



**Conference of NGOs
in Consultative Relationship
with the United Nations (CONGO)**



**“SCALING UP CIVIL SOCIETY BEST PRACTICES
TO BRIDGE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE”**

16 November 2005, 1300-1700, Salle St Augustin, Kram Centre, Tunis, Tunisia

This forum will highlight the critical role of civil society organizations in promoting access to and effective utilization of the Internet and other information communications technologies. We will look at successful civil society projects in Asia, Latin America, Africa, and Europe. Questions the presenters will address include:

1. What are common challenges faced by civil society in implementing their projects?
2. What are common factors in the success of certain projects?
3. What can civil society do to better coordinate their projects and activities with each other?
4. What can the international community, UN, governments and others do to scale up successful projects?

Provisional Programme

1315-1400 Session I: “Grassroots Best Practices from Civil Society”

- Renata Bloem, President, CONGO - Introductory Remarks
- Sarbuland Kahn, UN ICT Task Force
- Geeta Malhotra, OneWorld South Asia
- Reza Salim, Bangladesh Friendship Education Society
- Cornelio Hopmann, Executive Director, e-Nicaragua

1415-1500 Session II: “National Level Best Practices from Civil Society”

- Shashi Tharoor, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information
- Tracy Naughton, WSIS Media Caucus
- Gbenga Sesan, Paradigm Youth Initiative / WSIS Youth Caucus
- Shahiduddin Akbar, ICT for Development Program Bangladesh

1515-1600 Session III: “Regional Best Practices from Civil Society”

- Bruno Lanvin, World Bank
- Andy Carvin, Telecentres Caucus
- Bineta Diop, Femmes Africaines Solidarité
- Christine Butegwa, Programme Officer of Communications, FEMNET

1615-1700 Session IV: “International Coordination of Civil Society”

- Adama Sammesekou, President of WSIS Phase I
- Nadia Afrin, Development Gateway
- Renata Bloem - Closing Remarks

Interpretation in English and French available • Interpretation en français et anglais disponible

Coffee and refreshments will be provided during the programme