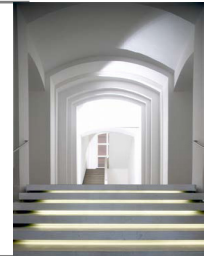


Berlin Civil Society Center

Vision Works

The global Chairs and CEOs meeting



19 April 2010

Executive Summary

On 15-16 April 2010, the Berlin Civil Society Center convened the third annual Vision Works – the global Chairs and CEOs meeting. Over two days 25 participants from 13 leading international civil society organisations (CSOs) came together to jointly discuss how they will adapt to a multi-polar world.

DAY 1

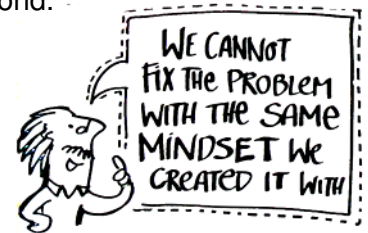
A panel discussion offered external perspectives on the multi-polar world. Wolfgang Ischinger, Allianz pointed out three major transformations the corporate world has to address: the dramatic change in the nature of conflict and related new risks; the extraordinary medium and long-term effects of the economic crisis and the rebalancing of power relations between North and South. While in 2009 Europe achieved 2-3 percent GDP growth, the growth rates in the South are up to 12 percent. The world is going to be changing rapidly from both a political and economic perspective.

John Humphrey, Institute of Development Studies outlined three dimensions of power shifts concerning economic, military and global governance power. He presented three possible scenarios of how our multi-polar world might develop ranging from enlightened cooperation to violent conflict.

Ingrid Srinath, CIVICUS gave insights into CSO partnerships in a multi-polar world. Over the last few years globally a growing number of policy changes have been implemented to constrain civil society space. Even though civil society is the most trusted sector in the whole world and the

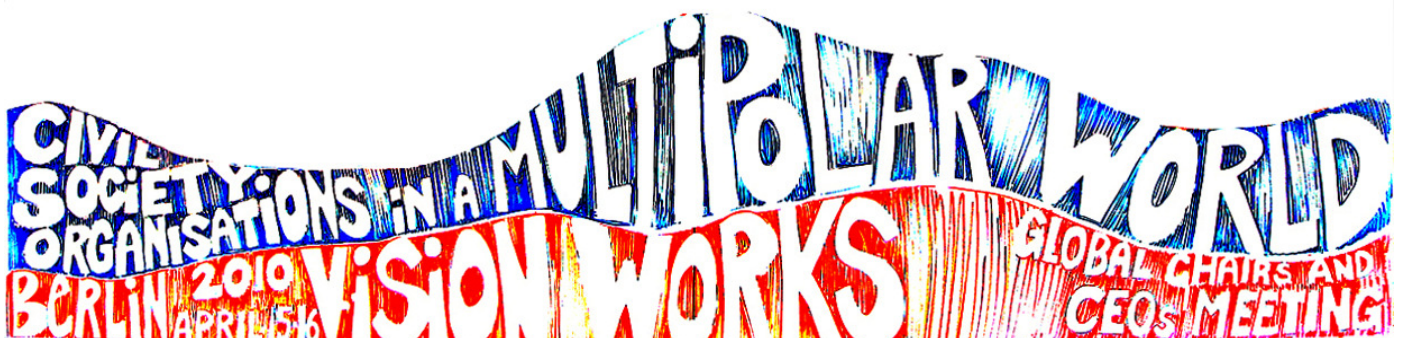
knowledge, tools and networks are all available, an important barrier is a lack of self-belief. Ingrid pointed out that there were still too few Southern and too few female leaders working for international CSOs.

The plenary discussion focussed on issues like how to manage a fair distribution of emerging wealth in newly industrialised countries, how to deal with changing social and cultural norms, how to strengthen global citizenship and citizen participation, and how global institutions will have to be redesigned and restructured to better support a multi-polar world.



Parallel WorkSession specifically addressed CSOs' challenges and opportunities. Participants agreed that the major challenges resulting from the rise of Asia are building up global citizenship within CSOs and building a culture of donating in the South. Southern partners will face the challenge of internationalising and becoming truly global CSOs. It is expected that this will turn the present donor-beneficiary partnership into a "political" alliance with their Northern counterparts. In this way a global community can develop working together in a truly global mindset.

Michael Anthony, Allianz gave a short insight into microinsurance programmes. He described the emergence of microinsurance as a bottom up social innovation. Allianz perceives





microinsurance as an opportunity for future growth and expects that a significant percentage of their insurance business will come from this source.

Finally, Jeremy Hobbs, Oxfam International gave a short update on the INGO Accountability Charter, a framework aiming at increasing transparency and accountability within CSOs. He pointed out the importance of measuring and publicly demonstrating the impact CSOs deliver.

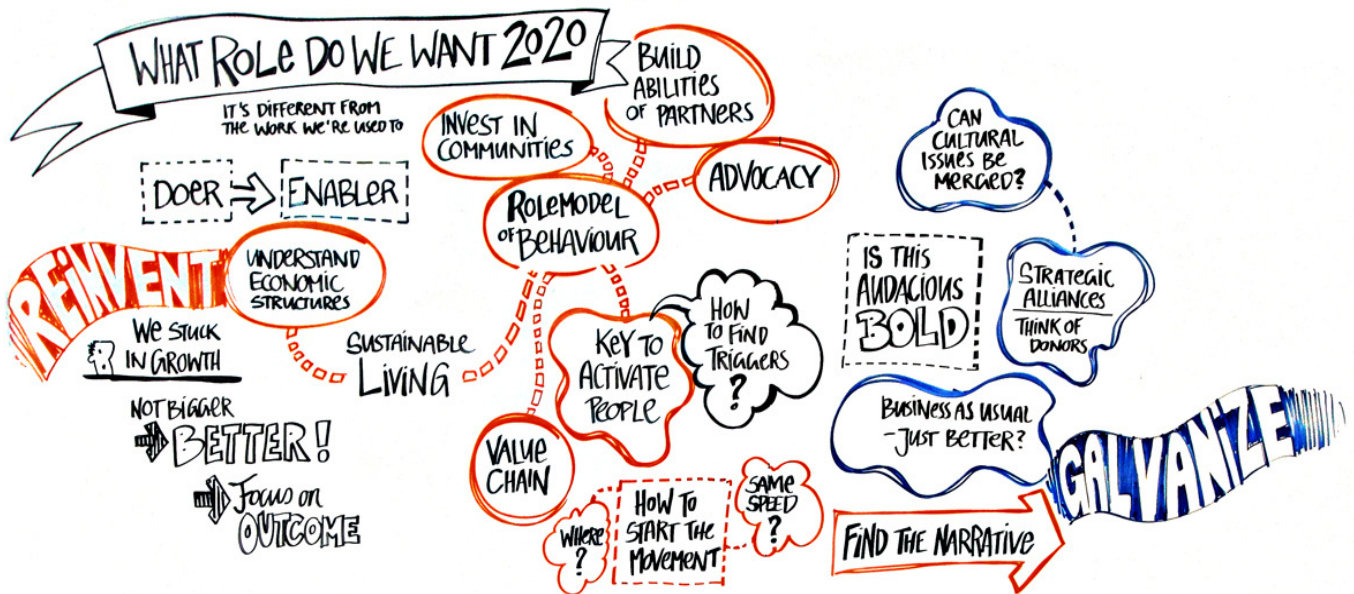
DAY 2

The second day started with an optional Working Breakfast in which Kumi Naidoo and Burkhard Gnärig presented two book projects on the future of CSOs. While Burkhard addressed CSOs' role in managing humanity's recently acquired capacity for self-destruction, Kumi described three levels of CSO action (micro, meso and macro) and discussed on which level the sector should focus strategically. The following debate looked at possibilities of building on the young generation's enthusiasm, strengthening cooperation and developing alliances.



The following sessions identified ways in which CSOs can individually and collectively best adapt to the requirements of a multi-polar world:

- At an individual level, CSOs will have to improve their own global governance system in order to make decision-making faster, more transparent and more effective.
- It is necessary to move away from a global decision-making approach which is predominantly geared towards the balancing of national interests.
- Local, national and global decisions should each be taken at the most appropriate level and with all relevant stakeholders involved. This requires continuous balancing between centralisation and decentralisation.
- It is crucial to articulate explicitly how change will happen and to strive for a shift from doing to enabling. Therefore, CSOs need to invest into the community more intensively and they foresee a greater role for campaigning.
- Demonstrable impact becomes increasingly important. CSOs need to create greater clarity on what they want to achieve.
- All organisations present at the meeting base their work on a "rights approach". While this joint basis was seen as an important strength there was the observation of a possible paradigm change towards "ecological justice".
- A key area for collective action would be human rights and responsibility for sustainable living.
- Collective action should be built on clear and ambitious goals and a specific civil society contribution. Large and overly heterogeneous groups striving for the lowest common denominator often are not very effective.
- Facilitating civic participation and adding value to and accelerating social movements are indispensable elements of successful CSOs in the future.



Three areas were identified for action within the next 12 months:

- Established initiatives like the Every Human Has Rights Campaign hosted by CIVICUS may provide a basis for joint action (www.everyhumanhasrights.org). Ingrid Srinath will come back with ideas how the group could use this platform. Kumi Naidoo will explore a concept for a joint campaign "G 6bn".
- An operations task force initiated by Wolfgang Fischer will investigate potential synergies which could be used to increase CSOs' operational efficiency. Areas to be explored could be joint procurement, joint platforms etc.
- External events such as the G20 Meeting (June/Canada and November/Korea), the ICC (June/Kampala), the CIVICUS Assembly (August / Canada), the UNGA (September / New York) and the COP16 (December / Cancun) should be systematically screened for opportunities to work together to strengthen advocacy efforts.

When concluding the meeting, participants expressed their appreciation of the open and honest discussions and noted that trust and confidence amongst participants has been growing with each annual Vision Works meeting.

