

Part III: Self-Organized Workshops

On both Monday, May 30 and Tuesday, May 31, participants had an opportunity to take part in a number of self-organized workshops, which consisted of either joint presentations or panels. These workshops allowed G05 participants to share their experiences in democracy-building initiatives and solutions to democratic deficits.

Although a full report on these workshops is unavailable, a short description of each one is included below.

Workshop 1

A World Constitution: An Idea Whose Time Has Come

Jean-Pierre Arcoragi, Global Democratic Council, Canada, noted that the tremendous burden that humanity places on the world's limited environmental resources and the exponential increase in cultural and economic interactions implies that the different peoples of the earth have to coordinate their efforts. As a way to counter these effects, the presentation proposed the possible integration of a legally binding universal code of conduct into each of the constitutions of the United Nations' member states.

Defining a Popular Mandate Through the First World Vote: Global Human Referendum

Is the extension of universal suffrage to all men and women on the planet possible? Can a world vote define a clear path, backed by a popular mandate, on how to resolve the vital issues of health, access and security for all? Asking these questions, **Joel Mardsen**, Global Human Referendum, Spain, explained that there is a possibility for a safer and saner decision-making situation when everyone adheres to democratic principles.

Workshop 2

From Mongolia to Qatar: The Path to Democracy

This presentation by **Cyril Ritchie**, International Civil Society Forum for Democracy (ICSFD), Switzerland, focused on how civil society has gone about building an unusual path to democracy through the International Conference of New and Restored Democracies (ICNRD). The ICNRD held its fifth session in Mongolia in 2003 and will hold its sixth session in Qatar in 2006. In all, 119 governments attended in Mongolia. In parallel, the ICSFD held a major event in Mongolia and plans one for Qatar.

Global Partnerships: Promoting Global Governance or Global Democracy

The experience of using the term “global partnerships” is that, under this camouflage rubric, the North tends to address the consequences of the world’s unequal political and economic system rather than the root causes of this inequality. Presenter **Katarina Sehm Pätomaki**, Network Institute for Global Democracy, Finland, argued that this terminology should be replaced with more appropriate terms such as cooperation between unequal partners, soft imperialism, dictatorial cooperation with a human facade, etc.

Workshop 3

Global Governance of the Internet

As sectors globalize, they experience the need for governance. This presentation by **Hans Klein**, Georgia Institute of Technology, Syracuse University, USA, provided an analysis of sector-based politics that emerge in light of globalization. It also explored the impact of policy-actor networks and epistemic communities in the UN World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).

Workshop 4

Building Local and Global Democracy: Innovative Experiences in Citizen Engagement

The workshop presented the Carold Institute’s mission and that of their most recent project, *Building Local and Global Democracy*. Panellists provided action-based solutions that could be used to redefine national and international governance priorities to answer citizen demands.

Workshop 5

Creative Proposals for Democratizing the IMF and World Bank

This workshop, coordinated by **Manish Bapna**, Bank Information Center, USA, and **James V. Riker**, The Democracy Collaborative, University of Maryland, USA, highlighted innovative proposals for democratizing the World Bank, the IMF, and other

financial institutions at a time of glaring democratic deficits, especially after the nomination of Paul Wolfowitz as President of the World Bank.

Workshop 6

Self-Regulation: Learning Across the TNC and NGO Sectors

This workshop explored the rise of self-regulation (codes of conduct, certification scheme, accreditations schemes, etc.) within the transnational corporation and civil society sectors, with the aim of identifying areas in which there could be cross-sectoral learning. The coordinators, **Simon Burall** and **Robert Lloyd**, One World Trust, UK, identified the different self-regulatory structures that have been emerging; conditions under which self-regulation is effective in increasing stakeholder accountability, and the main obstacles to the effective implementation of self-regulatory systems.

Workshop 7

The Millenium Review and the MDGs: Opportunity for Impact

In this workshop, coordinated by **John Foster**, The North-South Institute, Canada, and **Pera Wells**, WFUNA, New Zealand, ways of making civil society more influential in the Millennium Review and the UN Summit in September 2005 were discussed.

A short report highlighting key discussion points can be found on page 18.

Workshop 8

Generating Citizen Activism Toward Global Democracy

Dick Burkhart and **Mona Lee**, members of the recently formed Coalition for a World Parliament and Global Democracy, USA, gave historical overviews of the diverse activist organizations and endeavors they have led, culminating in the recent World Social Forums in Mumbai and Porto Alegre. They explored methods for creating a participatory democracy at the global level, especially Internet-based procedures including citizen deliberation and polling, and innovative citizen/civil society voting methods such as delegated voting.

Workshop 9

The World Corporation Registry

The presentation by **Doron Dekel**, World Federalist Movement Canada (WFMC), explored the governance of trans-national corporations through the creation of a new “global corporation” legal entity.

Shaping the Trade Negotiating Agenda

Kristina Hinds, London School of Economics and Political Science, UK, examined the changing responses of CSOs in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) to an international trade environment where agreements to codify trade liberalisation abound. There was a comparison of CARICOM CSO participation on trade affairs in the 1990s to the limited levels of participation, or attempts at participation, before the 1990s (the 1960s–1980s).

Only the Little Pay Taxes: Regulating the Offshore Shadow Economy

Matti Kohonen, Tax Justice Network, UK, looked at new regulatory efforts to curb the global shadow economy and ways to shift the burden of taxation away from the poorest in the developed and developing countries.

Workshop 10

Civil Society’s Role vis-à-vis the G8

Peter Hajnal, Munk Centre for International Studies, Canada, looked at the historic relationship between the G7/G8 and civil society, the changing role and influence of civil society in this context, and implications for democracy, legitimacy, and efficiency in the G8. He also examined recent trends, G8–G20 reform proposals, prospects for the forthcoming G8 Summit in the UK, and asked what lessons could be learned from these civil society interactions.

Global CS Platforms: Challenges and Opportunities

The unbridled power and influence of global institutions has stunted the growth of indigenous democratic institutions, values, and ideals. What are the challenges for civil society in attempting to counter balance these dominant forces? **Rajesh Tandon**, PRIA,

India, addressed these challenges through the analysis of three examples: the NGO–World Bank Committee, the southern NGO-created International Forum on Capacity Building, and the Asian South Pacific Bureau of Adult Education.

Civil Society and the L20: Creating Democratic Spaces in New Global Governance Forums

Fergus Watt, WFMC, and other participants gave their perspective on the utility of the proposed L20 and addressed possible steps toward wider civil society engagement with it. A short report highlighting key discussion points can be found on page 52.

Workshop 11

Civil Society and International Organizations: Strategies for Promoting Democracy

With the decrease of overtly authoritarian states in the post-Cold War world, the concept of democracy has become a worldwide governance ideal. Some regionally based international organizations have increasingly become key actors in promoting and encouraging member states, or potential member states, to adhere to democratic norms. In this presentation, **Edward R. McMahon**, Department of Political Science, University of Vermont, USA, looked at the progress these organizations have made along with their key challenges.

Getting it Wrong on the Security Council Reform

Joseph E. Schwartzberg, Citizens for Global Solutions MN Chapter, USA, argued that both models for restructuring the UN Security Council set forth in the report of the High-Level Panel's discussions on Threats, Security, and Change are anachronistic; they retain the veto privileges of the P-5 and the equally objectionable idea that some nations are somehow entitled to permanent SC membership. The presentation looked at a more effective system of representation and proposals for a more sensible set of regions to be represented than the Panel's crude four-continent recommendations.

Workshop 12

Three out of the four presentations below were developed as case studies for the Carold Institute's *Building Local and Global Democracy* project; the discussions in this workshop were continued from those of workshop 4.

Équiterre : From Individualism to Personal and Political Activism

Sidney Ribaux, Équiterre/The Carold Institute, Canada, focused on Équiterre, a non-profit, non-governmental organization, and how it has engaged citizens in its vision of making Québec a society that adheres to environmentally friendly and socially-conscious consumption choices that are beneficial both locally and globally.

Capacity Building in Kitamaat

Mark Selman, Simon Fraser University/ The Carold Institute, Canada, provided an example of the challenges faced by Canadian Aboriginal communities in their capacity building activities. The various communal, corporate, non-governmental, and governmental actors influencing the Haisla First Nation community of Kitamaat Village (Canada) were explored.

Adaptive Leadership, Social Networks and Civic Change

Marcy Schnitzer, Institute for Governance and Accountability, Virginia Tech, USA, looked at the application and development of adaptive leadership in creative non-traditional fora as a way to activate social networks into developing community capacities for democratic governance. A case example from a rural US community examined how a state university, working as an adaptive leader, employed an arts and a grassroots leadership program to encourage a broad scale civic conversation concerning the past and potential future of regional communities.

The Democratization of Knowledge: Lessons on Community–University Research Practices in Social Economy Initiatives

Yves Vaillancourt, School of Social Work, Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM)/ The Carold Institute, Canada, explored the key lessons learned while he participated in several academic-community action partnerships that have taken place in Quebec over the last 30 years.

Workshop 13

Beyond Watchdog: New Civil Society Strategies for Holding Government Accountable

In this presentation, **Carmen Malena**, Canada, explored the proactive and participatory methods that local civil society groups use to hold governments accountable, and reflected on the key challenges.

Deliberative Governance: Models and Institutional Reform

Lars Hasselbald Torres, America Speaks/The Deliberative Democracy Consortium, USA, explored the basic rationales for deliberative forms of public participation, provided a framework for distinguishing among various forms of public deliberation, offered several concrete examples of deliberative governance, and outlined the challenges to moving toward sustained and institutionalized governance mechanisms.

African Civil Society Engaging with NEPAD, the MDGs, and Multilateral Institutions

Helder Malauene, Foundation for Community Development(FDC)/ WK Kellogg Foundation, Mozambique, presented the experience of FDC in national, regional and global level initiatives and the lessons and challenges that can be derived from the experiences of this organization and other African CSOs in their interactions with multilateral decision making bodies.

Workshop 14

The Charter of Human Responsibilities: Implementation Strategies

Cécile Sabourin and other panellists who are part of Citizens' Alliance for a Charter of Human Responsibility/Alliance for a Responsible, United, and Plural World described the various regional efforts made to disseminate and put in place a Charter of Human Responsibility. In facing the 21st century's challenges, this Charter, it was argued, can serve as a new social contract that incites each person to assume his or her responsibilities for a better future for all human beings and the planet.

Workshop 15

The democratic regulation of global governance (La régulation démocratique à l'épreuve de la gouvernance mondiale)

This workshop led by **Jules Duchastel**, Chaire de recherche du Canada en mondialisation, citoyenneté et démocratie, Canada, offered solutions to the problems faced in the process of conceptualization of democratic institutions. Panellists offered an analysis of the growth of civil society movements and their effectiveness in influencing the democratization of global governance.

Workshop 16

Global Accountability: The Need for Civil Society Organizations to Lead by Example

Robert Lloyd and other panellists, One World Trust, UK, looked at the lessons and challenges of CSOs in their attempts to increase their legitimacy and accountability. By strengthening their internal mechanisms, it was argued, they can teach other sectors to do the same. CSOs have begun to embrace this challenge and are developing new approaches to accountability, both at the level of individual organizations (e.g., ALPS) and the sectoral level (certification schemes such as HAP-I).

Workshop 17

Beyond the Security Council Reform

Workshop coordinator **Manuel Manonelles**, UBUNTU Forum, Spain, led a discussion on how to achieve greater support within civil society and the public that, in turn, can lead to a political consensus for the reform of international institutions. Panellists considered the effectiveness of the World Campaign for the Reform of International Institutions, and key documents, especially the work done by the Campaign, the UBUNTU Forum and other actors regarding the Secretary General's High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges, and Change and the ensuing report, "In Larger Freedom."