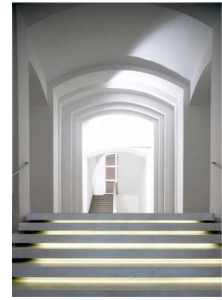


# Berlin Civil Society Center

## Global Perspectives

the international CSO leaders' forum

07 December 2009



## Global Perspectives 6-8 November 2009

### “Decisive action in times of global crisis”

On 06 to 08 November 2009, the Berlin Civil Society Center convened the first annual *Global Perspectives* conference for leaders of international civil society organisations (CSOs). Over 120 participants – including 19 global CEOs and 52 national CEOs, as well as experts and key stakeholders – engaged in three days of highly interactive and outcome-focused debates.

**“This is an immensely significant event!”**  
*Ravi Singh, CEO, WWF India*

The aim of Global Perspectives is to be a platform for substantive cooperation and joint learning within the CSO sector, as well as between the CSO, business and government sectors. A further aim is to elaborate joint positions in the CSO sector in reply to the most challenging questions the world is confronted with.



Under the title *Decisive Action in Times of Global Crisis*, this year's conference addressed the present global crisis which is being brought about by three different crises reinforcing each other: the melt-down of the finance system, increasing poverty and climate change. The conference asked how CSOs can more effectively contribute to addressing this crisis. In the run up to the Copenhagen climate summit in December 2009, climate change received most of the conference's

attention. Some of the issues addressed were: a strategic focus for Copenhagen; an integrated approach combining poverty alleviation with the fight against climate change; inter-sectoral partnerships; and key elements of a five year action plan addressing the crisis.

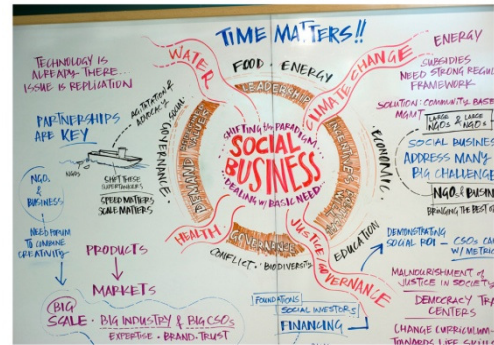
On the last day, CSO governance was the focus of discussions: how can CSOs organise themselves more effectively in order to play a stronger role in addressing major global challenges? Participants gave particular attention to the challenge of devising a global governance system which combines national legitimacy with global effectiveness.

**“I welcome this conference, which provides an excellent platform for a wide-ranging exchange of experiences and views.”**

*Angela Merkel, Chancellor, Federal Republic of Germany, in a message to the conference*



Being a meeting of eminent CSO leaders, the conference took a highly participative approach right from the early planning phases. A Steering Committee decided on the contents of the Global Perspectives and all participants were encouraged to give input via the Internet on the preparation process – in particular through a web-based discussion forum on climate change. All sessions of the conference were chaired by participating



CEOs. Plenaries, WorkSessions and Round Tables all worked together in advancing the process of developing an action plan.

**“Great energy! And the scribing was brilliant.”**  
*Marjory Byler, Amnesty International*

Working Breakfasts and –Dinners were part of the agenda, providing participating organisations with the possibility of hosting their own side events. Professional facilitators and scribes supported the work process throughout the conference.

There was extensive media interest in the Global Perspectives conference. ARD, the first German TV channel featured the Global Perspectives on the prime time news “Tagesschau”. Deutsche Welle TV reported on the event also. In addition, a number of newspapers and news agencies in Germany and from abroad reported on the conference.



As with all events run by the Berlin Civil Society Center, participants were asked to evaluate the meeting. 59 of 120 participants returned their evaluation form. Over two thirds of the forms rated the conference as “very good” or “excellent” overall.

The conference preparation, the logistics and the venue were all rated as “excellent”. Key benefits the conference brought for participants were (in order of participants’ ratings): “Establishing contact with other national and international CSO leaders” – “Sharing best practice and learning from each other” – “Learning how CSOs can organise themselves more effectively at global level” – “Strengthened cooperation with other CSOs to raise a more audible voice on climate change and poverty alleviation”. Practically all (58 of the 59 respondents) would like to see another Global Perspectives conference. Based on this outcome the Berlin Civil Society Center is planning another Global Perspectives conference for 2010.

During the Global Perspectives conference, five of the leading global CSOs each acquired a 10% share of the Berlin Civil Society Center. The trust these organisations place in the Center and the success of the Global Perspectives encourage and support the Center in its work towards increasing efficiency and effectiveness of the CSO sector. In 2010 therefore, the Berlin Civil Society Center will continue bringing together leaders of the top civil society organisations world-wide to pursue their own agenda, providing them with a platform to learn from each other and to develop joint activities.

**“There is no other platform that does what the Berlin Civil Society Center does for the CSO community; in my viewpoint this platform or vehicle is needed.”**  
*Lars Gustavsson, Vice-President, World Vision International*