



forus



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

CANCELA LA DEUDA

ALZA LA VOZ

DIGNIDAD NO DEUDA

BEYOND THE LINE! RED ALARM

DEMAND A GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE ECONOMY NOW

GLOBAL

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SOLIDARITY AND POWER IN A YEAR FULL OF CHALLENGES

**BY MAVALOW CHRISTELLE KALHOULE,
FORUS CHAIR AND SARAH STRACK, FORUS
DIRECTOR.**

In a world marked by accelerating crises, deepening inequalities, and rising pressures on human rights and civic freedoms, civil society is being pushed to the edge — politically, financially, and in public discourse. Across many contexts, the space to organise, speak up, and hold power to account is narrowing, while funding becomes more constrained and more transactional, and multilateralism is tested at its foundations.

And yet, this year has shown that civil society is not a passive witness to global turbulence. It is a source of protection, resilience, and solutions — especially when able to connect struggles and practice solidarity across borders. That is precisely what Forus exists to do: catalyse collective action among national platforms and regional coalitions; defend and enhance the enabling environment for civil society; influence global development agendas; and strengthen the legitimacy and resilience of our sector in a rapidly shifting political, financial, and technological landscape.

Over the past year, our network continued to invest in the connective tissue of global civil society: multilingual peer-learning, coordination and joint positioning that turns shared analysis into shared action.

We carried forward member-led initiatives and storytelling that elevated local leadership on gender justice, shifting power, digital rights and more — while staying rooted in lived realities.

We continued to strengthen members' ability to operate, adapt, and lead — including through supporting platforms in consolidating and developing their structures and sharing lessons across regions.

We expanded our advocacy work, pushing back against democratic backsliding and shrinking civic space, monitoring and defending the enabling environment for civil society through evidence and early warning, and strengthening civil society participation and accountability in multilateral spaces and development finance debates.

As the United Nations turn 80, we have pushed a clear message: reform cannot become a technocratic exercise in “doing less with less.” The question is whether it becomes a budget drill or a renewal that delivers for people where they live. We have called for reform to be judged by three litmus tests — addressing inequality, localization, and rights — and for a multilateral system that protects people faster, strengthens participation, and does not dilute gender equality, human rights, or humanitarian protection.

SOLIDARITY AND POWER IN A YEAR FULL OF CHALLENGES

It was also a year of reflection, foresight thinking, and collective visioning. From January to October, Forus carried out a participatory strategy process, grounded in analyses and consultations with members and governance bodies, and shaped by the realities members face.

The conclusion was clear: with the global context rapidly shifting, full of uncertainties, and becoming less and less favorable to civil society, with repression rising, funding shrinking, multilateralism eroding, and digital transformation accelerating without adequate governance, our new strategy would need to be bold and agile and respond to the concerning signals that are multiplying — from restrictions on advocacy funding to politization and wider ODA cuts — precisely when civil society needs protection and long-term support.

This moment demands that global institutions and major donors stop treating civil society as an “add-on,” consulted late and funded narrowly, but step in to promote an enabling environment for civil society, as a clear recognition of the role we play for sustainable development, democracy, accountability, risk prevention, and safeguarding the public interest. This is what we, collectively, will focus on.



Building on our founding compass — Connect, Support, Influence — our new strategy is a collective commitment to move beyond reacting to constraints, and to invest even more deliberately in power-building and network health: resilient civil society ecosystems and meaningful participation in the decisions that shape people’s lives.

It is also a commitment to defending rights-based, participatory democracy values and strengthening the conditions for civil society to operate safely and independently — offline and online.

Thank you

None of what is reflected in these pages would be possible without the commitment, courage, and solidarity of our members — and the many partners and allies who choose, again and again, to invest in civil society as an essential force for justice, democracy, peace, and sustainable development.

We enter this new strategic cycle with deep gratitude — and with determination. Together, we will move forward: stronger, bolder, and more united than ever, because we were built for this moment.



**MAVALOW CHRISTELLE
KALHOULE**
Forus Chair



SARAH STRACK
Forus Director



©Forus General Assembly

OUR GLOBAL REACH

Forus is a global civil society network uniting 74 national and 7 regional NGO networks, predominantly representing the global majority. Forus creates connections that bring together over 24,000 civil society organisations across 124 countries.



27 national platforms from North and Sub-Saharan Africa



11 national platforms from Asia



18 national platforms from Europe



12 national platforms from Latin America



2 national platforms from North America



4 national platforms from the Pacific



7 regional coalitions from Asia, the Pacific Islands, Western, Central & South Africa, Latin America & Europe are also part of the network.

83%

Forus members report that their members provide **support to their local communities.**

84%

Forus members also report that their members are regularly involved in **awareness-raising and public information activities**, as well as advocacy activities and campaigns.



73



NATIONAL NGO PLATFORMS

7



REGIONAL COALITIONS

FORUS IMPACT: 2025 AT A GLANCE

73



73 national platforms and 7 regional coalitions representing over 24,000 NGOs around the world connected and acting collectively through the Forus network

60+



60+ events in 2025, including official side-events at CSW69, FFD4, the UN High-Level Political Forum, internet governance fora and more!

2100+



2100+ participants in 2025

300+



300+ collaborations with over 60 allies and partners





150+



150+ articles in the media co-written by Forus members on issues linked to the SDGs, development financing, gender equity and rights, grassroots initiatives and the enabling environment for civil society



200,000+



200,000+: views and listeners to the Forus multimedia series, including Digital Futures, Global Voices Rising, March With Us and more!



350,000+



+ 350,000 euros supporting institutional strengthening projects designed and implemented by 12 national platforms; 12 women participating in the Forus Leadership Development Programme and public speaking coaching; 56 people trained in digital security; AI for NGOs and resource mobilisation

IMPACT SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

89% say Forus connects them to key policy spaces

88% value tools and publications

82% report advocacy support as useful

88% affirm transparency and governance standards



DISCOVER 5 HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR WORK IN 2025

Forus Virtual Forum: The Power of a Connected Network

In 2025, the Forus Virtual Forum (FVF) emerged as a defining moment for our network, bringing together members from **38 countries**. Held entirely online, the Forum created an inclusive and accessible space for Forus members to explore, across four pillar-focused sessions, the new Forus Strategy 2026–2030 and shape next steps toward the 2026 General Assembly, exchanging insights and strengthening collaboration.

The Forus Virtual Forum was made possible through the strong collaboration of our national and regional members, and with the support of key partners including the **European Union** and the **Agence Française de Développement (AFD)**. Together, we transformed a global gathering into a vibrant, participatory digital space that reaffirmed the strength, adaptability, and resilience of our network.



Welcoming A New Forus Member!



Forus is proud to have welcomed one new national platform member: TANGO (Tanzania) – Founded in 1988 by a group of 22 civil society organizations, Tanzania Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (TANGO) is a national NGO platform that brings together a wide and diverse constituency of civil society actors in Tanzania, with over 485 member organizations across the country. TANGO plays a convening and representative role for its members, supporting collective advocacy, and coordination on issues affecting civic space and people-centred development. Through its work, the platform seeks to strengthen the role of NGOs as active contributors to social justice, good governance, and inclusive development processes.

World Social Summit 2025 (WSSD2): Reclaiming Social Justice in a Fragmented World



In 2025, Forus and its members mobilised to influence the Second World Social Summit for Social Development (WSSD2) in Doha, uniting platforms from Nepal, Norway, Uganda, Finland, China, and Pakistan around a clear message: move from rhetoric to implementation. Civil society called for inclusive national social development platforms by 2026, universal social protection, credible financing, action on the digital divide, and stronger accountability.

While the Summit reaffirmed social protection as a right and advanced discussions on the care economy and older persons' rights, significant gaps remain — particularly on financing, implementation tools, digital inclusion, and formal accountability. Forus will continue supporting members to translate commitments into concrete national action and ensure follow-through.



©Forus Leadership Development Programme

High-Level Political Forum 2025: Localisation to Rescue the SDGs



At the 2025 High-Level Political Forum, Forus and its members pressed a clear message: with SDG progress off track, localisation must shift from rhetoric to real transfers of power, resources, and decision-making to communities. A decade review of 366 Voluntary National Reviews (2016–2024) found that only 29% meaningfully engaged civil society, prompting calls for institutionalised CSO participation, recognition of shadow reports, multi-year review cycles, and independent follow-up.

Forus also launched [Unlocking the Power of Localisation and Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships to Rescue the SDGs](#), highlighting 20+ case studies and seven pathways to scale localisation — from financing reform to stronger data and partnerships. Members used this evidence at HLPF to push for financing justice, protection of civic space, and stronger accountability, demonstrating that localisation is a governance shift essential to closing the gap between global commitments and lived realities.

Financing for Development (FfD4): A pivotal moment for global justice



The [Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development \(FfD4\) in Seville](#) was a pivotal 2025 moment, convened to address widening financing gaps threatening the 2030 Agenda. With five years remaining, Forus and its members mobilised throughout the preparatory process and conference to advocate for a fairer, more accountable financial architecture grounded in human rights, gender justice, and climate justice.

Members organised side events and engaged governments on debt justice, fair taxation, public financing, digital innovation, and the role of development banks. A Forus side event highlighted the importance of locally led development and stronger collaboration between public development banks and civil society. While FfD4 advanced commitments on sustainable financing, gaps remain in civic space protections and accountability. Forus will continue post-conference advocacy to push for transformative, people-centred financing



Forus Campaigns: Amplifying Voices Driving Change



Building on previous storytelling initiatives, the Forus network continues to "share the mic" with civil society organisations and activists worldwide, in partnership with Forus members.

In 2025, key campaigns included:

- **We are leaving no one behind, are you?** - Where Forus members celebrate and share the work of CSOs worldwide.
- **#MarchWithUs** - An annual series highlighting gender justice and the fight for gender rights with 30K+ views accumulated on YouTube in 2025.
- **#Let'sTalkDigital** - Raising awareness on digital rights and the importance of inclusive internet governance.
- **#ShiftingThePower** - Advocating for local leadership and structural change in the development sector.
- **#PositiveNarratives** - Bringing to the limelight stories of civil society organisations from a positive lens and this time, thanks to the [Forus Journalism Fellowship!](#)

Explore our campaigns and storytelling initiatives [here!](#)



Forus Leadership Development Programme 2025: Women Power



In 2025, the Forus Leadership Development Programme (LDP) brought together 14 inspiring women from across the Forus network for a transformative LDP cycle focused on inclusive and transformational leadership. After an intensive in-person retreat in Manila, Philippines (March 4–7), participants returned to their organisations and national platforms equipped to translate their learning into concrete actions for themselves as leaders in their communities, for their personal lives and for their organisations.

Transformations ranged from developing safeguarding policies at FONGTO in Togo, to promoting women’s collective leadership at UnidOSC in Mexico, and from advancing humanitarian values at KCOC in Korea, to facilitating participatory organisational reforms in Morocco. Each participant applied insights from the programme to adapt leadership practices to local realities. Initiatives ranged from creating safe spaces for women leaders and strengthening onboarding processes to designing digital tools for collective memory and leading advocacy responses to shrinking civic space.

This cycle reaffirmed the networks commitment on women’s leadership, gender justice, and storytelling as a transformational tool for learning and change. By combining individual and group reflection, peer support, action-oriented research, the 2025 LDP exemplified how leadership is most powerful when it is adaptive, inclusive, and rooted in trust-based relationships to support each other against real-world challenges.



Defending an Enabling Environment for civil society: from early warning to early action



Civil society organisations worldwide are facing escalating legal, financial, and digital pressures that threaten their independence and ability to act. In 2025, Forus and its members strengthened a shared approach to respond to these threats: member-led monitoring, collective learning, and targeted advocacy to shift donor and multilateral practice from ad-hoc reactions to coordinated action.

EU SEE: a step-change in evidence, led by civil society. One of the most significant developments was the progress of the new **EU SEE** (EU System for an Enabling Environment for Civil Society) initiative. The EU System for an Enabling Environment is designed to document significant changes and shed light on critical trends in the enabling environment for civil society across 86 countries in Africa, the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific, the Americas and the Caribbean. In 2025, EU SEE moved from set-up to delivery—making it possible to move beyond fragmented anecdotes toward systematic monitoring over time through structured evidence generated with and by civil society platforms.

With the release of the first **EU SEE baseline snapshot reports, Country Focus Reports and early warning mechanism alerts**, the network gained a powerful new foundation for advocacy: evidence that helps identify changes in the contexts of civil society, and to spot risks early enough to act—not only after space has already closed. Thematic analyses help facilitate peer learning among civil society from different contexts and builds the basis for targeted advocacy. An example is the [Forus-led study on the Impact of US Funding Freeze on Civil Society](#) which was one of the first in the world published in the heat of the moment and provided valuable insights for donors around the world.

A new podcast – **[The Enabling Space: Voices of Civil Society resilience](#)** – was also created to shed more light on the struggles and efforts of civil society across the world.

Follow our work at [EU SEE](#) which provides near real-time monitoring, country-specific data, and advocacy tools to strengthen civil society's response - **offering key insights from 86 countries!**

Forus and Digital Governance: Advancing a Human Rights-Centred Digital Future



In 2025, Forus continued to champion civil society's role in shaping digital governance, particularly in contexts where access, inclusion, and representation remain limited—especially for organisations from the Global South. Many of the initiatives developed by Forus were implemented within the framework of the [Civil Society Alliances for Digital Empowerment \(CADE\)](#), a project co-funded by the European Union.

Building on previous work, the **“AI Artivism for Digital Rights” call for proposals** was launched, inviting civil society innovators to explore creative approaches to digital advocacy. The initiative attracted submissions from across the globe and resulted in the selection of three winning organisations: Fundación KISTH (Ecuador), REPONGAC (Central Africa), and HopeRise Foundation Nepal (Nepal).

Complementing this, the **CADE – Youth Voices for Digital Rights programme** empowered 15 young leaders to engage with digital policy debates, fostering capacity, collaboration, and awareness around human rights in technology. The initiative aimed for each participant to develop multimedia proposals addressing the digital concerns of their communities, while also collaboratively creating a **Youth Manifesto on Digital Rights**.

Forus, also took an active role at the **WSIS+20 Forum** in Geneva (July 7–11), a high-level gathering reflecting two decades of human-centred internet governance efforts. During the Forum, a side event, **“#CADE – From the Outside Looking In?”** was organised, which facilitated informal dialogue on standard-setting, stakeholder inclusion, and power dynamics in digital governance.



©CADE

New study: AI in Africa — historic opportunity or new tool for inequality?

In 2025, REPOGAC, published a [new study](#) exploring how artificial intelligence is reshaping societies across Central Africa and the implications for digital rights, equity, and sustainable development. Grounded in regional perspectives, the research highlights AI's potential to help address long-standing infrastructure and service gaps, while also warning of the risks of exacerbating inequalities when these technologies are deployed without inclusive governance, local data ecosystems, and strong accountability mechanisms. The study brings critical civil society perspectives into debates on AI governance, raising key issues such as algorithmic bias, data sovereignty, public oversight, and the need for meaningful CSO participation in AI-related policymaking processes. Read the [full study here](#).

Through these initiatives and events, Forus reaffirmed its commitment to promoting inclusive, rights-based approaches to digital governance, ensuring that civil society voices are central to shaping the technologies and policies that affect our shared future.



Civil Society at the 2025 Finance in Common Summit



At the 2025 **Finance in Common Summit** in South Africa, Forus and its members actively engaged with public development banks, advocating for financing that prioritises human rights, sustainability, and community needs. Building on our **Engaging Public Development Banks study and toolkit**, we supported civil society partners in navigating PDB engagement at local, national, and global levels, ensuring that development finance drives real-world impact.

[Find the study and toolkit on our Financing for Sustainable Development page!](#)



Forus strategy: Transitioning to 2026-2030

The Forus 2021–2025 strategy has guided our network through a period of growth, collaboration and impact. Built around three pillars—Connect, Support and Influence—it reflected the vision and ethos of Forus:

- **Connect:** Bringing together national and regional civil society platforms to foster collaboration, peer learning, and collective action, creating dynamic spaces to exchange experiences, co-develop strategies, and amplify global impact.
- **Support:** Equipping members with tools, knowledge, and resources to engage effectively in policy analysis, and public decision-making, through capacity sharing approaches online and offline.
- **Influence:** Shaping public policies at all levels through evidence-based reports, joint advocacy, and campaigns, ensuring civil society voices—especially from the Global Majority—are heard and translated into tangible action.





Over the past five years, Forus has:



- Supported **75** national capacity development projects
- Strengthened **6** regional coalitions
- Convened over **400** peer-learning events
- Cooperated with **550+** members and allies
- Published **23+** reports, policy briefs, and position papers
- Issued over **500** articles
- Influenced more than **70** Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)
- Developed **14** toolkits
- Provided seed funding to **42** members to adapt to online work and pandemic-related challenges

As **2025** marks the conclusion of this strategy, Forus has now unveiled the **2026–2030 strategy**, first shared with members at the **2025 Forus Virtual Forum (VVF)**. This new strategy will be further emphasised and collectively refined at the **2026 General Assembly in Cambodia**, ensuring that members, partners, and allies co-create a roadmap that reflects our shared vision for the next five years—strengthening civil society, advancing global advocacy, and shaping a more just and sustainable world.



2025 publications and resources from the Forus network to inspire your actions



In the 2025 Impact Survey, **89%** of Forus members stated that Forus provides them with useful information, publications, tools and resources.

Organisational self-assessments

In 2025, we published a key resource for organisational strengthening: the Forus Organisational Self-Assessments 2024. This report gathers the first self-assessment results from Forus member platforms, offering insights and reflections on their structures, capacities, and internal practices. It served as a practical tool for civil society organisations to benchmark themselves, identify strengths and areas for improvement, and plan capacity-building efforts tailored to their specific needs — helping them become more effective, resilient, and ready to respond to evolving challenges. The findings show that most Forus members interested in the assessment find their institutional capacities as moderate.



A Mapping Study on PDBs: Civil Society Mechanisms and Approaches

In 2025, Forus released a new **mapping study on Public Development Banks (PDBs), civil society mechanisms and approaches**, designed to help civil society organisations engage effectively with PDBs and influence development finance for social justice and sustainability. The study provides a detailed overview of when and how civil society platforms have—sometimes successfully—interfaced with public development banks, offering guidance on strategies, entry points, and lessons learned. It is a practical resource for national and regional CSO networks to assess opportunities for advocacy, monitor PDB accountability, and design engagement strategies grounded in transparency, equity, and community-centred development.

A Decade of Accountability: Assessing the Role of Voluntary National Reviews in Advancing the Sustainable Development Goals

This comprehensive report critically examines how Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) have contributed to—or fallen short in — driving progress toward the SDGs over the past ten years. Drawing on data and case studies across regions, the report highlights successes, gaps, and trends in accountability, policy implementation, civil society engagement and transparency. This resource offers civil society organisations a robust basis to monitor and influence national SDG processes, advocate for greater inclusion and participation, and push for stronger commitments and follow-through on sustainable development goals at country level.

Finally, the report underscores the structural limits of the voluntary VNR framework, specifically around the issues of weak follow-up, declining participation, shrinking civic space, and persistent data gaps—while highlighting the growing importance of local and sub-national reviews as complementary accountability mechanisms.





VNRs at the Crossroads: From Symbolism to Systemic Change

This is a critical study analysing the effectiveness of Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) as a mechanism for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The report argues that while VNRs have raised awareness and encouraged some progress, most remain largely symbolic—marked by limited civil society inclusion, selective reporting, and weak accountability. It calls for systemic reforms: peer-review processes, recognition and integration of civil society “shadow reports,” participatory data systems, and institutionalised local and sub-national review mechanisms. This resource offers civil society organisations and national platforms a compelling evidence base to strengthen their engagement in SDG review processes, demand transparency, and push for meaningful, inclusive, and accountable SDG implementation. The resource further warns that, without urgent structural reform in the final five years to 2030, VNRs risk embedding an illusion of progress, lacking independent review, formal recognition of civil society evidence, and reliable follow-up, rather than functioning as genuine accountability tools.

Unlocking the Power of Localisation and Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships to Rescue the SDGs

This strategic resource emphasises how localisation and inclusive partnerships can reinvigorate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals. The summary outlines how meaningful involvement of local actors, grassroots organisations, and civil society can enhance SDG implementation, ensuring that policies respond to real needs on the ground. It highlights key principles and actionable recommendations for forging partnerships across sectors — from governments and public institutions to CSOs and community-based groups — with a focus on accountability, equity, and sustainable impact. This publication serves as a reference for networks and platforms seeking to promote bottom-up development, deepen collaboration, and advocate for SDG processes that are rooted in community priorities. It also places localisation as a remedial to prevaricated top-down SDG implementation, emphasising the need to address power imbalances in partnerships and to create enabling conditions, such as safe civic space, flexible financing, and institutional recognition, for community-led action to succeed.





Understanding the EU Global Gateway

CONCORD

This document is designed to help civil society organisations, development actors, and grassroots platforms better grasp this major global investment initiative. The FAQ demystifies how the Global Gateway works, what kinds of projects and financing it supports, and how civil society can engage meaningfully to ensure investments promote sustainable development, human rights, and inclusive growth. By offering clear explanations and guidance, this publication equips CSOs across different regions with practical knowledge to monitor Global Gateway projects, advocate for community-centered investments, and hold stakeholders accountable for equitable development outcomes.

Coordinating Action for Civic Space - Toolkit

This toolkit published by OECD is designed to help development and humanitarian actors implement the 2021 DAC Recommendation on Enabling Civil Society in Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Assistance. The guidance outlines practical measures for coordinated efforts — among donor governments, multilateral agencies, and civil society — to protect and promote civic space everywhere. It highlights the urgency of context-sensitive, long-term cooperation to secure legal, policy, and financial environments where civil society organisations can operate freely. As civic space continues to face mounting threats, this toolkit offers CSOs and development actors concrete strategies — from structured dialogue and funding coordination to monitoring and early-warning mechanisms — to safeguard civic freedoms and ensure inclusive participation in development processes.





Shadow Report on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Assessing Progress and Challenges in The Gambia TANGO, Gambia

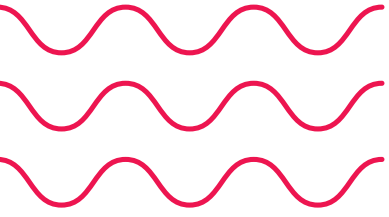
This is an independent civil-society review of how the 2030 Agenda is being implemented in The Gambia. This shadow report provides a grassroots-driven assessment of progress and gaps across SDG targets — especially in areas where official reporting tends to overlook or under-report issues affecting marginalized communities. By documenting real conditions on the ground and presenting concrete recommendations, the report equips CSOs, advocacy platforms, and policy-makers with a powerful tool to demand accountability, greater transparency, and inclusive participation in national SDG follow-up processes.

Mobilising Capital, Mitigating Risk: The Role of International Financial Institutions in Advancing Climate Finance in South Asia & Southeast Asia

Asia Development Alliance, Asia

This study highlights the importance of equitable and sustainable climate financing through the publication of a comprehensive climate-finance report, which maps how international financial institutions and funding flows interact with climate action, development priorities and social justice. The report offers civil society organisations a critical tool for analysing climate finance practices, identifying gaps and risks—such as unequal allocation between mitigation and adaptation, lack of transparency or neglect of vulnerable communities—and advocating for finance that advances human rights, ecological justice, and SDG implementation. By combining evidence, analysis and practical recommendations, this resource supports CSOs working to hold financial actors accountable and push for climate-resilient, inclusive development globally.





**20 achievements
from 2025 that
we're (especially)
proud of**



CONNECT

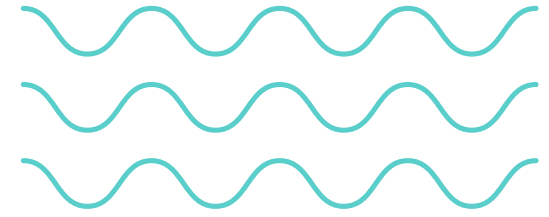
Under its strategic “Connect” pillar, Forus expanded collaborations across civil society and with other allies, amplifying civil society voices, and strengthening collective efforts worldwide. By nurturing our peer learning spaces, launching high-impact campaigns, and supporting grassroots initiatives, we reinforced our commitment to collective action and global solidarity.

In 2025 we increased the number of events which are all accessible in English, Spanish, French. These events support inclusive, collaborative, and impactful connections and remain highly popular with participant satisfaction reaching 8,8 / 10 in 2025! Forus also continued to prioritise its "member voice" systems, gathering, analysing, and learning from the perspectives and feedback of its members and partners.

As we look ahead, 2026 will be a special year for the Forus network as we set our 2026-2030 strategic plan in motion with several opportunities to convene as a network. Forus will also be developing unique tech-powered tools for Forus members to be able to connect and exchange.

[Learn more about our Connect Pillar here.](#)





01

2025 Forus Virtual Forum

The 2025 Forus Virtual Forum brought our network together digitally from December 2 – 4, 2025. One of the highlights of the event was the presentation of the 2026 – 2030 Forus Strategy which was developed after numerous consultations with Forus members, partners, allies, and critical friends.

02

A new member joins the Forus family!

Forus welcomed the Tanzanian Association of NGOs ([TANGO](#)) as the newest member of our network! We look forward to collaborating with this inspiring platform and incorporating their valuable perspectives into our collective efforts.

[Click here to see the full list of Forus members.](#)

03

#A Space for Us podcasts & videos series

Launched in 2020, the “A Space for Us” storytelling hub features activists, civil society organisations and social movements from across the globe. In 2025, over 70 audio and video episodes were produced and published on themes ranging from digital rights to the SDGs as well as Power Shifts and the protection of civic space and an enabling environment for civil society. [Stay tuned for more stories in 2026 and discover our multimedia projects here!](#)

Podcast episodes are available in [[English](#) - [Français](#) - [Español](#) - [Português](#)]

04

The ComsForUs Working Group

This specific working group for Forus members to share and develop their communications practices and in 2025 the working group had several focus areas. This included launching a *Forus Journalism Fellowship Programme* based on the *#PositiveNarratives* campaign, exploring how to *navigate a crisis*, the basis for *strategic storytelling*, how to *communicate in the age of artificial intelligence* and how to *harness the potentials of social media* for impact. In 2026, they will expand their efforts on digital activism, decolonizing language and innovative campaign strategies.

05

Forus Campaigns, Stories & Collective Initiatives

- **The Forus Journalism Fellowship:** Forus revitalised the **#PositiveNarratives** campaign through the launch of the **Forus Journalism Fellowship**, empowering journalists to uncover and amplify stories that highlight solutions, resilience, and transformative change within communities. By equipping fellows with mentorship, tools, and global platforms, the initiative shines a light on grassroots initiatives, locally led innovations, and inspiring civil society actions that often go unnoticed. This revival reinforces the campaign's mission to shift dominant narratives, celebrate positive impact, and ensure that the voices and experiences of communities driving change are heard worldwide.
- **#MarchWithUs:** For its fifth edition, the campaign continued advocacy for gender justice, equity and rights with over 20 activists and Forus members. It highlighted voices like Hala Al Karib, Sudanese activist and the regional director of the SIHA network, Frank Mugisha, a Ugandan LGBTQ+ advocate, and Rosanna Flamer-Caldera, who is fighting for human dignity in Sri Lanka, the 1for8 Billion campaign fighting for a feminist UN leader, and Dianah Kamande, a gender justice advocate and survivor of domestic violence to name a few. Several Forus members also joined to spotlight critical global and local issues. Red Encuentro discussed recent setbacks in gender rights in Argentina, the Lithuanian Development Cooperation Platform offered insights into the evolving global peace and security landscape, emphasizing women's leadership in conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and post-conflict recovery, and Christelle Kalhoule (Forus Chair) talked about the challenges women's rights organizations face in Burkina Faso. Join the movement in 2026!

- **Shifting the Power – Global Voices Rising:** Our campaign investigates the narratives and perspectives emerging from civil society worldwide about imagining and transforming current development models. **Explore our members' diverse perspectives on development shaped by their unique contexts.** Learn how locally led initiatives navigate bureaucratic obstacles while envisioning sustainable development through systems change, equal partnerships, and crucial discussions on power dynamics.
- **“We Are Leaving No One Behind – Are You?”:** The campaign builds on the spirit of “Shifting the Power” by shining a spotlight on the voices and realities often excluded from mainstream development narratives. Through this global initiative, Forus invites civil society organisations and grassroots actors to share how they are working for equity, inclusion, and justice—especially for communities that too often remain invisible in policymaking. By highlighting locally led stories, systemic barriers, and the need for genuine partnerships, the campaign challenges traditional development models and demands that no one be left behind.
- **#Let’sTalkDigital campaign:** We explored digital rights and internet governance via the CADE Youth Voices programme and our AI for activism call! Through the campaign, discover the intersection between civic space, digital rights and the opportunities to shape digital policies, a feminist internet and a “gender view” of digitalisation as well as specific digital rights issues – from internet shutdowns to cybersecurity, surveillance and digital challenges in crisis-affected zones. Look behind the scenes at how digital governance “is built” and how civil society can shape it.
- Forus supported member campaigns, such as #StopàlabaisseAPD by Coordination SUD (France), the Pajubá Project by Abong (Brazil), calls to counter anti-NGO laws by ANC (Peru) and many more!

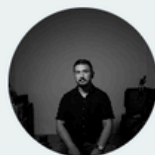
Stay tuned for more interesting Forus initiatives in 2026!



JOURNALISM FELLOWSHIP



Borso Tall
Senegal



Sanjog Manandhar
Nepal



Stefanny Paola Peña Sevilla
Venezuela



Nfor Hanson Nchanji
Global



Tina Charisma
Global



Hawa Ibrahima
Mali



Natali Carvalho
Brazil



Innocent Kiiza
Uganda



Maggie Morett
Mexico



Innocent Buchu
Democratic Republic of the Congo



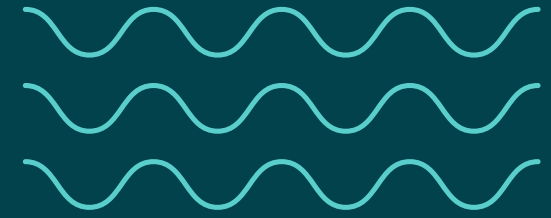
Florence Inyabuntu
Burundi



Paul Antoine Matos
Mexico



Forus was also involved in many events and conferences.



Below a snapshot of some events which we co-organised or participated in:

- **CSW69 (9-21 March, NYC):** Forus and its members convened global civil society voices to accelerate progress on gender equality at a pivotal moment—thirty years after the Beijing Declaration and on the eve of the 2025 review of SDG 5. Through our event, *“Accelerating Gender Equality: Empowering Women and Girls Beyond Beijing+30,”* the network underscored the urgency of dismantling persistent gender gaps, amplifying feminist movements, and defending civic space as a precondition for women’s rights: gender equality cannot progress without sustained, flexible and accessible financing for feminist movements and women-led civil society, particularly as funding freezes and broader aid reductions disrupt programmes and services. Interventions highlighted immediate impacts on women’s rights—including SRHR, GBV prevention and response, care, and women’s economic empowerment—and reinforced the need for donor accountability, emergency bridge support, and diversified, resilient funding models that reach grassroots and community-based organisations.





- **OECD-DAC Civil Society Days (18–19 June, Paris):** Advancing the DAC Recommendation review with member-led evidence. At the OECD-DAC Civil Society Days, Forus and member platforms engaged the five-year review of the DAC Recommendation on Enabling Civil Society, pushing for donor practice to better match commitments on civic space, localisation and risk-sharing. Drawing on EU SEE trends and member experience (including UNNGOF, JANIC, Cooperation Canada, Coordination Sud, FINGO, Bond, LAPAS, Concord Europe), our delegation highlighted how civic space restrictions, securitised aid approaches and shrinking grant funding are eroding civil society’s capacity to deliver and advocate—especially in fragile and restrictive contexts. Across sessions and consultations, we pressed DAC members to strengthen accountability for implementation, translate “early warning” into early action, and protect accessible, flexible, and sustainable funding for local and national CSOs. This engagement helped ensure that grassroots realities and platform perspectives informed the review process and the practical recommendations under discussion.
- **EU Policy Forum on Development (17–19 June, Brussels):** Defending civil society space and funding in the EU’s next cooperation cycle. At the EU Policy Forum on Development (PFD), Forus and members coordinated advocacy to strengthen the EU’s approach to civil society engagement, enabling environment priorities, and funding architecture—at a moment when debates on the next EU Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and Global Gateway implementation are reshaping external action. Members and regional coalitions (including MESA, VANI, PIANGO, REPONGAC, Concord Europe and ANONG) championed three core messages: protect ODA from diversion, ensure independent, predictable, grant-based support for civil society with simplified access for grassroots actors, and embed local leadership and meaningful dialogue as non-negotiable features of EU partnerships. Through interventions in the PFD’s enabling environment and budget-related discussions—alongside participation in caucuses and workshops—our delegation reinforced practical recommendations on funding modalities, partnership standards and safeguards to prevent civil society from being sidelined in the EU’s future cooperation model.
- **Internet Governance Forum (IGF) (23-27 June, Norway):** Forus joined the global digital governance conversation through CADE, bringing civil-society perspectives into critical debates on internet governance, digital rights, and inclusive policy-making. CADE organised several sessions (on cyber-laws and civic space, standards and inclusion, and digital rights capacities), and maintained a booth throughout the Forum to foster peer learning, share its findings, and engage participants in dialogue about the power dynamics shaping global digital governance.



- **LAC–EU Civil Society Forum (7-8 Nov, Santa Marta):** Strengthening bi-regional civic space and participation demands. At the LAC–EU Civil Society Forum, Forus supported member leadership and coordination to ensure enabling environment priorities were anchored in the forum’s outcomes and reflected in bi-regional policy discussions. Working alongside member and partner actors involved in coordination (including MESA and allies linked to CONCORD), Forus helped align evidence and messaging—drawing on EU SEE insights where relevant—and supported a strong civil society presence across sessions. A key collective output was the Forum Declaration endorsed by a broad coalition of organisations, calling for the LAC–EU partnership to be grounded in rights, inclusion and democratic legitimacy, and demanding formal mechanisms for structured dialogue and follow-up with meaningful participation by civil society and communities most affected by exclusion.
- **AU–EU Civil Society & Youth Forum (20-21 Nov, Luanda):** Positioning enabling environment as a precondition for partnership legitimacy. At the AU–EU Civil Society & Youth Forum, Forus helped elevate member-driven priorities around civic space protection, predictable funding and institutionalised participation within the AU–EU partnership. Forus Vice-Chair Dr. Moses Isooba (UNNGOF) represented the network and reinforced a central message: an enabling environment is not peripheral—it is a precondition for accountable investment, legitimate partnership and sustainable results. The civil society outcomes echoed consistent Forus member demands: protected freedoms offline and online, funding that reaches grassroots and youth-led actors, and mechanisms that move participation from consultation to influence. This engagement strengthened common positioning across regions and created follow-up hooks for advocacy with AU and EU stakeholders.
- **G20 Johannesburg (18-20 Nov, Johannesburg):** Supporting member analysis and amplifying systemic reform demands. During the G20 cycle culminating in Johannesburg, Forus members tracked negotiations and engaged through civil society spaces to advocate for systemic reforms on debt, taxation and inequality, particularly following the momentum of FfD4. Members such as JANIC and Bond contributed reflections from the Social Summit and People’s Summit dynamics, where civil society mobilisation strongly advocated to “tax the super-rich,” “drop the debt,” and secure climate justice financing. Forus used these member insights to inform network discussions on how to engage earlier at national level, protect meaningful civil society participation, and strengthen scrutiny of the full financing ecosystem beyond ODA—debt, tax and climate finance—because these levers shape the fiscal space for rights and social investment.



- COP30 Belém (10–21 Nov, Brazil): Elevating member perspectives on climate finance, Indigenous leadership and access to resources. At COP30, Forus members from multiple regions shared grounded reflections on the outcomes and gaps—especially on climate finance modalities, just transition and the need for commitments to reach local realities. Member perspectives from POJOAJU (Paraguay) and ABONG (Brazil) highlighted converging concerns: continued reliance on debt-creating instruments, the risk of high-level commitments not translating into accessible resources for communities, and the importance of Indigenous participation and leadership in climate governance. Forus used these member inputs to underscore advocacy priorities going forward: shifting toward grant-based, accessible climate finance, strengthening safeguards and accountability for implementation, and tracking how COP outcomes translate into national policies and protections for those on the frontlines of the climate crisis.
- ICANN (25-30 Oct, Dublin): the CADE project deepened its engagement in global internet governance by co-organising, alongside the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group (NCSG), an open roundtable on “DNS Blocking and Human Rights.” The session brought together civil society, technical experts, and human rights advocates to unpack how DNS-based content restrictions impact freedom of expression and access to information. By fostering dialogue on transparency, accountability, and rights-respecting approaches to security concerns, CADE helped ensure that human rights remained central in discussions shaping the future of internet infrastructure and policy.



SUPPORT

In 2025, Forus continued to advance capacity strengthening across its network, building on a needs-based and impact-oriented approach to support members at national, regional, and global levels. Through peer-to-peer methodologies, the network enhanced leadership, expertise, and innovation, while fostering collaboration and mutual learning. Over the years, Forus has supported more than 70 national capacity development projects and strengthened 6 regional coalitions, encouraging members to co-create initiatives that reinforce connections and synergies.

Key highlights from 2025 include:

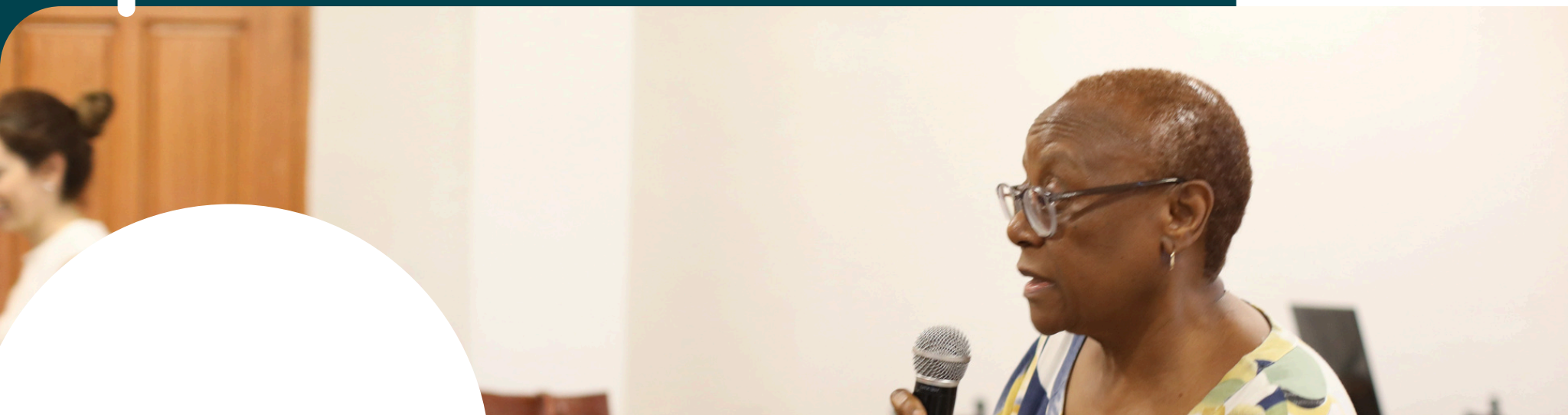
- Completion and dissemination of the [Forus Organisational Self-Assessments](#), providing members with actionable insights to enhance their structures and impact.
- The [Forus National Projects Partnerships Programme](#), reactivated in 2025, partnered with 12 members from Africa, Asia, and Latin America to provide flexible, tailored support for organisational strengthening.
- [Cycle 5 of the Leadership Development Programme \(LDP\)](#), empowering emerging and long standing civil society leaders, with a focus on women's leadership and storytelling as transformational tools for self-development.

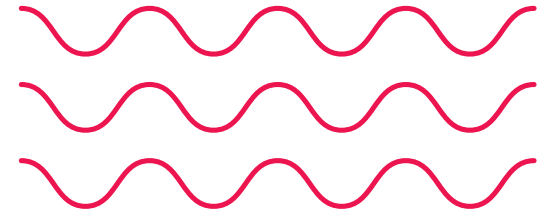


- **Skills-sharing sessions, learning modules, and peer-support platforms** covering critical topics such as resource mobilisation, AI for NGO management, member engagement and dynamic accountability, and digital security and resilience-building.
- Continued **fundraising support and advisory services**, helping members strengthen sustainability and long-term impact.
- Launch of a Network Development pilot project offering structural support to redynamize networks operating in restricted civic spaces affected by longstanding funding cuts, political repression and loss of membership engagement and staff.

This approach has reinforced Forus' commitment to equipping civil society organisations with the tools, knowledge, and networks needed to lead change in an increasingly complex global landscape.

- [Learn more about our Support Pillar here.](#)





06

Forus Organisational Self-Assessment

The Organisational Self-assessment helped Forus members reflect on network structures and skills, highlighting strengths and areas for growth. The 24 members that completed the analysis, indicated confidence in strategy building, recruiting diverse governance bodies, and gaining recognition. However, digital skills, funding gaps, and knowledge-sharing remain key priorities. Insights from the assessments will shape tailored support for our network.

[Discover the key trends here.](#)

07

New cycle of National Platforms Projects

Through dedicated one-on-one partnerships with national members, Forus advances tailored capacity-strengthening initiatives, responding to the unique needs and change strategies of each platform. Of the 24 Forus members participating in the Organisational self-Assessment, **12 were selected by the Peer Committee to take part in Cycle 6 of the National Project Partnerships**, which concluded in 2025. The Peer Committee—a voluntary, member-led group tasked with designing calls for applications and collectively selecting project partners—was composed of **Cooperation Canada, CNONGD (DRC), Red Encuentro (Argentina), ANONG (Uruguay), FONGTO (Togo), and CODE-NGO (Philippines)** for this cycle. Cycle 6 delivered key outputs through intensive financial support and technical accompaniment in project management and budget monitoring and reporting. **Cycle 7 will launch in January 2026**, continuing this commitment to empowering national members and fostering resilience and peer support in the Forus network.

Discover a selection of projects below and all projects here.

- **Revising vision, strengthening governance, and developing advocacy for a more inclusive future**
PDA (Pakistan)

The PDA (Pakistan Development Alliance) project focuses on strengthening the organisation for a more inclusive and impactful future. Key objectives include revising PDA's vision and mission, developing a five-year strategic plan, redefining its governance structure with a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (DEIJ) framework, and creating a comprehensive advocacy strategy. Activities in 2025 included staff training on a human rights-based approach, hiring a consultant to develop the advocacy strategy, and actively engaging members in revising governance structures to ensure shared ownership, inclusivity, and alignment with the organisation's long-term goals.



- **Strengthening advocacy, resource management, and engagement for greater impact**
Red Encuentro (Argentina)

Red Encuentro is working to enhance its advocacy capacities, amplifying the voices and influence of its members while supporting local initiatives. The project focuses on improving **resource management, communications, and donor engagement** to ensure sustainable operations. By expanding its reach, fostering diverse participation, influencing public agendas, and sharing systematised lessons with Forus and the broader network, Red Encuentro aims to strengthen both its internal capacities and its impact on civil society advocacy in Argentina and beyond.

- **Strengthening member engagement and strategic planning for 2025 and beyond**
BOCONGO (Botswana Council of NGOs)

Bocongo is working to enhance member engagement by effectively tracking its membership composition and strengthening relationships, enabling members to build on each other's strengths, skills, and expertise. In 2025, BOCONGO will also **develop a new strategic plan** for the coming years, which will include a **resource mobilisation strategy and fundraising plan**, ensuring the organisation is well-positioned for sustainable growth and greater impact across its network.

- **Driving strategic planning, knowledge management, and digital integration**
FONGTO (Fédération des Organisations Non Gouvernementales au Togo)

FONGTO is advancing its organisational capacity through strategic planning, knowledge management, and digital integration. By the end of 2025, FONGTO aims to **finalize its 2025–2030 strategic plan, establish a knowledge management policy accompanied by staff training, and launch an integrated digital platform**. These initiatives are designed to enhance operational efficiency, foster innovation, and strengthen both sustainability and member engagement across the federation.

- **Advancing fundraising skills, digital capacity, and collaborative synergies for local impact**
UNITAS (Red Unitas – Bolivia)

UNITAS is working to strengthen the capacities of its network of 22 partner organisations. By September 2025, the project aims to enhance fundraising and resource mobilisation skills for 60% of key staff, build the digital and knowledge management capacities of 40% of these institutions, and foster collaboration among at least 30% of partners to create thematic and territorial synergies. Through structured dialogues and coordinated actions, UNITAS seeks to amplify local influence and drive meaningful social impact across Bolivia.

- **Enhancing strategic planning and digital capacity for effective member engagement**
SINERGIA (Venezuela)

Sinergia is strengthening its organisational and digital capacities to improve remote work and communication with members. The project focuses on **enhancing strategic planning for more efficient management**, fostering knowledge exchange and networking, and providing targeted training to increase member effectiveness. Key activities include conducting a **SWOT analysis**, revising the organisation's **mission and vision**, setting **clear goals with measurable indicators**, delivering **strategic planning training**, and establishing a **monitoring and evaluation system** to track progress and adapt strategies.

- **Modernising structure and building digital engagement for growth and sustainability**
CNONGD (DRC)

They are working to modernise their organisational structure and strengthen digital engagement with members. The project focuses on **upgrading equipment and systems**, building digital infrastructure, and enhancing the network's ability to **mobilise and engage existing members, attract new members, and secure resources through strategic and sustainable partnerships**. These efforts aim to support CNONGD's long-term growth, operational efficiency, and impact within the Congolese civil society ecosystem.

- **New strategy and policies through inclusive roadmaps and action plans**
CSCI (Ivory Coast)

CSCI has finalized the design of its new strategy and policies and is now focused on **operationalising these guidelines into concrete roadmaps and action plans**. The process emphasises **inclusive participation**, ensuring that diverse groups within the platform are meaningfully involved and their approval is secured, strengthening both ownership and the effectiveness of CSCI's strategic direction.

- **Strengthening governance, resource generation, and digital skills for enhanced NGO impact**
NFN (NGO Federation of Nepal)

The organisation is working to strengthen governance, resource mobilisation, and digital capacities across its network. Key activities in 2025 include **assessing governance and management gaps, developing essential policies and guidelines, training 280 member NGOs in resource generation and digital skills, digitising the membership database, conducting participatory training for board and staff, and enhancing IT infrastructure and software** to improve digital capabilities and overall organisational effectiveness.

- Enhancing member engagement, board diversity, and human resources
NNNGO (Nigeria Network of NGOs)

NNNGO is working to strengthen member engagement, diversify its board, and build human resource capacity during the 6th cycle of the National Project Partnerships. To support these goals, the coordination team will expand by hiring additional program staff. Key activities include **capacity-building for MEAL and HR teams, in-person training for program staff on member engagement, implementing CRM software to improve communication, and acquiring digital tools for enhanced security and content creation**. These efforts aim to address workforce gaps, increase member participation, and strengthen overall organisational effectiveness.

- Enhancing governance, regional collaboration, and strategic alignment
PFNOSCM (Plateforme Nationale des Organisations de la Société Civile de Madagascar)

The organisation is working to strengthen governance, boost collaboration across sub-regional platforms, and implement its **2025–2028 strategic plan**. Key objectives include **organising regional assemblies to elect a new governance body, conducting institutional and organisational diagnostics, and improving communication strategies**. Activities in 2025 feature **two inter-regional workshops**, active **member participation in governance revision**, and the preparation of **Convention National #4**, coinciding with PFNOSCM's 20th anniversary, ensuring **collective ownership and strategic alignment** across the platform and its sub-regions.



08

Forus Leadership Development Programme Cycle 5: Elevating Women's Leadership

The 5th cycle of the Forus Leadership Development Programme, completed in 2025, focused on **empowering women leaders** within the Forus network and advancing **inclusive governance and gender equity** aligned with the SDGs and the 2025 review of SDG 5. **12 participants** from across the global network took part, engaging in an in-person retreat in Manila, Philippines (March 4–7, 2025), and translating learnings into **practical, transformational actions** in their home organisations. Guided by leadership coach Nomvula Dlamini and Forus Capacity Strengthening Coordinator Elisa Novoa, participants strengthened advocacy, peer learning, and collaborative skills, while implementing projects such as knowledge-sharing workshops, organisational reforms, collective memory tools, and inclusive leadership initiatives. Highlights included initiatives like #MarchWithUs, fostering women's collective leadership, advancing systemic change, and promoting cross-regional collaboration. By August 2025, participants hosted an **international learning circle on Inclusive Leadership**, demonstrating how practical, values-driven leadership can influence civil society teams, systems, and communities worldwide.



Forus Fundraising Support to its members

Forus launched a new webpage accessible to members only. This webpage aims to highlight several resources that can support members in identifying funding opportunities and strengthen their fundraising systems. 63 member organisations benefited from this support in 2025. It also highlights some donors per theme focusing on those publishing calls for proposals to provide grants. This webpage is meant to be used as a tool complementing Forus' Toolkit on [Exploring New Funding Approaches for Civil Society](#) published in 2020. It was one of the most visited pages of the website in 2025 as we continued to update it.



INFLUENCE

The **Influence pillar** drives Forus' efforts to amplify civil society voices at national, regional, and global levels, promoting inclusive governance, sustainable development, financing justice, digital rights, gender equality, and locally led development. We work to ensure civil society input shapes global policy frameworks while supporting members to engage effectively in decision-making spaces.

In 2025, amid mounting debt, shrinking civic space, and shifting aid structures, Forus mobilised across key global processes — including the **HLPF**, **FfD4**, **the World Social Summit**, and **Finance in Common** — while leveraging partnerships such as the **EU System for an Enabling Environment for Civil Society (EU SEE)**, and the **Civil Society Alliances for Digital Empowerment (CADE)**. Our advocacy combined public engagement with behind-the-scenes policy inputs, feeding member evidence into UN, OECD-DAC, EU, and multilateral reform discussions. Core priorities included SDG accountability and localisation, financing reform (debt justice, tax, development banks), protection of civic space, and equitable digital governance.



Across these spaces, Forus consistently called for transparent, accountable and people-centred financing systems, predictable grant-based support for civil society, meaningful participation in policy processes, and reforms that reduce inequality rather than restrict rights. By connecting members' lived realities — funding cuts, restrictive laws, digital threats — to the global rules that shape them, the Influence pillar translated network power into concrete policy engagement and collective positioning.

Key highlights from 2025 which will be further developed below, include:

- **Global Advocacy on SDGs**
- **Inclusive** governance - pushing for the recognition and participation of civil society in key policy-making processes
- **An enabling environment for civil society powered by data**
- Contributing to more equitable and participatory digital governance practices
- Financing for Sustainable Development and rethinking the new architecture of development finance

[Learn more about our Influence Pillar here.](#)



Financing for sustainable development



Amid a convergence of global crises—ranging from climate change and biodiversity loss to shrinking civic space and mounting debt burdens—Forus remained a **strong advocate for a paradigm shift in development financing**. During the **Finance in Common Summit (FiCS) 2025**, Forus and its members amplified calls for **people- and planet-centred development finance**, emphasising the responsibility of public development banks to address inequality, reduce poverty, and support just and sustainable transitions through transparent and accountable financing models.

Forus' engagement around the Finance in Common initiative continued through close partnerships with four member organisations: ABONG (Brazil), ADA (Asia), CCONG (Colombia) and NNNGO (Nigeria). These organisations worked at national and regional levels to demand that civil society be meaningfully included in Public Development Bank (PDB) policies, operations, and projects.

As part of its broader advocacy efforts, Forus consistently pushed for the respect of human rights and the meaningful inclusion of civil society in shaping global financial systems. Contributions from the network helped inform and influence key policy spaces and processes, including the C20 discussions, the Finance in Common Summit, and the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4). Through these engagements, Forus reinforced the message that sustainable development financing must be grounded in equity, participation, and accountability to the communities it is meant to serve.

In parallel, Forus also sharpened its messaging on the political economy of development finance — including the ripple effects of aid cuts and increasingly transactional approaches to funding. Across our advocacy, we consistently underlined that shrinking or reshaping ODA without safeguards does not only reduce resources: it can accelerate civic space pressure, weaken accountability ecosystems, and push civil society into short-term delivery roles rather than rights-based, community-rooted change. We therefore used 2025 moments and policy inputs to insist on predictable, accessible, grant-based support (including for platforms and networks), and on funding approaches that do not penalise civil society for operating in contested or high-risk environments.

Some of our collective work includes:

Financing for sustainable development

- **Finance in Common process:** In 2025, Forus played a leading role in the **Finance in Common (FiCS) Summit**, convened in Cape Town, South Africa, as the coordinator of the **Informal Civil Society Organisation (CSO) Mechanism on FiCS**. Together with civil society partners, Forus contributed to the development and dissemination of a **Civil Society Declaration**, calling on Public Development Banks (PDBs) to align their operations with human rights, climate justice, and locally led development. This advocacy was reinforced by the publication of **Forus' study and toolkit on engaging Public Development Banks**, which provides practical guidance and concrete entry points for civil society to influence PDB strategies, governance, and accountability. Complemented by multimedia storytelling—including interviews and short documentaries featuring civil society voices—the FiCS process strengthened collective advocacy for a people- and planet-centred development finance architecture.
- **Forus on ODA cuts:** As a global civil society network, Forus continued to call for a development finance system grounded in **mutual accountability and equity**, ensuring resources reach communities most affected by inequality, fragility, and crisis. In 2025, this advocacy gained renewed urgency as DAC countries marked **over 50 years since committing to allocate 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI) to Official Development Assistance (ODA)**—a pledge still unmet by many. Forus underscored that chronic underfunding, coupled with weak accountability mechanisms, undermines global solidarity and risks leaving the most vulnerable behind. These concerns were echoed across multiple advocacy spaces, reinforcing the need for sustainable, predictable funding for CSOs.

The people behind the change

FINANCING CHANGE



Agenda 2030 and the SDGs

Since the adoption of the SDG framework, Forus has remained deeply committed to the 2030 Agenda, advocating for stronger actions and concrete commitments from decision-makers. , Forus members **actively advanced SDG implementation** at national, regional, and global levels, emphasizing the need for **clear benchmarks, tangible progress, and accountable action**. The network supported members in engaging with the **Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)**, advocating for comprehensive approaches that protect human rights, ensure adequate financing, and promote the meaningful participation of civil society in decision-making processes. Through campaigns like **#LeavingNoOneBehind**, Forus highlighted persistent gaps between the UN and civil society, urging renewed commitment to **inclusive, participatory governance**.

With **13 countries where Forus has active members presenting their VNRs in 2025**, the network reflected on past experiences, particularly for platforms participating for the third or fourth time, strengthening collective learning for future cycles. In parallel, Forus developed a **member-led global report on localisation and multi-stakeholder partnerships under SDG 17**, which was launched during the **High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July 2025**, showcasing the network's evidence-based contributions to advancing global sustainable development. In addition, Forus also developed two more reports, [A Decade of Accountability: Assessing the Role of Voluntary National Reviews in Advancing the Sustainable Development Goals](#) and [VNRs at the Crossroads: From Symbolism to Systemic Change](#). The reports critically examine a decade of VNR practice, exposing persistent gaps in accountability and missed civil society inclusion while calling for urgent reforms to transform VNRs into meaningful mechanisms for SDG delivery. In 2026, out of the total 36 VNR countries, 14 Forus member countries will be presenting their VNRs with Forus supporting them in various ways.

 [Find out more on Forus member activities during the HLPF 2025](#)



The Forus network at the UN High-Level Political Forum – main takeaways.

In 2025, Forus made a strong and visible contribution to the **High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)** through a series of strategic interventions and side events advancing the **SDGs and inclusive partnerships**. Across two **in-person side events and one virtual event**, Forus convened **over 200 participants**, including members, civil society partners, and policymakers, creating spaces for dialogue, shared learning, and collective advocacy to strengthen accountability, civic space, and meaningful participation in SDG implementation.

- **Online and in-person launch of the “Unlocking the Power of Localisation and Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships to Rescue the SDGs”**: Forus launched a new report, drawing on perspectives and experiences from across all regions of the network. The publication highlights how **locally led approaches, equitable partnerships, and inclusive governance** are essential to accelerating SDG progress, identifying both structural barriers and concrete practices that enable civil society to play a transformative role. By centering local actors and shared accountability, the report offers practical insights to help “rescue the SDGs” and strengthen implementation beyond global commitments. It further highlights that localisation is essentially a shift in power and resources, calling for trust-based partnerships, direct financing for local actors, and institutional recognition of community-led solutions as fundamentals for SDG success.
- **Event: SDGs and civic space under threat**: Forus, TAP Network, CIVICUS Ford Foundation, QUNO and Accountability Lab hosted a side-event addressing existential challenges to civil society and strengthening resilience.
- Supporting Forus members with Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs): As part of our **Support pillar focused on capacity-strengthening with impact**, from Nigeria to Indonesia, Forus supported several of its members with the monitoring and implementation of the Agenda 2030. From producing shadow reports, to participative awareness campaigns on the SDGs, discover some of the projects carried out by **Forus members here.**



Multilateralism at a crossroads: UN80 and the need to call for an inclusive, people-centred UN

As the UN marked its 80th anniversary, reform debates intensified around restructuring and budget constraints, raising concerns that fiscally driven changes could weaken rights mandates and civil society access. In response, Forus published the op-ed ***“UN80: Three Tests to Make Reform About People, Not Spreadsheets.”*** urging leaders to assess reforms against three criteria: do they reduce inequality, strengthen localisation, and protect rights and gender equality? Throughout the UN80 process, Forus and its members advocated for people-centred reform that safeguards civic participation and strengthens delivery for communities. We also supported the 1 for 8 Billion campaign for a transparent UN Secretary-General selection process and developed a Pact for the Future National Implementation Framework to help members track national follow-up and defend enabling environment commitments.



An Enabling Environment for civil society - Forus approach and contributions

In 2025, Forus and its partners strengthened civil society spaces and supported members facing growing legislative threats. By connecting member-led evidence to policy, Forus pushed discussions on enabling environments from abstract commitments to operational change in donor and multilateral practice.

Through the EU System for an Enabling Environment for Civil Society (EU SEE), Forus and partners in **86 countries** monitored, analysed, and documented trends affecting civic space. In 2025, new studies, **country focus reports**, and early warning alerts provided actionable insights for evidence-based advocacy, policy dialogue, and strategies to protect civil society.

EU SEE data available on the **EU SEE Hub** highlighted tightening space and a financing shock: restrictive NGO and “foreign interference” laws, digital repression, and shrinking protest rights were paired with a crisis in funding—72% of partners affected, 40% severely—disrupting programmes and weakening accountability. Rapid analyses, including on the U.S. funding freeze, ensured these realities informed decisions in real time.

From monitoring to influence: bringing civic space evidence into global policy spaces

A key 2025 breakthrough was translating member-led evidence into formal policy processes:

UN Human Rights mechanisms: Forus and EU SEE partners submitted an official contribution to the UN Special Rapporteur’s report for the 80th UN General Assembly session on *“Freedom of Assembly and Association Rights, Collective Action, and Human Solidarity Facing Existential Threats.”* Grounded in EU SEE early warning data and baseline snapshots, the submission highlights how abrupt funding cuts, legal and financial restrictions, securitised aid frameworks and the criminalisation of peaceful assembly are reshaping civic space—and proposes concrete safeguards and recommendations.



- **OECD-DAC: shifting donor practice from commitments to implementation.** Working with member platforms and EU SEE partners, Forus helped shape civil society input into the **5-year review of the OECD-DAC Recommendation on Enabling Civil Society**, combining network-wide political messaging with 86-country evidence. Our central ask: operationalise “early warning → early action” with clear protocols, protection-first responses, risk-sharing, and predictable flexible funding—so donor commitments translate into real-world change.

- **WSIS+20: defending civic space in the digital future.** Through EU SEE, Forus coordinated consortium inputs to the WSIS+20 Elements Paper and Zero Draft, calling for stronger protections for civic space online, safeguards against shutdowns and unlawful surveillance, secure encryption, clearer corporate responsibility expectations, and inclusion and financing for civil society participation in digital governance spaces.

[Learn more about EU SEE here.](#)



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Local Power: shifting rules—not just rhetoric

In 2025, Forus underscored that the civil society financing crisis is structural: funding cuts, heavy compliance demands, and politicised narratives are converging with shrinking civic space, pushing organisations into survival mode. EU SEE findings confirmed widespread and severe impacts on services, protection work, and advocacy.

In response, Forus supported collective mobilisation (#StandWithCivilSociety), amplified member voices through the EU SEE podcast, and strengthened movement infrastructure via the multilingual Local Power Working Group. Members advanced a clear agenda: communities as co-investors, trust-based partnerships with shared risk, accountability centred on communities, and stronger counter-narratives against criminalisation. Beyond reacting to shocks, Forus pushed for structural reform so local actors can genuinely lead.

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Defending human dignity, protection, and civil society inclusion

In a year of intensifying wars and humanitarian crises, Forus reaffirmed its commitment to peace, conflict prevention, and the protection of human dignity. We echoed civil society calls for de-escalation, full respect for international humanitarian law, and unimpeded humanitarian access for all people in need. Across our advocacy, we underscored a consistent message: sustainable peace and effective crisis response require inclusive governance and the meaningful participation of civil society—especially local actors closest to communities—supported by an enabling environment and protection of fundamental rights.

We also amplified our network’s long-standing message: civil society platforms are often among the first responders, organisers of solidarity, and builders of social cohesion when systems fail—yet they can only play this role when the enabling environment allows them to operate safely and independently.

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Advancing gender equality: feminist leadership, financing, and accountable multilateralism

Through CSW69, Forus and members convened global civil society voices to accelerate progress on gender equality at a pivotal moment. Our engagement highlighted that gender justice cannot advance without sustained, flexible and accessible financing for feminist movements and women-led civil society—particularly as funding freezes and broader aid reductions disrupt services and rights-based programming.

Beyond CSW69, Forus tracked and engaged the push to revitalise the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) ahead of Beijing+30, reinforcing a consistent demand from feminist civil society: move from consultation to co-creation, and from symbolic reform to shared governance and financial justice. We also situated gender equality squarely within wider UN reform debates—insisting that any UN80 restructuring must protect gender equality mandates and must not erode the spaces women’s rights defenders rely on to influence policy.



Digital Governance and Rights

In 2025, Forus mobilised its network in advancing civil society's engagement in internet governance forums, both in front of and behind the scenes. Despite facing barriers to access policy discussions due to limited access to funding and underrepresentation—especially from the Global South and for grassroots organisations—and challenges in navigating internet governance systems, Forus continued to advocate for more inclusive digital governance.

- The **Mapping Report and Baseline Study**, developed by the Civil Society Alliances for Digital Empowerment (CADE) consortium in collaboration with **Forus, DiploFoundation, ECNL, and Expectation State**, marked a key milestone in understanding civil society participation in internet governance. The study examines civil society organizations engagement across major global spaces, including the Internet Governance Forum (**IGF**), the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (**ICANN**), the International Telecommunication Union (**ITU**), and the Internet Engineering Task Force (**IETF**), revealing that while civil society plays a vital role in linking technical governance to the public interest, participation remains uneven. Engagement is strongest at the IGF, with more limited access to ICANN, ITU, and IETF processes due to structural barriers such as funding constraints, procedural complexity, and language obstacles. The launch of the study created space for collective reflection and dialogue on these findings, helping identify practical pathways toward more inclusive, accessible, and sustainable digital governance. [Learn more here.](#)
- **Internet Governance Forum (IGF) 2025:** At the **20th Internet Governance Forum (IGF)** held in Lillestrøm, Norway, Forus participated as part of the **Civil Society Alliances for Digital Empowerment (CADE) project**, contributing civil society perspectives to global debates on the future of digital governance. Marking two decades of the IGF, the forum brought together over **9,000 participants from 165 countries** across more than **260 sessions**, under the theme *“Building Digital Governance Together.”*, Forus helped amplify discussions on **digital rights, AI governance, inclusion, and international cooperation**, ensuring that civil society voices—particularly from underrepresented contexts—remain central to processes linked to the **WSIS+20 review** and the **Global Digital Compact**, and to shaping a more open, safe, and inclusive digital future.
- **Our ongoing #Let’sTalkDigital campaign:** In 2025 we explored digital rights, digital governance issues, and the opportunities for civil society to engage in shaping the future of the internet with Forus members and partners from across the globe. Through [a series of videos](#), we cover topics ranging from the foundational concepts of the digital rights ecosystem to key issues such as access and affordability, cybersecurity, ethics in AI and emerging technologies, online gender justice, the digital divide, and spaces for dialogue, influence, and networking, always through an intersectional lens.

- The **12th edition of the Forum on Internet Freedom in Africa (FIFAfrica25)**: Held from **24–26 September 2025 in Windhoek, Namibia**, Forus member **Nigeria Network of NGOs (NNGO)** brought a strong civil society voice to continental discussions on **digital rights, inclusion, and internet governance**. The forum convened policymakers, civil society actors, human rights defenders, regulators, media, and academics at a moment shaped by Namibia's strong record on press freedom and gender-inclusive leadership. NNGO highlighted the transformative potential of the internet while underscoring the urgent need to protect rights, ensure affordability and access, prevent internet shutdowns, and address emerging challenges linked to artificial intelligence.



#Let's Talk Digital | Forus

What will the future of digitalization look like? How can be part of it?

 forus-international.org

youth voices

FOR DIGITAL RIGHTS



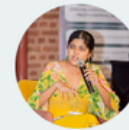
Charlemagne Agbassa
Benin



Huguette Oke
Benin



Francia Andriamanantena
Madagascar



Kasumi Ranasinghe Arachchige
Sri Lanka



Mar Marín
Mexico



Rhoda Julius
Tanzania



Ganga Bahadur Gautam
Nepal



Nancy Borissova
Bulgaria



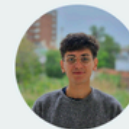
Aurelio Mofuga
Tanzania



Jonathan Dueñas
Ecuador



Mustapha Lawal
Nigeria



Facundo Rodriguez
Argentina



Himani Singh
India



Ramna Saeed
Pakistan



Roi Vincent M. Merca
Philippines

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EU policy engagement: strengthening inclusive implementation in the EU's next cycle (Global Gateway, MFF, and external action)

In 2025, Forus deepened its engagement EU policy processes shaping the next cycle of external action—bringing grounded perspectives from a global network of national and regional civil society platforms into dialogue with EU stakeholders. As discussions advanced on the future Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and the evolution of external action priorities, Forus contributed evidence-informed insights on how EU choices translate into operational realities for civil society ecosystems in partner countries—particularly around the accessibility, predictability and effectiveness of civil society support, and the conditions that enable meaningful participation.

This engagement also included dedicated attention to Global Gateway as an increasingly significant EU framework for international partnerships and investment. Through Forus' participation in the Global Gateway Civil Society and Local Authorities Dialogue Platform, we helped connect policy intentions with implementation realities by supporting members to better understand how Global Gateway works, where civil society can contribute constructively, and how participation, transparency and safeguards can be strengthened in practice. Building on member experience and cross-regional exchange, Forus shared practical guidance for engagement with EU Delegations and convened a global webinar with CONCORD Europe to broaden understanding and strengthen civil society readiness to engage effectively. Across these efforts, Forus consistently highlighted the importance of large-scale investment strategies to be inclusive by design, informed by community realities, and supported by clear accountability and participation pathways, and supporting members to engage effectively.

Alongside EU-level engagement, Forus invested in bi-regional bridge-building (including LAC-EU and AU-EU civil society forums), creating spaces for members to exchange strategies and share lessons on how global shifts (ODA cuts, civic space restrictions, digital regulation, and development finance reforms) play out differently across contexts. This is a core part of Forus' added value: connecting the lived realities of communities to the policy spaces where funding and governance rules are negotiated, translating member experience into actionable insight, and supporting more coherent, locally grounded cooperation.

Forus Working Groups

In 2025, 56% of members regularly engaged in Advocacy Working Groups at Forus. These working groups have developed initiatives across various global issues identified by the network's members. From the SDGs, to communications, digital rights and more, together, these working groups have built strong foundations for collective action, knowledge-sharing, advocacy, communications and capacity-strengthening. Find a few highlights from the Forus working groups below.

The **Agenda 2030 Working Group** strengthened Forus members' collective influence on SDG implementation and accountability by coordinating civil society engagement around the VNR process and HLPF 2025. Across the year, the group helped members navigate and challenge weaknesses in VNRs (limited participation, selective reporting, data gaps and shrinking civic space), and promoted practical strategies such as shadow/Spotlight reporting, citizen-led data, and stronger multi-stakeholder participation mechanisms. It also served as a coordination space to deliver shared advocacy products and visibility moments—finalizing Forus' flagship Localization & Partnerships report, reflecting on 10 years of VNRs through "A Decade of Accountability," mobilizing members into the "We Are Leaving No One Behind. Are You?" campaign, and aligning joint messages and side events for HLPF 2025 (including participant guidance, registration support, and coordination for members from VNR countries).

The **Financing for Sustainable Development (FfSD) Working Group** served as Forus' main coordination space to strengthen civil society influence on global financial governance and sustainable development financing, with a strong focus on FfD4 (Seville), Finance in Common Summit (FiCS) and the G20/C20 process. The group helped members connect global negotiations to national advocacy (including ODA budget campaigns and country priorities), supported a coordinated Forus presence through delegation-building, travel bursaries, weekly pre-FfD4 coordination calls, and side-event co-organization, and amplified member voices via a communications push (multimedia kit, interviews, podcasts/documentary). The working group also advanced shared policy priorities—ODA integrity, public development banks and CSO engagement, climate finance reform, debt/financial architecture and tax justice—and created practical follow-up mechanisms (surveys, WhatsApp exchange, learning sessions and strategy discussions) to sustain momentum beyond Seville and into COP30 and the G20 cycle, grounded in member evidence and cross-regional solidarity.

In 2025, the **Enabling Environment Working Group** served as Forus' core peer-learning and rapid response hub on civic space trends and threats to civil society's enabling environment. Through member exchanges and the rollout of EU SEE (alerts, snapshots and emerging country evidence), the group tracked major shifts affecting civil society—especially the USAID funding freeze, restrictive “anti-NGO” measures, criminalisation, and growing digital repression—and translated this intelligence into practical strategies (resilience funding pathways, legal defence ideas, digital security, coalition-building, and narrative pushback). The group also helped mobilise members to contribute evidence for collective advocacy moments, including the OECD-DAC Recommendation review, and to strengthen cross-regional solidarity when one platform is under pressure.

Through the **Local Power Working Group**, members from across regions advanced a shared “Shift the Power” agenda focused on redistributing decision-making authority, reforming partnership incentives, and strengthening accountability to communities. Across multilingual peer exchanges, the Working Group moved from common definitions to concrete leverage points—especially risk-sharing and compliance reform, indirect cost reality, long-term flexible financing, and narrative change away from charity/beneficiary framings. In a context of tightening civic space and funding shocks, members also developed a clearer political framing of local leadership: communities as co-investors and agenda-setters, and civil society as a strategic actor in cooperation and “civic diplomacy,” not merely an implementer. This work equipped members with common messages and practical models they can use in national advocacy and donor engagement to push for trust-based, equitable partnerships.

The **Digital Governance Working Group** provides a platform to tackle issues like digital inequality, data protection, and civil society's role in shaping tech policies. The group's collaborative efforts aim to address the challenges posed by emerging technologies like AI and cyber security for CSOs. In 2025, the Digital Governance Working Group offered a coordination space to help members stay connected on key digital governance issues, with a particular focus on AI and civil society participation. The group supported shared learning through the “AI and the Global South” webinar (with FINGO, CARE, Accenture and Forus), which highlighted the need for more inclusive and locally grounded AI decision-making, including stronger AI literacy, better data governance, and safeguards against digital exclusion. Later in the year, the group also helped disseminate and discuss evidence from the CADE Mapping Report and Baseline Study, which documented barriers limiting civil society participation—especially for Global South actors—in major internet governance spaces, and pointed to practical enablers such as sustained financing, mentorship, and more accessible participation tools.

STRENGTHENING MONITORING, EVALUATION, ACCOUNTABILITY & LEARNING (MEAL)

In 2025, Forus continued strengthening accountability, transparency and learning across the network, consolidating systems and practices that ensure we remain member-led, responsive and grounded in evidence. Since 2021, monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning have been a priority for the Secretariat's work, fostering a stronger culture of reflection, adaptation and shared accountability across the network.

Our MEAL approach is **impact-oriented** in that it goes beyond tracking activities and outputs. It focuses on understanding the changes our work contributes to — in members' capacities, in collective engagement and in our ability to engage and influence policy spaces. From this perspective, impact is not something assessed only at the end of a cycle; it is observed, analysed and discussed, allowing us to adapt, strengthen our support, and remain accountable to both members and partners.

In 2025, we further strengthened our MEAL systems and ways of working to enhance efficiency and support better **data-informed decision-making**. At the same time, we deepened our **feedback mechanisms** to systematically capture and analyse members' perspectives, satisfaction, and priorities. By ensuring that members' voices directly shape planning, programme design and strategic choices, we continue to reinforce Forus' commitment to remaining a truly member-led network.



As every year, Forus collected feedback from its members through the **2025 Impact Survey**, completed by **80% of member organisations**. Designed to track Forus' impact on member organisations and the quality of Forus-members relationships, the survey allows us to monitor trends since 2022 and links many questions to key network project indicators, feeding directly into reporting and results frameworks. This gives the survey a dual purpose: it supports accountability to donors while also serving as a practical tool for learning, adapting, and improving — helping Forus become more impactful, better serve its members, and maintain a dynamic, member-led network.

2026–2030 Forus Strategy: We Were Built for This Moment!

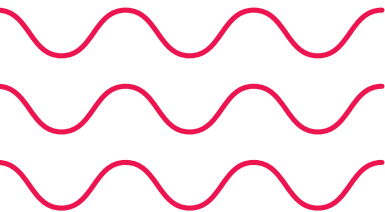
Civil Society, Resilience, Solidarity and Power

2025 was a milestone year for Forus, as members came together to shape the network's future through the development of the Forus 2026–2030 strategy. **80% of member organisations** participated in a highly engaging process, including a network-wide survey, two rounds of regional focus group discussions, and thematic and advocacy-focused consultations. Governance bodies were closely involved, with the Council taking part in three dedicated meetings and workshops, including an in-person session in Cape Verde. Four successive drafts of the strategy incorporated feedback from members, critical friends and the Council and Executive Committee, and three think pieces guided reflection on the evolving global context, the state of the network, ways to strengthen member connections, and opportunities for advocacy and policy influence. Likewise, the **2025 Forus Virtual Forum**, focused on the new network strategy, served as an opportunity for members to collectively reflect on the future implementation of the strategic plan. This collaborative process ensured the strategy reflects the realities, priorities, and ambitions of our members.

Developed in a context of shrinking civic space, rising authoritarianism and growing global inequalities, the strategy reaffirms the critical role of a strong, united and globally connected civil society. It is structured around three pillars — **Connect, Support and Influence** — all underpinned by a focus on **Network Health**, rooted in trust, accountability, solidarity and coordination.

The strategy embeds a clear commitment to collective effectiveness and long-term change. Its theory of change highlights a simple yet powerful logic: the healthier and more cohesive the network, the greater its collective influence and transformative potential. Strengthening relationships, fostering accountability and promoting shared learning across the network are therefore central to amplifying Forus' collective impact in the years ahead. The 2026-2030 Forus strategy will be formally adopted at the Forus 2026 General Assembly in Cambodia in March 2026.





FORUS GOVERNANCE

Forus governance structure is designed to have strong leadership by members, and for decision-making to be emerging according to joint needs and priorities that we can tackle as a network.



The Forus Council is made up of 15 members, with a regional distribution of seats. Its role is to ensure the implementation of decisions and of the strategic and political orientation agreed upon in the General Assembly, as well as the proper functioning of the executive team. Some of the Council's functions are delegated to the Executive Committee (ExCom), composed of a Chair, 3 Vice-Chairs and a Treasurer.

Find out more about our governance [here](#)

The last Council renewal was during the 2024 Forus General Assembly, with five new members joining: CODE-NGO (Philippines), Cooperation Canada, Red Encuentro (Argentina), UNNGOF (Uganda), and VB Platforma (Lithuania).

AFRICA

- Burkina Faso – SPONG- Christelle Kalhoule (Chair)
- Uganda – UNNGOF - Moses Isooba (Vice-Chair)
- The Democratic Republic of the Congo – CNONGD – Rigo Gene Woyie



ASIA

- Cambodia – CCC – Putheary Sin
- CODE-NGO, Philippines - Sandino Soliman
- Nepal - NGO Federation of Nepal – Arjun Bhattarai (Vice-Chair)



LATIN AMERICA

- Argentina – Red Encuentro - Rolando Kandel (Vice-Chair)
- Peru – ANC – Josefina Huaman
- Honduras – ASONOG - José Ramon Avila



NORTH AMERICA

- Canada, Cooperation Canada – Shannon Kindornay



EUROPE

- France - Coordination SUD - Jean-Marc Boivin
- VB Plataforma – Lithuania - Justina Kaluinaite (Treasurer)
- Slovenia – SLOGA – Max Zimani



MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

- Morocco - Espace Associatif - Abdelhakim Chafiai



PACIFIC

- The member countries have chosen to be represented by their Regional Coalition PIANGO - Inia Barry Wickham

FORUS COUNCIL



Abdelhakim Chafiai
Morocco
Espace Associatif



Christelle Kalhoule
Burkina Faso
SPONG - Secrétariat Permanent des ONG du Burkina Faso



Inia Barry Whickam
Fiji
PIANGO - Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations



Arjun Bhattarai
Nepal
NFN - NGO Federation of Nepal



Josefina Huaman
Peru
ANC - Asociación Nacional de Centros



Putheary Sin
Cambodia
CCC - Cooperation Committee for Cambodia



Rigo Gene Woyie
Democratic Republic of the Congo
CNONGD - Conseil National des ONGD de Développement



José Ramon Avila
Honduras
ASONOG - Asociacion De Organismos No Gubernamentales



Max Zimani
Slovenia
SLOGA - Slovenian Global Action



Sandino Soliman
Philippines
'CODE NGO - Caucus of Development NGO Networks



Shannon Kindornay
Canada
Cooperation Canada



Jean-Marc Boivin
France
Coordination SUD - Rassembler et agir pour la solidarité internationale



Justina Kaluinaite
Lithuania
Lithuanian NGDO platform



Moses Isooba
Uganda
UNNGOF - Uganda National NGO Forum



Rolando Kandel
Argentina
EENGD - Red Encuentro

FORUS' SECRETARIAT

In 2025, the Forus team welcomed 4 new colleagues. The decentralised international team of the Forus Secretariat consists of highly dedicated individuals facilitating activities and working to support members. Find more details on our website [here](#).



Sarah Strack
Director



Rémi Renon
Financial and Administrative
Manager



Arturo Cortés Barbabosa
Coordinator - MEAL,
Organizational Effectiveness &
Special Projects



Marie L'Hostis
Advocacy Coordinator



Dr. Jyotsna Mohan Singh
Advocacy Officer



Sam Worthington
Senior Fellow



Bibbi Abruzzini
Communication Coordinator



Clarisse Sih
Digital Communications
Coordinator



Paul-Gilbert Colletaz
Fundraising Manager



Ángela Alarcón
Project Coordinator (Digital
Governance)



Isabella Camargo
Event Support Officer



Lena Muhs
EU SEE Researcher



**Marianne Buenaventura
Goldman**
Project Coordinator, Finance for
Development



Elisa Lopez Alvarado
Project Coordinator (Enabling
Environment)



Jennifer Franco Rodriguez
Member Engagement &
Network Management Officer



Maria Elisa Novoa
Capacity-strengthening
Coordinator

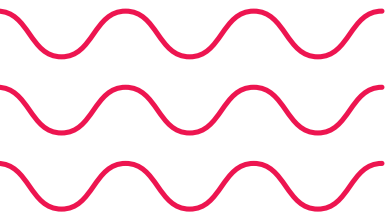


Hugo Mussat
Finance & Administration
Officer - Partnerships

Forus' donors in 2025

We would like to thank our donors for their continuous support to the work of the Forus network. The support of our historical partners such as the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Fondation de France and the International Cooperation Direction of the Principality of Monaco are vital to the network's sustainability. We are also grateful for the support of the European Union and of Oxfam Hong Kong which allowed Forus to implement its core work, as well as new projects in 2024 and which expanded into 2025 and beyond.





Forus members

Discover our members in the list that follows!



REGIONAL COALITIONS

ADA - Asia Development Alliance, Asia

CONCORD - European NGO Confederation

for Relief and Development, Europe

MESA - Mesa de Articulación de Asociaciones Nacionales y Redes de ONGs de América Latina y el Caribe

PIANGO - Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations, Pacific

REPAOC - Réseau des Plate-formes nationales d'ONG d'Afrique de l'Ouest et du centre, West Africa

REPONGAC - Réseau des Plate-formes des ONG de l'Afrique Centrale, Central Africa

SAF-CNGO - Southern Africa Development Community Council of Non-Governmental Organizations, Southern Africa

NATIONAL NGO PLATFORMS

ABONG - Associação Brasileira de ONGs, Brazil

ACCIÓN - Asociación Chilena de ONG, Chile

AKÜ - Estonian Roundtable for Development Cooperation, Estonia

Alianza ONG - Alianza de Organizaciones No Gubernamentales, Dominican Republic

ANC - Asociacion Nacional de Centros de Investigacion, Promocion Social y Desarrollo, Peru

ANONG - Asociación Nacional de ONG, Uruguay

ASONOG - Asociación de organismos no gubernamentales, Honduras

BOCONGO - Botswana Council of NonGovernmental Organisations, Botswana

Bond - British Overseas NGOs for Development, the UK

BPID - Bulgarian Platform for International Development, Bulgaria

CANGO - China Association for NGO Cooperation, China

CCC - Cooperation Committee for Cambodia, Cambodia

CCIC - Canadian Council for International Co-operation, Canada

CCOAIB - Conseil de Concertation des Organisations d'Appui aux Initiatives de Base, Rwanda

CCOD - Conseil de Concertation des ONG de développement, Congo

CCONG - Confederación Colombiana de ONG, Colombia

CEPS - Citizens Engagement Platform SeychellesSeychelles

CID - Council for International Development, New Zealand

CILONG - Centre d'information et de Liaison des ONG, TCHAD, Chad

CIONGCA - Conseil Inter ONG de Centrafrique, Central African Republic

CNONGD - Conseil National des ONG de Développement, The Democratic Republic of the Congo

CODE-NGO - Caucus of Development NGO Networks, Philippines

CICSO - Cook Islands Association of NGOs, Cook Islands

Coordination Sud - Solidarité Urgence Développement, France

Coordinadora - Coordinadora de ONG de cooperación para el Desarrollo, Spain

CONGAC - Collectif des ONG Agréées du Cameroun, Cameroon

CONGAD - Conseil des ONG d'Appui au Développement, Sénégal

CONGCOOP - Coordinacion de ONG y Cooperativas, Guatemala

CSCI - Convention de la Société Civile Ivoirienne, Ivory Coast

Dóchas - The Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations, Ireland

EENGD - Encuentro de Entidades No Gubernamentales para el Desarrollo, Argentina

Espace Associatif, Morocco

FCOSS - Fiji Council of Social Service, Fiji

FECONG - Fédération des Collectif d'ONG du Mali, Mali

FINGO - Finnish NGO Platform, Finland

FOND - Romanian NGDO Platform, Romania

FONGDD - Forum des ONG pour le Développement Durable, Guinea

FONG-STP - Federaçao das ONGs de Sao Tomé e Príncipe, Sao Tome & Principe

FONGTO - Fédération des ONG au Togo, Togo

FONGA - Foro das ONGs Angolanas, Angola

FORS - Czech Forum for Development Cooperation, Czech Republic

ForUM - Norwegian Forum for Development and Environment, Norway

Global Focus, Denmark

HAND - Hungarian Association of NGOs for Development and Humanitarian Aid, Hungary

INFID - International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development, Indonesia

InterAction, USA

JANIC - Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation, Japan

JOINT - League For NGOs in Mozambique, Mozambique

KANGO - Kiribati Association of NGOs, Kiribati

KCOG - Korea NGO Council for Overseas Development Cooperation, Korea

LAPAS - Latvijas Platforma attīstības sadarbībai, Latvia

Lithuanian NGDO Platform - Lithuanian National Non-Governmental Development Cooperation

Organisations' Platform, Lithuania

MACOSS - Mauritius Council of Social Service, Mauritius

NANGO - The National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (NANGO), Zimbabwe

NFN - NGO - Federation of Nepal, Nepal

NNNGO - Nigeria Network of NGO, Nigeria

PDA - Pakistan Development Alliance, Pakistan

PFNOSCM - Plateforme Nationale des Organisations de la Société Civile de Madagascar, Madagascar

Plataforma ONGD - Plataforma Portuguesa das Organizações

Não-Governamentais para o

Desenvolvimento Portuguese Platform NGOD, Portugal

Plateforme belge des ONG de développement et d'urgence, Belgium

PLATONG - Plataforma das ONGs de Cabo Verde, Cape Verde

POJOAJU - Asociación de Organizaciones No Gubernamentales del Paraguay, Paraguay

SKOP - National Platform of Maltese NGDOs, Malta

SLOGA - Slovenian Global Action, Slovenia

SPONG - Secrétariat Permanent des ONG du Burkina Faso, Burkina Faso

Taiwan-Aid - Taiwan Alliance in International Development, Taiwan

TANGO - The Association of NonGovernmental Organizations, Gambia

TANGO - Tanzania Association of Non-Governmental Organizations

Uganda NGO Forum, Uganda

UNIDOSOC, Mexico

UNITAS - Unión Nacional de Instituciones para el Trabajo de Acción Social, Red Unitas, Bolivia

UNNGOF - Uganda National NGO Forum Uganda

VANI - Voluntary Action Network India, India

ZCSD - Zambia Council for Social Development, Zambia

Forus is a member-led network of **73 National NGO Platforms and 7 Regional Coalitions from all continents representing over 24,000 NGOs** active locally and internationally on development, human rights, social justice, environmental issues, and more.

This publication has been produced with the assistance of the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Fondation de France, the International Cooperation Direction of the Principality of Monaco, the European Union and Oxfam. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of Forus.

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