



forus

Event Report

Forus General Assembly



13 -17 May
Gaborone
Botswana

In partnership with



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forus



INTRODUCTION

We are excited to present the report on the 2024 Forus General Assembly, which took place from 13 to 17 May in Gaborone, Botswana.

The Forus 2024 GA, **attended by 64 Forus members**, allowed members to connect, learn, exchange practices and ideas, and the network to discuss pressing challenges and opportunities facing civil society today.

This year's GA was particularly special as it marked the first in-person gathering of the network since the last GA in 2018 in Chile, following the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Forus endeavored to make the 2024 GA as **member-led and participatory** as possible. The program was crafted by a **Member Steering Committee** and shaped by members through a survey. We extend our thanks to the dedicated members of the Steering Committee and all members who participated in the preparation and implementation of the GA.

Special thanks to Forus members, the Botswana Council of Non-Governmental Organizations (BOCONGO) and the Southern African Council of Non-Governmental Organizations (SAf-CNGO), for co-hosting the GA with Forus. This successful gathering was made possible through their invaluable support and collaboration.

This report provides a summary of the **GA sessions**, highlighting key insights and next steps. Each session summary was drafted by the Forus Secretariat, in collaboration with members who co-facilitated the session and contributed to the content.

We hope that this report will be useful to you and we look forward to our continued collaboration going forward.

Upwards and onwards,
The Forus Secretariat Team.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACCORDING TO FORUS MEMBERS



*** A place for solidarity and sharing * Partnership * Inspired and motivated to be a very active network member going forward * action * Fantastique* Engagement à aller de l'avant * Inspiring* Avanzamos* Community * solidarity* connecting people * ensemble* Family* Very good * Was an opportunity to renew our motivation and values to be in civil society* Good* Excellent * Solidarité * Energised * Efficace* J'ai passé des moments très agréables et les discussions ont été très fructueux * Safe with the Forus team * Une vie de famille* Partage des expériences * Motivadora, reconfortante, optimista, propositiva * Parfait * Conexiones y reflexión colectiva E* xcelente* United!* Satisfatório* Inspiradora * Uniting* Comunidad* Fuerza * colectiva * global * Connection! * More energised* quality connection * Inspirador * Inspiring* Fantastic * Wonderful* Progreso* Engaging* Very inspirational * Great!* Inclusiveness * Excellent * Compromiso! * Connect again* Wonderful* Love and peace * Common goal ***

FORUS FAMILY MOMENTS AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY



The 2024 Forus General Assembly in Botswana was not only productive but also a celebration of the Forus family, fostering relationships and creating unforgettable moments for all participants.

One of the highlights was an excursion and dinner in the Mokolodi Nature Reserve, during which members explored the wilderness and enjoyed the sight of diverse wildlife.

Participants also engaged in exchanges of small gifts brought from their home countries, showcasing the diverse cultural backgrounds within the Forus network and strengthening the sense of global community.

The GA was designed in a way to allow opportunities to relax, have fun and network in an informal setting, fostering deeper and meaningful connections. Time was also allocated to regional meetings, allowing members to discuss matters specific to their regions.

The GA concluded with a memorable evening on Friday 17 May, where members showcased their dance moves and enjoyed lively karaoke, celebrating the successful GA.

MEMBER FEEDBACK

Feedback from participants indicates an overall positive experience, with a satisfaction score of 8.7 out of 10.

The positive feedback underscores the success of the 2024 GA in meeting its objectives and providing a meaningful and engaging experience for all participants. Below are some of the key feedback highlights:

RESULTS

- All participants confirmed that the GA provided a platform for meaningful connections, exchanges and collaborations.
- 98% of participants found the GA provided valuable insights and learnings relevant to their organizations.
- 89% of attendees felt actively engaged in discussions and activities.
- 87% of participants felt the GA effectively addressed challenges facing civil society and provided actionable solutions.

Finally, 98% of participants expressed their eagerness to attend the next Forus General Assembly in 2026.

VIDEO RECAP





DAY 1 - MONDAY 13 MAY

OPENING SESSION: 15 YEARS OF COLLECTIVE SOLIDARITY

Christelle Kalhoulé (SPONG, Burkina Faso), and Chair of Forus, opened the GA welcoming all participants and thanking them for travelling such as long way from their respective countries.

Christelle shared how energized she felt by this GA finally becoming real, a wonderful moment for the entire Forus family which last met in person in 2018. The past years showed the hallmarks of resilience amid turbulent times. The COVID-19 pandemic did not only disrupt the work of Forus, it also affected the operations of all Forus members. After the Covid-19 pandemic, Forus had to address another challenge, that of scarcity of resources. But the fact that we were able to convene so many people here signals a new chapter.

This General Assembly could not have happened had it not been for the support of BOCONGO (Botswana) and SAf-CNGO (Southern Africa). BOCONGO and SAf-CNGO have embodied the spirit of collaboration which is a strong pillar of Forus.

Christelle then expressed gratitude to the host country, the European Union, the embassy of France and the French Development Agency (AFD), as well as other partners for their support. She ended by encouraging all members to make the most of the time together this week, and to actively participate in all discussions.

Sarah Strack, Forus Director, echoed Christelle words when welcoming and thanking everyone. She then said that the week will be a chance to build community, learn from each other and shape the things that we do when we come together as Forus. She shared that over the past few years, what was most inspiring was how the network held together, and the knowledge and dedication each one brings, despite the many challenges that each platform has to deal with in their own context. The collective sharing and thinking together is what shapes the things that we will together not only this year, but our longer-term direction of travel. We will set the foundation stones for our next 5-year strategy, and everyone will have the chance to continue to shepherd this beautiful idea called Forus, which is at a key point in its lifetime. This week, we'll have the chance to envision the future, and giving meaning to collective solidarity and contribute to the transformational change that we're all seeking. The more you put in, the more you get out of Forus.



Kagiso Molatlhwa (BOCONGO, Botswana), welcomed everyone to Gaborone. She explained that, when BOCONGO received the invitation to co-organize the General Assembly, the task seemed huge but at the same time exciting. BOCONGO is proud to associate itself with the Forus family which is diverse and interconnected. Kagiso then invited the delegates to make the most of the event by exploring opportunities, learning from one another and have fun.

Simao Tila (SAF-CNGO, Southern Africa) expressed how happy this key event was taking place, at a time when CSOs are experiencing challenges related to shrinking civic space. He thanked Forus for inviting them to co-organize the Assembly and BOCONGO for all the local support. He called upon CSOs to be vigilant in guarding civic space and to keep engaging in multi-lateral and multi-stakeholder platforms to ensure that peace, good governance and human rights of the peoples are secured.

He concluded with emphasizing the need to come up with collective ideas and solutions to the challenges that are facing CSOs.

The welcome remarks were followed by testimonies from key leaders in Forus sharing their stories about the history of the network.

Miguel Santibanez (Accion, Chile), former Chair of Forus from 2015 to 2018, recalled how the need for a network like Forus was felt around the late 1990's and early 2000's when, in the occasion of several international summits, the pressing need for more local and civil society voices was acutely felt. This was at the inception of Forus, the idea and project of which then took shape over the years.

Iara Pietricovsky, former Chair of Forus from 2018 to 2021, shared her story of the path, vision, importance and uniqueness of the network over video.

Sam Worthington (formerly InterAction, USA), former Vice-President of Forus and presently Forus Senior Fellow, explained how Forus was both an idea and an ideal. Together we can locally achieve things we can't do on our own. He called on members to think about what they can do with each other and not what Forus can do for them.

The opening session then concluded with a **cultural interlude by the Mafitlhakgosi Traditional Dance Group**.



DAY 1 - MONDAY 13 MAY

CIVIC POWER, NAVIGATING ELECTION ENVIRONMENTS AND THE STRUGGLE AGAINST SHRINKING CIVIC SPACE IN CHALLENGING POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

This session aimed to explore the dynamics of civic power in election environments and address the struggle against shrinking civic space.

Global Election Dynamics and Challenges

- **Moses Isooba** (UNNGOF, Uganda) highlighted that 2024 is a significant election year with over 64 countries, representing 49% of the world's population, heading to the polls. He emphasized the increasing weaponization of laws to target CSOs, transforming regulatory frameworks into tools of control and stressing the need for resilience and resource allocation.

Resilience and Solidarity

- **Luisa Rodríguez** (Sinergia, Venezuela) shared Venezuela's experience under a populist regime, highlighting the critical role of international solidarity from entities like the European Union and the United Nations in sustaining CSO efforts amidst widespread detentions and shrinking civic space.

International Support and Engagement

- **Olivier Brochenin** (French Ambassador to Botswana and SADC) emphasized France's commitment to supporting democracy and CSOs through increased funding and initiatives like the Global Gateway Initiative. This support is crucial in enhancing civic space and ensuring CSOs' voices are heard in multilateral platforms. He underscored the importance of continuous work on democracy to prevent regression.



Innovative Approaches and Cross-Regional Cooperation

- **Jean-Marc Segoun** (Innovation Foundation for Democracy), called for new thinking to address democracy challenges in Africa, suggesting the creation of a new wave of activists and empowering women to take on leadership roles. He proposed training in mediation and blogging for young people to build a critical mass for intra-country democracy.
- **Christelle Kalhoulé** (SPONG, Burkina Faso) highlighted the importance of cross-regional cooperation among CSOs to tackle common challenges and share best practices, particularly in the Sahel region where military coups have clamped down on CSO activities.

CSO Identity and Election Transparency

- **Malick Ndome** (CONGAD, Senegal) discussed the role of CSOs in Senegal during elections and the challenges of internet shutdowns and disinformation during elections in Senegal. He highlighted efforts to combat fake news and disinformation, and pressed for transparency. He emphasized the importance of distinguishing CSOs as trustworthy and above-board entities to maintain credibility and influence.

Communication and Narrative Building

- **Harsh Jaitli** (VANI, India) stressed the need for CSOs to improve their communication strategies to build a positive narrative around their work. He emphasized the importance of transparency and capacity building to enhance public understanding and support for CSOs.

Challenges in Specific Regions

- **Pedro Bocca** (ABONG, Brazil) noted the turbulence during Bolsonaro's term and the ongoing efforts to create new engagement spaces for CSOs post-Bolsonaro.
- Jacques Ngarassal (CILONG, Chad) intervened to emphasize that democracy is not bringing peace as expected, with leaders clinging to power undemocratically.
- **Reka Balogh** (HAND, Hungary) and **Abdelhakim CHAFIAI** (Espace Associatif, Morocco) highlighted the need for strategies to engage governments effectively.

The session emphasized the interconnectedness of democracy and civic space, the critical role of international solidarity, and the need for innovative strategies and resilience to navigate the challenging political environments faced by CSOs worldwide.



DAY 1 - MONDAY 13 MAY

Lightning talk - Oluseyi Babatunde Oyebisi (NNGO, Nigeria)



CELEBRATING THE FORUS FAMILY! THE PATH UNTIL NOW & THE ROAD AHEAD

The afternoon of the first day of the GA provided participants with an overview of Forus' main activities and progress made in the 3 pillars of the Forus 2020-2025 strategy: CONNECT, SUPPORT and INFLUENCE.

Members from various countries and regions shared examples of their work with Forus and how it had benefited their national and regional networks.

[The presentation made by the team of the Forus Secretariat is available here.](#)





DAY 2 - TUESDAY 14 MAY

The second day of the GA started with group discussion on priorities emerging from members' inputs during the preparation phase.

GROUP DISCUSSION: PUSHING BACK WHEN CIVIC SPACE IS SHRINKING: COUNTERING NEGATIVE RHETORIC AGAINST CIVIL SOCIETY & PRACTICING COLLECTIVE SOLIDARITY

In this session, the impact of negative narratives, as well as the current challenges and the strategies to protect and promote civic space in the Forus network were explored, thinking about how the network's strength and programs could be used to counter the global dissemination of negative narratives.

In order to address these challenges, participants discussed ideas fitting into the three pillars of the network's strategy.

SUPPORT

- Advocacy: Offering training to members **to maintain meaningful, trust-building and ongoing dialogues with local governments, aiming to influence both national and global levels.**
- Other potential working group sub-thematics: how to communicate our actions with external stakeholders. Generation and dissemination of new positive narratives. Use of digital channels in pushing back negative narratives. Countering misinformation. Donor engagement strategies.
- Launching **a campaign** showcasing the positive impact of CSOs.
- Creating strong Forus-media partnerships.



DAY 2 - TUESDAY 14 MAY

CONNECT

- Creating spaces to exchange experiences and strategies in countering negative narratives against CSOs. Creating reports/documents showcasing good practices and CSO's added value, and sharing these with external stakeholders/outside of the sector.
- Helping **members create relationships with the private sector and media**, which also benefit from an open Civic Space. Becoming a liaison between members and donors.

INFLUENCE

- Advocate **for a type of funding that allows organizations not only to work programmatically but also to invest in organizational culture and resources** that facilitate listening and accountability.
- Encourage Western organizations to distribute funds differently, taking into account local CSOs and those from the donor country to ensure investment is based on needs. FORUS can act as a liaison to facilitate exchanges between local CSOs and donors.

The session showed members' interest in information-sharing, capacity-strengthening, and campaigning on positive narratives around CSOs. These recommendations intersect with several recurring initiatives within the network over the past years: enabling environment working group centered in negative narratives in 2021, the #Positivenarratives campaign, Enabling Stories report.

A desire was expressed to revitalize some of Forus' previous work on narratives, potentially within the Enabling environment or ComsForUs working groups, focusing on member exchanges/peer-to-peer learning. Other key aspects, such as the relationship with the media and the private sector, also need to be strengthened.



DAY 2 - TUESDAY 14 MAY

GROUP DISCUSSION: LOCAL POWER: WHAT HOLDS US BACK AND HOW TO BREAK THE DEADLOCK?

This session discussed barriers to local power and sought to identify strategies for breaking the deadlock in localization efforts. The session gathered insights on how Forus can support and advocate for stronger local ownership and agency in civil society.

Challenges in advancing the localization agenda included the Eurocentric nature of the process, power imbalances, and stringent donor requirements. Participants emphasized the need for Forus to act as a connector and advocate for systemic changes to support local ownership and agency.

Connecting Forus Members and Stakeholders on Local Power

- **Creating Space and Framework:** Forus can facilitate a unified voice and build consensus on localization, fostering inter-cultural understanding and providing a platform for dialogue between international and local NGOs.
- **Resource Hub and Connector:** Forus can serve as a resource hub for localization tools, connecting members of National Platforms from the North with National Platforms & their members from the Global Majority, to foster safe spaces for dialogue, and maintain global linkages for local CSOs.
- **Facilitating Dialogue:** Continue to provide spaces for dialogue between local NGOs, INGOs, and donors to build bridges and foster mutual understanding.

Supporting Forus Members

- Continue Forus' capacity strengthening programs, tailored to local needs, enhancing the professionalism and credibility of CSOs to gain donor trust.
- Serve as a platform for members to share experiences and strategies for effective localization, identifying best practices to showcase in different networks and group discussions.



DAY 2 - TUESDAY 14 MAY

Advocating for Local Power

- **Systemic Advocacy for Local Priorities:** Advocate for financing to align with local priorities, leveraging Northern members' contacts to open dialogues with donors and INGOs. Address systemic issues in donor requirements, promote good practices in localization, and engage with the EU and other bilateral donors for transparency, increased local overheads, and reduced intermediary costs.
- **Advocacy for Trust-Based Financing:** Advocate for trust-based financing, where funds are provided at the national level with trust and co-responsibility.

Forus members are encouraged to take a leadership role in these advocacy efforts. By actively participating, members can demonstrate that localization is achievable and effective, building trust with donors and showcasing sustainable development that leaves no one behind and does no harm. Working together, we can rally the sector, including INGOs and donors, to support a more inclusive and equitable development agenda. Sharing experiences, opening doors for dialogue, and collaborating on advocacy strategies will lead to more impactful and sustainable outcomes for all members.

IDEAS FOR NEXT STEPS

- **Creation of a "Local Power" Working Group:** This group would facilitate ongoing dialogue and strategic planning around localization efforts.
- **Develop and Share Tools:** develop and distribute tools for mapping donors and policies favorable to local CSOs and for monitoring country commitments and results.
- **Follow-Up on Dialogues with Donors:** follow up with members from the Global North who offered to open dialogues with donors and INGOs in their countries during the GA. Members who have not yet expressed interest but wish to participate should contact Marie at marie@forus-international.org.
- **Advocacy & Campaigns:** consider initiating targeted advocacy and campaigns for donor transparency and simplified compliance requirements, focusing on systemic issues.



DAY 2 - TUESDAY 14 MAY

GROUP DISCUSSION: DIGITALIZATION, AI ET AL: RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The purpose of this session was two-fold. On the one hand, it critically examined the developments in the digital realm by giving the participants a chance to share their experiences and perceptions, and brainstorm on how these technological advancements affect CSOs and their constituents. And on the other hand, the session focused on the role of CSOs in the governance of new technologies and sought to identify windows of opportunity for CSOs to influence the governance and regulation of new technologies.

Participants agreed that digitalization is crucial for societal advancement but if not properly checked has the potential to exacerbate inequality. They shared their own experiences to drive the point home. There was agreement that Artificial Intelligence (AI) needs to be regulated so that its negative effects are managed, and so that it can be a force for good.

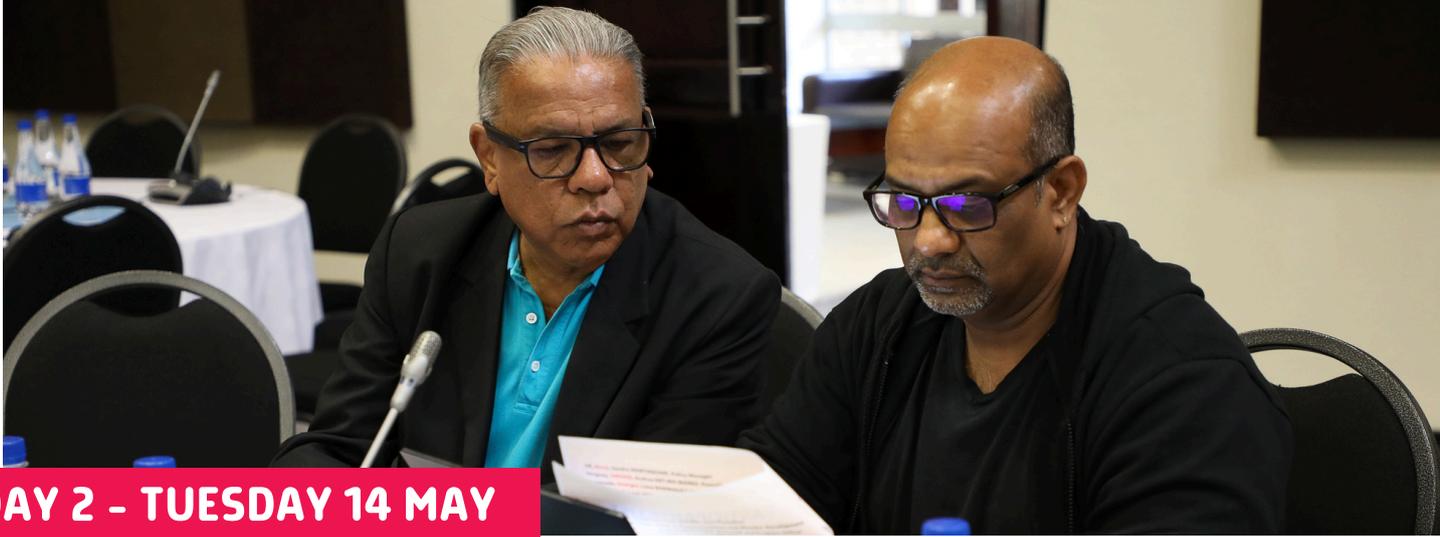
Both positive and negative impacts in the ways digitalization is impacting people's work and the societies they live in were identified.

Digitalization in the Workplace

- Digitalization facilitates remote working and collaboration.
- Digitalization facilitates knowledge and information transfer.
- Digitalization provides convenience but also challenges in adaptation, especially for those least comfortable with digital change.
- Many struggle to adapt to digital realities, thereby impacting workplace culture.
- There's a need for organizations to address these adaptation issues by adopting some best practices in the digital sphere.

Digitalization and Its Social Impacts

- Exposure to harmful content
- Proliferation of misinformation/disinformation, cyberbullying and silencing of voices and deep fake content.
- Erosion of oral traditions (reduces in-person connections) and cultural practices.
- Overexposure of children to digital media and harmful content.
- Digitalization drives inequality among people.



DAY 2 - TUESDAY 14 MAY

Digitalization and Human Rights

- The online environment now is a place where hate speech, misinformation and various forms of online abuse are widespread.
- Governments are taking conscious efforts to shut down the Internet to deprive their own citizens' the freedom of speech and protest.
- cases of Internet slowdowns and site filtering and other Internet fragmentation practices, in particular in election environments.
- children's online safety is a major concern.
- Surveillance practices by some countries pose a threat to human dignity.
- Some countries filter online content and block the Internet for their citizens. These practices deprive citizens access to valuable information.
- Some companies are silencing the voices of the oppressed by filtering content.

IDEAS TO TACKLE DIGITALIZATION CHALLENGES:

- CSOs should **promote digital literacy**, especially among the elderly.
- Participate in the **digital policy making processes**
- **Cyber laws** should transcend national borders to combat international cybercrimes. Digital cooperation among countries is a must considering technological progress.
- **CSOs should leverage digital tools** for advocacy, capacity building, fundraising, and fact-checking.
- **CSOs should use AI** and other technologies to address some institutional challenges.
- CSOs should get involved in **decision-making processes on Internet Governance**.

As a conclusion, members identified capacity strengthening on the emerging issues in the digital realm as a major need. They also agreed that influencing digital policymaking processes is crucial to addressing some of the negative effects of digitalization in society.



DAY 2 - TUESDAY 14 MAY

GROUP DISCUSSION: INCLUSIVE LEADERSHIP: BREAKING BARRIERS AND PROMOTING DIVERSITY IN CSO LEADERSHIP

Participants discussed their visions of inclusive leadership and how to promote it in CSOs. A common sense of responsibility towards including diverse voices, giving ownership and space to all emerged. There were also commonalities in the terms used to associate inclusive leadership with justice, collectiveness, and diversity. However, practices relating to inclusive leadership varied across platforms.

While for some Inclusive Leadership represents shared power, open mindedness, flexible work policies and bias awareness, for others it represents anxiety, challenges, difficulties and curiosity. A need to talk about managing the risks of including diverse voices with limited resources was identified. Inclusion is an act of responsibility and care, and if not done with enough caution, it can potentially create more harm than good. Inclusive Leadership begins with self-awareness and challenging personal biases. This exercise is often scary, hence, there is value in it to be done in accompaniment with peers. At the same time, inclusive leadership is a courageous decision, and several platforms shared their strong commitment to intergenerational staff base, diverse recruitment policies including neuro divergent professionals, and setting Diversity & Inclusion as one of their main pillars of their platform.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Practice Collaborative Leadership** – to allude to a community-led leadership model that is horizontal and with shared responsibility. It challenges the concept of one leader as one individual hero and brings a sense of collectiveness.
- **Envisage Specific Advisory Groups** (ie. Youth Councils, Gender Working Groups, etc) that cover all the topics the network works on in a cross-cutting way, and would bring a youth or feminist perspective to the discussions of the network. This implies accompaniment. Several members offered to contribute by sharing their experience with Youth Councils with Forus members.



DAY 2 - TUESDAY 14 MAY

- **Create an intersectional strategic plan** for the network that challenges platforms to include social movements, radical groups, collective care practices and more to enable meaningful and safe participation of all.
- **Manage risks** - Inclusion for inclusion can be more harmful than valuable. How to ensure no group is forgotten or left behind? How to adequately equip the organisation and the people to participate if they do not have enough resources?
- **Harness Digitalisation** as an important opportunity to facilitate information sharing. Platforms are mandated to facilitate the access to information to all their members in the most convenient language and format.
- **Explore having a buddy system or a peer exchange space** to challenge each other on a regular basis.

NEXT STEPS INCLUDE

- Follow-up with Forus members to further explore their levels of interest and challenges in advancing their **collective leadership practices and systems**
- **Co-creating the next cycle of the Leadership Development Programme** to strengthen network capacities to meaningfully include diverse voices in a safe and responsible manner
- **Continue to embed principles of shared power**, diversity, inclusion and collective accountability in Forus' overall Capacity Strengthening approaches.





DAY 2 - TUESDAY 14 MAY

FISHBOWL

The Tuesday afternoon started with a fishbowl exercise, which aimed at creating a more personal atmosphere, allowing people to talk about some high and low points that they had experienced in the past year.

MANAGING CSO NETWORKS - PANEL DISCUSSION

During this panel, several experiences from platform leaders from the Pacific Islands, Portugal, Southern Africa, and the USA were shared, focusing on the unique challenges and requirements when it comes to leading a network of CSOs.

There is no training manual on how to work as a network leader, everyone has to find their leadership style based on the network's values and the priorities of the membership. It's about learning how to move everyone in the same direction, leveraging the diversity of voices. It's also about creating space for leadership in the membership and creating a sense of the collective. All the members need to embrace "We are the platform". It's also about collective solidarity, everyone supporting each other. What members can do for the platform and for each other matters, for example smaller members need to be supported by the network's big members.

But leading a network can be a lonely job, you have to find someone you trust and that you can talk to.

Oftentimes networks are working on contested issues, not on simple ones. Another shared insight was that, when members own the network in times of crisis, it often makes the network successful.

Managing a network in a time of change is a challenge, sometimes one has to challenge members and get out of the comfort zone to turn around priorities. The change also has to come from within.



DAY 3 - WEDNESDAY 15 MAY

In the morning of the third day of the GA, the various Forus Working Groups were able to meet to further discuss and develop their priorities and strategies.

WORKING GROUP: AGENDA 2030/ SDGS

The session aimed to evaluate current efforts and strategies regarding Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), identify successful political advocacy actions, and discuss how Forus can enhance its support and engagement strategies to reinvigorate political commitment and effectively implement the SDGs by 2030.

Monitoring & Advocacy

- **Methodologies and Monitoring:** a common methodological framework for SDG monitoring among Forus members, incorporating various existing methodologies (e.g., UN SDG framework, A4SD scorecards) was identified as a need to increase joint action.
- **CSO Reports:** Civil society reports are crucial for highlighting perspectives but their impact on government actions is questionable. More effort is needed to ensure these reports are read and considered by governments.
- **Data Disaggregation and Gaps:** Pushing for further data disaggregation in official reporting is essential to identify who is being left behind. Addressing data gaps and definitional dilemmas, particularly in poverty measurement, is crucial for accurate SDG monitoring and reporting.
- **Best Practices:** Members need support in identifying and sharing best practices for SDG advocacy and monitoring.

Challenges and Engagement

- **UN and Bilateral Donors:** The UN is seen as ineffective in advancing the 2030 Agenda, prompting a shift towards working with bilateral donors/agencies with more influence.
- **Global Campaign:** A global advocacy and communication mobilization campaign for SDG implementation should be considered, identifying the right moments for a common push.
- **HLPFs and VNRs:** Engagement in High-Level Political Forums (HLPFs) and support for Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) should continue, with a focus on creating global reports and encouraging members to share their SDG reports.



DAY 3 - WEDNESDAY 15 MAY

Member Connection and Support

- **Regional and Sub-regional Discussions:** There is a need for more regional/sub-regional discussions to enhance collaboration and relevance among members.
- **Capacity Building:** Forus should provide capacity-building support for SDG reporting and advocacy, mobilizing financial support and professional assistance.
- **Success Stories:** Sharing successful practices from countries can offer valuable insights for other members.

Key Focus Areas

- **SDG 16 and 17:** There is a strong focus on SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) due to concerns about corruption and repression. More work is needed to integrate SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) into the strategy.

IDEAS FOR NEXT STEPS

- **Toolkit Development:** Develop and share a common methodological framework and toolkit for SDG monitoring and advocacy among Forus members.
- **Global Campaign:** Plan and launch a global campaign for SDG implementation, identifying strategic moments for action.
- **Capacity Building:** Organize capacity-building workshops and provide professional assistance to members for effective SDG reporting.
- **Regional Discussions:** Facilitate more regional and sub-regional discussions to enhance collaboration and share best practices.
- **Continued Voluntary National Review (VNR) Support:** Continue supporting members in the VNR process and push for mandatory VNR reporting commitments.



DAY 3 - WEDNESDAY 15 MAY

WORKING GROUP: FINANCING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (FFSD)

The purpose of the Financing for Sustainable Development Session was to ensure that all FfSD working group members have a shared understanding of the work of Forus' FfSD working group and to reflect on how to develop an FfSD Forus Strategy based on member priorities, capacity and experiences.

ANALYSIS OF MEMBER CAPACITY

- 22 members have conducted an assessment on how development finance is delivered in their countries.
- 24 members have engaged with development finance institutions or government in the last 1-2 years.

How members spend time on FfSD issues (% of time/resources):

- 6 members spend 5-10% of their time/resources on FfSD issues.
- 13 members spend 10-30% of their time/resources on FfSD issues.
- 5 members spend over 30% of their time/resources on FfSD
- Roughly 65% indicated the need for capacity strengthening activities by Forus.

ANALYSIS OF MEMBER INTEREST IN FFSD TOPICS AND ACTIVITIES

	Number of Forus members interested	Number of members active (doing activities related to the topics)
ODA	44	16
Climate finance	30	9
PDBs	24	7
Reform financial architecture	20	4
Debt	17	2
Tax Justice	13	4



DAY 3 - WEDNESDAY 15 MAY

Additional programmatic topics/ concerns:

- Addressing concerns about the FfSD projects that serve local political interests but negatively impact people's rights, which contradicts the values of a just and equitable world.
- Calling for transparency in development financing, particularly regarding development banks' operations and the potential for double counting in ODA.
- Acknowledging the importance of ODA while recognizing the need for improvements in its implementation.
- Highlighting the importance of comparative ODA assessments and local CSO monitoring of reforms in development architecture.
- Emphasizing the importance of linking development financing to SDGs and the need for capacity building of local communities to scrutinize budgets.
- Recognizing the impacts of climate change and the challenges of debt constraints for implementing development interventions.
- Highlighting the inevitability of debt cancellation and the need for transparency in debt management processes.

IDEAS FOR NEXT STEPS

- **Share report to FfSD Working Group members**
- Work with **Session co-Chairs (BOND & NNNGO) to provide leadership** and support to the FfSD Working Group.
- **Convene FfSD Working Group Meeting to discuss GA Session findings** and next steps towards the development of a Forus FfSD Strategy and/or workplan in June or July.
- **Develop capacity building** activities based on FfSD working group priorities



DAY 3 - WEDNESDAY 15 MAY

WORKING GROUP: ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

The purpose of the session was to reflect on and identify key elements that enable a supportive environment for CSOs. Participants aimed to share firsthand experiences, exchange knowledge, and explore positive practices that preserve and expand civic spaces, ultimately empowering CSOs to thrive and contribute to healthy democracies.

During the session, several critical areas were highlighted that contribute to creating an enabling environment for CSOs:

- **Promotion of Public Debate:** Encouraging public discussions on the impact of CSOs helps improve societal awareness of their role and good practices.
- **Locally Led Development:** Initiatives driven by local communities were emphasized as crucial for sustainable and context-specific progress.
- **New Alliances:** The role of the private sector in social justice projects and the importance of building new alliances to strengthen CSO impact were discussed.
- **Solidarity in Restricted Countries:** Forus' support system was praised for fostering solidarity and mutual learning among CSOs, especially in countries with restricted civic space.
- **Anti-Racist Code of Conduct:** Implementing anti-racist and anti-exploitation programs was identified as a priority to ensure ethical standards within CSOs.

Improvements needed for enhancing the enabling environment for civil society were also discussed:

- **Continuity and Leadership:** Creating conditions for the sustainability of CSOs and their leadership in political actions.
- **Visibility and Credibility:** Highlighting positive examples of state-CSO collaborations and establishing a code of ethics to strengthen credibility.
- **Capacity Building:** Improving CSOs' effectiveness in participation spaces and advocating for a commitment from states to provide necessary conditions.
- **Legal Frameworks:** Educating CSOs about legal frameworks and engaging directly with parliamentarians to advocate for supportive laws.
- **Solidarity and Support:** Developing structured mechanisms of support and fostering a culture of solidarity among CSOs



DAY 3 - WEDNESDAY 15 MAY

IDEAS FOR NEXT STEPS

- **Positive Practices:** Explore and share positive practices that have enabled CSOs to grow and preserve civic spaces.
- **Visibility Campaigns:** Launch campaigns to showcase successful state-CSO collaborations and promote positive narratives.
- **Structured Support:** Develop structured mechanisms of support for CSOs, including legal support, capacity building, and fundraising strategies.
- **Solidarity Initiatives:** Promote solidarity and support systems within the CSO community to ensure mutual aid during challenging times.
- **EU SEE Project:** Leverage the EU System for an Enabling Environment (EU SEE) project to enhance monitoring, advocacy, and capacity building for CSOs.

MORE ON ENABLING ENVIRONMENT





DAY 3 - WEDNESDAY 15 MAY

WORKING GROUP: COMMUNICATIONS & CAMPAIGNING

This session focused on global and national communications activities, storytelling in the “disinformation age”, as well as ethical and hope-based communications, media engagement, and the impact of technology on digital activism. Participants looked at how Forus members can communicate together around key international events and how to better amplify each other’s voices and messages for solidarity in action.

4 key questions guided the discussions.

How do communications and advocacy intersect?

- Members identified several key intersection points: the use of fact sheets, evidence-based messages, videos, and mass media engagement, along with creative campaigns. They stressed that an effective communications strategy is crucial for advocacy, and to support justice and political change. The communications team plays a vital role as a bridge, delivering impactful messages that build momentum toward action.

How do we use emerging technology and experimental communication to share our stories?

- Emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, are transforming storytelling. The use of AI to analyze and predict audience engagement and support with content creation was highlighted, together with the risks and the capacity gap that exist and that should be addressed. The work with influencers, social media toolkits, and creative campaigns were highlighted as effective methods. Forus members highlighted the need to create engaging, informative, and accessible storytelling methods, enhancing reach and impact to support positive narratives about the work of civil society organizations and reduce polarization.

What are the opportunities for collaboration to amplify our storytelling?

- Collaborative opportunities include organizing training sessions and maintaining regular information exchanges via a Forus network of communicators. Creating awareness campaigns and petitions were also suggested. Bringing communications professionals together to facilitate better information flow, conducting surveys to identify needs, sharing good practices, and providing support for members’ website maintenance were recommended. Connecting Forus members to one another to build a stronger network is essential for amplifying storytelling efforts.



DAY 3 - WEDNESDAY 15 MAY

What are some successful examples of storytelling initiatives?

Successful initiatives include the creation of policy briefs, opinion pieces, and press releases, as well as simplified documents with illustrations written in local languages. Other effective tools are image banks, radio and TV shows, podcasts, newsletters, and community forums. Incorporating traditional arts and creative methods into storytelling helps reach diverse audiences and resonate more deeply with communities.

IDEAS FOR NEXT STEPS

- **Network of communicators:** reinforce and develop a network of communicators with contacts to be provided by Forus members which can meet once every 2 weeks informally.
- **Communications bulletin:** share a bulletin once a month with campaigns, articles and other communications opportunities with Forus members
- **Communications Working Group:** keep the communications working group and continue to follow the priorities of members
- **Communicators and journalism fellowship:** develop a pool of journalists or communication experts in each region to support members with their needs, exchange best practices and promote the work of civil society in media landscapes
- **Emerging technologies:** develop modules and discussion spaces on the impact of emerging technologies on the work of civil society
- **Web development:** identify support for Forus members with the development of websites and online spaces



DAY 3 - WEDNESDAY 15 MAY

**Lightning talk – Leah Mitaba
(ZCSD, Zambia)**



MEETING ACTIVISTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY LEADERS FROM BOTSWANA

During this session, several local NGO leaders and activists from Botswana shared their insights and experiences from their work to address gender-based violence in the country.

The panelists painted a picture of the many challenges they were trying to deal with (which throughout the audience were felt to be very similar in participant's own countries), each speaking in a very powerful way about the complexity of dealing with and changing cultural norms (such as not talking about conflicts or violence outside of one's home), and of the importance of listening and understanding the many nuances in their work.

The audience was very captivated and moved by all the accounts shared in what was perhaps one of the most powerful sessions of the week.

READ THE ARTICLE BY THE PLATAFORMA PORTUGUESA DE ONGD 



DAY 4 - THURSDAY 16 MAY

STATUTORY PLENARY SESSION

The purpose of the statutory meeting was to approve the three-year financial report for (2021-2023) and the workplan and provisional three-year budget (2024-2026), to adopt the changes in the composition of the Board, to discuss the changes to be made to the Statutes, to approve the updated list of network members and to share the collaborative process planned for the development of the 2026-2030 strategy.

Activity report and accounts for the years 2021 to 2023 & Work plan and provisional budget for the years 2024 to 2026

The main elements of the reports & budgets, presented by the Treasurer and the Financial Manager, were: the constraints caused by the delay in receiving the EU grant, which led to a period of rigour and limited activities, while preserving the secretariat team; the trust of traditional donors (French Development Agency in particular); the new funding from the EU, which has enabled resources to be stabilised and activities to be strengthened.

Participants enjoyed the Treasurer's dynamic and fun presentation.

They highlighted various aspects and asked questions:

- decline in total membership fees, explained by the difficult economic context, which is leading members to ask for exemptions or pay lower fees;
- the importance of strengthening Forus' unique selling point on its multilingual dimension;
- impact of the localisation of aid and importance of continuing to strengthen the network's accountability;
- co-financing with the EU grant? the grant acquired from the French development agency will provide co-financing and will enable Forus to support members' projects without asking for any counterpart funding.
- the importance of strengthening the members' capacity to apply for institutional funding; a toolkit on this subject could be envisaged;
- the need to support members in the Global South who have difficulty accessing funding;
- fundraising strategy: importance to diversify the portfolio of donors;
- confirmation that the audits of Forus' accounts and projects have all been positive;
- importance of maintaining public donors as priority funding sources.

The financial reports and provisional budgets were unanimously approved.



DAY 4 - THURSDAY 16 MAY

ELECTION OF THE FORUS COUNCIL

The process for electing one-third of the Council was explained. A call for candidates to join or leave the Board had been launched in 2023/2024, resulting in the following turnover:

- Members leaving the Council: ABONG (Brazil), Interaction (USA), JANIC (Japan), LAPAS (Latvia), MACOSS (Mauritius)
- Members joining the Board: CODE NGO (Philippines), Cooperation Canada (Canada), EENG (Argentina), UNNGOF (Uganda), VB Platforma (Lithuania)

Updated list of Council members (15)

- Africa (3): CNONGD (DRC), SPONG (Burkina Faso), UNNGOF (Uganda)
- Asia (3): CCC (Cambodia), CODE NGO (Philippines), NFN (Nepal)
- Europe (3): Coordination Sud (France), SLOGA (Slovenia), VB Platforma (Lithuania)
- Latin America (3): ANC (Peru), ASONOG (Honduras), EENG (Argentina)
- MENA (1): Espace Associatif (Morocco)
- North America (1): Cooperation Canada (Canada)
- Pacific (1): PIANGO (Fiji)

Members provided comments on the regional balance, the voluntary rotation process per region, the importance of maintaining continuity, and the need to ensure robust and transparent processes. **The new council members were unanimously approved.**



Abdelhakim Chafiai
Morocco
Espace Associatif



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



Shannon Kindornay
Canada
Cooperation Canada



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



Arjun Bhattarai
Nepal
NFN - NGO Federation of Nepal



Justina Kaluinaite
Lithuania
Lithuanian NGO platform



Josefina Huaman
Peru
ANC - Asociación Nacional de Centros



Putheary Sin
Cambodia
CCC - Cooperation Committee for Cambodia



Rolando Kandel
Argentina
EENG - Red Encuentro



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



José Ramon Avila
Honduras
ASONOG - Asociación De Organismos No Gubernamentales



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



Max Zimani
Slovenia
SLOGA - Slovenian Global Action



Sandino Soliman
Philippines
CODE NGO - Caucus of Development NGO Networks



Moses Isooba
Uganda
UNNGOF - Uganda National NGO Forum



DAY 4 - THURSDAY 16 MAY

APPROVAL OF THE UPDATED LIST OF FORUS MEMBERS

Since the 2018 GA, Forus welcomed **4 new national members**:

- NANGO (Zimbabwe)
- PDA (Pakistan)
- SINERGIA (Venezuela)
- UnidOSC (Mexico).

3 platforms are no longer members, because of non-compliance with Forus' rules and membership criteria: ADIR-Burundi, CFRONG-Benin, CONGAC-Cameroon.

The updated list of members was unanimously approved.

EXTRAORDINARY STATUTORY SESSION: CHANGES TO THE FORUS STATUTES

A proposal to amend the Statutes was shared with all ahead of the GA with the objective of aligning the terms of Council members to the occurrences of regular General Assemblies.

Delegates debated the proposal, seeking clarification on the reasons for the change, its scope and its impact. In the end, the article was reworded to provide clarity that a regular General assembly would take place every 2 years. The mandate of Council members is also of 2 years, with a maximum of 3 consecutive mandates. This final version of the amended text won the support of the delegates, who voted in favour of it.



PRESENTATION OF THE PROCESS FOR THE NEXT FORUS STRATEGY (2026-2030)

Arjun Bhattarai (NFN, Nepal), Vice-Chair of Forus, presented the overall approach for the development of the next strategy (2026-2030). This year-long process will be very inclusive and collaborative to include everyone's perspectives, with opportunities to participate at every step in different languages.

While there were no questions on the presented process, participants took this opportunity to share some views on what strategic priorities Forus should pursue going forward:

- Keep the priority on global issues that are common to all members: A2030, Summit of the Future, localization...
- Consider including new topics such as peace and security, or climate change and its impacts.
- Make sure to include regional perspectives.
- Advocate for topics such as democratic governance, transnational democracy; be the "UN of NGOs".
- Facilitate donor/CSO dialogues while addressing donor dependency.
- Keep the focus on Human Rights, making sure to include topics such as racism or attacks on defenders.

Tools/channels to continue the conversation among members were also identified as a need.

The ExCom thanked the delegates for all contributions and suggestions and committed to propose multiple ways to engage in the process.



DAY 4 - THURSDAY 16 MAY

**Lightning talk - Dirce Varela
(PLATONG, Cape Verde)**



NETWORK LIFE - HOW TO STRENGTHEN THE FORUS FAMILY: MAPPING CHALLENGES & DISCUSSING WAYS TO IMPROVE COLLABORATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The session started with a presentation made by Forus' Coordinator for Accountability, Organizational Effectiveness and Special Projects to give participants insights from some of the data from members' engagement in Forus activities, as well as from feed-back received through various membership surveys, and other feed-back channels.

FIND OUR FEEDBACK CHANNEL 



DAY 4 - THURSDAY 16 MAY

Some areas of improvement were then outlined, as well as a short overview of some of the things that the Forus Secretariat is already starting or planning to implement in response to the feedback received.

The second part of the session was dedicated to small group work, for participants to share their views and ideas on several questions aimed at improving collaboration, engagement and collective impact in the network. Below is an overview of key recommendations per question.

How to increase member leadership in Forus activities / working groups?

- Map out areas of work at Forus member level, members' strengths, and align with Forus agenda where relevant
- Identify those who have the most capacity to commit.
- Identify programmatic leaders in member platforms, and leverage their capabilities
- Develop member capacities in participation and facilitation methodologies.
- Delegate more activities to members or working groups, considering time resources, platform money, translation technology.
- Better promote areas of work or leadership where member engagement is sought
- Establish joint principles of engagement
- Ensure stronger onboarding and continuous capacity-strengthening opportunities within working groups, and make people new to the WG confident that they will be able to contribute
- Present more good practices and lessons learned
- Provide more opportunities to participate in different languages
- Explore how to use more AI

How to better connect advocacy between the national, regional and international levels?

- Increase sharing of information and good practices.
- Share more local examples to global level
- Challenge ourselves: is our impact reaching communities?
- Consider a toolkit on "How to mobilize national decision-makers behind a global agenda"
- Consider segmenting by regional thematic
- Link Comms and/or Advocacy people working at the various levels with each other
- Develop an easy-to-use communications platform amongst Forus members and the Forus Secretariat to exchange information and enhance communications.
- Build capacity on Communications and Campaigns, leverage dedicated capacity in member platforms
- Invest in / Build capacity for maintaining websites



GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE
ASAMBLEA GENERAL

forus
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BOTSWANA
BOTSUANA



DAY 4 - THURSDAY 16 MAY

What could a „signature“ product of Forus be?

- Such a product needs to build on our strengths
- A way to bring local voices to the global level
- Economic Impact of CSOs Study. Create a methodology to measure this across all members (showing CSO contribution to the economy – i.e. jobs or other).
- Something on the “Voice of civil society (related to enabling environment)”. Note: this is different to civic space, which is done elsewhere (i.e. State of Civil Society Report / Index).
- Donor Engagement: Forus to organize dialogue with donors.
- Document good examples of practice
- Report on Localization.

How to make Forus outputs/products more useful to your platform’s members?

- Platforms to share assess their member’s priorities and share with Forus. From there, where there is alignment, ensure to share relevant content back with platform members.
- Develop toolkits that are relevant to a wide number of members’ members: examples could be a) a toolkit on policy advocacy and targeting national policy-making; b) a toolkit on the SDGs; c) a toolkit on crowdfunding.
- Ensure work at regional level is also shared with platforms and their members.
- Unpack concepts, for instance through a glossary on main topics (e.g. localization).
- Explore the idea of an “I wish I thought of that” - campaign: members describing an effective campaign that has worked (e.g. through a short video).
- Translate the most useful products into more languages
- Ensure shorter products with less text (more graphics, more videos), do short videos (eg on tiktok) to present the main ideas of some outputs
- Generate capabilities to synthesize large documents
- Knowledge Platform, learning platform, training of trainers
- Consider the idea of a Members Exchange Programme

How to increase sharing (information, products, opportunities) from the national level to global level?

- Use different communications channels (members can contact Forus via email, whatsapp, share information during calls, etc)
- Enable members to share in their own language and use AI or translation to understand/ integrate content in Forus work
- Ensure contact database is up-to-date (members to share updates with Forus more regularly)
- Make sure that there are dedicated focal points in platforms for Forus work
- Share newsletters, updates and content from Forus in member platforms to encourage more sharing-back
- Monitor and link-up using social media, link websites
- Regional coalitions could take a bigger role in sharing information both ways
- Share a calendar of events, share workplans between Forus members and the Forus Secretariat



DAY 4 - THURSDAY 16 MAY

How to better follow up on reports / advocacy tasks at national level?

- Create content with added value at national level; member platforms play a role in ensuring that the content is relevant and country-level data legitimate
- Simplify terms/language used; highlight important findings
- Ensure follow-up and coordination in meetings and working groups
- Translate reports/publications so that they can be used in national level languages
- Develop monitoring mechanisms, and evaluation models to measure impact and key developments at national level
- Provide communications support

Lightning talk – Francisco Garcia (ASONOG, Honduras)





DAY 5 - FRIDAY 17 MAY

Lightning talk – Zia Rehman (ADA, Asia)



PANEL DISCUSSION – FORESIGHT THINKING AND THE FUTURE OF DEVELOPMENT

This panel aimed to inspire a vision for global development beyond 2030, emphasizing innovation and sustainability. The discussion highlighted the importance of looking beyond the 2030 Agenda, with a focus on strategic foresight as explained by **Andy Ouedraogo** (Cooperation Canada). Key drivers of change brought up included social asymmetry, technological advancements, demographic shifts, economic changes, and political configurations.

- **Global Crises and Funding:** Oyebisi Oluseyi Babatunde (NNNGO, Nigeria) noted the impacts of global crises on funding for CSOs, stressing the need for senior management to link present actions to future planning. Indigenous foresight practices were suggested as beneficial models.
- **Power of Storytelling:** Emeline Siale (PIANGO, Pacific Islands) emphasized using storytelling to bridge the gap between communities and global discussions, particularly on climate change. This approach simplifies complex issues and engages local populations.



DAY 5 - FRIDAY 17 MAY

- **Geopolitical Tensions and Inequities:** Mette Muller (Global Focus, Denmark) discussed the influence of geopolitical tensions on CSOs and called for collective efforts to address resource inequalities and promote equitable partnerships.
- **Resilience during Political Uncertainty:** Jared Ortíz González (Alianza ONG, Dominican Republic) highlighted the importance of alliances and capacity-building for CSOs to remain resilient amid political uncertainties. Monitoring implementation to benefit the general public was emphasized.
- **Regional Cooperation:** Jamila Asanov (ADA, Asia) highlighted geopolitical challenges in Central Asia, especially migration issues due to conflicts. Regional cooperation on climate and water issues was deemed essential.
- **Youth Empowerment:** Concerns about youth disempowerment and the need for training programs to prevent radicalization were raised. The importance of a fair development system was stressed.
- **Private Sector Collaboration:** The need for enhanced collaboration with the private sector and capacity-building to challenge state and corporate powers was discussed.
- **Financial Sustainability:** New financial models and local philanthropy were advocated to support CSOs, moving beyond traditional aid mechanisms.
- **Rethinking Development Cooperation:** A shift from traditional aid to a rights-based approach, emphasizing restitution for historical injustices, was advocated. Integrating diverse movements into the development agenda was highlighted.

The session concluded with a call for the Forus network to embrace foresight, leverage trends, and collaborate towards a sustainable future. Insights may inform a "Forus vision paper" and guide the network's strategy post-2030.



CLOSING SESSION

During the closing session, Jean-Marc Boivin (Coordination Sud, France), Treasurer of Forus, gave another fun and upbeat presentation about the weeklong gathering of the Forus “family”, and about the importance of these moments to foster cohesion and joint action.

A summary video of the event, produced by the Forus Secretariat’s Communications Team was shared, triggering a standing ovation by the audience.

The Co-hosts of the event, BOCONGO and SAf-CNGO expressed their heartfelt thanks to everyone and were thanked in return with some gifts from participants.

Christelle Kalhoulé, Chair of Forus, then closed the week thanking the co-hosts and all partners who supported the event with their presence and through their financial support, all the participants, the Forus Secretariat team and the GA Steering Committee, the hotel team and interpreters, and everyone who contributed to marking this week a memorable event for all.

RESOURCES

- [The video recap of the event](#)
- [Pictures from each of the days.](#)
- [The list of participants.](#)
- [The presentation with current work priorities for the Forus network](#) (from Day 1)
- [The press release](#) which was picked up by IPS news and other international media.
- [The Forus members music playing list](#) with tracks from all continents!
- Keep tuned for interviews and articles with Forus members following their interventions and interviews at the General Assembly!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

WE THANK FORUS MEMBERS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND INVOLVEMENT IN THE FORUS NETWORK.

We would like to thank Wendy and Alain Dubreuil and Álvaro Martínez Bueno for translating the report into French and Spanish.

Forus is a member-driven network of 69 national NGO platforms and 7 regional coalitions from all continents, representing more than 22,000 NGOs active locally and internationally on development, human rights and environmental issues.

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