



International
Civil Society
Centre

2021 PROGRAMME

We strengthen the impact and resilience of international civil society organisations to support people to change their world for the better.



Courtesy of Plan International



Futures &
Innovation



Convening &
Connecting



Platform for
Collaboration



Futures & Innovation

With our partners, we scope developments influential to ICSOs' relevance, and analyse fresh innovations for greater impact in these complex times.

Scanning the Horizon | Annual Meeting

Part I Virtual 15-17 June | Part II Hybrid November

A collaborative platform helping CSOs prepare for disruption and benefit from change. Community members share in-depth practical experience of the concrete changes they are making in response to our key themes of complex and uncertain futures, and equitable and inclusive futures, also hearing from exciting new external initiatives and relevant research. In 2021, we'll publish a sector guide to support strategic decision-making in times of complexity and uncertainty. Along with the two-part annual meeting, members will meet quarterly for virtual exchanges. [More on membership and 2021 plans.](#)

Digital Debates | Event Series

Monthly | Virtual

This event series will take place every last Thursday of the month, providing inspiring discussions for the civil society sector based on the constant change that digitalisation brings to our societies. Each debate is a call to action for CSOs to take a more active role in shaping our digital future.



civil society innovation and urban inclusion



Innovation Report 2021

The Report highlights civil society innovations and new approaches, this year focusing on 'Civil Society Innovation and People-Centred Digital Transformation'. It will showcase the most promising developments by CSOs in delivering solutions for digital inclusion, impact and rights at scale and promoting positive people-centred outcomes. [Contact us](#) to participate.

INNOVATION REPORT 2020

Add your voice!



The Centre's Innovation Report 2020, 'Civil Society Innovation and Urban Inclusion', is [online](#) (watch the launch video [here](#).) To keep this report current in 2021, we're seeking your contributions – a blog piece on your experiences, comments on what you've found useful in the report, or your own case study.

Talk

Listen to our Futures and Innovation Podcast



For the Centre's 2020 Report on 'Civil Society Innovation and Urban Inclusion', we spoke with inspirational innovators from CSOs around the world to hear stories of their advocacy and programming work to make cities more inclusive.

Listen



Convening & Connecting

*All events listed in this document are subject to change.

The Covid-19 crisis pushed more convenings into the virtual space. While continuing to redesign and innovate on how we connect online, the Centre will bring back much needed face-to-face gatherings, so we can challenge conventional thinking with the best and freshest ideas.

Leading Together

July | Berlin, Germany or Virtual (TBC)

Directors of Policy, Programme and Human Resources of ICSOs share learnings, discuss best practices and explore opportunities for joint action. The 2021 meeting will focus on organisational culture, values and leadership.

Vision Works

September | Caux, Switzerland

Global CEOs and chairs of leading ICSOs define joint goals on key strategic issues for their organisations and the sector. The meeting will focus on stronger collaborations and solidarity actions, and understanding the 'New Normal' – responses to a (post-)Corona world, and dealing with interconnected trends in unstable times.

Global Perspectives

2-4 November | Hybrid | Nairobi, Kenya (TBC)

At our main conference, leaders and change-makers from global civil society, as well as from philanthropy, business, government and academia, network and explore synergies, trends and challenges.

Resource Base

This online space of selected policy and programme documents from civil society facilitates knowledge sharing across the sector and provides up-to-date resources on urgent and important issues happening around the world.



Learning Spaces

The Centre delivers regular virtual meetings on a range of issues to provide a platform for civil society practitioners to connect, and share knowledge and experiences.

See past ones [here](#).



Platform for Collaboration

We develop, coordinate, and incubate projects and partnerships that tackle common problems, creating impact that no organisation can achieve alone.

Making Voices Heard and Count | Annual Meeting

November | Virtual

To make Agenda 2030's promise to "leave no one behind" a reality, this partnership promotes active use of community-driven data in the monitoring, review and implementation of the SDGs. Partners foster participation of marginalised communities in agenda-setting dialogues with local and national decision-makers.

Solidarity Action Network (SANE) | Annual Meeting

April | Virtual

The network brings together ICSOs and local partners for mutual support

when facing undue threats and challenges to operations, or other broader restrictions to civic space. It enhances cooperative mechanisms for joint action, beyond public statements of solidarity, to push back against clampdowns on civil society. In 2021, an online platform will allow collaboration and development of joint actions on a digitally secure channel.

Leading the Power Shift and Governance Reform | Annual Meeting

16-18 March | Virtual

The Power Shift Lab will continue strengthening ICSOs' impact by encouraging a more effective and legitimate distribution of powers, roles and responsibilities in their governan-

ce, specifically by strengthening the voices of the communities they serve. This year we have a greater ambition to expand our community, embrace digital participation, and explore innovative formats.

Global Standard for CSO Accountability

Global networks promote a more inclusive and responsive approach to civil society accountability. Using 12 commitments, the Global Standard promotes a shared understanding and embodies a dynamic approach to accountability by encouraging organisations to engage in a continuous two-way dialogue with stakeholders.



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Who do we work with?

The term “civil society” encompasses a huge variety of organised and non-organised actors, spanning movements, activists and service deliverers, donors and philanthropists, as well as media, academia, social businesses, and others. We forge partnerships by bringing these actors together; seeking out the best innovations; and fostering mutual learning and joint action across the sector to achieve fundamental positive change in the world.

Our Owners and Supporters

The Centre is owned and supported by more than 20 of the largest international civil society organisations working across environmental, human rights, social justice and humanitarian issues. Fifteen ICSOs hold equal shares in the Centre, through its not-for-profit limited liability company status. Elected shareholders constitute the governing board, which oversees our work and finances.



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The Centre's work is also supported by ICSOs who are our Core Supporters:



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Our newsletter



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