society Index has been extended. The CIVICUS Civil Society Index (CSI) team is pleased to announce its open call for statements of interest to implement the CSI around the world. If your organisation's work focuses on strengthening civil society in your country and is interested in implementing the CSI, please complete the full application form in [English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#), or let us know at [index@civicus.org](mailto:index@civicus.org). The

project implementation starts in June 2008 and spans 2008 and part of 2009. The call for statements of interest is available in [English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#).

**Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation call for proposals of Grand Challenges Explorations**

Application Deadline: 15 May 2008

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announced that it is now accepting grant proposals for the first round of Grand Challenges Explorations, a US\$100 million initiative to encourage bold and unconventional global health solutions. The initiative, the first of its kind for the foundation, uses an agile, accelerated grant-making process. Applications are two pages long, and preliminary data about the proposed research are not required. One of the primary objectives of Grand Challenges Explorations is to involve scientists around the world who don't typically work in global health - this includes innovators in Africa, Asia, and other parts of the developing world; those from complementary disciplines and in the private sector; and young investigators. For more information, [click here](#).

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**APPOINTMENTS**

This week 22 new civil society job openings have been added to the CIVICUS website. Please [click here](#).

**JOBS OF THE WEEK**

**Communications and Media Manager**

Application Deadline: 18 April 2008

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

Location: Johannesburg, South Africa

For more information, [click here](#).

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**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 that are taking place in civil society organisations around the world, the many factors that are affecting the impact of civil society 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).

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