

Global Perspectives

Transforming civil society futures

30 November

20 October 2022

Note: There will be Spanish translations in the panels and human generated captions.

Key Note: Transforming civil society futures

Nana Afadzinu, Executive Director, WACSI and Wolfgang Jamann, Executive Director, ICSCentre – 10:00 – 10:30 CET

The world has become more turbulent and less predictable. Established truths or assumptions are being challenged, like that of everlasting growth and 'development', or the continuous progress of liberal democratic ideas. Civil society organisations are badly needed to address today's challenges and shape an equitable and climate just future where no one is left behind. Yet they struggle to stay ahead of the curve, and to unleash their innovative and political potential. What will it take to join forces in true partnerships over the challenges of climate change, loss of biodiversity, further rise of anti-rights and anti-democratic forces? How can we imagine differently so we seize the opportunities of digital transformation and decolonisation? And how can we change our mandates and ways of working to remain a meaningful player in societal transformations? Join us for a moderated dialogue of two sector thought leaders and the opportunities and futures they think possible.

Panels:

The Global Standard: a tool to preserve, promote and expand civic space – 9:00 – 10:00 CET

Come and find out how self-regulation can build CSO resilience. In this panel, you will have the opportunity to hear different experiences on how organisations are using the Global Standard to strengthen their work. By ensuring that the people they work for and with drive their actions, CSOs become more accountable, transparent, and legitimate social actors and thus contribute to creating a more enabling environment for CSOs to operate in. Join us to find out how to use the Global Standard as a tool to strengthen your practices while contributing to preserve and expand civic space!

How can we foster a more inclusive digital development? – 11:00 – 12:30 CET

In this fast-evolving digital world, international development actors are increasingly using data and digital technologies to fulfill their agendas. Although technological advances have brought numerous gains to the development community, it has also widened the existing inequalities: marginalised communities are being left further behind due to a lack of access and opportunities



to reap the digital benefits. In addition, there is an ongoing lack of highly granular data and insight on the concrete situation of these communities, impeding the development of targeted approaches for their increased inclusion. As civil society, we have to ask ourselves: what digital approaches can we apply to foster the inclusion of marginalised groups – and are we ready to work more digitally and data-driven? Join our panel discussion to explore how CSOs can help in fostering a more inclusive and equitable digital development.

Getting ahead: Anticipating futures for civil society operating space – 13:00 – 14:30 CET
(*timing tbc*)

To create an enabling environment for civil society, the civil society sector needs to develop more anticipatory and proactive mechanisms to complement its reactive responses to civic space restrictions and changing operating conditions. What can we learn from past and present crises (such as climate crisis, terrorism/extremism or pandemic) to become better prepared for future crises? What adaptive and anticipatory capacities have (international) civil society organisations – (I)CSOs – developed? And what still holds us back in becoming more anticipatory? Learn about key findings from our mapping on crises preparedness of (I)CSOs and discuss with our panelists how civil society can become more future-ready.

Beyond the North-South divide: future models of cooperation – 15:00 – 16:30 CET (*timing tbc*)

As many International Civil Society Organisations have started to imagine their role in the future development architecture, they are confronted with cooperation structures that address the power imbalances that have historically characterised Global North-South relations. South-South cooperation has acquired a significant role as a model of collaboration to exchange knowledge, resources and technical know-how. This session will bring together global experts to explore diverse partnerships and showcase the latest thinking around Southern cooperation modalities. Is there a role for Northern organisations in this configuration? How can the sector push itself to foster new ways beyond “traditional” development cooperation?

Open Houses will take place three times during the day. Timings to be confirmed.