We strengthen the impact and resilience of international civil society organisations (ICSOs) 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
Virtual

A collaborative platform helping CSOs prepare for disruption and benefit from change. Members share in-depth practical experience of the concrete changes they are making in response to key themes, and strategic solutions to address key trends. Along with an annual thematic meeting, members will meet quarterly for virtual exchanges. Our learning topic from 2022 will be on climate just and biodiverse futures. More on membership and 2022 plans here.

Digital Debates | Event Series
Monthly | Virtual

This event series will provide inspiring discussions for the civil society sector acknowledging that digitalisation is forever transforming our societies. Each debate is a call to action for civil society organisations to take a more active role in shaping our digital future. You can find our previous debates here.

Innovation Report 2022

The Report highlights civil society innovations and new approaches, this year focusing on ‘Civil Society Innovation and Digital Power Shift’. It will be a timely look at how far our sector has come – and is still yet to go – in using inclusive innovation approaches to advance people-centred and nature-positive digitalisation, to either address system power imbalances or capitalise on emerging people power and technological capabilities. Contact us to participate here.

Listen to our Civil Society Futures and Innovation Podcast

For the Centre’s 2022 Report on ‘Civil Society Innovation and Digital Power Shift’, we are speaking with inspirational innovators from civil society organisations around the world to hear stories of their inclusive innovation approaches to advance people-centred digitalisation. Listen here.
Convening & Connecting

The Centre will seek a balance between select, meaningful face-to-face gatherings, continue our newly established digital formats, and reduce flying frequency, carbon emissions and personal stress caused by international travel, so we can keep challenging conventional thinking with the best and freshest ideas.

Vision Works
26–28 April | Caux, Switzerland

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, understanding adaptations and responses to a (post-)Corona world and dealing with interconnected trends in unstable times.

Leading Together
28–30 June | Berlin, Germany or Virtual

Directors of Policy, Programme and Human Resources of ICSOs share learnings, discuss best practices and explore opportunities for joint action.

November is Global Perspectives month!

Starting with a cross-over event of the International Civic Forum and the Scanning the Horizon futures community, during November, the Centre will open its community meetings and facilitate diverse sector learnings and exploration.

International Civic Forum meets Scanning the Horizon
2–4 November | Hybrid: London, UK and online

At this flagship meeting of the 2022 Global Perspectives month, leaders and changemakers from global civil society, as well as philanthropy, business, government and academia, will focus on the futures dimension of the enabling and operating environment for civil society.

In the same month, the annual meetings of the ‘Leave no one behind’ and the ‘Power Shift’ communities will provide further space for cross-cutting learnings and linking up with other Centre’s initiatives. All will allow for external engagements and cutting-edge inputs from across the sector.

Resource Base

This online space of selected policy, programme and practice guidance 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.

Check our website for upcoming webinars, or see previous ones on our YouTube channel.
Making Voices Heard and Count

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. Learn more about the Leave No One Behind partnership here.

Solidarity Action Network (SANE)

SANE curated conversations on regular basis | Virtual

The network aims to strengthen resilience of and solidarity among civil society actors when faced with civic space restrictions or changing operating conditions. In particular, it connects humanitarian and development ICSOs and brings them into discussions on civic space challenges and opportunities. Within the network, we share experiences, lessons learned and best practices through the Solidarity Playbook and regular SANE curated conversations, explore different forms of solidarity (especially beyond public advocacy) and encourage joint actions. Learn more about SANE here.

Leading the Power Shift and Governance Reform

Mini-Lab 29–30 March | Annual Meeting November | Berlin, Germany or Virtual

The Power Shift Lab will continue strengthen ICSOs’ impact by encouraging more effective and legitimate distribution of powers, roles and responsibilities in their governance, 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 reflect on what we’ve learned for effective power transformations. Several curated conversations will be organised on equitable partnerships, governance issues and engagement of ICSOs and donors, to complement the main flagship events above.

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.

Photo Jorge Mejía Peralta
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 other actors. 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 ICSOs 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.

Visit our website for

Our events, projects and how to get involved

Frequent webinars

Our newsletter

Our podcast

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

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