



FORUM INTERNATIONAL DE MONTRÉAL
MONTREAL INTERNATIONAL FORUM



DEMOCRATIZING
GLOBAL
GOVERNANCE

SECRETARIAT

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fim

VISION & MISSION

FIM's vision statement is as follows:

FIM envisions a world where informed, empowered civil society in all parts of the world participate in global governance; all multilateral institutions are open to participatory democratic processes; inequality based on class, gender and race is absent from every country and from the multilateral system; strong alliances between grassroots movements, civil society networks, and committed academics make civil society voices and strategies credible, powerful and effective; and poverty, and all forms of violence are eliminated. FIM's vision of a desirable world is based on values of equality, justice, freedom, peace, dignity, and well being for all.

FIM's mission statement is as follows:

Forum International de Montreal (FIM) believes that the stated goals of the United Nations are beyond reproach and that the challenge of FIM is to assist meaningfully in bringing them to fruition. FIM believes that transparent and democratically accountable multilateralism offers the best hope for democratic Global Governance. In order to best meet this challenge, FIM endeavors to strengthen the voice of Southern civil society within civil society in all debates and activities affecting global governance.

Democratizing global governance



BACKGROUND

FIM was established in 1998 as an international, knowledge-based Non Governmental Organization. While FIM itself does not advocate, FIM believes in the inherent value and importance of multilateralism, and of the voices of civil society from the South, to the democratization of global governance. In order to ensure that FIM's program is adaptive and responsive to priorities that reflect both a Global and a Southern bias, the majority of FIM's Directors are civil society leaders from the South. FIM is therefore a non-partisan convening body committed to global civil society capacity- and constituency- building and to providing unique learning opportunities through its convening capacity and practitioner knowledge creation and dissemination functions. Given its role and track record as a neutral convenor, FIM has developed a unique niche as a broker of practitioner knowledge, as a mechanism for bridging the gap between civil society practitioner knowledge and academia, and, increasingly, in informal dialogue and quiet diplomacy.

FIM's mission was conceptualized in response to various developments expressed by a large number of NGO and civil society actors. In particular, there is a need for a space for global cross-fertilization and free and open dialogue. FIM provides such spaces in all of its programming, enabling CS actors to address a 'system-wide' agenda, to learn from experiences across institutions, to address governance and legitimacy issues within international civil society and the multilateral system, and to capture and share knowledge across issue-based networks. FIM events and programming activities encourage and include a plurality of views and are designed to provide neutral spaces for discussion, exchange, and learning. They focus on capturing the often undocumented "accumulated social capital" of civil society activities providing constructive, transferrable strategies and lessons to practitioners and policy-makers.

FIM does not attempt to develop 'one' consensus document or position statement, or to generate 'one voice'. FIM favours learning over confrontational approaches, policy dialogue rather than policy positioning, and an informal and adaptive process of deliberation, facilitated by an expert, over a rigid didactic methodology. Results capture diverse experiences, lessons, and strategies that reflect minority views, innovative ideas and proposals, roadblocks, and challenges.

In keeping with FIM's mission and mandate, all activities have a clear focus; namely to strengthen the capacity of international civil society to contribute to the democratization of global governance through influencing and impacting the multilateral system. Major activities to this end are the convening of civil society and academics at international fora, conferences, workshops, and meetings and the documentation and dissemination of civil society practitioner knowledge and scholarship. Importantly, all FIM events ensure gender balance as well as the participation of a diversity of civil society sectors, networks, and organizations, the majority from the South. FIM activities also strive to embody the important lesson that successful global democratization efforts reflect local and regional interests and, vice versa, that local priorities are understood by those advocating at the international level.

*Transparent and democratically accountable
multilateralism offers the best hope for Global
Governance.*



METHODOLOGY: PRACTITIONER RESEARCH

FIM is a neutral convening body and does not claim to represent civil society in part or in whole. FIM is a catalyst for the creation and dissemination of knowledge on actions and strategies, taken by CSOs, which have helped strengthen the voice of civil society actors in multilateral institutions. FIM provides a neutral and impartial setting for meetings, facilitating inclusion of missing voices through participatory dialogue, reflection, and active learning. Importantly, FIM encourages and values the sharing of a plurality of views. The primary method for knowledge creation is the practitioner case studies and the majority of FIM events include practitioner research and scholarship. To date, FIM has commissioned over 40 case studies and papers. FIM has also published its first hard cover book: *Democratizing Global Governance: Ten years of case studies and reflections by civil society activists* (2009). Mosaic Press: New Delhi.

Multilateralism: Multiple countries working in concert on a given issue.



PROGRAMMES

FORA | FIM convenes international fora on civil society, multilateralism, and global governance as a central aspect of its programming. These highly participatory events are by invitation and typically include up to 60 civil society activists, academics, donors, and youth. Each forum focuses on a theme selected by the FIM Board of Directors. .

2009

New Delhi: Impacting Multilateralism: Civil Society Engagement with
the Political Process

2008

Montreal: Civil Society and Regional Multilateralism
Dakar: Building Bridges: Engaging Civil Society from Muslim
 Countries and Communities with the Multilateral Sphere,
 Orientation Session for West African Civil Society
Lahore: Building Bridges: Engaging Civil Society from Muslim
 States and Communities with the Multilateral Sphere: An
 Orientation for Pakistan Civil Society Organizations

2007

Montreal: Civil Society's Impact on the Multilateral Sphere:
 Lessons Learned and Future Directions
Dhaka: Building Bridges III: Engaging Civil Society from Muslim
 Countries and Communities with the Multilateral Sphere
Amman: Building Bridges II: Engaging Civil Society from Muslim
 Countries and Communities with the Multilateral Sphere

2006

Doha: Building Bridges II: Engaging Civil Society from Muslim
 Countries and Communities with the Multilateral Sphere
Kuala Lumpur: Building Bridges: Engaging Civil Society from OIC
 Countries and Other Muslim Communities with the
Multilateral Sphere

Accountability: Processes whereby an actor answers for his/her conduct to those whom it affects.



PROGRAMMES cont'd

2004

Mumbai: Experiences and Viewpoints: Civil Society,
Poverty Eradication Strategies and the Millennium
Goals (MDGs)

Development

Gabarone: Experiences and Viewpoints: Civil Society,
Poverty Eradication Strategies and the Millennium
Goals (MDGs)

Development

2003

Abuja: Experiences and Viewpoints: Civil Society,
Poverty Eradication Strategies and the Millennium
Goals (MDGs)

Development

2001

Brisbane: Turning UN Agreements into Action: The Role
of Civil Society in the Monitoring and
of Multilateral Accords

Implementation

2000

Montreal: Promoting Human Security: Civil Society Influence

1999

Montreal: Civil Society Engaging Multilateral Institutions: At
the Crossroads

*Civil Society:
An arena, separate from the state, the market
and the individual household, in which
people organize themselves and act together
to promote their common interests.*



PROGRAMMES cont'd

PROJECTS |

2008 | Building Local and Global Democracy: FIM has recently completed a two-year participatory research project entitled: Building Local and Global Democracy with CAROLD, a Foundation headquartered in Toronto, Canada.

2006 | Engagement of Civil Society from the Muslim World with the OIC and the UN: Building Bridges: Engaging Civil Society from Muslim Countries and Communities with the Multilateral Sphere, is an ongoing programme designed to facilitate the engagement of CSOs from OIC (Organization of the Islamic Conference) member states and the United Nations.

2002 | The G8 Project: FIM has initiated a process of consultation between CSOs and the G8 sherpas. In the years since, the G8/civil society consultation process has continued and evolved.

*Strengthening civil society's impact
on multilateralism.*



NETWORKS & COLLABORATING ORGANISATIONS

FIM's network includes over 2,000 civil society organizations, the majority from the South. FIM is a member of Civicus and the Globalization Studies Network (GSN). FIM's programme and project partners include the following national and international institutions and NGOs:

Arab Network for Environment & Development, EGYPT
Bridge Initiative International, FRANCE
Canadian Council for International Co-operation (CCIC), CANADA
Centre for Global Studies, University of Victoria, CANADA
Civil G8, RUSSIA
Civicus, SOUTH AFRICA
Congad, SENEGAL
Dhaka Ahsania Mission, BANGLADESH
Helsinki Process, FINLAND
G8 Research Group, University of Toronto, CANADA
Green Senegal, SENEGAL
Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation, JAPAN
South Asia Partnership, PAKISTAN
The Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), CANADA
The Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO), SWITZERLAND
The Hauser Center for Nonprofit Organizations, Harvard University, USA
UN Non-governmental Liaison Service (NGLS), USA and SWITZERLAND
World Forum of Networks (UBUNTU), SPAIN
World Social Forum, BRAZIL

Global Governance: A complex set of rules and regulatory institutions that apply to transplanetary jurisdictions and constituencies.



DONORS

Since its creation FIM has received financial support from the following donors. Importantly for FIM, many of these donor bodies have willingly shared their considerable expertise and knowledge as well.

North America

Aga Khan Foundation, CANADA
Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), CANADA
Canadian Council for International Co-operation (CCIC), CANADA
Ford Foundation, USA
Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada (DFAIT), CANADA
Human Resources and Social Development Canada (HRSDC), CANADA
Immigration et communautés culturelles (MRCI), Quebec, CANADA
International Development Research Center (IDRC), CANADA
Ministère des affaires municipales et des régions (MAMR), Quebec, CANADA
Ministère des relations internationales (MRI), Quebec, CANADA
Montréal International, CANADA
Rockefeller Foundation, USA

Europe

Commonwealth Foundation, UNITED KINGDOM
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), ITALY
Organisation internationale de la francophonie (OIF), FRANCE
Oxfam GB, UNITED KINGDOM
Oxfam Novib, THE NETHERLANDS
Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), SWEDEN

Mid-East

Heinrich Böell Foundation, Middle East Office, PALESTINE

Australasia

Australian Council for Foreign and Overseas Aid (ACFOA), AUSTRALIA
Rissho Kosei-Kai Peace Foundation, JAPAN



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FIM is supervised by an international Board of Directors whose members are, by constitution, composed of a majority from developing countries. The FIM Board of Directors meets once a year. Current and past board members comprise the FIM membership.

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