



A weekly e-newsletter for civil society from CIVICUS!

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## Tell us what CIVICUS should work on in the next five years!

*English | French | Spanish*

This week CIVICUS launched a global online consultation on the question of what should be the core of CIVICUS strategic directions over the next five years. Don't miss the opportunity to have your say.

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### **CIVICUS World Assembly 2012: an action-packed programme!**

The 2012 CIVICUS World Assembly programme is now available. New sessions have just been confirmed. The content is rich, the presenters are bringing a great diversity of expertise, there are a thousand things for you to accomplish... and your own participation is only a click away!

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### **Please give us your views about the state of the CIVICUS alliance.**

Please answer two short questions in our online survey

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#### **Sections:**

Highlights from CIVICUS | On the Road to Rio | Events  
| Opportunities | Resources

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## Feature

The main issue is equality of opportunities: Rio+20 interview with Sabina Anoye-Mensah, Voice of African Mothers

CIVICUS speaks to Dr Sabina Anokye-Mensah from Voice of African Mothers (VAM) on her expectations for Rio+20. As a civil society organisation and organising partner for Rio+20's Women Major Group, VAM advocates for women's education and empowerment in the African continent. She speaks about the challenges that arise from the concept of the green economy, and the tensions that currently face governments in the adoption of a rights-based approach.

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## Highlights from CIVICUS

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*Now available: the executive summary of the State of Civil Society 2011 report in French, Portuguese and Spanish*

### **CIVICUS events at the UN Human Rights Council**

CIVICUS is co-organising two events during the 20th session of the UN Human Rights Council, being held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 18 June to 6 July:

- 21 June Ethiopia's stifled civil society
- 22 June Freedom of assembly and association countering persecution and pushback on civil society

### **CIVICUS at the Cape Town Book Fair**

CIVICUS is working with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation to present its State of Civil Society 2011 report and perspectives on Rio+20 at the Cape Town Book Fair, South Africa, Sunday 17 June. View the programme.

### **Next weekly webinar: amplifying marginalised and muted voices, 20 June**

The work of organised civil society can sometimes reinforce existing paradigms of power and exclusion. The challenge lies in moving beyond shallow, box-ticking approaches and towards forming legitimate partnerships with marginalised groups and mainstreaming their issues and concerns into core work. Join us as we explore how CIVICUS can increase access for muted voices locally, regionally and globally, and how CSOs can form genuine partnerships with marginalised groups. Register for our next weekly webinar, at 1pm GMT, 20 June.

### **Bangladesh: civil society under attack as dissent is silenced**

CIVICUS calls on the Bangladeshi government to stop immediately its campaign of intimidation against civil society activists and to conduct fair and independent investigations into the politically motivated disappearances of activists. Further, the government of Bangladesh should reverse moves to pass legislation that restricts legitimate civil society activities.

### **Cambodia: civil society activists defending land rights must not be silenced**

Defending land and housing rights in a country marked by illegal land confiscations and forceful evictions of poor communities can be risky business for activists. Civil society activists against forceful eviction of communities from their lands and houses experience repression from the government of Cambodia. In common with others in Cambodia, activists on land and housing rights have over the past four years been faced with new legal restrictions and ferocious retaliation from government authorities for documenting and denouncing abuses.

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## **On the Road to Rio**

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***View the CIVICUS whos who and what were doing at Rio+20 advice sheet and our position statement for Rio+20***

### **Upcoming CIVICUS events at Rio+20**

CIVICUS is helping to organise or speaking in a number of side events at Rio+20 over the next few days Click here to see or follow us on twitter.

### **Global toxics-free future forum: remarks by CIVICUS Jeffrey Huffines**

CIVICUS believes that the Zero Draft outcome document for Rio+20 must advance a rights-based approach to sustainable development that reaffirms past political commitments, and in particular, the need to protect civil society space, ensure maximum public participation and advance democratic freedoms, by establishing legally binding commitments which support the three dimensions of sustainable development: social justice, environmental

sustainability and economic development

### **Rio+20: civil movements reflect desire for sustainable future says UN official**

The new civil movements that are being seen in the Middle East, Europe and elsewhere reflect a global call for a sustainable future, the Executive Coordinator of Rio+20 says, stressing that governments should listen to their citizens and implement greener policies that take into account peoples wellbeing.

**Source: UN News Centre**



### **Volunteer spirit alive at Rio**

As Rio+20 gets underway in Brazil, the estimated 50,000 to 60,000 participants will not only include world leaders, government delegates and UN staffers but also a staggering array of activists from the far corners of the world. They will also include more than a thousand volunteers.

**Source: IPS News**

### **South Bulletin: Rio+20 - the key issues**

This special issue of the South Bulletin analyses the key issues to be decided at Rio+20, including reaffirming the Rio commitments, the green economy, sustainable development goals, finance and technology. With many issues still not settled and delegations still working frantically, the Bulletin finds that the prospects are not good,



as many developed countries seem reluctant to renew their Rio commitments.  
**Source: South Centre**

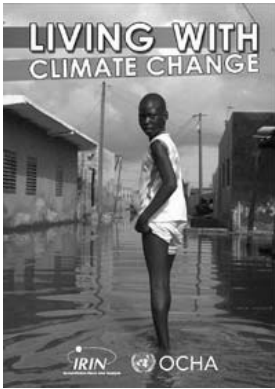


**Civil society organisations call on the EU to re-commit to Rio principles**

Civil society organisations from around the world have called on the EU to unreservedly re-commit, in both letter and spirit, to the Rio principles adopted 20 years ago. EU Environment Ministers, who met in Luxembourg on 11 June, were urged to demonstrate that EU policies and practices pursued within and outside the EU are

consistent with the principles of sustainable development.

**Source: Social Watch**



**New IRIN publication to mark Rio+20**

Ahead of Rio+20, a new publication, Living with Climate Change, examines current debates and policies in practice, and how communities and their governments are working with specialists to integrate the concept of sustainable development into their national programmes on a day-to-day basis.

**Source: IRIN**

**TerraViva Rio+20**

IPS - Inter Press Service - has launched its TerraViva Rio+20 website to contribute to the exchange of ideas among participants in Rio+20 and decision-makers, opinion leaders, academics and CSO leaders at home, and for the public in Brazil and worldwide.

**Source: IPS**

## 2012 CIVICUS World Assembly

**CIVICUS World Assembly - your perspectives matter**

We are asking our members, partners and other stakeholders to send us their inputs for the 2012 CIVICUS World Assembly. We would like you to identify your key pieces of research, analysis, commentary and other essential documents from 2012 and 2011 that are relevant to the themes of the World Assembly and can be shared with the participants to inform the discussions and outputs.

**World Assembly video: track two, building partnerships for social innovation**

The 2012 CIVICUS World Assembly takes place from 3 to 7 September 2012 in Montreal, Canada. Under the theme of defining a new social contract - making the future together, programme track two will focus on building partnerships for social innovation. Capitalising particularly on the major multi-stakeholder discussions taking place at Rio+20, this track will draw upon good practices of joint initiatives and innovative alliances to establish a common code of values and conduct for cooperation as part of a new social contract.

## Events

**World Refugee Day, 20 June**

Each year on 20 June the UN and many civil society groups around the world mark World Refugee Day. World Refugee Day was established by the UN to honour the courage, strength and determination of women, men and children who are forced to flee their homes under threat of persecution, conflict and violence. Add your name to the 2012 campaign.

**Source: UNHCR**

## Resources

**Money, politics, power: corruption risks in Europe**



Transparency International's new report, Money, Politics, Power: Corruption Risks in Europe warns that the close relationship between business and government has enabled corruption and undermined economic stability in Europe.

**Source: Transparency International**

### **Sleepwalking into global famine**

The world is slowly being engulfed by a growing food crisis, one that will grow worse by the month, because of the fragility of the food system, in a world situation in which there is a constant increase in population in the poorest countries, constant degradation of arable land, a shortfall of water and an increase in price of oil. In his book *Sleepwalking into Global Famine*, Benny Dembitzer identifies 13 different forces and analyses them and their impact on the world's capacity to feed its poorest inhabitants.

*Source: Ethical Events*

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## **Civil Society News**

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***We want to share your civil society news with thousands of subscribers! Email your civil society news for the weekly e-civicus bulletin to: [editor@civicus.org](mailto:editor@civicus.org).***



### **Bahrain: detention of Nabeel Rajab extended**

On 13 June the detention of Nabeel Rajab was extended until 19 June, when his trial is due to start on charges of vilifying. Nabeel was re-arrested on 6 June.

*Source: Bahrain Centre for Human Rights*

### **Malaysia: UN experts call for protection of CSOs working for free and fair elections**

A group of UN human rights experts has called on the government of Malaysia to respect and protect the legitimate work of an umbrella group of CSOs, the Coalition for Clean and Fair Elections, campaigning for reform of the electoral process in the lead-up

to the general election, scheduled to take place by April 2013.

*Source: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights*



### **Papua New Guinea: waking up to the price of corruption**

Weeks ahead of a national election in Papua New Guinea, 3,000 people gathered in Papua New Guinea's capital, Port Moresby, for the sixth annual Sir Anthony Siaguru Walk against Corruption, to protest peacefully about an issue that affects every aspect of citizens' lives.

*Source: IPS*

### **Quebec: emergency law broadens sympathy for protests**

When the provincial government of Quebec tried to end student demonstrations by arresting more than 2,500 people and passing an emergency law that some lawyers consider heavy-handed and perhaps unconstitutional, it helped turn what had been a student strike into a battle over a broader set of grievances that has introduced some of the greatest political turmoil Canada has seen in decades.

*Source: New York Times*

### **Yemen: aid work difficult in unpredictable Aden**

In the port city of Aden, two dozen international NGOs are struggling to meet mounting humanitarian demands caused by nearby war. Partnerships with local CSOs are helping to deliver needed aid.

*Source: IRIN*

### **Zimbabwe: occupy for devolution**

Civil society group WOZA Women of Zimbabwe Arise - launched an Occupy for Devolution series in Bulawayo. More than six hundred WOZA members conducted street occupation protests as part of a campaign to pressure for a devolved system of government to be included in the draft constitution.

*Source: Women of Zimbabwe Arise*

### **Business and civil society: collaborating for change**

Business needs to rewire companies and redesign the way that capitalism works by connecting it to communities and the values of its employees, building new alliances with civil society and governments to address the pressing challenges of the day.

*Source: The Guardian*

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## **Take action**

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### **Syria: take action - stop Syria's death dealer**

Russia's Rosoboronexport is the main supplier of weapons to the Syrian regime - weapons used to massacre thousands of people. India and the US together make up over 50% of Russian arms sales. Join the campaign to call

on the Indian and American governments to cancel existing and future contracts with Rosoboronexport until it halts all weapons sales to Syria.

*Source: Avaaz*

### **Support the call for a global arms trade treaty**

There is a historic opportunity to curb irresponsible arms transfers that fuel human rights abuses. World leaders will come together at the United Nations in New York in July 2012 to decide on adopting an Arms Trade Treaty. Sign the petition to demand a strong treaty.

*Source: Amnesty International*

### **A storm is brewing on fossil fuel subsidies**

Over one million people around the world are calling for an end to fossil fuel subsidies. 18 June sees a day of action - an online push united by one single message: #EndFossilFuelSubsidies. Sign up to join the campaign.

*Source: 350.org*

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## **Opportunities**

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### **IRIN Internships**

The Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), a global news and analysis service on humanitarian issues, is inviting internship applications for between two to six month placements in its Nairobi, Kenya office.

*Source: IRIN*

### **UN Summer Academy**

The UN Summer Academy offers a new learning opportunity, facilitating interaction between and among UN staff, government officials, civil society personnel and others. The inaugural session will take place at the UN Campus in Turin, Italy, from 20 to 31 August 2012, on the theme of a new global development partnership.

*Source: UN System Staff College*

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## **Jobs**

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### **Business and Human Rights Resource Centre: Anglophone Southern and Western Africa Researcher and Representative (application deadline 3 July 2012)**

The Anglophone Southern and Western Africa Researcher and Representative will represent Business and Human Rights Resource Centre in the region and build a broad range of contacts. The candidate will need strong research and analytical skills to identify relevant materials for the website, categorise information and compose brief summaries.

*Source: Business and Human Rights Resource Centre*

### **Amnesty International: Chief Information Officer (application deadline 30 June 2012)**

The Chief Information Officer will provide information communications technology and information management vision and leadership, while overseeing the planning, development and implementation of information system technologies to support Amnesty International's International Secretariat leading role in developing more effective information management across the Amnesty movement.

*Source: Amnesty International*

### **OECD: Senior Policy Analyst and Policy Analyst Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation**

The Senior Policy Analyst will manage a small team to support the regular ministerial-level discussions and meetings of the Global Partnership for Effective Development. She/he will work to ensure global accountability around the commitments agreed at Busan to improve the effectiveness of development co-operation, and will ensure effective communication of the findings and decisions of the Global Partnership to the broader development community. The Policy Analyst will work as part of the team to support the ministerial-level discussions and meetings of the Global Partnership, and support the Senior Policy Analyst.

*Source: BetterAid*

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**Share your news with us**

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2012 CIVICUS World Alliance for Citizen Participation

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