



International
Civil Society
Centre

POWER SHIFT LAB

2025

Concept note

International civil society
organisations striving towards
inclusive governance models



16 – 18 June 2025
Nairobi, Kenya



International
Civil Society
Centre

When:
12:00pm 16 June -
17:00pm 18 June
2025

Where:
Nairobi, Kenya

Invite only
2 x participants* per
organisation:

- 1x senior leader from headquarters
- 1 x senior leader from a country chapter in the Global South

Cost
640€ for Centre
Shareholders

800€ for Centre
Core Supporters

1000€ for
organisations
outside of the
Centre community

Travel and
accommodation are
not included.

POWER SHIFT LAB

Background

International civil society organisations striving towards inclusive governance models

The International Civil Society Centre has been supporting International Civil Society Organisations (ICSOs), to achieve more just systems and governance structures since 2018.

The Centre's [Accelerating Inclusive Power Shift](#) project, launched in 2022, contributed to the ambition of having a global humanitarian, development, human rights, and social justice system that is equitable, inclusive and locally led. Building on the project, the Centre developed the newly launched "Futures of (I)CSOs" initiative which focuses on supporting organisations in implementing the transformational changes needed to become more agile, respond to emerging realities in our world and carve future-fit roles for themselves.

The Power Shift Lab is an annual flagship event that brings together senior leaders from the Centre's community of ICSOs and like-minded organisations to learn from best practices and deepen their understanding of inclusive governance mechanisms and transformation pathways.

**Participants will be senior leaders who have influence over decision-making in governance at headquarters and country chapter level.*





International
Civil Society
Centre

POWER SHIFT LAB

Theme for 2025

Governance and transformation within ICSOs: approaching new roles using foresight as a leadership skill

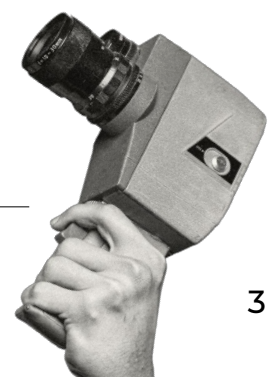
The Power Shift Lab 2025 will explore the impact of transformational processes on governance and organisational strategy, deep diving into how such transformations affect organisational direction, strategic development and culture. In times of crisis, ICSOs are increasingly faced with examining their structure to adapt to rising challenges and ultimately revise their mandate to be fit for purpose and ready for the emerging geopolitical and financial obstacles the sector is facing.

The funding freeze and subsequent dismantling of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has sent shockwaves across an already fragmented civil society landscape, urging organisations to rethink their strategic priorities and prompting larger discussions on the future of development and humanitarian sectors. The Lab will explore the following themes:

- How can ICSOs leaders be empowered to foster cultural change and shape their future roles vis-à-vis intersecting challenges?
- How can we ensure that future strategies embed the sharing of power and responsibility and include more equitable governance mechanisms?

Through future thinking methodologies and strategic foresight, leaders can inform strategy development and execution, preventing disruption. Additionally, by focusing on the future proofing of organisational follow-up and scenario planning, organisations can navigate transformation while still addressing the need for more inclusive and participatory governance models.

For the first time since its inception, the Lab will provide participants with the opportunity to engage with the Centre's [Scanning the Horizon community](#), the only collaborative trend scouting and analysis platform in the civil society sector. Members include leading ICSOs, national CSOs, umbrella organisations, philanthropy and development consultancies as well as futurists and strategists, convening a cross-sectoral community to share insights, explore key trends and develop relevant strategies. During the Lab the two communities will exchange on possible futures of localisation, using futures skills and foresight methods to future-proof their mandates. Furthermore, participants will have the opportunity to take part in an envisioning workshop to help organisations develop preferable futures for civil society and shape and adapt their strategies to remain effective in a changing landscape.





International
Civil Society
Centre

POWER SHIFT LAB

Objectives & Participation

Objectives

The objectives of the Lab are to provide International Civil Society Organisations (ICSOs) with concrete tools, discussion space and inspiration to reflect collectively and individually on strategic planning for mandate review and governance reform. More specifically, the convening will aim to:

- Highlight emerging approaches to governance transformations and future thinking methodologies for strategic development
- Equip senior leaders with foresight and future-thinking tools to anticipate challenges
- Enable the development of effective and inclusive strategies for mandate review to shape the future roles of participating organisations
- Provide tailored guidance to navigate cultural change amidst sector disruption
- Enable peer learning and facilitate the exchange of experiences and lessons learned among ICSOs

The Lab will offer space for different dynamic formats, including pathway development discussions, leadership empowerment sessions as well as engagements with locally based futurist initiatives. The event will be held in partnership with SOS Children's Villages, an international civil society organisation advocating to help build a sustainable future for all children and young people, comprising more than 130 national associations. In the months leading to the event, the Centre will engage with its Power Shift Advisory Group to shape the event according to participants' needs.

Participation

Participation will be by **invitation only** to ensure a trustful environment. Attendees will be senior leaders who have **influence over decision-making in governance** at headquarters and country chapter level. Each organisation will bring **two participants** per organisation: one senior leader from the headquarters and one senior leader from a country chapter in the Global South.

Terms and conditions

Participation fee to attend the Lab:

- 640€ for the Centre's Shareholders
- 800€ for the Centre's Core Supporters
- 1,000€ for interested organisations outside the Centre's community.

Fee coverage:

- The fee covers participation for the two registered participants in the organisation
- Accommodation and travel to and from the Lab are not included
- All meals and refreshments during the event will be provided, as noted in the agenda.





International
Civil Society
Centre

POWER SHIFT LAB

Draft agenda

TIME

Monday 16 June

11:00 - 12:00

12:00 - 13:00

13:00 - 14:00

14:00 - 16:00

16:00 - 16:30

16:30 - 18:00

18:00 - 18:30

18:30

Tuesday 17 June

09:00- 09:30

9:30 - 11:00

11:00 - 11:30

11:30 - 13:00

13:00 - 14:00

14:00 - 16:00

16:00 - 16:30

16:30 - 18:00

18:00 - 18:30

18:30

ITEM

Arrival and registration

Welcome and setting the scene: aims and agenda

Welcome lunch

- Environmental scan: Power dynamics, governance and mandate in times of disruption
- Trends exploration: discover common themes and challenges

Coffee break

Reporting of insights and wrap-up

Free for individual activities

Reception dinner

Arrival and welcome coffee

Welcome, agenda and analysis of common themes

Coffee break

Inputs on navigating transformation and peer exchange on exploring future roles of ICSOs

Lunch

Change Execution Clinic: A fishbowl learning exercise to improve upon leadership style

Coffee break

Moving forward and doing things differently: sharing feedback and takeaways

Free for individual activities

Dinner





International
Civil Society
Centre

POWER SHIFT LAB

Draft agenda

TIME

Wednesday 18 June

08:30 - 09:00

9:00 - 10:30

10:30 - 11:00

11:00 - 13:00

13:00 - 14:00

14:00 - 16:00

16:00 - 17:00

17:00

ITEM

Arrival and welcome coffee

Welcome, introduction, aims and outcomes of the workshop

Coffee break

Workshop part I: Embedding foresight into our work and making room for future-thinking

Lunch

Workshop part II: Envisioning exercise to develop possible futures for civil society

Summary, next steps and conclusions

Farewell tea and networking



International Civil Society Centre gGmbH · www.icscentre.org · Agricolastraße 26 · 10555
Berlin / Germany · T +49 30 20 62 46 97 11 F +49 30 20 62 46 97 19 · Registered Office Berlin ·
AG Berlin-Charlottenburg · HRB 10 93 33 · Executive Director: Dr. Wolfgang Jamann ·
Tax Number 27/ 604/ 022 79 · VAT Reg. No. DE 257 906 389

