



INVITATION with possibility to register

CLAIMING BACK CIVIC SPACE

Towards approaches fit for the 2020s?

Closing civil society space is a growing trend, impacting civic actors in countries throughout the world, with an alarming rise in restrictions placed on civil society's ability to operate. The trend has encompassed a range of repressive measures by governments or society, from constraints on freedom of assembly to imposing limitations on NGOs funding or operations, from legal means to illegal violent measures.

The Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, together with, 11.11.11 – The Coalition of the Flemish North South Movement and CNCD-11.11.11 (umbrella organizations of CSO organisations in Belgium) and ECDPM organize a seminar to discuss on the subject with a group of experts, donors, civil society representatives and researchers on **Thursday 17th of December 2019** in Brussels.

The conference day is free of charge and will take place in English and in French. A lunch will be offered.

When ? **Tuesday, 17 December 2019, 9.00-17.00 hours**
(registration starts at 8h30)

Where ? **FPS Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, Palais d'Egmont
Rue des Petits Carmes 24**
How can you reach the event ? <https://www.ccegmont.be/en/practical-information>

Agenda

8h30	Registration
9h	Welcome & introduction by DGD Deputy Director Sophie de Groot
9h15	Presentation of the study by European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECD: PM), a study asked for by DGD <i>Title study: "Towards a whole-of-society policy against shrinking space of CSO in the world"</i> <i>Speaker: Jean Bossuyt, ECDPM</i>
10h	<u>Panel Discussion</u> on "How to respond to mondial "conflicting spaces" for civic engagement ?" <i>What changes have taken place in recent years in the way we look at and deal with the phenomenon of closing civic space?</i> Speakers: Mrs. Barbara Oosters (NOVIB), Mr. Thomas Hansen (MFA, Danmark), Open Society Foundation, Mr. Pieter-Jan Hamels (11.11.11) Moderator: Geert Laporte, ECDPM
11h20	Break
11h35	Breakaway sessions* on 1) Fragile contexts : speakers on contexts of Burundi, Mali, Haïti. 2) Conflict contexts: speakers on contexts of Somalia, Syria, Palestine, Yemen, 3) Deteriorating democracies: speakers on contexts of Philippines, Nicaragua,

	<p>Colombia</p> <p><i>What are the specific features of the conflicting spaces for civic engagement in the given context? How do you respond to them ?</i></p> <p><i>* You have to choose which of the three sessions you prefer to attend, please specify your choice below</i></p>
12h50	Networking lunch
14h	Reporting back from the 3 breakaway sessions
14h15	<p><u>Panel Discussion</u> on “Civic space in the digital era”</p> <p><i>What are recent trends in the use of digital tools to attack but as well in order to protect civic space?</i></p> <p>Speakers: Mrs. Aurore Guieu (Oxfam Solidarité), Mr. Raphaël Pouye (researcher EU), Mrs. Emma Achilli (Front Line Defenders), Mrs. Ana Fernandes (OCDE – DAC)</p> <p>Moderator: Koen Van Acoleyen, DGD</p>
15h30	Break
15h45	<p><u>Panel Discussion</u> on “Looking forward : How to improve our collective action capacity to shrinking space ?”</p> <p><i>What can be defined as common core priorities for the next years as well as innovative ways to work together in a “whole- of- society approach” ?</i></p> <p>Speakers: Mr. Domenic Perera (CIVICUS), Mr. Samer Daoudi (PNGO), Mr. Jelmer Kamstra (MFA, The Netherlands), Mr. Ignacio Packer (ICVA), Mr. Maina Kiai (HRW, ex- UN Special rapporteur on rights to freedom of association and peaceful assembly)</p> <p>Moderator: Jean Bossuyt, ECDPM</p>

Registration is required by Tuesday 10 December 2019, to
https://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/seminar_claiming_back_civic_space.

No confirmation will be sent by mail.