

forus

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS



INTRODUCTION

- Foreword by Mavalow Christelle Kalhoule, Forus Chair and Sarah Strack, Forus Director
- Forus Impact: 2024 in numbers
- Discover 8 highlights from our work in 2024

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





SUPPORT

- Forus made significant strides in capacity strengthening, working through a revamped impact-oriented and needs-based approach to support its members at national, regional, and global levels.

ACCOUNTABILITY & LEARNING



- In 2024, Forus continued its commitment to accountability, transparency and learning, enhancing its impact by prioritising "member voice" systems and processes.



INFLUENCE

- Through this pillar, Forus actively influences key policy areas such as the **Agenda 2030**, **Financing for Sustainable Development**, enabling environment for civil society, **digital governance**, **gender justice**, and shifting power towards locally-led development.

FORUS GOVERNANCE





FINANCIALS

FORUS MEMBERS



FORUS 2024: A YEAR OF COLLECTIVE POWER & ACTION

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

In a time when civil society faces unprecedented challenges, Forus has remained solid in its mission to connect, support, and amplify the voices of its members.

2024 has been an important year for our network—a year of expansion, collaboration, and meaningful impact. Together, we've turned up the volume on civil society's calls for action, driving change at national, regional, and global levels.

As **Forus member in Nepal**, NFN, expressed, "Forus is an umbrella of CSOs so needed during sunny and rainy seasons for organisations." This sentiment captures the essence of Forus' role—providing support and safe spaces of connection through both challenges and successes.

With 72 national CSO platforms and 7 regional CSO coalitions, Forus mobilised its network across 124 countries, advocating for an enabling environment for civil society, financing for sustainable development, digital rights, and human rights protection.

We hosted 54 events, engaged over 1,700 participants, and facilitated more than 200 collaborations with allies worldwide, further strengthening our collective influence.

As Global Focus, **Forus member in Denmark**, shared: "There is an enormous potential in the membership base of Forus. Counting all the partners engaged in the national platforms that are members of Forus sums up to a huge number of civil society actors. Civil society actors that are stronger together in fighting for a more just world." These words reflect the power of collective action and the potential of our united network.

At the Forus General Assembly in Botswana, members from over 65 countries came together to co-create solutions for the most pressing challenges facing civil society today. The insights and ideas shared during this gathering will shape Forus' strategic direction for the next five years (2026–2030), ensuring that we continue to lead and inspire within global civil society.

However, 2024 also presented its share of challenges. Civil society continues to grapple with increasing restrictions on its ability to operate, with restrictive legislations, and shifting funding landscapes. In response, Forus has expanded its advocacy efforts, making contributions to major policy discussions at forums such as the UN Summit of the Future, the High-Level Political Forum, the Finance in Common process, and the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), among others.

Forus member in Gambia, Tango, shared a key insight: “Empowerment, networking and partnership is the value of the Forus network.” This emphasis on collaboration has been at the heart of Forus' work, strengthening connections and boosting the capacity of CSOs globally.

We also launched two ambitious initiatives—CADE and EU SEE—aimed at shaping the digital future and fostering an enabling environment for CSOs worldwide. Our campaigns, including #MarchWithUs, #ShiftingThePower, and #Let’sTalkDigital, reached thousands, elevating grassroots voices. Additionally, the 12 members started in a new cycle of our Leadership Development Programme, while 6 member platforms received support for their advocacy on SDGs and the Voluntary National Reviews.

As Cooperation Canada, **Forus member in Canada**, pointed out: “The Forus Network empowers regional and national CSO platforms worldwide to leverage collaboration and solidarity, fostering collective mobilisation, advocacy, and capacity strengthening to enhance effectiveness and agency.”

Looking ahead, 2025 will be a year of shaping Forus’ next strategic vision. This will be a collective effort, with members, partners, and allies contributing their expertise and insights to co-create the roadmap for the future.

Through a series of consultations—regional, governance, and partner-focused—we will collaboratively design the strategy that will guide Forus through 2026-2030.

As we reflect on the milestones of 2024, one message stands clear: Forus remains a network built on solidarity, innovation, and the unwavering belief that civil society is central to building a just and sustainable world.

TOGETHER, WE WILL MOVE FORWARD —STRONGER, BOLDER, AND MORE UNITED THAN EVER.

In solidarity,
Mavalow Christelle Kalhoule, Forus Chair and Sarah Strack, Forus Director.



MAVALOW CHRISTELLE KALHOULE
Forus Chair



SARAH STRACK
Forus Director

FORUS IMPACT



FORUS GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024

© FORUS

THE FORUS NETWORK SERVES AS A FORCE FOR COLLECTIVE THINKING AND ACTION AND HAS STRENGTHENED ITS EMERGING POSITION AS A SIGNIFICANT ACTOR IN GLOBAL GOVERNANCE.



FORUS GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024

©FORUS

2024

FORUS' CONTRIBUTION TO CHANGE: 2024 IN NUMBERS



72

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

54

54 events including official side-events at the **UN High-Level Political Forum, the Summit of the Future, internet governance fora** and more!

1,700

1,700+ participants to Forus events in 2024. **67% of Forus members** engaged as speakers or co-hosts in Forus working groups and events, sharing their experiences from national and regional contexts, as well as collective asks?

250+

Read **multilingual articles co-written by Forus members** on Agenda 2030, development financing, gender equity, grassroots initiatives, and the civil society environment at national, regional, and global levels.

100,000+

Over 100,000 views and listeners to the Forus multimedia series, **including Digital Futures, Global Voices Rising, March With Us** and more!

35+

Over 35 Forus members **engaged in our Support pillar** in 2024 with 12 platforms part of the Cycle 6 of the National Projects Partnership Programme, 8 members steering the design and selection process as Peer Committee members.

2024

FORUS NETWORK: 2024 MAIN THEMES



ENABLING ENVIRONMENT AND CIVIC SPACE/ AGENDA 2030 & THE SDGS/ DEMOCRACY & GOOD GOVERNANCE

OVER 80% OF FORUS MEMBERSHIP



CAPACITY STRENGHTENING FOR CIVIL SOCIETY / FINANCING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT / TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND ANTI-CORRUPTION

OVER 60% OF FORUS MEMBERSHIP



YOUTH AND GENDER JUSTICE / LGBTQI+ RIGHTS/CLIMATE ACTION/DIGITALISATION AND DIGITAL GOVERNANCE

OVER 35% OF FORUS MEMBERSHIP

OUR GLOBAL REACH

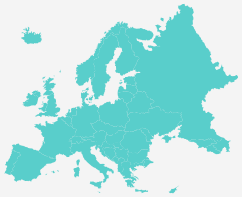
Forus is a global civil society network uniting 72 national and 7 regional NGO networks, predominantly representing the global majority. Forus creates connections that bring together over 24,000 civil society organisations across 124 countries.



25 national platforms from North and Sub-Saharan Africa



11 national platforms from Asia



18 national platforms from Europe



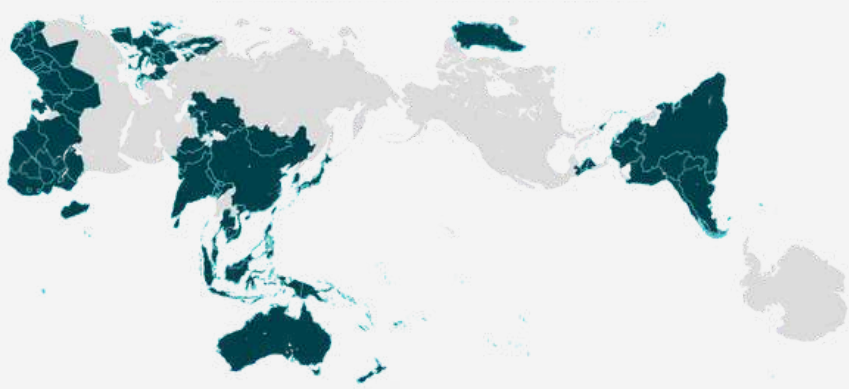
12 national platforms from Latin America



2 national platforms from North America



4 national platforms from the Pacific



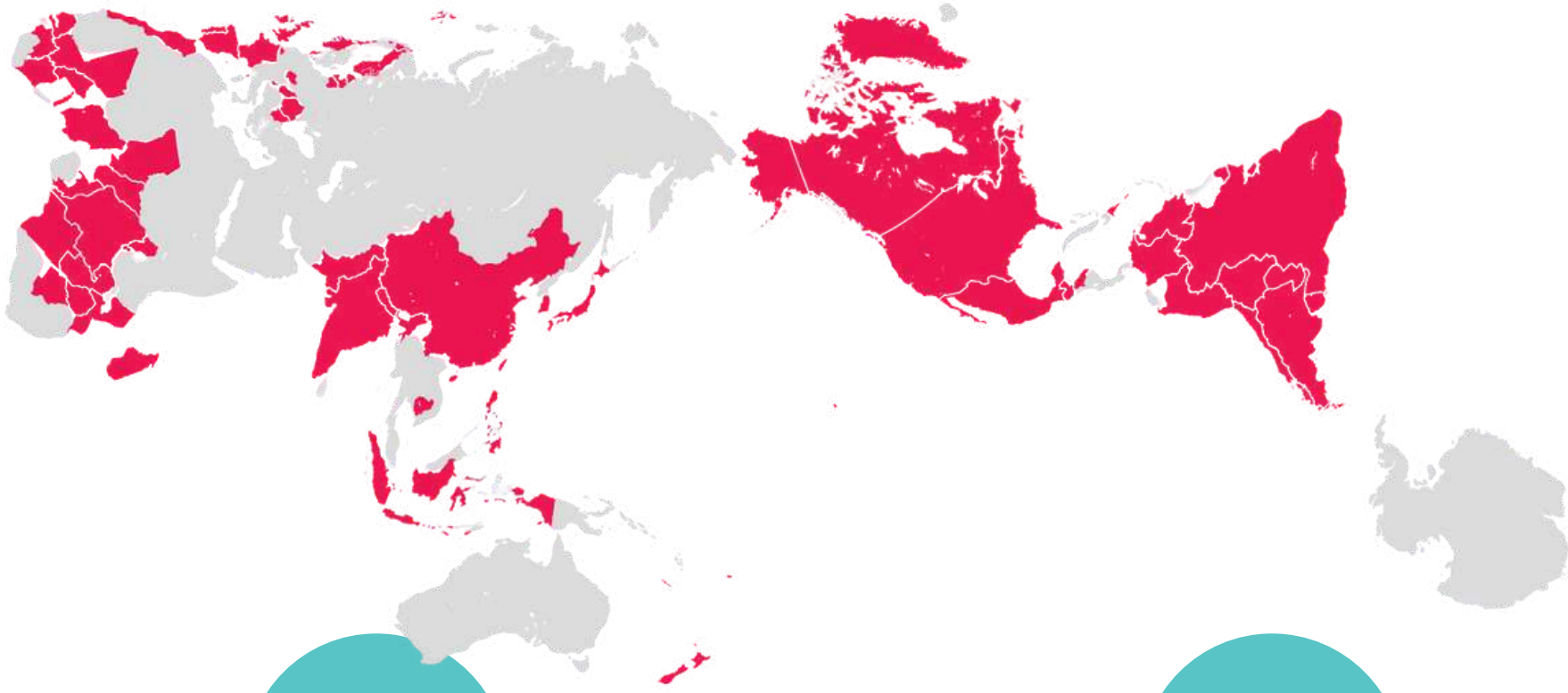
7 regional coalitions from Asia, the Pacific Islands, Western, Central & South Africa, Latin America & Europe are also part of the network.

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.



72

NATIONAL NGO PLATFORMS

7

REGIONAL COALITIONS

THE FORUS NETWORK ACTS AS A CATALYST FOR COLLECTIVE KNOWLEDGE AND ACTION, SOLIDIFYING ITS GROWING INFLUENCE AS A KEY PLAYER IN GLOBAL GOVERNANCE. IN ADDITION TO ITS GLOBAL REACH, FORUS MEMBERS ARE INSTRUMENTAL AT NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS, DRIVING INITIATIVES THAT CREATE MEANINGFUL IMPACT WITHIN THEIR COMMUNITIES.



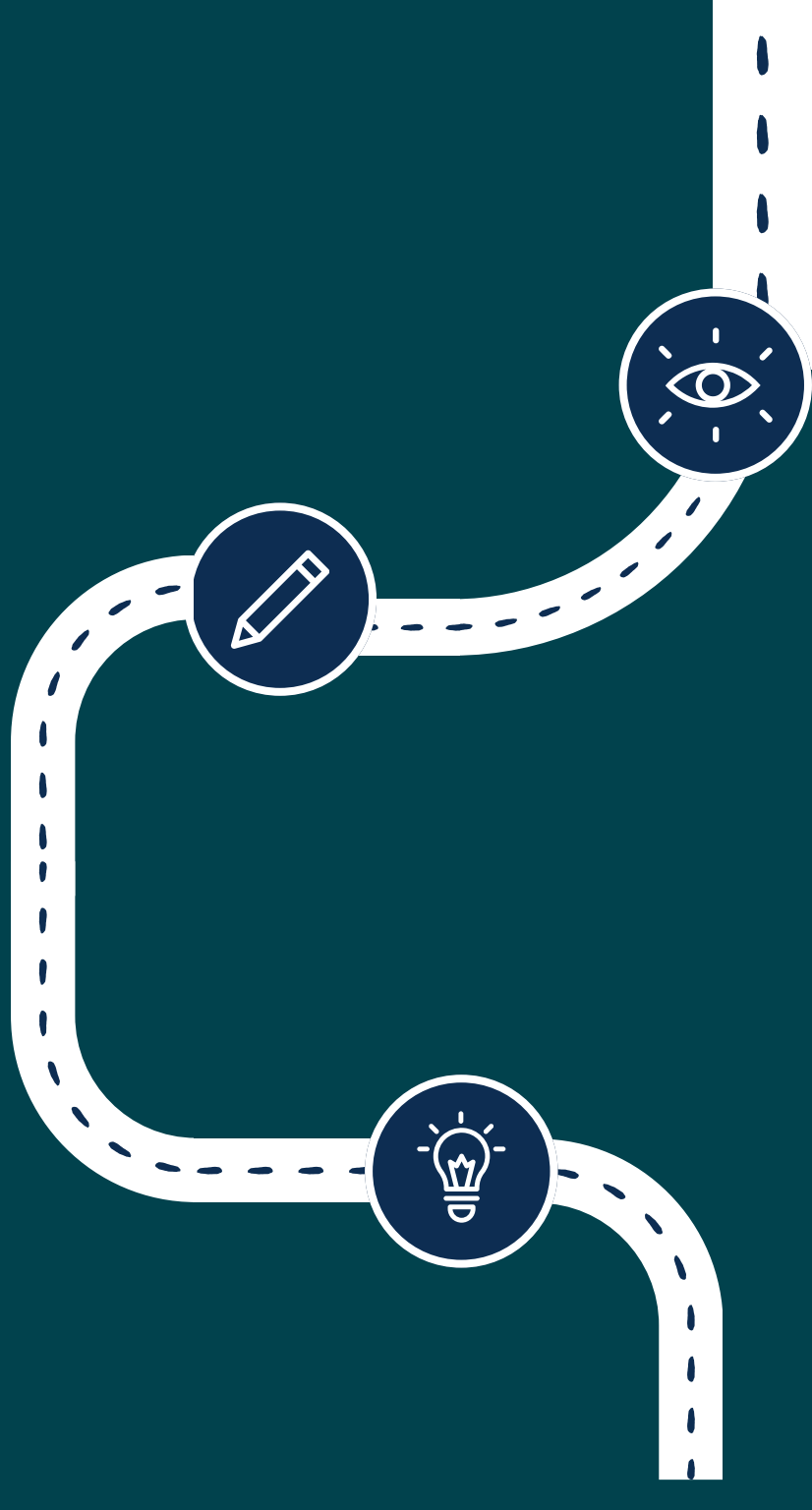
PIANGO

©PIANGO, PACIFIC ISLANDS

OUR STORY AND MISSION:

2024 WAS A LANDMARK YEAR FOR FORUS, MARKED BY OUR GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ADVOCACY INITIATIVES AND CAMPAIGNS AS WE CONTINUE OUR JOURNEY GROWING STRONGER AS A DYNAMIC, MEMBER-LED NETWORK.

One of the defining moments of 2024 was the Forus General Assembly in May, where members gathered in person to exchange experiences, discuss pressing challenges, and co-create strategies for the future - with 84% of our membership actively engaged and 98% of participants describing the Forus General Assembly as insightful and thought-provoking! As Forus continues to push for shifts in power , for social justice, and inclusivity, and embarks on the development of our new strategy for 2026-2030, the network remains committed to convening thought-leadership spaces, producing collaborative research and reports, and amplifying civil society's messages on the global stage. Looking ahead, Forus reaffirms its dedication to transformative change, optimism, and collective action—working towards a more just, inclusive, and sustainable world.



2024

Forus is the most important network for NGO platforms, because it has the ability to connect similarities and provide space for exchanges, joint actions and possibilities that expand our work in national, regional and global level - Abong, Brazil

WHAT FORUS MEMBERS HAVE TO SAY

DISCOVER 8 HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR WORK IN 2024

1

Forus General Assembly: The Power of the Network

At the 2024 Forus General Assembly in Gaborone, Botswana, members from over 65 countries came together to address the pressing challenges facing civil society in an increasingly polarised and crisis-driven world. The gathering, the first in-person of this kind since 2018, provided a crucial space to discuss strategic foresight, policy demands, and capacity strengthening, ensuring that civil society organisations, activists, journalists, and human rights defenders are prepared to tackle emerging and ongoing issues. In partnership with the national civil society platform BOCONGO and the regional coalition Southern African Council of Non-Governmental Organisations (SAf-CNGO), the General Assembly was made possible with the support of the European Union and the Agence Française de Développement (AFD).

2

Welcoming New Forus Members!

Forus is proud to have welcomed three new national platform members:

- **Estonian Roundtable for Development Cooperation (AKÜ)** – Representing 36 Estonian NGOs focused on sustainable development and global citizenship education.
- **Bulgarian Platform for International Development (BPID)** – Uniting 16 Bulgarian NGOs advocating for human rights, civil liberties, and democracy.
- **Norwegian Forum for Development and Environment (ForUM)** – A coalition of 60 organisations working on development, environment, peace, and human rights.

3

The Summit of the Future 2024: A Moment of Hope and a Call to Action.

In September 2024, many Forus members from across five continents gathered in New York to engage in and influence the UN Summit of the Future, a major milestone in the network's collective efforts to promote inclusive, just, and sustainable societies. The adoption of the Pact for the Future was a signal to the world that—despite rising polarisation, conflict, and distrust—governments can still come together around ambitious global agendas.

While the Pact includes welcome commitments—such as reaffirming multilateralism, recognising the need to reform the global financial architecture, and laying the groundwork for more inclusive digital governance—it also revealed critical gaps. Civic space protections remain weak, implementation mechanisms unclear, and ambition on climate action insufficient. The omission of LGBTIQ+ rights and lack of progress on digital peace and security were also missed opportunities. And yet, the Pact is a starting point. It reaffirms that multilateral cooperation is still possible—and still needed. Forus remains convinced that a better world is possible. But the path forward requires bold implementation, robust accountability, and unwavering support for civil society.

As Forus looks to 2025 and beyond—with key moments like the FfD4 Summit and COP30 on the horizon—Forus will continue to advocate for urgent action, locally and globally. Forus will keep pushing to #UNMute civil society, promote equity in global governance, and support our members as they translate global promises into national progress.

FORUS STORYTELLING INITIATIVES

4

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 2024, key campaigns include:

- **#UNMute civil society:** In a joint statement addressed to key UN authorities, a coalition of over 440 CSOs and networks from all over the world, co-led by Forus and several of its members, expressed concerns about the current UN engagement mechanisms for civil society, particularly ahead of the UN Summit of the Future. [Statement available in English - Français Español]
- **#MarchWithUs** – An annual series highlighting gender justice and the fight for women's rights.
- **#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.

5

Forus Leadership Development Program: Strengthening Future Leaders

After 3 years since the last Forus Leadership Development Programme, a new cycle was launched in August 2024, bringing together participants from five continents to explore adaptive and inclusive leadership. This initiative supports emerging civil society leaders with tools to build resilient networks, drive social change, and advocate for civil society's role in global governance. This cycle places a special focus on women's leadership, aligning with Forus' commitment to gender equity, our annual campaign #MarchWithUs and the upcoming 2025 review of SDG 5 (Gender Equality).

6

Defending an Enabling Environment for civil society: Responding to Legislative Threats

Civil society organisations worldwide are facing increasing legislative restrictions that threaten their independence. Forus members actively push back against these pressures, working to defend civic space and organisational freedoms.

One of the most significant developments was the progress of the new EU SEE (Enabling Environment for Civil Society in the EU) initiative. The EU System for an Enabling Environment is designed to document 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. Rather than focusing solely on past challenges, 2024 marked a turning point—helping to shape and lay the groundwork for EU SEE's implementation.

Now, we are beginning to see the results. The release of the first EU SEE baseline reports and alerts provides a powerful new tool for monitoring and understanding the civil society environment across regions. For the first time, we have access to structured, comparative data that offers the evidence long needed to advocate for essential conditions—or "must-have parameters"—that allow civil society organisations to operate freely, openly, and sustainably.

Follow this work at EU SEE which provides real-time monitoring, country-specific data, and advocacy tools to strengthen civil society's response - offering key insights from 86 countries!

FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT HUB

7

Forus and Internet Governance: Shaping a Digital Future for All

Civil society still faces barriers in digital governance spaces, from limited policy access to underrepresentation—especially from the Global South. **Our new podcast series, *Digital Futures,*** with over 100,000 views explored civic space, digital governance, and AI's impact on human rights. At the **2024 Internet Governance Forum (IGF),** Forus presented research on CSO capacity to influence tech policies, share strategies for greater impact, and advocate for digital rights.

8

Civil Society Engaging with Public Development Banks

Ahead of the 2025 Finance in Common Summit in South Africa, Forus launched a new Engaging Public Development Banks (PDBs) study and toolkit. These resources help Forus members and civil society partners navigate engagement with PDBs at local, national, and global levels, pushing for financing decisions to be aligned with human rights, sustainability, and community needs. Find the study and toolkit on our Financing for Sustainable Development page!

2024

The peer review of small projects and respect for the diversity of regional languages, great merit, great progress - ANC, Peru

WHAT FORUS MEMBERS HAVE TO SAY

2021-2025

FORUS 2021-2025 STRATEGY SO FAR:

BUILT AROUND 3 PILLARS, THE FORUS STRATEGY REFLECTS THE VISION AND ETHOS OF OUR NETWORK:



CONNECT

Forus brings together national and regional civil society platforms, developing collaboration, peer learning, and collective action. By leveraging synergies across the network, we create a dynamic space where members exchange experiences, co-develop strategies, and amplify their impact globally.



SUPPORT

Forus equips its members with the tools, knowledge, and resources needed to engage effectively in decision-making processes. Through tailored capacity-strengthening initiatives, Forus supports projects that respond to members' specific needs, ensuring they are empowered to drive change in their local and global contexts.



INFLUENCE

Working alongside our members, Forus shapes public policies by engaging with decision-makers at national, regional, and international levels. Through evidence-based reports, case studies, and joint advocacy and campaigns, Forus ensures that civil society voices—especially those from the Global Majority—are heard in global development and policymaking spaces. Forus' work transforms recommendations into action, holding institutions accountable and pushing for policies that promote justice, inclusion, and sustainability.

FORUS STRATEGY

IN 2025, FORUS WILL DEVELOP ITS NEXT FIVE-YEAR STRATEGY (2026-2030).

THIS COLLABORATIVE PROCESS WILL BRING TOGETHER MEMBERS AND STRATEGIC PARTNERS TO DEFINE THE FUTURE OF OUR NETWORK. THROUGH A SERIES OF CONSULTATIONS, MEMBERS WILL BE INVITED TO SHARE THEIR INSIGHTS AND VISION. KEY MOMENTS WILL INCLUDE REGIONAL, GOVERNANCE, AND PARTNER CONSULTATIONS, SHAPING THE NETWORK'S FUTURE TOGETHER.



OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS, FORUS HAS :



SUPPORTED 75 NATIONAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS



STRENGTHENED THE WORK OF 6 REGIONAL COALITIONS



CONVENED OVER 400 PEER-LEARNING ONLINE EVENTS



INFLUENCED MORE THAN 70 VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS (VNRS)



DEVELOPED 14 TOOLKITS



PROVIDED SEED-FUNDING TO 42 MEMBERS TO ADAPT TO WORKING ONLINE AND TO OTHER IMPACTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

2024 PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES FROM THE FORUS NETWORK TO INSPIRE YOUR ACTIONS



©FORUS

RESOURCES

2024



82%

In the 2024 Forus Membership Survey, 82% of Forus members stated that **Forus provides them with useful information, publications, tools, and resources.**

Rebuilding Trust for Inclusive Governance - Unlocking SDG 16 for Peaceful Societies

In 2015, the international community embarked on an ambitious journey with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, setting forth 17 SDGs to create a world that is just, peaceful, and prosperous. Central to this transformative agenda is SDG 16, which aims to promote peaceful and inclusive societies, ensure access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels. In this report Forus members analyse the status of implementation of SDG 16 and share experiences for the way forward.

Engaging Public Development Banks - Civil society Toolkit and Study

Public Development Banks (PDBs) play a crucial role in financing sustainable development, yet civil society organisations often face significant barriers when engaging with these institutions. Understanding how to navigate these financial actors is key to ensuring that development projects are aligned with human rights, environmental sustainability, and social justice. This Forus study and the toolkit for CSOs that it inspired examine the experiences of civil society in engaging with three major PDBs—the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank. Through case studies and real-world examples, these resources analyse the challenges and opportunities for civil society advocacy within these financial institutions, providing insights into effective engagement strategies, highlighting lessons learned from past interactions, and offering recommendations.

FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT HUB

Punto HACHE

La Coordinadora, Spain

A podcast, produced by La Coordinadora de Organizaciones para el Desarrollo and students from the University of Málaga, explores how young people are experiencing the erosion of rights and increased persecution for defending the environment, human rights, and basic rights like health and education. Featuring young voices and perspectives from around the world, the program examines the impact of shrinking freedoms on contemporary democracies, focusing on Spain and beyond.

The Power of Language in Community Development and Knowledge Sharing

UNNGOF, Uganda

"Language carries elements of culture, tradition, and resistance, and can be an agent of empowerment or oppression." Read this article by Forus member UNNGOF on how language plays a critical role in shaping community development and knowledge sharing, serving as both a bridge and a barrier.

2050 Strategy - Your Voice, Our Future: Building A Thriving Blue Pacific Together PIANGO, Pacific Islands

Explore the 2050 Strategy of PIANGO which sets out their long-term approach to working together as a region. PIANGO through its members commits to ensuring the health and well-being of people, and to human rights and equity for all, placing great value on ocean and land, and celebrating a deep connection to community, natural environment, resources, livelihoods, faiths, cultural values and traditional knowledge.

Spread YOUR VOICE

Sloga, Slovenia

A canvas, eight meters long, travelling through European cities and encouraging young passers-by to actively participate in the art installation. The artwork symbolically represents a "bridge" that connects different European cities and indirectly all the participants, who together create a visual manifesto with their messages. Follow the project!

NANGO's Director Summer Retreat Nango, Zimbabwe

At the 14th NGO Directors Summer Retreat, a three-day conference from 6 to 8 November 2024, leaders from the NGO sector came together to co-create, network, and share insights on a diverse range of issues. This exclusive multi-stakeholder platform brought together 150 participants, including local NGO leaders, government officials, development partners, International NGOs, academics, the media, and the private sector.

T#Bangladesh

ADA, Asia

Read the action points from civil society organisations in the country and across the region calling for inclusive dialogue and support of the democratic movement in Bangladesh.

FORUS RESOURCES



© FORUS

ACTIVISM & PARTNERSHIPS

2024 SOME PARTNERS & ACTIVISTS WITH FORUS

2024



BANDY KIKI

Cameroonian blogger, LGBT activist



FRANCIS MABERI

#SDGs Ambassador



MARIJETA MOJASEVIC

Disability rights,100 BBC most influential women in the world



COMMY MUSSA

Gender equality activist



SHAILA SHAHID

Environmental lawyer, WWF Fellow



MARK MALLOCH-BROWN

British diplomat, journalist



LIGIA BATISTA

Executive director Instituto Marielle Franco, Brazil



DAYANA ACENDRA

Director,
Ilex Acción Jurídica, Colombia



DELMA YOLANDA OLVERA

Indigenous leader, Honduras



MATCHA PHORN-IN

Thai feminist and activist for indigenous and LGBT rights



MARCELA TERÁN

Creative Practicioner, Venezuela



MAHER NASSER

Director of the Outreach Division, UN Department of Global Communications.

2024

PARTNERS AND ALLIES

SOME OF THE ORGANISATIONS WE HAVE PARTNERED WITH IN 2024

CIVICUS, Africa NGOS, KAMA AI, Agence française de développement (AFD), Costa Rica at the UN, Denmark at the UN, Consolation Africa, Together in Dignity Europe, A4SD, Access Now, Coalition for the UN We Need, Democracy without borders, Democracy international, Digital Grassroots, Global Call to Action against poverty, Hague Talks, World Federalist, Zula, Youth Empowerment Movement Kenya, Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS), NGO youth SDGs, International Civil Society Centre, ISHR, Safer world, Cespi, Partos, RW media, Cipesa, French Embassy in Botswana, Gender Links, Karisma, Diplo, Ambassador Lotte Knudsen, Permanent Representative of the European Union, ECNL, SMEX, Tap network, World Vision, KICTANET, UN Foundation, PICISOC, Sarvodaya Fusion, EU International Partnerships, Oxfam, Public Banking Project, Fondo Acción Urgente, Hivos, Transparencey International, Democracy Reporting International, EPD, African Monitor, AWAN Association, CARE International, ANND, Paradigm Initiative, Igarape, Eurodad, Amnesty International, UNMute coalition, Action Aid Italy, Reedes, UK at the UN, Focus 2030, APC, NGO Forum on ADB, Gestos, Fundación KISTH, Accountability Counsel, Asia Civil Society Partnership for Sustainable Development, Alliance for Community Action, Chapter One Foundation, Coalition for human rights in development, Muy Waso.

2024

Participating in the Forus Network means staying connected in real time to global issues that affect people individually and collectively. - CONGAD, Senegal

WHAT FORUS MEMBERS HAVE TO SAY

15

15 ACHIEVEMENTS FROM 2024 THAT WE'RE (ESPECIALLY) PROUD OF



ASONOG

© ASONOG, FORUS MEMBER, HONDURAS

2024

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



CONNECT

IN 2024 WE DOUBLED THE NUMBER OF OUR EVENTS WHICH ARE ACCESSIBLE IN ENGLISH, SPANISH, FRENCH.

FORUS EVENTS ARE “INFORMATIVE, ENGAGING, WELL-ORGANISED, RELEVANT, AND COLLABORATIVE”. THESE EVENTS SUPPORT INCLUSIVE, COLLABORATIVE, AND IMPACTFUL CONNECTIONS.

As we look ahead, 2025 will be a special year for the Forus network developing our new strategic plan 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.

51%

In 2024, they achieved gender balance, with 51% female and 49% male participants

8,7 / 10

Events remain highly popular with participant satisfaction reaching 8,7 / 10 in 2024!



YOUTH EXCHANGE AND LEARNING

© RED ENCUENTRO, FORUS MEMBER, ARGENTINA

1 2024 Forus General Assembly

The 2024 Forus General Assembly in Gaborone, Botswana brought our network together in person for the first time since 2018, with 84%-member representation. Among the highlights was the partial Council renewal, with five new members joining: CODE-NGO (Philippines), Cooperation Canada, Red Encuentro (Argentina), UNNGOF (Uganda), and VB Plataforma (Lithuania). Relive the connections and energy through the General Assembly video!

2 The Forus network keeps growing!

Forus welcomes the Estonian Roundtable for Development Cooperation (AKÜ), the Bulgarian Platform for International Development (BPID) and the Norwegian Forum for Development and Environment (ForUM), as the newest members of our network! We look forward to collaborating with these inspiring platforms and incorporating their valuable perspectives into our collective efforts.

Click here to see the full list of Forus members.



CSCI INCLUSION WORKSHOP

© CSCI, FORUS MEMBER IN COTE D'IVOIRE

3 #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 2024, over 40 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 2025 and discover our multimedia projects here!

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

4 Forus Campaigns, Stories & Collective Initiatives

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.



NNNGO INTERVIEW

© FORUS

#MarchWithUs: For its fourth edition, the campaign continued advocacy for gender justice, equity and rights with over 20 activists and Forus members. Join the movement in 2025! It highlighted voices like Matcha Phorn-In, an Indigenous LGBTQIA+ activist from Thailand, Marijeta Mojašević, a disability rights advocate from the Balkans, The Instituto Marielle Franco fighting against political violence, Ilex Acción Jurídica on the decriminalisation of abortion in Colombia, Kenya's Fahe Kerubo, who fights for gender equality and sexual health rights. Several Forus members also joined to spotlight critical global and local issues. Asonog in Honduras shared documentaries highlighting their efforts to combat feminicide and featuring the story of the first Indigenous woman leader in a local community. Similarly, FONGTO, NNNGO, INFID, SLOGA, and the Plateforme Nationale des Organisations de la Société Civile de Madagascar showcased their initiatives to advance gender equality and support communities.

#UNmute Initiative: You can now find the website of the initiative here: https://unmuteinitiative.org/

SDG16 Rebuilding Trust for Inclusive Governance: With the report and social media actions, we provided tools for governance structures based on transparency, participation, and equity.

#Let'sTalkDigital campaign: We explored digital rights and internet governance via the Digital Futures podcast and our AI for artivism 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, including #StopàlabaisseAPD by Coordination SUD (France), the Pajubá Project by Abong (Brazil), calls to counter anti-NGO laws by ANC (Peru) and many more!



© MIDIA NINJA

LOOKING AHEAD, STAY TUNED FOR OUR NEW CAMPAIGN "WE ARE LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND, ARE YOU?" AND MORE POSITIVE NARRATIVES FROM ACROSS THE NETWORK!

5 EVENTS

Forus was also involved in many events and conferences.

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

- **UN Civil Society Conference (9-10 May, Nairobi):** Forus, along with members like Abong (Brazil) and NNNGO (Nigeria), advocated for the network's key contributions to global governance and sustainable development. Joining key discussions on the Pact for the Future and the Global Digital Compact, as well as co-facilitating sessions on #UNMute Civil Society and #SDG16Now, Forus highlighted the need for greater civil society inclusion in UN processes and the importance of multilateralism, inclusion, and sustainable development.
- **2024 High-Level Political Forum (8-17 July, NYC):** Forus organised two side events. On 8 July, the "Rebuilding Trust for Inclusive Governance" online side event marked the launch of the Inclusive Governance and SDG 16 Forus report, with members sharing strategies to enhance transparency, combat corruption, and strengthen institutions. On 9 July, the joint in-person side event "From Margins to Mainstream", co-organised with TAP Network, UNDP, and the governments of Uganda and Nepal, emphasised inclusive decision-making and collaboration to rebuild trust and address regional challenges.



FORUS GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024
© FORUS

- **UN Summit of the Future (22-23 Sept, NYC):** Forus played a key role in amplifying civil society's voice through a member-led Taskforce co-chaired by NNNGO (Nigeria) and Abong (Brazil). The Taskforce advocated for an ambitious Pact for the Future, consolidating feedback from Forus members, strengthening CSO participation, and aligning national and global advocacy strategies. Key achievements included facilitating member inputs on the Pact's drafts, revitalising the #UNMute campaign for greater CSO inclusion in UN processes, and organising three side events during the Summit on inclusive governance, Global South leadership and a people-centered approach to ODA. These initiatives strengthened CSO's participation, and advanced priorities for an ambitious Pact for the Future and Global Digital Compact. Post-Summit, Forus developed actionable recommendations for implementing the 56 actions of the Pact for the Future at the national level.
- **ICANN Annual General Meeting (9-14 Nov, Istanbul):** The CADE consortium shared preliminary results of the Mapping and Baseline Study and gather feedback from noncommercial stakeholders within ICANN. During the meeting, the CADE consortium was represented by Kenneth Harry Msiska (Forus) and Karolina Iwanska (ECNL).

FIND NEWS, EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES ON THE FORUS WEBSITE!



COOPERATION CANADA INTERVIEW
© FORUS "WE ARE FORUS CAMPAIGN"

- **Civil Society (C20) Summit (13 Nov, Rio de Janeiro):** Held alongside the G20 Summit in Brazil, the C20 marked the conclusion of Brazil's leadership of the G20 civil society engagement group. Chaired by Forus member Abong (Brazil), the C20 gathered global CSOs, including Forus and its members CANGO (China) and JANIC (Japan), to address critical issues such as climate, inequality, and economic justice. While the G20 Rio de Janeiro Declaration included several commitments, civil society called for stronger actions and more inclusive engagement to tackle these urgent challenges.

- **Internet Governance Forum (IGF) (15-19 Dec, Riyadh):** The CADE consortium organised the session Empowering Civil Society: Bridging Gaps in Policy Influence, moderated by Forus and featuring inputs from Diplo and KICTANet. The session highlighted findings from CADE's Mapping of digital governance spaces, a Baseline Study on civil society capacity, and an Africa Case Study exploring advocacy and participation challenges. CADE also met with the EU to present its first-year achievements and discuss future collaboration on inclusive digital governance.



SADORVAYA FUSION TRAINING
© CADE

FIND FORUS INITIATIVES ON THE HOME PAGE

2024

"The greatest learning that we have had by being an active part of Forus is that the foundation of a network is based on how you serve the membership."

WHAT FORUS MEMBERS HAVE TO SAY

SUPPORT

FORUS MADE SIGNIFICANT STRIDES IN CAPACITY STRENGTHENING, WORKING THROUGH A REVAMPED IMPACT-ORIENTED AND NEEDS-BASED APPROACH TO SUPPORT ITS MEMBERS AT NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND GLOBAL LEVELS.



SUPPORT

THROUGH PEER-TO-PEER METHODOLOGIES, FORUS FOCUSED ON ENHANCING LEADERSHIP, EXPERTISE, AND INNOVATION ACROSS THE NETWORK. IN RECENT YEARS, FORUS HAS COLLABORATED WITH AND SUPPORTED NATIONAL MEMBERS IN MORE THAN 70 CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AS WELL AS WITH 6 OF ITS REGIONAL COALITIONS.

ADDITIONALLY, MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTRIBUTE BACK TO THE NETWORK BY DEVELOPING JOINT INITIATIVES THAT STRENGTHEN CONNECTIONS AND SYNERGIES AMONG THEM, SUPPORTING MUTUAL LEARNING AND COLLABORATION.



FORUS GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024
© FORUS

KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2024 INCLUDE:

- Forus 1st Organisational Self-Assessment
- The re-activation of Forus National Projects Partnerships Programme by partnering with twelve members from Africa, Asia, and Latin America, focusing on enhancing their organisational structures with flexible, needs based and core support.
- Cycle 5 of the Leadership Development Program (LDP)
- Skills Sharing Sessions, Learning Modules, and peer-support platforms on critical topics for network development, resilience and sustainability like fundraising, ethical AI, and dynamic accountability.
- Forus fundraising support to its members
- Learn more about our Support Pillar here.



FORUS GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024

© FORUS

6 Forus 2024 Organisational Self-Assessment

The 2024 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.

7 New cycle of National Project Partnerships

Through dedicated 1-1 partnerships with national members, Forus advances the capacity strengthening efforts of members. These projects are defined by the needs of each national platform and its own approach for change. Of the 24 Forus members who participated in the 2024 Organisational Assessment, 12 were selected by the Peer Committee as partners of the 6th cycle of national project partnerships. The Peer Committee is a voluntary member-led group with the mandate to design the calls for applications, analyse and select project partners collectively. In 2024, the Peer Committee was composed by ANONG (Uruguay), CNONGD (DRC), Cooperation Canada, FONG-STP (São Tomé e Príncipe), CODE-NGO (Philippines), FONGTO (Togo), JOINT (Mozambique), and Red Encuentro (Argentina).



CNONGD INTERVIEW
© FORUS "WE ARE FORUS CAMPAIGN"

This cycle will deliver key outputs by December 2025, supported by Skills Sharing Sessions and Learning Modules.

🔎Discover a selection of projects below and all projects here.

Advancing fundraising skills, digital capacity, and collaborative synergies for local impact
UNITAS, Bolivia

UNITAS (Unión Nacional de Instituciones de Trabajo de Acción Social - Bolivia) project aims to enhance the fundraising and resource mobilisation skills of 60% of key staff in 22 partner organisations by September 2025. Additionally, it will strengthen the technical capabilities of 40% of these institutions in using digital tools for knowledge management. Finally, at least 30% of partners will collaborate to develop thematic and territorial synergies to influence local agendas through structured dialogues and meetings.

Strategic planning and digital capacity for effective member engagement
Sinergia, Venezuela

SINERGIA (Red Venezolana de OSC) to improve strategic planning and digital strengths for remote work and enhanced communication with its members.



FORUS GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024
© FORUS

The objectives are to strengthen strategic planning for efficient management capacities, foster knowledge exchange and networking, and provide training to improve member effectiveness. Key activities involve conducting a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats analysis, revising the organisation's mission and vision, setting clear goals with measurable indicators, offering training in strategic planning, and establishing a monitoring and evaluation system to track progress and adapt strategies.

Enhancing governance, regional collaboration, and strategic alignment
PFNOSCM, Madagascar

PFNOSCM (Plateforme Nationale des Organisation de la Société Civile de Madagascar) project aims to improve governance, strengthen sub-regional platforms, and validate a strategic plan for 2025-2028. Key objectives include organising regional assemblies to elect the new governance body of the platform, conducting institutional and organisational diagnostics, and improving communication strategies. Activities involve two inter-regional workshops, member engagement in governance revision, and preparing a national convention which will coincide with PFNOSCM's 20th anniversary, ensuring collective ownership and strategic alignment across sub-regions.



FORUS GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024
© FORUS

Revising vision, strengthening governance, and developing advocacy for a more inclusive future
PDA, Pakistan

PDA (Pakistan Development Alliance) project aims to address these by revising PDA's vision and mission, developing a five-year strategic plan, redefining its governance structure with a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice framework, and creating a comprehensive advocacy strategy. Activities include providing staff training on a human rights-based approach, developing a more detailed advocacy strategy, and engaging members in revising governance structures to ensure inclusivity and shared ownership.

Enhancing member engagement, board diversity, and human resources
NNNGO, Nigeria

NNNGO (Nigeria Network of NGOs) aims to boost member engagement through events, improve board diversity, and strengthen human resources by the end of the project. Key activities include capacity-building for MEAL and HR staff, in person training program staff on member engagement, purchasing CRM software for better communication, and acquiring digital tools for enhanced security and content creation.



FORUS GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024
© FORUS

Strengthening governance, resource generation, and digital skills for enhanced NGO impact
NFN, Nepal

NFN (NGO Federation of Nepal) will assess governance and management gaps, develop essential guidelines, and train 280 member NGOs in resource generation and digital skills. Key actions include digitising the members database, providing participatory training for the board and staff, hiring experts to establish policies, and enhancing digital capabilities through new IT equipment and software.

A FEW COMMON THEMES COVERED BY THE PROJECTS:

1. STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE & STRATEGIC PLANNING
2. ENHANCING DIGITAL CAPACITY & ENGAGEMENT
3. RESOURCE MOBILISATION & ADVOCACY FOR LOCAL IMPACT



FORUS GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024
© FORUS

8 The Forus Leadership Development Program kicks off !

Forus has launched the 5th cycle of its Leadership Development Program with a dozen participants from 5 continents! This program focuses on adaptive and inclusive leadership in an era of unprecedented challenges, equipping participants with the tools to build sustainable networks and drive transformative change within their communities. By promoting storytelling, peer-to-peer learning and cross-border collaboration, the program builds on the work from previous cycles The Forus Barefoot Guide and nurtures a new generation of leaders committed to advancing social justice and inclusion.

This cycle focuses on women's leadership, aligning with Forus' commitment to gender equity and the 2025 review of SDG 5 on Gender Equality. Through initiatives like #MarchWithUs, Forus amplifies stories of gender justice while supporting the advocacy skills, confidence, and synergies to lift women leaders and strengthen inclusive civil society governance.

Follow their journeys!



FORUS LDP CYCLE 5

© FORUS

9 Forus Fundraising Support to its members

In 2024, 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. 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 2024.

10 The ComsForUs Working Group

This specific working group for Forus members to share and develope their communications practices advanced digital activism and communications, focusing on AI ethics and storytelling strategies. Their work included launching a Communications Clinic, developing narrative checklists for Forus members, collaborating on joint campaigns, and promoting positive narratives about civil society. In 2025, they will expand their efforts on digital activism, deconolising language and innovative campaign strategies.



FORUS GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024
© FORUS

INFLUENCE

THE INFLUENCE PILLAR OF FORUS' STRATEGY IS ALL ABOUT STRATEGISING AND SUPPORTING CIVIL SOCIETY VOICES AND DEMANDS AT NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS, ADVOCATING FOR INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE, EQUALITY, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND PARTICIPATORY DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES.



INFLUENCE

2024

THROUGH THIS PILLAR, FORUS ACTIVELY INFLUENCES KEY POLICY AREAS SUCH AS THE AGENDA 2030, FINANCING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR CIVIL SOCIETY, DIGITAL GOVERNANCE, GENDER JUSTICE, AND SHIFTING POWER TOWARDS LOCALLY-LED DEVELOPMENT.

FORUS WORKS TO ENSURE THAT CIVIL SOCIETY'S CONTRIBUTIONS ARE HEARD AND INTEGRATED INTO GLOBAL POLICY FRAMEWORKS AND THAT FORUS MEMBERS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO INPUT INTO LOCAL AND GLOBAL PROCESSES.

In 2024, Forus continued supporting its members to monitor and advocate for the implementation of the sustainable development goals. We led the way to revitalise the UNMute initiative with partners, to ask for an inclusive negotiation process for the Summit of the Future -- more than 440 organisations followed our call to action.

We also embarked on new consortium ventures to rally civil society voices around joint projects. As such, 2024 was a foundational year for the establishment of the EU System for an Enabling Environment for Civil Society (EU SEE), which is now starting to be rolled out with the implementation of an Early Warning and Monitoring Mechanism to document changes and shed light on critical trends in the enabling environment for civil society.

2024 was also marked by the launch of the Civil Society Alliances for Digital Empowerment (CADE) initiative also stands as a key example of Forus' advocacy and partnerships, enhancing CSO involvement in global digital policy and supporting more inclusive, participatory practices in digital governance.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2024 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.

DISCOVER OUR JOINT PUBLICATION CLIMATE JUSTICE AND POLICY COHERENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT - LESSONS FROM THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION



© GCAP

AGENDA 2030 & THE SDGS

2024

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.

ACCORDING TO THE FORUS 2024 MEMBERSHIP SURVEY, 91% OF MEMBERS STATED THAT FORUS IS A TRUSTED SOURCE OF INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE ON AGENDA 2030 IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING.

In 2024, Forus members focused on driving SDG implementation at the national level while also pushing for meaningful strategies at regional and global levels, emphasizing the need for clear benchmarks and tangible progress over mere rhetoric. Forus has supported several of its members in engaging with the Voluntary National Reviews while consistently calling for comprehensive approaches that ensure the protection of human rights, adequate financing, and the active participation of civil society organisations in all decision-making processes.

Through initiatives such as #UNmute, Forus highlighted the growing disconnect between the UN and civil society, urging for a renewed commitment to inclusive and participatory governance.

With 39 UN Member States presenting their VNRs in 2025, including 13 countries in which Forus has members, we are reflecting and sharing as a network on past VNR experiences, particularly in light of national CSO platforms presenting for the third or fourth time, to help Forus members engage in the 2025 VNR process. In parallel, Forus is developing a member-led global report on localisation and partnerships under SDG 17, which will be launched during the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July 2025.

Read our latest article on the transformative power of storytelling for SDG16+! This pieace is part of the SDG16+ Storytelling Initiative organised by the Transparency, Accountability, and Participation (TAP) Network, the Alliance for Peacebuilding (AfP), the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS) and Forus.

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

Forus made a significant impact at the 2024 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) through various events and initiatives aimed at advancing SDG16 and promoting inclusive governance attended by over 200 participants including Forus members, CSO partners and policy-makers.

- **Online Launch of the "Rebuilding Trust for Inclusive Governance" Report:** Forus launched a new report, developed with members from all continents, highlighting challenges and best practices in promoting inclusive governance and advancing SDG16, crucial for peaceful and just societies.
- **Event: From the Margins to the Mainstream:** Forus, TAP Network, UNDP, and the governments of Uganda and Nepal will hosted a side-event addressing the global erosion of trust in institutions, which undermines progress towards SDG 16.
- **Supporting Forus members with Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs):** As part of our Support pillar focused on capacity-strengthening with impact, from Uganda to Mexico, 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.
- **Social Media & online Advocacy Workshop:** Aimed at equipping Forus members and partners with strategies for effective digital advocacy, this workshop focused on using social media and emerging technologies for engagement and mobilisation, with special attention to HLPF 2024.



© FORUS

12 The Forus network at the Summit of the Future

With a delegation of over 10 national civil society platforms, Forus played an important role at the Summit of the Future (September 22-23, 2024) at the UN Headquarters, advocating for stronger global governance and accountability, particularly in the areas of financing for sustainable development and the protection of civic space. Key initiatives included:

- **Virtual Side Event:** Redefining Official Development Assistance (ODA): This event, co-organised by Forus and its members, focused on enhancing the quality of ODA to ensure it meets the real needs of recipient countries and communities, particularly in the Global South.
- **UNMute Manual Side Event:** Forus co-hosted an in-person event highlighting strategies for inclusive global governance. In 2020, UNMute launched as a collaborative effort between member states and civil society to highlight and expand the civic space - currently under pressure - at the UN with concrete, practical and operational guidance tools for Member States who strive to deliver networked, inclusive and effective outcomes and approaches to participation at the United Nations.
- **Advancing Global Governance Reform Event:** Forus participated in a session exploring synergies between the Summit of the Future and the G20, focusing on reforms for the UN and International Financial Institutions to build trust and resilience through multistakeholder partnerships.
- **Global People's Assembly 2024:** In partnership with Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP), Forus supported this hybrid event from September 22-24, which brought together civil society networks, activists and grassroots organisations to discuss critical topics like civic participation, gender equality, and financing for sustainable development.



©UN

13 AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR CIVIL SOCIETY - FORUS APPROACH AND CONTRIBUTIONS

In 2024, Forus members and partners joined forces in defending civil society spaces and supporting Forus members facing increasing legislative threats worldwide.

- **Advocacy and communications against legislative threats and solidarity calls:** Forus members have been actively fighting new legislative proposals that threaten the autonomy and security of CSOs. From Zambia to Paraguay, Forus continued to call for international solidarity and collective action to protect civil society's autonomy and space, providing support to members across the network. Learn more about our advocacy and communications results here.

- **EU SEE Initiative:** As part of the EU System for an Enabling Environment for Civil Society (EU SEE), Forus is working with global and national partners in 86 countries to monitor and document changes in the enabling environment for civil society. This initiative provides unique data and actionable insights for CSOs, governments, and stakeholders to address emerging challenges and seize opportunities. Following its launch, the EU SEE Hub now showcase country-specific snapshots, offering critical information to guide evidence-based advocacy and inform strategies for protecting and enhancing the enabling environment for civil society. Learn more about EU SEE here.



©FORUS

14

IN 2024, 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 such as limited access to policy discussions, 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.

- **CADE Mapping and Baseline Survey on CSO and internet governance engagement:** Led by Forus, the CADE Mapping and Baseline Survey provides a critical overview of CSOs engagement in internet governance across various regions. By identifying key actors, gaps, and opportunities, the survey sheds light on how CSOs are influencing digital policy spaces and where stronger participation is needed. This foundational data helps inform more strategic, inclusive approaches to ensure civil society voices are heard in shaping the future of the internet. Learn more here.



©FORUS

DIGITAL RIGHTS

2024

- **2024 Internet Governance Forum (IGF):** At the 2024 IGF, Forus hosted a session as part of the EU-funded Civil Society Alliances for Digital Empowerment (CADE) project. This session presented preliminary research findings on the capacity of CSOs to influence emerging technology policies, shared strategies to enhance their impact, and provided actionable recommendations for integrating CSOs into internet governance processes. You can find more information about the report here.
- **Global Digital Compact:** At the Summit of the Future, Forus actively participated in the Association for Progressive Communications (APC) Global Digital Compact Civil Society Strategic Discussion Space, sharing strategies for the implementation and monitoring of digital rights and governance.
- **Ongoing #Let'sTalkDigital campaign:** In 2024 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.
- **"Tech Talks", digital bulletin and knowledge sharing:** Forus supported its network on emerging tech issues—like AI, cybersecurity, and surveillance—through workshops, trainings, and resources. It also launched a Digital Bulletin to share insights and best practices on digital governance, boosting members' capacity to engage and advocate in the digital space.



©FORUS

15

AMID A COMPLEX WEB OF GLOBAL CRISES, INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE, BIODIVERSITY LOSS, RESTRICTIONS ON EN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR CSOS, AND GROWING DEBT BURDENS, FORUS REMAINED A VOCAL ADVOCATE FOR A PARADIGM SHIFT IN DEVELOPMENT FINANCING.

AS WE PREPARED FOR THE FINANCE IN COMMON (FICS) SUMMIT IN 2025, FORUS CONTINUED TO CALL FOR A PEOPLE- AND PLANET-CENTRIC DEVELOPMENT APPROACH.

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 our broader advocacy efforts, Forus continued to advocate for the respect of human rights and the meaningful inclusion of civil society in shaping global financial systems, with the outcomes of our advocacy work contributing to key processes such as around the C20 summit, FiCS and the road to FfD4. Some of our collective work includes:

- **Finance in Common process:** In 2024, Forus, as the lead of the Informal CSO Mechanism on FiCS planned for engagement in the 2025 Finance in Common Summit in Cape Town, South Africa. Forus also launched a study and toolkit on CSO engagement with Public Development Banks as well as various multimedia products – including in-depth interview with civil society representatives, short documentaries and more.
- **Forus statement on ODA budgets:** As a global civil society network, Forus called for a system that holds countries mutually accountable and ensures that development finance genuinely reaches those who need it the most. In particular, fifty years after DAC countries pledged to dedicate 0.7% of their Gross National Income (GNI) to Official Development Assistance (ODA), persistent underfunding and weak accountability mechanisms raise serious concerns about the global community's commitment to meeting the needs of the world's most vulnerable populations, particularly in fragile and crisis-ridden contexts. Read our full statement here.

- **Social movements and civil society partners at the Civil20 (C20) Summit:** On the occasion of the G20 Summit, members from across the world, including Japan, China, and Brazil, joined social movements and civil society partners at the Civil20 (C20) Summit. In 2024, under the leadership of Forus' member in Brazil, the Brazilian Association of NGOs (Abong), the C20 raised critical issues related to global governance reform, tackling urgent challenges like climate change, gender inequality, economic injustice, and the erosion of civic space. Forus and its partners amplified calls for systemic change, urging G20 leaders to prioritise gender-inclusive policies, anti-racist economies, the fight against hunger, and robust action on climate change. As we look ahead to the G20 Summit in South Africa in 2025, Forus remains committed to working alongside members and partners to advance systemic change. Read our collective article with recommendations for G20 leaders here.

- **Global Gateway - strategies to strengthen civil society engagement with EU Delegations:** Forus continues to engage through the Global Gateway Civil Society and Local Authorities Dialogue Platform. Forus used its role in the Dialogue Platform to represent members' priorities in EU discussions, advocating for inclusive and transparent Global Gateway projects. Forus prepared a 2025 training—alongside members like CONCORD Europe—to help civil society engage effectively with EU Delegations at the national level.



©FORUS

FORUS WORKING GROUPS

Forus' 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 focused on accelerating SDG progress by addressing civil society's role in Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). The group contributed to the launch of key reports and to engaging in global advocacy at the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF).

The Financing for Sustainable Development (FfSD) Working Group prioritised reforming the global financial system, conducting mapping exercises on various actors and issues, such as ODA, climate finance, and Public Development Banks. A major achievement was the launch of the Engaging PDBs Research Study and toolkit. In 2025, the group will continue advocating at major international events like the Finance in Common Summit (FiCS) and the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Sustainable Development (FFD4).



©A4SD

FORUS WORKING GROUPS

2024

The **Enabling Environment Working Group** focused on threats to the operating space for civil society, including authoritarianism, restrictive laws, and digital repression. They contributed to initiatives such as the Forus Solidarity Compendium and the UNMute initiative, advocating for stronger CSO participation in global governance. In 2025, the group will lead campaigns to amplify CSOs' critical role in sustainable development, and in partnership with the EU SEE initiative, it will continue to shed light and strategise on threats and opportunities to an enabling environment for civil society.

New in 2024, **the Local Power Working Group** focused on "Shifting the Power," addressing inequities in funding and colonial legacies while exploring participatory grant-making. The group launched a Shift the Power Resources Library and is now working on bi-monthly sessions to promote financial autonomy and inclusive advocacy.

The Digital Governance Working Group, launched in late 2024, 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.

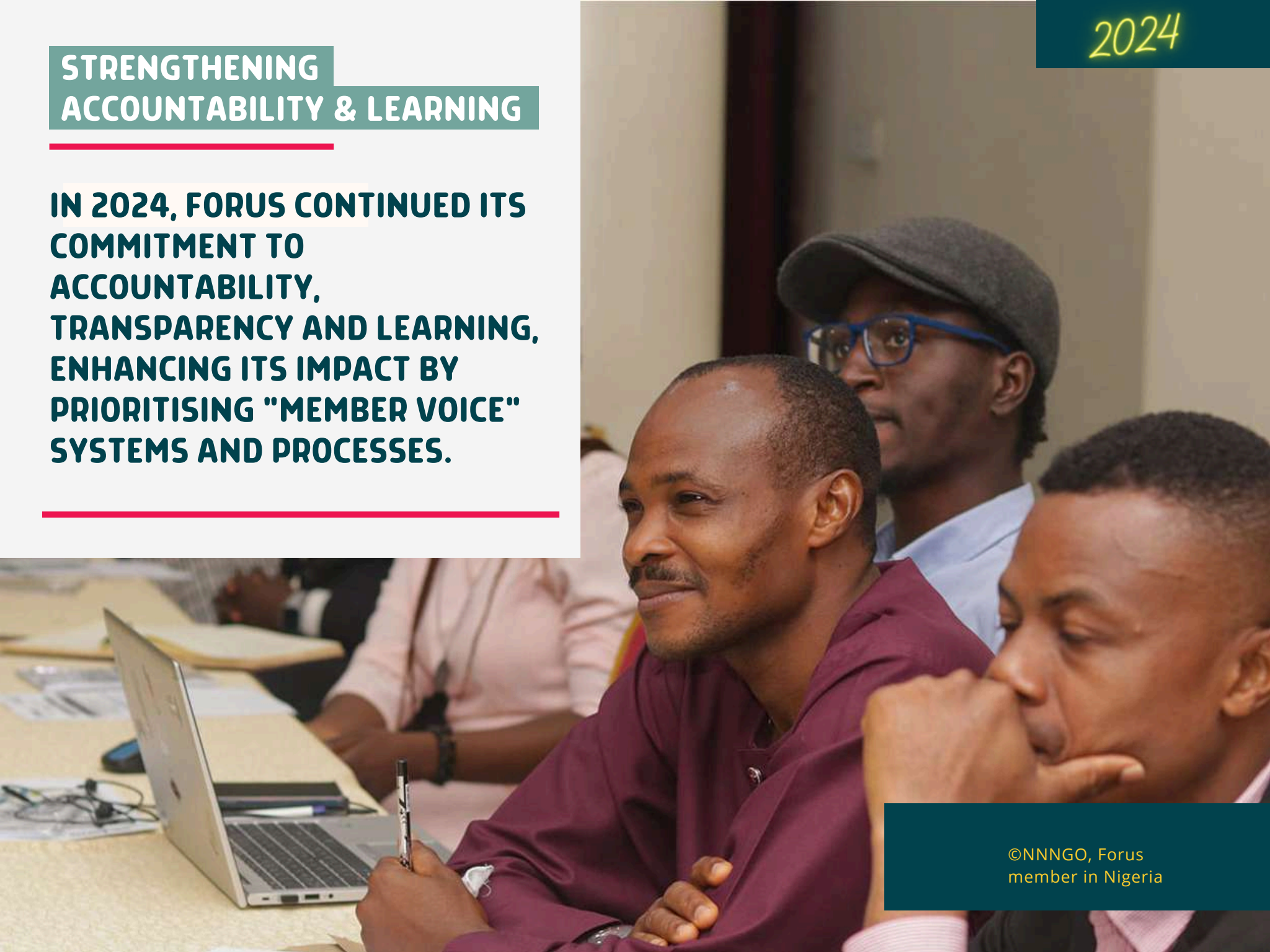


©EU SEE Hivos

2024

STRENGTHENING ACCOUNTABILITY & LEARNING

IN 2024, FORUS CONTINUED ITS COMMITMENT TO ACCOUNTABILITY, TRANSPARENCY AND LEARNING, ENHANCING ITS IMPACT BY PRIORITISING "MEMBER VOICE" SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES.



©NNNGO, Forus member in Nigeria

ACCOUNTABILITY & LEARNING

2024

BY CONSISTENTLY COLLECTING, ANALYSING, AND ACTING ON THE FEEDBACK OF OUR MEMBERS AND PARTNERS, WE ENSURE THAT FORUS' ACTIVITIES REMAIN DEEPLY ALIGNED WITH THE NEEDS AND EXPECTATIONS OF THE NETWORK, SUPPORTING US TO PLAN AND ADAPT EFFECTIVELY.

OUR DATA-DRIVEN APPROACH, THROUGH ROBUST MONITORING, EVALUATION, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND LEARNING (MEAL) SYSTEMS, ENABLES US TO TRACK PROGRESS, IDENTIFY ENGAGEMENT TRENDS, AND SHOWCASE THE TANGIBLE IMPACT OF OUR WORK.

The Forus Secretariat further strengthened relationships within the network by facilitating team-to-team meetings, making mutual understanding our cornerstone and guiding principle.

The 2024 Membership Survey, with a record 89% participation rate, is instrumental in shaping our direction, ensuring we remain a member-led, impact-driven network. Through our ongoing commitment to collective accountability, surveys like those for the Finance in Common and CADE projects have informed critical decisions, providing key insights into the impact of our work and guiding future advocacy strategies.

Forus' approach of listening, adapting, and responding to its members is central to our mission. In 2025, we're excited to build on this foundation and have quite a few surprises awaiting! Our focus will continue to be on strengthening our network and nurturing the connections of our members globally. Stay tuned as we introduce new initiatives!



2024

Forus is a very important network, as it allows us to access a wide diversity of civil society networks from all across the globe. - PPONGD, Portugal

WHAT FORUS MEMBERS HAVE TO SAY

2024

FORUS GOVERNANCE



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. In 2024, the Council was partly renewed during the Forus General Assembly, with five new members joining: CODE-NGO (Philippines), Cooperation Canada, Red Encuentro (Argentina), UNNGOF (Uganda), and VB Plataforma (Lithuania). Find out more about our governance here !

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

2024



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

MEET THE FORUS SECRETARIAT

In 2024, the Forus team welcomed 8 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



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



Bibbi Abruzzini
Communication Coordinator



Clarisse Sih
Digital Communications Coordinator



Paul-Gilbert Colletaz
Fundraising Manager



Kenneth Harry Msiska
Project Coordinator (Digital Governance)

2024

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2024



© SEBASTIAN BARROS/ FORUS

KEY DATA

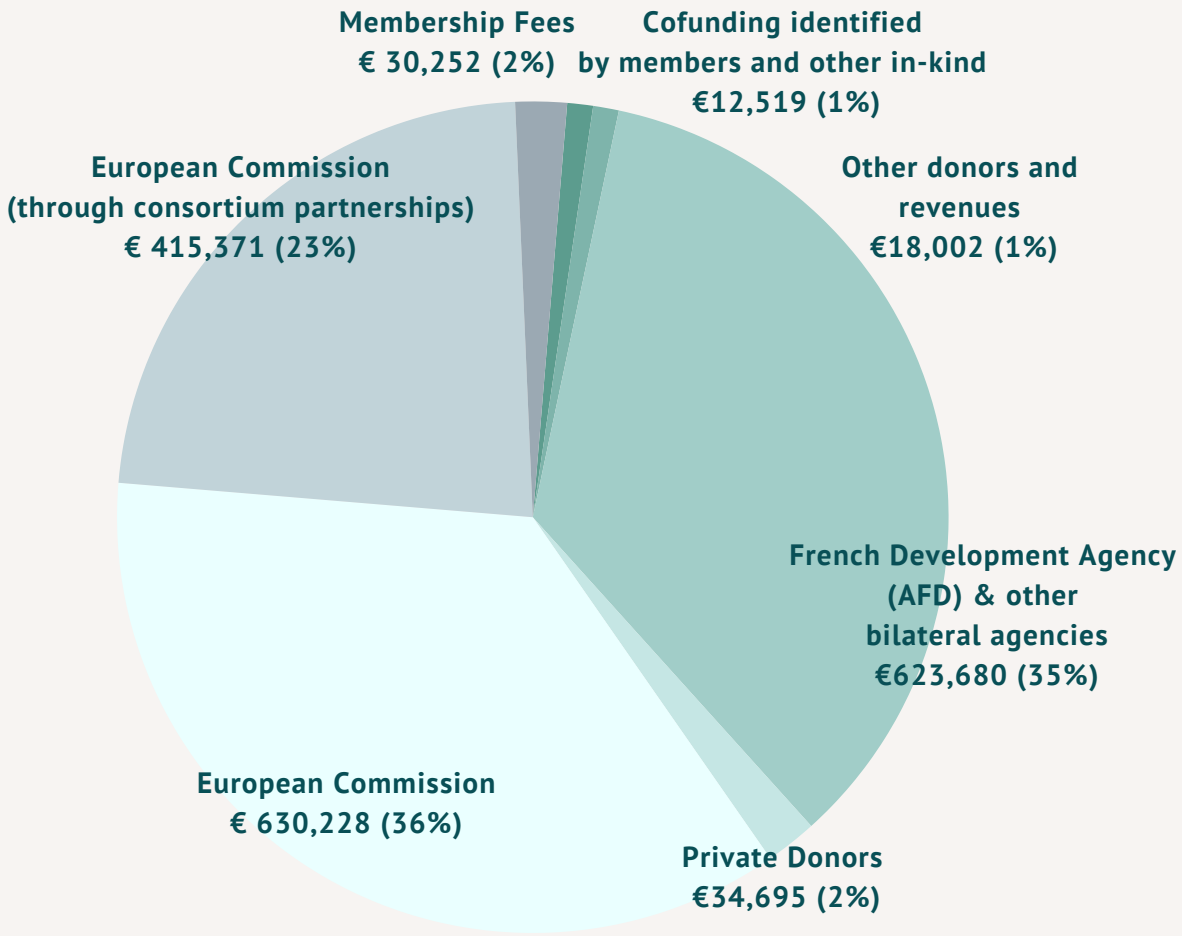


FINANCIAL SUPPORT PROVIDED TO:
24 FORUS NATIONAL PLATFORMS

INCOME IN 2024

In 2024, Forus significantly expanded all its advocacy, networking and capacity strengthening activities thanks to the continued support of the French Development Agency (€603,680), the framework partnership with the European Commission (€630,228) and other public and private donors. Thematic projects (on digital empowerment and enabling environment monitoring) implemented in consortium were launched in 2024 with the support of the European Commission (€415,371). Membership fees for Forus members amounted to more than €30,000 in 2024. Finally, within the framework of the projects implemented by the members with the financial support of Forus, co-financing (amounting to approximately €12,000) has been identified by the beneficiary platforms.

2024 Revenues



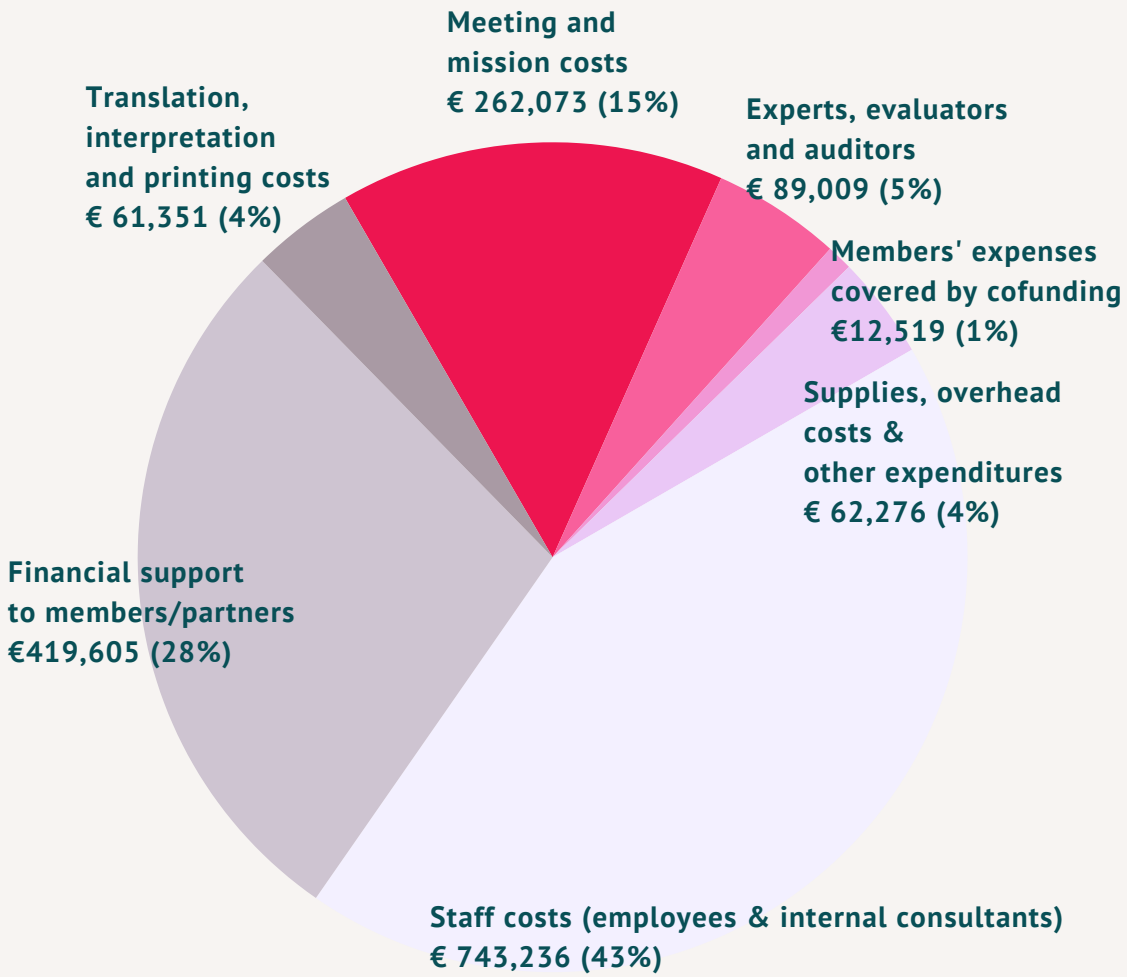
EXPENSES IN 2024

In 2024, staff costs (€743,236) represented the largest item of expenditure: this total includes team members recruited as internal consultants. The second largest item of expenditure was financial support for Forus members (€491,605). The use of external experts (€89,009) and interpreters / translators (€61,351) was limited. Forus held its General Assembly in 2024, which resulted in a significant level of meeting costs (€262,073). Overheads were incurred prudently (€62,276).

RESULT

The positive result (+ €42,699) for the 2024 financial year is linked to unallocated income (such as membership fees) and savings in secretariat overheads.

2024 Expenditures



FORUS' DONORS IN 2024



© FORUS

FORUS' DONORS IN 2024

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 which allowed Forus to implement its core work, as well as new projects in 2024 and which expand into 2025 and beyond.



© FORUS

FORUS MEMBERS 2024



FORUS GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024

© FORUS

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

NATIONAL NGO PLATFORMS

ABONG - Associaçao 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 – Associacion 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 Principe, 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
KCOC - 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
Uganda NGO Forum, Uganda
UNIDOSC, Mexico
UNITAS - Unión Nacional de Instituciones para el Trabajo de Acción Social, Red Unitas, Bolivia
UNNGOF - Uganda National NGO ForumUganda
VANI - Voluntary Action Network India, India
ZCSD - Zambia Council for Social Development, Zambia

Forus is a member-led network of **72 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.

We would like to thank **Forus members and secretariat** for their inputs into the Annual Report, as well as **Bibbi Abruzzini, Clarisse Sih and Daniela Salazar for design and translation work .**

HTTP://FORUS-INTERNATIONAL.ORG/

CONTACT@FORUS-INTERNATIONAL.ORG

X : @FORUS_INT

FACEBOOK : FORUS INTERNATIONAL

INSTAGRAM : FORUSINTERNATIONAL

YOUTUBE

LINKEDIN

BLUESKY

Funded by the European Union