

12 October 2016

Dear Anselmo,

I would like to ask for your support for a key collaborative initiative in our sector: ***Civic Charter – The Global Framework for People’s Participation***.

Citizens and their organisations are increasingly suffering from restrictions on freedom of speech, from impediments to running their programmes, and from threats to activists’ lives. According to the CIVICUS [State of Civil Society Report 2016](#) we face “serious threats to one or more civic freedoms in over 100 countries.”

However, without the unrestrained engagement of civil society around the globe the transition towards a just, equitable and sustainable world as envisaged by the SDGs will not be possible.

To connect and strengthen civil society’s struggles for civic participation, the International Civil Society Centre was tasked with facilitating the development of a global document framing the basis for civic participation. The *Civic Charter* draws together the most important provisions of civic participation enshrined in international law and agreements. It affirms people’s rights to participate in shaping their society. The *Civic Charter* will serve as a tool to advocate and campaign for our rights. It will form the basis for international solidarity with those whose rights to participate are being violated. The *Civic Charter* will be open for public sign-on by organisations and individuals, however we are currently reaching out to key individuals for pre-sign-on.

The *Charter’s* development has been driven by a Steering Group consisting of colleagues from CIVICUS, ICNL, ActionAid, Amnesty International, Oxfam, Rendir Cuentas, VANI, The Africa Platform, The Oak Foundation, the Wallace Global Fund, the Heinrich Böll Foundation and Open Society Foundations. Three rounds of extensive global consultations brought in several hundred voices from the sector to ensure that the *Civic Charter* is a truly global call for civic participation. This October, the *Civic Charter* will be launched at a number of national events in countries such as Pakistan, Uganda and South Africa and globally at the *Global Perspectives 2016* conference in Berlin.

With this letter I would like to ask for your support of the *Civic Charter*. Given your position in the civil society sector I believe that your support of the *Civic Charter* would strengthen its weight as an advocacy and campaigning tool considerably. Maina Kiai, the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association has agreed to be the first signatory of the *Civic Charter*. I would very much appreciate if you would join him in signing this important civil society document.

Would you please read the attached PDF of the *Civic Charter* and let me know whether I can add your name to the list of signatories?

Best regards,



Burkhard