

AFRICAN CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM 2007

**“Democratizing Governance at Regional and Global Level to Achieve the MDGs”
ECA Conference Centre, Addis Ababa
22-24 March 2007**

March 21 (Wednesday) – DAY 0

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| | Arrival |
| 11:00-22:00 | Registration at Hotel – transport and bus shuttle timetable available in the hotel lobby |
| 14:00-16:00 | Steering Committee Meeting: CONGO, FEMNET, ECA, AU – UNECA Building |
| 16:00-17:00 | Moderators and Rapporteurs Meeting: Hotel Hilton – meeting with Steering Committee |
| 18:30-21:00 | Welcome Reception by CONGO at Hilton |

March 22 (Thursday) – DAY 1

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| 08:00-09:00 | Registration at UNECA Conference Center | |
| 09:00-10:00 | <p>Opening Session. Invited speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Renate Bloem, President CONGO - Mama Koité, President FEMNET - Message of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon - Abdoulie Janneh, United Nations Under-Secretary General and ECA Executive Secretary - H.E. Patrick Mazimhaka, Deputy Chairperson AU Commission - Ethiopian Government, Minister of Foreign Affairs | Plenary Room CR2 |
| 10:00-10:15 | Group Photo | |
| 10:15-10:30 | Tea / Coffee Break | |

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| 10:30-11:00 | Introduction and Orientation on AfCSF 2007 by the Organizing Committee | Plenary CR2 |
| 11:00-13:00 | <p>1. “Building UN/NGO Partnerships for Democratic Governance to achieve the MDGs” 2. “CSOs’ role in achieving the MDGs”</p> <p>Democratic governance at the global level cannot be achieved without the strong participation of civil society. CONGO believes in empowered NGOs that help the UN moving from consultation to partnerships. Building UN – NGOs partnerships for democratic governance has been the main issue of the civil society fora organized by CONGO in Asia and Latin America during the past years. Today, with our African partners, we would like to add an African dimension to this overall reflection.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archbishop Winston Njongonkulu Ndungane • Dr. Tajudeen Abdul-Raheem, Millenium Campaign Africa </div> | Plenary CR2 |
| 13:00-14:00 | Lunch – UNECA | |
| 14:00-16:00 | <p>3. “CSOs Capacity Building for effective role in public policy and decision making processes”</p> <p>One of the most concrete results of the strengthened partnerships between the UN and civil society should be achieving the MDGs within the set timeframe of 2015. CSOs have several roles to play if these targets are to be met. How can CSOs/NGOs work together with governments for this common endeavour? What are the best strategies and good and bad practices?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px;"> <p>Moderator: Thierno Kane, UNDP</p> <p>Invited speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cardinal Uwishaka, CIVICUS - Adeoba Ojekunle, African Leadership Forum - Hussaini Abdu, ActionAid Nigeria <p>Rapporteur: TBA</p> </div> | Plenary CR2 |
| 16:00-16:20 | Tea / Coffee Break | |

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| 16:20-18:00 | <p>4. “Follow-up on the UN Reform process and the SG’s Report: <i>In larger Freedom</i>”</p> <p>The UN reform has been on the international agenda for years now. Former Secretary-General, Kofi Annan proposed a particularly ambitious reform package in his report “In larger freedom”. The high-level meeting of the General Assembly of September 2005 endorsed only part of it, but Civil Society should keep pressing for a strengthened ECOSOC, a credible Human Rights Council, a functioning Peace Building Commission and a more effective system of NGO participation.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Moderator: Renate Bloem, CONGO</p> <p>Invited Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joséphine Ouedraogo, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNECA - Frej Fenniche, UN OHCHR - Manuel Manonelles, Foundation for a culture of peace <p>Rapporteur: Therese Niyondiko, FEMNET</p> </div> | Plenary |
| 18:00-20:00 | Welcome Reception hosted by the AU: Transport will be provided from UNECA to Hilton Hotel | |
| 20:00-22:00 | Steering Committee & Drafting Committee at Hotel Hilton | |

| March 23 (Friday) – DAY 2 | | |
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| 08:45-09:00 | Recap and Presentation of the Program | |
| 09:00-10:00 | <p>Keynote Speeches: the challenges of the MDGs in Africa</p> <p>According to several concordant surveys and reports, developing countries – and particularly the Least Developed ones – are not on track in achieving the MDGs. What are the reasons for that? Can this negative trend still be reversed? What has gone wrong and how can Civil Society, Governments and the international community still hope to redress it? We still have eight years to go but time is running out. We have to act now.</p> | <p>Plenary CR2</p> |
| <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>Moderator: Sara Longwe, FEMNET</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Millennium Campaign Africa - Hussaini Abdu, ActionAid - Vinetta Robinson, UNDP Senior Strategic Adviser <p>Rapporteur: TBA</p> </div> | | |
| 10:00-11:00 | <p>“Cluster 1: Peace and human security for achieving the MDGs”</p> <p>The quest for peace and security is the primary mandate of the UN, meaning peace not in a negative way – the absence of war – but in a “positive” way. This encompasses the conditions of human security that will prevent the eruption of conflicts. However, despite these noble aspirations, several conflicts are under way on the African continent, generated by lack of human development and human rights violations. If peace is not brought to war-torn countries, then the MDGs will certainly not be met.</p> | <p>Plenary CR2</p> |
| <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>Moderator: Helder Malauene, ECOSOCC-AU</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Admore M. Kamdubzi, AU Peace and Security Council - Marie-Thérèse Avemeka, FAS - Fatoumata Maiga, RANCPAL <p>Rapporteur: TBA</p> </div> | | |
| 11:00-11:15 | Tea / Coffee Break | |

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| 11:15-12:15 | <p>“Cluster 2: Governance and human-rights-based approach to the development agenda”</p> <p>The promotion of human rights is enshrined in the fundamental principles of the African Union. The promotion and protection of human rights and the respect for good governance and the rule of law are also some of the founding principles of NEPAD. The UN Human Rights Council will soon celebrate its first year of existence. Are we now on the way from commitment to implementation?</p> | Plenary CR2 |
| 12:15-13:15 | <p>“Cluster 3: Development: trade, finance, debt relief and investment”</p> <p>The African continent is not gaining much from the globalization process. If this trend is to be reversed, than African countries and African people need to have their voice heard in the international instances that set the rules of the said process. African civil society needs to exert pressure on the WTO, the IMF and the World Bank to advocate for more decision-making power for African countries; for more transparent and accountable decision-making processes, for an international trade law that discriminates positively in favour of the weaker, more particularly the Least Developed Countries; for the ability by African countries to retain their policy space and the possibility to set national policies that respond to the internal needs of the countries.</p> | Plenary CR2 |

Moderator: Okey Onyejekwe, Governance and Public Administration Division, UNECA

Panellists:

- Arnold Tsunga, Zimbabwe Lawyers for HR
- Landing Badji, LADHP
- Hannah Forster, ACDHRS

Rapporteur: Djeneba Diop, WILDAF

Moderator: Mama Koité Doumbia, FEMNET

Panellists:

- Patrick Osakwe, Trade, Finance and Economic Development Division, UNECA
- Maouloud Ben Kattrra, Coalitions des Alternatives Dette et Développement, Mali
- Ndinayi Charumbire, AU Economic Affairs

Rapporteur: TBA

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| 13:15-14:30 | <p>Lunch and Lunch time side event: Building a Culture of Peace</p> <p>In the framework of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace (2000 -2010), the session will present the “World Report for a Culture of Peace”, and debate the African dimension. It will also present and discuss the Declaration of Luarca on the right to peace, an initiative by a Spanish NGO that is currently being endorsed by CSOs and governments around the world.</p> <p><u>Panellists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Manuel Manonelles, Foundation for a Culture of Peace - Carlos Villan Duran, Spanish association for the application of ILHR - Carmen Rosa Rueda, Spanish association for the application of ILHR | |
| 14:00-16:00 | <p>Cluster 1: Peace and human security for achieving the MDGs (Continued)</p> | Breakout W-shops |

Proposed parallel workshops and breakout sessions

Youth CSOs and good governance: following up the ADF recommendations

Youth organizations can give an invaluable input to the promotion of peace and human security. The 5th Africa Development Forum (ADF) took place in November 2006 at ECA, under the theme, "Youth and Leadership in the 21st Century". The workshop will address the reasons why young people are taken up in conflicts and how they can contribute to peace-building activities and reconstruction after conflicts.

Panelists:

- Carol Wedi, African Institute for South Africa (AISA)
- Alfred Sighudla Muzhwake, African Institute for South Africa (AISA)

Venue: CR5

Current challenges to peace and security in Africa

Participants will discuss the possible contribution of African civil society to the prevention of conflicts and the building of peace once conflicts have erupted. Particular attention will be devoted to the situation in Darfur and Somalia. In addition, it is widely believed that there will be no sustainable peace without the effective participation of women. The Beijing Platform for Action (1995) recognized "women and armed conflicts" as one of the 12 critical "areas of concern". In order to advance women's rights, conflicts must be solved according to the peaceful means foreseen by the UN Charter and international law. Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) recognizes a central role for women in the resolution of armed conflicts. Some countries have drawn up an action plan to implement this resolution and this workshop can also constitute an opportunity for African CSOs to give their views on how to best implement the resolution.

Panelists:

- Désiré Assogbavi, OXFAM Africa
- Rosario Monfort, Women's Board: the role of the family
- Fatima Ahmed, Zenab for Women in Development
- Julie Daboo, African Humanitarian Forum

Venue CR6

HIV AIDS as a threat to peace and human security – Venue CR4/CR2

Panelists:

- Yinka Adeyemi ECA, Communication Officer
- Hellen Tombo, Pan-African Advocacy Coordinator, Plan International
- Dr. Morissanda Kouyaté, IAC

16:00-18:00

Cluster 2: Governance and human rights based approach to the development agenda
(Continued)

Breakout
W-shops

Current challenges on governance and human rights based approach to development – Venue CR5

The African Charter of Human and People's Rights, adopted in 1961, is the first international instrument to officially recognize collective rights: the right to self-determination; the right to the ownership over natural resources; the right to development; the right to a healthy environment. The African Commission on Human and People's Rights can receive State as well as individual or group complaints, but CSOs need to be more aware and better trained about this procedure and the array of opportunities it offers. The progressive recognition of the right to development as a human right by the international community offers new possibilities of complaints to the African Commission, where community-based organizations could in principle even file a complaint about discrimination in the allocation of national resources, about corruption, or other shortcomings to the realization of the right to development. The workshop will also discuss the possibilities of African NGOs to play a proactive role in this favourable new regional context. Women's rights are human rights. This slogan, launched by the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights, is yet to become a reality for many women in the world. Women's empowerment and gender equality are two key concepts adopted at the 1995 Beijing World Conference on Women, but the + 10 assessment carried out in 2005 showed that the Beijing Platform of Action – particularly the 12 Areas of Concern – are far from being achieved at the time of globalization. This year's commemoration of Women's day, on the 8th March, was devoted to the issue of violence against women and the workshop also aims to raise awareness about the traditional practices that violate women's integrity, among which female genital mutilation.

Panelists:

- Eve Bazaiba Masudi, CIRAC
- Amir Ahmed Manghali, Somaliland National Disability Forum
- Asrad Kebede, Executive Director CRDA
- Mekelthoum Mint Khelifa, OMED: civil society role in promotion of good governance

Perspectives of African NGOs on the UN Human Rights Council

The establishment of the Human Rights Council in March 2006 created major expectations, with the hope that its new mechanisms, including the Universal Periodic Review and the increased possibility to meet in Special Sessions, would constitute effective tools to strengthen the UN capacity to promote the full realization of human rights. However, concerns have been expressed over the direction of these discussions. In addition, the nature of the debates related to the HRC institution building process has not been inclusive enough of human rights defenders from the regions. The views and expectations of national NGOs, and in particular from human rights defenders on the ground, should continue to be articulated until the end of this institution building process.

Panelists:

- Frej Fenniche, UN OHCHR
- Arnold Tsunga, Zimbabwean Lawyer for Human Rights
- Landing Badji, LADHP


Venue CR6

African Peer Review Mechanisms (APRM) – Venue CR4/1

The APRM is a system developed by the African Union to help countries improve their governance. Participation is voluntary and a panel of eminent persons oversees its implementation throughout Africa. Countries self-assess themselves using a questionnaire prepared by the APRM Secretariat and focusing on four areas: democracy and political governance; economic management and governance; corporate governance; socio-economic development. Responses to the questionnaire are then sent to the Secretariat. The APRM Team then visits countries and meets with government's officials, civil society, parliamentarian and business. The workshop will discuss best practices that can enable CSOs to play an effective role in this assessment process.

Panelists: Chair Kodjo Busia, GPAD ECA

- Ibraheem Sanusi, Intellectual Group Nigeria
- Steven Gruzd, South African Institute of International Affairs

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| 14:00-18:00 | Launch of the Regional Network for Africa of the UN Global Alliance for ICT and Development |  <p>Special event in parallel to the Forum</p> <p>Venue CR3</p> |
| <p>The UN Economic Commission for Africa will convene the 1st meeting of the African Regional Network of GAID (UN Global Alliance for ICTs and Development).</p> | | |
| <p>14:00 – 14:25 <u>Session I:</u> Opening session <u>Chair:</u> Mr. Makane Faye, ECA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome remarks by ECA, CONGO, AU, NEPAD, OIF • Election of Officers and organisation of work | | |
| <p>14:25– 16:00 <u>Session II:</u> The Global Alliance for ICT and Development <u>Chair:</u> Elected <u>Rapporteur:</u> Elected</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Post WSIS process within the Context of African Countries, Ridha Guellouz, Chair, WSIS Follow up, Tunisia • The GAID Process: Structures, The Strategic Plan, Multistakeholder Partnership Initiatives, the Outcome of 1st and 2nd Strategic Council Meetings, Serge Kapto, GAID Secretariat & Titilayo Akinsanmi, Member of GAID Steering Committee • Presentation of the former UN ICT TF African Stakeholder Network (ASN), Emmanuel Tonye of Cameroon, former Chair ASN, Cameroon • Discussions | | |
| <p>16:00 – 16:15 Coffee Break</p> | | |
| <p>16:15 – 18:00 <u>Session III:</u> GAID African Network <u>Chair:</u> GAID African Network Facilitator <u>Rapporteur:</u> GAID African Network Rapporteur / Secretary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Africa's Role within the GAID Process: The Expectations, the challenge of the participation deficit of African stakeholders, Interactive dialogue, with a note Clement Dzionu, INIIT, Ghana • Setting up the GAID Africa Regional Structures and Modalities of Action, Interactive dialogue to be led by the identified Chair of the African Committee • Discussions of Africa-Specific Actions within the GAID process: priority activities and areas of action for the GAID African Network • Official Launch of GAID Africa <p>Main GAID website: http://www.un-gaid.org/</p> | | |
| 18:00-20:00 | Reception (TBA) | |
| 20:00-22:00 | Steering Committee & Drafting Committee at Hotel Hilton | |
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| March 24 (Saturday) – DAY 3 | | |
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| 08:45-09:00 | Presentation of the Program | Plenary CR2 |
| 09:00-10:30 | <p>“Special Panel: Key challenge for strengthening Civil Society in Africa: how to address CSOs internal governance weaknesses and challenges”</p> <p>If Civil society organizations want to take up more responsibilities in the shaping of global governance, they need to first question themselves on their own internal way of functioning: what is the legitimacy, representativity, accountability of NGOs? What makes them credible? What are their strengths and weaknesses?</p> | Plenary CR2 |
| <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: 60%;"> <p>Moderator: Fatma Alloo, FEMNET</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cardinal Uwishaka, CIVICUS - Ezra Mbogori, MWENGO - Khwami Jafta Luka, SANGOCO - Thierno Kane, UNDP civil society <p>Rapporteur: TBA</p> </div> | | |
| 10:30-10:45 | Tea / Coffee Break | |
| 11:00-13:00 | <p>Cluster 3 : Development: trade, finance, debt relief and investment (Continued)</p> <p>CONGO would like to provide a platform to exchange experiences and tactics and for helping building common strategies. The workshop will aim to give African NGOs the opportunity to get together and elaborate a common strategy.</p> | Breakout W-shops |

Proposed parallel workshops and breakout sessions

Trade: following DOHA round

NGOs need to push for an international trade law that discriminates positively in favour of the weaker, more particularly the Least Developed Countries, for the ability of African countries to retain their policy space and the possibility to set national policies that respond to the internal needs of the countries and its peoples and not to the interest of foreign actors and multinational enterprises. Even though these issues have long been discussed and are known, African NGOs have not got sufficiently together to express these common concerns, which are to be channelled to the UN and the WTO.

Even though the problems of trade, finance and debt relief have long been discussed and are well known, African NGOs should continue to express these common concerns, which are to be channelled to the UN and to the international financial institutions and the WTO. The UN has to become the legal regulator of the globalization process, in order to benefit including the weaker.

Panellists:

- Bassey Etekamba, South for Fair Trade
- Charity Manyeruke, University of Zimbabwe

Debt relief

Debt relief for African countries has been on the international agenda at least since the launching of the Jubilee Campaign in the 1990's. In July 2005, the G8 proposed to cancel immediately the multilateral debt of 18 African countries towards the World Bank, the IMF and the African Development Bank, for an amount of 40 billion dollars. Two years later, where do we stand in terms of implementation of the promises that were made?

Panellists:

- Jubilee Campaign

Corruption: CSOs role in promoting accountability and transparency

The fight against corruption belongs to the key elements of good governance. This implies transparency in the action of the administration and accountability of governmental officials. The workshop will explore good and bad practices in the fight against corruption in Africa and the civil society contribution to this long-term effort.

Moderator: David Kamara, OIC UNECA

Panelists

- Nahmla Mniki, African Monitor

ICT4D

The World Summit on the Information Society recognized the importance of information and communication technologies (ICTs) to achieve the MDGs. The Tunis Outcome document was adopted in November 2005, so it may be too early now for an assessment, but NGOs can and should give their contribution to promoting the use of ICTs to achieve the MDGs. Strategizing and producing recommendations in this respect is the purpose of this workshop.

Panelists

- TBA

13:00-14:00

Lunch

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| 14:00-16:00 | <p>Special Thematic Roundtables</p> <p>Gender Perspective in the MDGs</p> <p>Two out of the eight MDGs relate specifically to women. However, none of them will be reached without a cross-cutting gender perspective: women make up the bulk of the poor and are the most deprived of health care and education.</p> <p>Moderator: Norah Mutavu, FEMNET - Dr. Morissanda Kouyaté, IAC - Evelyn Benjamin-Sampson, OATUU - Elizabeth Achieng Ombija, ICFTU Kenya - Assibi Napoe, Education International</p> <p>Rapporteur: TBA</p> | <p>(2 parallel sessions)</p> <p>ICT for Development</p> <p>The Global Alliance of ICTs for Development has just launched its African chapter and this session will constitute the opportunity of raising the awareness of the wider African civil society about the importance of ICTs for development.</p> <p>Moderator: GAID - David Barnard, SANGONeT - Delphine Nana Mekounte, CEFEPD - Titi Akinsanmi, Global Teenager Project - Makane Faye, UN ECA - Moussa Garba, Microteam</p> <p>Rapporteur: TBA</p> |
| <p><i>The timeslot of these two thematic roundtables should be used by drafting committee members to finalize the compilation of recommendations and the writing of the report and the communiqué related to Day-1 Plenary Meetings and to the Plenary panels, workshops and breakout sessions on the three thematic clusters (Day 2 and Day 3).</i></p> | | |
| 16:00-16:20 | Tea / Coffee Break | |
| 16:20-18:00 | <p>Reporting to the Plenary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation by the drafting committee of the Report on UN-Civil Society Relations, UN reform and challenges of the MDGs in Africa – Day 1 and Day 2 AM. - Presentation by the drafting committee of the report of thematic clusters (Plenary meetings, workshops and breakout sessions, including recommendations to the ECOSOC High Level Segment) – Day 2 and Day 3 - Presentation of the preliminary conclusions of the roundtables on ICT and Gender (Day 3) - Presentation by the drafting committee of Final Statement/Communiqué | Plenary CR2 |
| 18:00-19:00 | <p>Closing Session (plenary)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adoption of Reports and Final Statement / Communiqué - Prize award Trophée Chevalier du Mérite Africain - Closing Remarks | Plenary CR2 |

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| 20:00-22:00 | Farewell Reception by CONGO at UNECA |
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