



Call for Proposals For Workshops and Presentations

The CIVICUS World Assembly 2006: “Acting Together for a Just World”

June 21-25, 2006, Glasgow, Scotland

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation invites interested CIVICUS members, partners and other civil society organisations to submit proposals for workshops, presentations, training sessions or visual arts exhibitions to be presented at the CIVICUS World Assembly, to be held June 21-25, 2006 in Glasgow, Scotland.

Past CIVICUS World Assemblies have shown the creativity and dynamism that civil society can bring to address issues of justice and equity, and have been a watershed for strengthening civil society. This impact has stemmed from intense organising by host committees, increased visibility for the sector through heightened media interest, new alliances forged with business and government and participation by a broad range of civil society organisations from throughout the world.

Workshops, presentations, training sessions and visual arts exhibitions form a key component of each World Assembly because they:

- offer an important means for World Assembly delegates to participate and contribute to discussions;
- provide your organisation and partners with a unique opportunity to share with and learn from other delegates around the world; and,
- facilitate exchange and networking with other interested stakeholders in the lead-up to the World Assembly, during the event and afterwards.

Event Theme and Sub-Themes

Building on and continuing the success of past World Assembly events, the overall theme for this World Assembly is **Acting Together for a Just World**. This overall theme will be explored through four sub-themes:

Sub-Theme 1: Civic Justice

Civic Justice is about citizens exercising and defending their rights to freely associate and organise in order to ensure social, political and economic transformation and reform. This sub-theme will also explore how to promote active citizenship; the resources people need to act collectively, the modes of organising which citizen groups choose for different purposes and how civil society organisations are responding to the challenges around their legitimacy and accountability.

Sub-Theme 2: Economic Justice

This sub-theme deals with some of the key issues facing civil society organisations as they work for greater economic justice at the national and global levels. It will tackle some of the deficiencies in global economic policy making, in particular, recognising that in the wake of globalisation, more and more permanent employees, especially women, are becoming informal, casual, temporary, seasonal or home-based workers, with forms of civic organising emerging to address these insecurities. It will also discuss the institutional biases that prevent the achievement of these alternative livelihood security solutions.

Sub-Theme 3: Political Justice

This sub-theme will aim to promote an international debate about the norms or desired standards of practice for civic engagement between civil society and a wide range of powerful institutions including governments, international and multilateral agencies. The theme will seek to interrogate the concept of citizenship and its dominant notions with regard to gender, race, ethnicity, class and age. It will also discuss the array of complex strategies that civil society organisations have developed to hold decision-makers accountable, including negotiation, consultation and protest.

Sub-Theme 4: Social Justice

This sub-theme recognises the inalienable right to life, liberty and personal security that every citizen should enjoy. It also recognises that all forms of conflict and insecurity have a disproportionate impact on poor, vulnerable and marginalised civilians, especially women and children. The discussions will explore the key role that civil society can play, during these times of heightened conflict and tension, in developing new and innovative approaches to conflict resolution, peacemaking and post-conflict reconstruction.

Cross-cutting themes

The event will also explore themes which “cut across” the various sub-themes noted above, including:

- The Millennium Development Goals Campaign and the Global Call to Action Against Poverty;
- Enhancing the legitimacy, accountability and transparency of civil society organisations; and,
- Continuing challenges to, and opportunities for, fair and effective global governance.

Submission Guidelines

Workshops can explore specific issues or initiatives related to the overall theme, one or more of the sub-themes, or one or more of the cross-cutting themes. You may also propose a workshop on a theme related to a CIVICUS programme or activity (please refer to the CIVICUS website for further information).

When designing your workshop or special presentation, please consider the following elements:

- Relevance to the World Assembly theme, sub-themes, cross-cutting themes, and / or CIVICUS programme activities;
- Appeal to an international audience;
- Participatory, engaging and creative approaches to presentation and facilitation (preference will be given to workshops and presentations that do not rely heavily on a lecture-based facilitation methodology);
- Jointly organised or co-hosted efforts are encouraged; and,
- Learning and / or training components are strongly encouraged.

To submit a proposal for a workshop or special presentation:

To submit a proposal, please prepare your submission following the format indicated below and submit via e-mail or fax:

- E-mail: waproposal@civicus.org
- Fax: +27 11 833 7997

Deadline: The deadline for receipt of workshop proposals is **30 October 2005**. Notification of proposal status will be provided by the end of January 2006. If your application is accepted, you will also receive an indication of the likely date and the time of your event, although these may be subject to change.

All workshops will be promoted through the World Assembly programme brochure, the World Assembly website (www.civicusassembly.org) and the CIVICUS website (www.civicus.org). Participants and delegates are encouraged to use the information available via the World Assembly website to facilitate online exchanges in advance of the event.

Your submission should include the following information:

1. Contact Information

- Contact Name
- Organisation / Institution
- Full address (city, postal code, country)
- E-mail
- Phone
- Fax
- Current membership status (i.e., whether organisation is currently a paid-up CIVICUS member)

2. General description

Please provide a general abstract of the workshop or session you propose (300 words or one typed page maximum):, including:

- Title of the workshop or session;
- Workshop leader / facilitator / convener (if different from contact person)
- Description, including objectives and expected outcomes;
- How the workshop relates to the theme, sub-theme and cross-cutting themes or CIVICUS programmes;
- Intended or targeted participants;
- Format (e.g., discussion, structured workshop, information sessions) and type of facilitation;
- Proposed language in which the workshop will be conducted; and,
- Any planned outputs (e.g., paper), follow-up activities or reporting.

3. Short description

- Workshop title
- Brief overview (50 words maximum)
- Organisation
- Workshop leader / convener / facilitator
- Contact person (if different from leader / convener / facilitator)
- Email address for workshop leader or contact person

Bursary Competition

As with past CIVICUS World Assemblies, there will be a limited number of full and partial bursaries available to support attendance by delegates particularly from the global South. Participants in the World Assembly programme, including presenters of approved workshops, will be given special consideration in the allocation of these awards. Additional information is available via the CIVICUS World Assembly website:
www.civicusassembly.org.

Background Information

CIVICUS World Assemblies typically bring together more than 1000 civil society leaders and representatives from around the globe, who share and exchange experiences, ideas, lessons and visions for a better and more just world.

This event marks the first in a new, annual format for the CIVICUS World Assembly, with each three-year cycle of events to be held in the same city. This format offers exciting new opportunities for sustained, in-depth exploration of issues crucial to civil society, and iterative, shared learning from community and voluntary efforts from around the world and the local context.

CIVICUS is pleased to be co-ordinating these three World Assembly events in partnership with the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO). As the national umbrella organisation for voluntary organisations throughout Scotland, SCVO seeks to advance the values and shared interests of the voluntary sector by fostering co-operation, promoting best practices, and delivering sustainable services. For more information on SCVO, please visit its website: www.scvo.org.uk.

Enquiries

For enquiries or clarifications regarding the CIVICUS World Assembly, please e-mail worldassembly@civicus.org or call +27-11-833-5959. (Please do not use this e-mail address for proposal submissions; please refer to the section above on “how to apply” for submission details.)

Français: Pour des informations sur l'Assemblée Mondiale de CIVICUS en français, ainsi que sur les appels à proposition et les informations sur les bourses, veuillez vous rendre sur le site Internet: www.civicusassembly.org.

Español: Información sobre la Asamblea Mundial de CIVICUS en Español, incluyendo el llamado para propuestas e información sobre becas, está disponible en el sitio Web: www.civicusassembly.org.