



CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation





What is CIVICUS?

Mission:

To strengthen global citizen action and civil society.

Vision:

A global community of active, engaged citizens committed to building a more just and equitable world.

Office:

Moved the headquarters to the global South -- Johannesburg -- in 2003 to better represent our primary constituency





CIVICUS

A Global Alliance

- A global membership alliance of 110 countries- consisting of about 450 members.
- CSOs; national /regional /international associations & networks across all sectors.





CIVICUS' 3 E's

(1) **Exist:** Defend citizens' rights to organise and act collectively for the public good.

(2) **Express:** Amplify the voice of citizens and civil society.

(3) **Engage:** Enhance citizens' influence in decisions that affect their lives.





World Assembly

18-21 June 2008



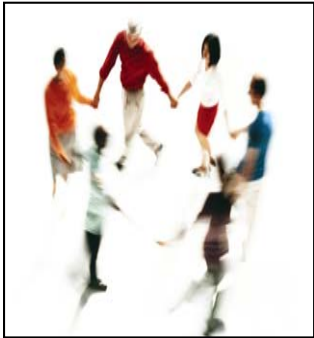
- A global convening point for CS key stakeholders
- Overarching Theme: **Acting Together for a Just World**
- Focused Theme: **People, Participation, and Power**
- Location rotates every 3 years - Glasgow, Scotland from 2006 to 2008. Hosted by SCVO.





Participatory Governance

Aims to enhance the capacity of southern civil society and government actors to promote and practise participatory governance at national and local levels.





How Can We Build Political Will for Participatory Governance?

- “Crisis” of representative democracy - increasing attention to Participatory Governance (PG)

- “Lack of political will” identified as key obstacle by PG practitioners.

- Much uncharted territory and undocumented experience





Key objectives of the PG conference (17-18 June, Glasgow) were to identify:

1. Reasons for “political won’t”

For example:

- *Fear “loss of power”
- *Unconvinced of benefits of PG
- *Lack “how to” skills and mechanisms



2. Strategies for building political will

Both “persuading” strategies & “forcing” strategies

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| *Concrete benefits | *Public pressure |
| *Create incentives | *Create sanctions |
| *Build trust/collaboration | *Understand & exploit power dynamics |



Some underlying assumptions...not to be assumed!



➤ *Can* we build political will for PG?

➤ *Should* we build political will for PG?

➤ *Whose* political will are we trying to build?



Key Concepts-What do we mean by "participatory governance"?



PG is about empowering citizens to influence and share control in processes of public decision-making that affect their lives.

"Levels" of participation



Information-sharing



Consultation



Joint deliberation



Joint decision-making

External oversight & social accountability



Experience shows less political will for deeper participation.





Examples of participatory governance practices



	Local <-----> National	
Public policies/ plans	Participatory municipal planning, citizen advisory boards	Public consultations, referenda, policy advocacy
Public finances	Participatory budgeting, public expenditure tracking	Revenue monitoring, independent budget analysis
Public services	Participatory M&E of local services (e.g. community scorecards)	Citizen/CSO M&E of public services (e.g. citizen report cards, social audits)
Public oversight	Citizen oversight committees, citizen seats on public boards	“Watchdog” activities (elections, government actions, rights, etc.)



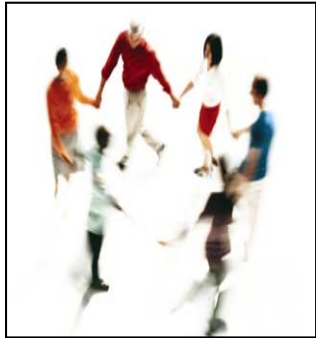
Key Concepts

Political will....

- Defined as “credible intent to act”
- Dynamics between individual v. institutional will
- Link between “willing” and “able”
- Large number of influencing factors



Key Concepts-Some key elements influencing “political will”



Willing



Able

1. Values
2. Knowledge
3. Incentives
4. Relationships
5. Skills
6. Agency
7. Opportunity/support



Political will



Individual
will

Institutional
will

Individual
abilities

Institutional
abilities

Values
Knowledge
Incentives
Relationships
Skills
Agency
Opportunity



Thank You!!



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membership@civicus.org

