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

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.

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.
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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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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.

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

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www.icscentre.org

Agricolastraße 26, 10555 Berlin, Germany Phone: +49 (0) 30 20 62 46 97 11
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