



25 YEARS

DEFENDING

DEMOCRACY



FORUM SYD

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25 YEARS DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.

For 25 years, Forum Syd has defended democracy and human rights. As Sweden's largest platform for civil society, we make a difference through our work around the globe. We should all be proud that we contribute to a just and sustainable world where all people have the power to effect change.

In the early 2000s, Forum Syd began to grow into the organisation that we see today. An advocate, a capacity builder, grant administrator and development actor. In our role as advocator, we will continue to be a strong voice for those we work for and with. We need to be brave, show leadership and sometimes dare to get uncomfortable. As a development actor, we need to be innovative. Both in our partnerships, our programme development and how we communicate our efforts for a more sustainable world.

Forum Syd's member organisations are the corner stone for everything and our role as a platform that unites a diverse civil society is key. There is great potential in our role to strengthen the capacity of our members and partners around the world. In the future, we will attain to work and pursue different ways of supporting them.

Our work is still very much needed. We see that the already shrinking democratic space around the world is aggravated due to the now ongoing corona virus pandemic. A strong and generous development assistance is a vital part of the solutions to global challenges. We will continue to be an important advocate for both substantial development aid and increased democratic space. In all our roles, Forum Syd will remain relevant for the next 25 years.

Anna Stenvinkel
Secretary-General

Victoria Enström Lindskog
Chairperson of the Board



WHEN IT ALL BEGAN

The year was 1995 and Swedish development assistance needed to sharpen up. Civil society was missing a platform to jointly advocate for a better world and improve Sweden's aid policy. It was in this context that two great forces for human rights and democracy became one even greater.

It all began when the Swedish Volunteer Cooperation (Svensk Volontärsamverkan, SVS) and Aid Information for Volunteer Organisations (Biståndsinformation för frivilligorganisationer, BIFO) merged to form Sweden's largest platform for civil society – Forum Syd.

The result was a new stronger voice to broaden the discussion on how we can achieve a better world with development cooperation between people within civil society. Forum Syd became the new platform for civil society organisations to discuss ways of making Swedish development cooperation even more coordinated and strategic. A firm voice of expertise and willpower to rely on.

The organisation has since been a broad platform for popular participation of the people through a diverse range of Swedish organisations. All united with one common interest of achieving the freedom and rights of people all over the world.

Over the decades we have seen how global civil society is growing in importance. Today, states

and international bodies must take civil society organisations into account. We are collaborative dialogue partners that continuously defend human rights so that no one is left behind in the work towards sustainable development.

In our time of globalisation, it is of the utmost importance that popular participation is given space. That people through their own organisations are given the opportunity to make their voices heard and influence the development that affects us all. Here, Forum Syd together with all our member organisations play a very important role, both in Sweden and internationally.

Former prime minister Olof Palme visiting activities in Nicaragua by the Swedish Volunteer Cooperation (SVS) before it turned into Forum Syd.



1995

FORUM SYD IS FOUNDED

"Forum Syd plays a crucial role in supporting civil society organisations to stand up for human rights and democracy."

Ulrika Modéer were among the people who founded Forum Syd. She is today the Assistant Secretary General & Director of Bureau of External Relations & Advocacy at UNDP



WHO WAS BIFO AND SVS?

The Swedish Volunteer Cooperation (SVS) consisted of about 60 popular movements and non-profit organisations and was financed by Sida. SVS worked directly with the public sector in, among others, Nicaragua and Zimbabwe by, for example, sending nurses and teachers as volunteers. BIFO was an association of volunteers whose mission, on behalf of Sida, was also to examine applications and administer grants for various projects around the world.

In the 1980s, these two organisations had the joint mission to inform the general public about Swedish development organisations' work. The collaboration also included lobbying and investigating activities on social conditions for aid workers, counselling and training for member organisations.



Ulrika Modéer (chairperson, BIFO), Pierre Schori (Minister of Foreign Affairs), Karl-Göran Biörsmark (first chairperson at Forum Syd) and Svante Sandberg (first Secretary General at Forum Syd) holding the grand opening of Forum Syd.

NICARAGUA

Since the 1980s, Forum Syd had an active role supporting the civil society of Nicaragua in their strive to transition into democracy. The country has for long suffered structural poverty and huge inequalities between men and women.

However, when Daniel Ortega and the Sandinistas came into power once again in 2007 they were less keen on keeping organisations supporting women's rights and the active participation of people.

First to be attacked was Forum Syd and Oxfam. After months of harassments of partner organisations and the decision of the Swedish governments to stop their development aid to Nicaragua, we came to the verdict that we had to leave the country.

To this day, Daniel Ortega is still in power and the civil society and women's rights remains oppressed in Nicaragua.

We still have no possibility to be present in the country, but our support remains through our partnerships with Swedish civil society organisations that are still active in Nicaragua.

Our current offices around the world

1995 ● STOCKHOLM

1995 ● CAMBODIA

1998 ● BELARUS

2006 ● COLOMBIA

2008 ● KENYA

2015 ● SOMALIA

2019 ● LIBERIA

SUPPORTING THE CIVIL SOCIETY

Forum Syd enables effective popular participation through civil society. All people are holders of human rights and have the knowledge to describe their own problems and propose solutions. Change is only sustainable when determined, implemented and owned by the affected communities. Our Rights-Based Approach offers new perspectives and solutions, achieving progressive change with people at the core.

Forum Syd's change work is therefore always done together with the local civil society where people gather to claim their rights and stand up for democracy.

Sustainable change with people at the centre of development

Forum Syd have since 1995 channelled over 3 billion SEK towards a just and sustainable world in which all people are empowered to improve their life conditions. When people defend and build democratic societies, common resources become more equally shared and poverty declines. Power for change is generated when people organise themselves and become aware of their rights.

Since the very beginning supporting civil society has been the essence of our cause. Sustainable and lasting change for democracy can only happen when it is done together and claimed by the people who will live and breathe in it. Forum Syd have over the years built a unique expertise; both technically and thematically on how we support civil society to become actors of change.



Photo: Maurits Otterloo, 2019

KNOWLEDGE IS KEY

When people learn about their rights and gain influence in society through strong organisations, and when duty-bearers are made aware of their obligations and honour them – this is when lasting change can be achieved. This helps to create a sustainable society in which all people have the power to change their lives.



Photo: Mikael Drackner, 2013



WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS

Gender equality is a human right and a prerequisite for achieving democratic societies and sustainable development. If poverty is to decrease, all people regardless of gender must participate in society on equal terms. We work for an equal society in which all people enjoy the same rights, opportunities and resources.

WE CHANGE PEOPLE'S LIVES

A just and sustainable world requires new attitudes from discriminatory social structures. Consequently, an analysis of power hierarchies is always an integral part of Forum Syd's development work. We collaborate with strategic partners and gain in-depth knowledge of the social situation in the areas we work in. Forum Syd enables people to effect change.

WE CHALLENGE GIANTS

The role and responsibilities of the state are crucial to the fulfilment of civil rights. A strong civil society with effective organisations creates a society in which the duty-bearers can be held accountable and cooperate in a dialogue with their citizens.

WE FIGHT GLOBAL WARMING

Global warming is a daily threat to the progress that has been made by marginalised and vulnerable people. We challenge unjust power structures so that all persons can enjoy the same degree of protection from environmental hazards and have equal access to decision-making processes that affect their livelihoods and environment.

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AT A GLANCE

1995-2013

GUATEMALA

One of our many rights-based programmes focusing, besides peace-building, on civil society and strengthening its influence. Capacity building, gender equality, democracy and global development issues were all integral parts of the programme.

1998-

BELARUS

We empower a variety of different local groups and initiatives in Belarus, working in the fields of democracy, human rights, environmental protection, and gender equality. We specifically support organisations that are trying to influence policy changes in the country.

2001-

COLOMBIA

We support civil society as peacebuilding actors, to promote the rights of women, peasants, indigenous population, afrocolombian population and reincorporated people.

2012-

SOMALIA

We support partnerships between Somali diaspora organisations and civil society organisations and small businesses in the country. Focusing on building a strong civil society that advocates for Somali people's rights.

2016-

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

The Swedish Civil Society Network for Eastern Partnership Countries and Russia aims to increase the cooperation, build capacity and conduct joint advocacy towards governments and relevant EU institutions within the Eastern Partnership region.

2009-2014

TANZANIA

One of our capacity building programmes for community-based organisations to actively hold duty bearers to account, such as local governments, village elders, religious leaders, and companies.

The grants programme to information and communication projects is launched. The projects are implemented in Sweden by organisations that aim to contribute to poverty reduction and a just and sustainable global development.

SWEDEN

1997-

The start of the sub-granting and capacity development programme for Swedish civil society organisations, that work in partnership with local organisations in different countries around the globe.

GLOBAL

1996-

We support local organisations and build people's capacity to exercise their rights and participate on their own terms in the protection and management of natural resources such as fish, forest, and land.

CAMBODIA

2007-

Our programmes supported the Nicaraguan civil society and had a strong gender equality and democracy focus. An important part was the work on strategic development issues such as international conventions and commitments on gender equality, trade policy issues, and international development policy.

NICARAGUA

2000-2010

Our programme gives support to civil society, including non-traditional actors in media and the arts, with an innovative approach to strengthen democratic culture, accountability, and gender equality.

KENYA

2012-

One of our reconciliation and peace building programmes where we partnered with youth organisations from different ethnic groups in Kosovo. The programme focused on supporting youth activities, influencing the development of youth policies and provided a long-term education programme.

KOSOVO

2009-2012

We strengthen the capacity of local civil society organisations in governance and programme management. The projects focus on gender equality, human rights and democracy, environment, and land rights.

LIBERIA

2018-

The start of the internship sub-granting programme, which enables Swedish civil society organisations to send interns to different countries.

GLOBAL

2014-

OUR SWEDISH PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

Change begins with people. People who raise their voices, who work together and who organise to demand democracy, equality, accountability and human rights for all. That is why Forum Syd for over two decades have supported civil society organisations who mobilise people and popular movements in over 70 countries.



Knowledge and action

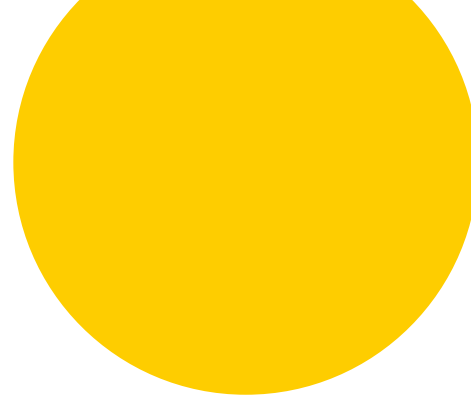
Knowledge is key when it is followed by action. Civil society is crucial when it comes to reaching local communities and supporting people to know their rights, have the tools to raise their voices and organise as a collective.

Change does not come easy. It requires bravery, knowledge, willpower and collective efforts. Individuals organising under the civil society umbrella is a dynamic tool to advocate for the universal enjoyment of rights. It is the power of these grass roots movements that creates the spark that motivates and organises the masses of thousands, and sometimes even millions, to demand accountability, the fulfilment of rights and a society where every person is equal.

The power to change

The best foundation for a resilient democracy is a strong and diverse civil society; we are the watchdogs protecting against corruption and ensuring accountability. Civil society is vital for advocacy, providing information, documentation and monitoring of policies, laws and society.

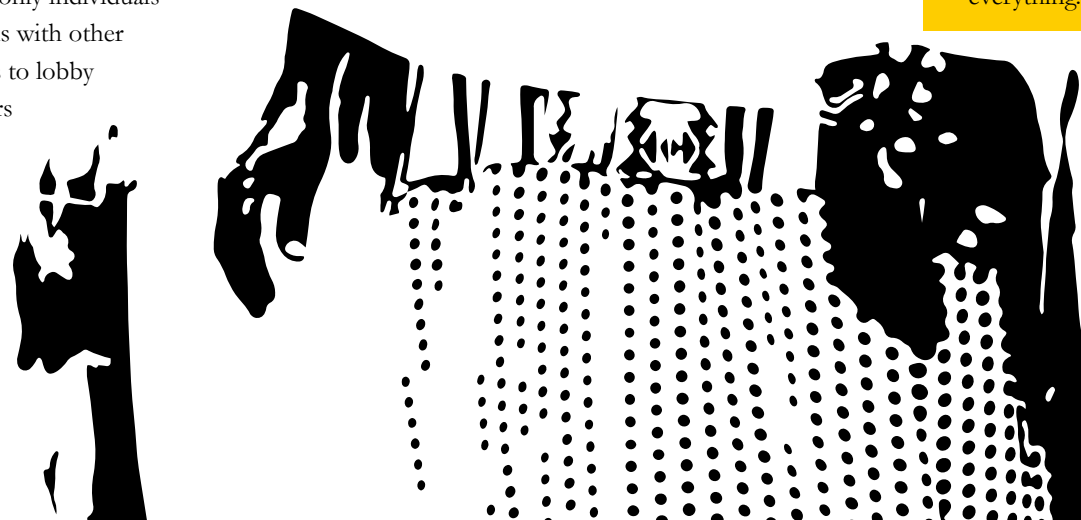
As civil society we organise not only individuals but also create strategic networks with other organisations and societal actors to lobby formal and informal duty-bearers for societal-wide change.



PARTNERSHIPS ARE INSTRUMENTAL

It is only when civil society join forces and work together that we can achieve this momentum and change our societies and lives. That is why we at Forum Syd work in partnerships side by side with allies. By exchanging knowledge, experiences and methods we can become even stronger and learn from each other.

Today, Forum Syd have formal partnerships with roughly 200 civil society organisations annually and further participate in numerous networks. Through collaboration, innovation and courage, we can change anything and everything.



OUR ADVOCACY

Lasting change can only be achieved when governments take action and enforce laws that ensures everyone's equal value and rights. Civil society is tasked with holding decision makers to account and advocate for change when injustices arise.

That is why Forum Syd influences Swedish and European policies on different levels in the interests of global justice and a sustainable world. We bring change through our advocacy and that has been the core of Forum Syd's activities since the very beginning.

For the past two decades we have been a watch dog and defender of democracy and human rights. As Sweden's largest platform for civil society, our policy work is conducted in close cooperation with our member organisations and partners in Swedish and international networks. We believe collaboration is key. Only together can we push for a fair and sustainable world where all people have the power to effect change.

Throughout the years we have advocated for a number of different causes but with one common denominator; a free and independent civil society that enables people to claim their rights.

Forum Syd in the decade of 2020

2015 was a big year for global development on the political arena. The UN Sustainable Development Goals were adopted, and the world's nations reached a deal on climate change. Our priority is to make sure that the voices of people living in marginalisation are heard in such global agreements. Therefore, we have been monitoring and lobbying before and during the three world summits of the UN Sustainable Development Conference in New York, Financing for Development in Addis Ababa and the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris.

Progress in reducing poverty has been made throughout the world. Nevertheless, major inequalities remain. We need to continue to fight

inequalities if we want to eradicate poverty and achieve the 2030 Agenda. Forum Syd advocates for Swedish and European aid policies to prioritise the reduction of inequalities.

Forum Syd is an important voice in the debate on global justice. We influence decision makers to ensure that political frameworks contribute to a just and sustainable global development. We advocate for an active role of civil society in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and effective development cooperation targeting people

living in poverty. Our close cooperation with partners in countries where we operate is the key for success in our advocacy work.

When times are rough, we need ambitious development policies to ensure the quantity and quality of development aid. International aid needs to have a rights-based perspective and the actual needs of people living in poverty should form its basis. We take global commitments for aid and development effectiveness very seriously and we hold people in power to account. Because when things are tough it is not the time to surrender – it is the time to take leadership and show the way.

For the past two decades we have been a watch dog and defender of democracy and human rights.



FROM MANUALS TO CHANGERS HUB

Over the years, Forum Syd has been an important platform for developing capacity and methods that strengthen civil society's work for democracy and human rights. Hundreds of courses, workshops, conferences, seminars and in recent years online courses have been held for a large number of organisations.

When Forum Syd started in 1995, our members agreed that the Swedish popular movements needed to strengthen their capacity to work with development cooperation. Forum Syd became the platform for idea sharing and method development with our member organisations as strategic partners.

Democratic development requires popular participation and influence at the local level.

Therefore, we begun investing in organisational development in order to strengthen the capacity of partner organisations around the world.

In the mid-2000 we started to publish our methods in book-series entitled Make gender a matter of power; Realising democracy and creating justice; Reducing poverty with young people's influence; Build democracy in the middle of conflict; and Make a sustainable environment a human right. These were later followed by the Right (s) way forward, our own methodology to identify power structures to effectively address the barriers and root causes preventing the fulfilment of rights.

We have developed our knowledge, methods

and capacity in collaboration with our member organisations through a shared learning and participatory process. The aim has always been to weave together different development perspectives on poverty reduction; democracy and human rights; gender equality; the environment and climate change; and conflict prevention work. Results and method analysis have been a main focus, not least during the years when civil society's development cooperation was questioned and debated at the end of the 1990s.

Throughout the years we have published several books in relation to development and global studies. Even though times have changed and books and printed method materials have been replaced by reports and online E-learning courses, one book is still in demand after more than 15 years.

In 2002, economist Stefan de Vylder wrote The Driving Forces of Development (Utvecklingens Drivkrafter) for Forum Syd's publishing house. He had been monitoring the global economy for several decades and

wrote a unique overview and comparison of causes and management of the financial crises from the 1980s and onwards. The Driving Forces of Development describes how different development theories have emerged and discusses questions about what creates development and prosperity, what obstacles exist and what poverty looks like in the world. Since the first edition, the book has been a part of the curriculum in university and high school courses and been appreciated by thousands of readers with an interest in development issues.

In 2019 we became more digital and launched Changers Hub – a virtual learning platform to enable civil society actors to interact and learn to make lasting change happen. It offers a variety of courses on topics such as the Rights Based Approach, financial and project management and of course our methodology the Right(s) Way Forward. We continue to offer new ways for organisations and partners around the world to strengthen their capacity and build a strong and vibrant civil society.



A WORLD OF FRIENDS SWEDEN, ACTIONAID S W E D E N ,
 ADOPTIONSCENTRUM, AFAR FRIENDS IN SWEDEN, AFRIKAGRUPPERNA,
 AFROSVENSKARNAS RIKSORGANISATION, AID GALCAD, AL SHAM
 RELIEF VÄLGÖRENHET, ALBANSKA FÖRENINGARS UNION I SVERIGE, AMAZO-
 NASFÖRENINGEN, ARABISKA TEATERN, ARKITEKTER UTAN GRÄNSER,
 B A R N F O N D E N INSAMLINGSSTIFTELSE, BISHOZI INTERNATIONAL
 PROGRAM, BJÖRKÅ-FRIHET, BLLF SWEDEN, CARITAS SVENSK-MESOPOTA-
 MISKA FÖRENING, CENTERPARTIETS INTERNATIONELLA STIFTELSE, CENTRA-
 LASIENGRUPPERNA, CHAIN OF SISTERHOOD INTERNATIONAL,
 CHIKONDI CHIMODZI CHILD CARE CENTRE , CHILDREN'S
 HOME, CLOWNER UTAN GRÄNSER, CONTRIBUTION
 TO OPPORTUNITIES, DARYEEL ASSOCIATION,

KULTUR CENTER I BORLÄNGE, GAMBIA-GRUPPERNA, GEESGUUD UNGDOMSFÖRENING, GHANA UNION UMEÅ, GLOBAL LEARNING, GREEN FORUM, HAND IN HAND SWEDEN, HORN OF AFRICA WOMENS ORGANISATION, HUMANISTHJÄLPEN, IMMIGRANTERNAS RIKSFÖRBUND, INGENJÖRER UTAN GRÄNSER, INSAMLINGSSTIFTELSEN CHOICE, INSAMLINGSSTIFTELSEN VÅRA BARN, INTACTS VÄNNER, INTERNATIONELLA KVINNOFÖRBUNDET, INTERNATIONELLA

KVINNOFÖRBUNDET FÖR FRED OCH FRIHET, IOGT-NTO-RÖRELSEN, ISLAMIC RELIEF SWEDEN, JAKOBSBERGS FOLKHÖGSKOLA, JÄMTLAND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COLLABORATION, JÄRVA DEMOKRATI OCH UTVECKLINGSFÖRENING, JEREMIAH LUCAS OPIRA FOUNDATION (JLOF), KARAGWE-FÖRENINGEN, KIDS FUTURE, KULTUR OCH IDROTTSFÖRENINGEN LIRIA, KVINNOR FÖR FRED, LATINAMERIKA I CENTRUM, LIBERIA DUJAR ASSOCIATION-SWEDEN, MÉDECINS DU MONDE SWEDEN, MOBILIZING AND

UNITING DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA, MUSLIM AID SWEDEN, MUSTAQBAL FOUNDATION, MYRIGHT, NORDENS BISKOPS-ARNÖ STIFTELSEN, NORDISK HJÄLP, ORGANISATIONEN FAIR TRADE ÅTERFÖRSÄLJARNNA, OSKARSHAMNS SÖDRAAFRIKA KOMMITÉ (OSAK), PAN ASIA COOPERATION SOCIETY (PACS), PEACEWORKS SWEDEN, PHARMACISTS WITHOUT BORDERS, POSITIVA FRAMTIDSVISIONER , PRAKTISK SOLIDARITET,

PRO GLOBAL VÄRMLAND , PROJECT P L A Y G R O U N D , PROJECT VITA SVERIGE, PSYKOLOGER UTAN GRÄNSER SVERIGE, RAIN FOREST SOCIETY, RASMI UNGDOMS FÖRENING, REAL FIGHTER SÄLLSKAP, RÖRELSEFOLKHÖGSKOLORNAS INTRESSEORGANISATION, ROTARY DOCTORS SWEDEN, SALVADORANSKA RIKSFÖRBUNDET AMOAR, SAMERÅDET SVENSKA SEKTIONEN, SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE, SCOUTERNA, SELF-MANAGEMENT ORG. FÖR NYKOOPERATION I U-LAND, SENSUS STUDIEFÖRBUND, SERBISKA RIKSFÖRBUNDET, SMART INTERNATIONAL, SOLIDARITY SWEDEN-LATIN AMERICA, SOMALI INTELLEKTUELL

BANADIR FÖRENING, SOMALI SWEDISH RESEARCHERS ASSOCIATION, SOMALIA INTERNATIONAL REHABILITATION CENTRE, SOMALILAND NORDIC RELIEF, SOMALILANDS FÖRENING I MALMÖ, SOMALISKA KVINNOR I GÄVLE, SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES SWEDEN, STUDIEFÖRBUNDET VUXENSKOLAN, STUDIEFRÅMJADET RIKSFÖRBUNDET, SURYOYO HJÄLP-FONDEN, SVALORNA INDIEN BANGLADESH, SVALORNA LATINAMERIKA , SVENSKA BAHÁ-Í-SAMFUNDET, SVENSKA FÖRENINGEN FÖR HÄLSA OCH MÄNSKLIGA RÄTTIGHETER,

SVENSKA PALESTINAKOMMITTÉN, SVENSKIRAKISKA SOLIDARITETSKOMMITTÉN, SVENSK-SOMALISKA VÄNFÖRENINGEN, SVENSK-TANZANISKA FÖRENINGEN, SWEDEN LIBERIA COOPERATIVE, SWEDISH DEVELOPMENT FORUM (FUF), SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL LIBERAL CENTRE (SILC), SWEDISH MOUNT ELGON ASSOCIATION, SWEDISH TIBETAN SOCIETY FOR SCHOOL AND CULTURE, SWEDO , SYNSKADADES RIKSFÖRBUND, THE HUNGER PROJECT SVERIGE, THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SWEDISH YOUTH ORGANISATIONS (LSU), THE PALESTINE SOLIDARITY ASSOCIATION OF SWEDEN (PGS), THE

DEAR MEMBERS

You have always been the corner stone of Forum Syd. From the very beginning we have believed in diversity as our strength. Thank you for being that diversity. You all have different backgrounds and range from local associations, foundations, sport and study associations to aid organisations. You give us a valuable exchange of knowledge and experiences.

We are a platform for civil society to share ideas, opinions and methods so that we all can learn from each other. Together with you, we work towards a just and sustainable world where everyone has the power to effect change.

Our collective efforts defend and safeguard democracy and human rights in a world where civil rights are under attack. We believe in the power of many and we act as a megaphone to represent our members in a strong voice of advocacy.

Because when human rights are under attack and the space for civil society is shrinking, we are here to defend democracy and make sure no one is left behind.

SWEDISH ASSOCIATION FOR SEXUALITY EDUCATION (RFSU), THE SWEDISH BURMA COMMITTEE, THE SWEDISH FEDERATION FOR LESBIAN GAY BISEXUAL TRANSGENDER AND QUEER RIGHTS (RFSL), THE SWEDISH PEACE AND ARBITRATION SOCIETY (SPAS), THE SWEDISH SPORTS CONFEDERATION, THE UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION SWEDEN, THE WORLD'S CHILDREN'S PRIZE FOUNDATION, TOGO KOMMITTÉN FÖR DEMOKRATINS ÖVERLEVNAD, TOSTAN SWEDEN, VÄNNERTS FÖRENINGEN STRÄNGNÄS-SIMANJIRO-LOIBORSOIT,

VÄNSKAPSFÖRBUNDET SVERIGE-NICARAGUA, WALE WALE SWEDEN, WAR CHILD SWEDEN, WISE ECONOMY GLOBAL ASSOCIATION, YARI-RANSKA UNGDOMSHJÄLP F Ö R E N I N G E N



TELL US THE MOST SIGNIFICANT MOMENT DURING YOUR TIME AS FORUM SYD'S SECRETARY GENERAL

Svante Sandberg

That is quite an obvious one, that Forum Syd was founded of course. It was quite a complicated process, but all forces came together in a positive way in the end. It was great fun the day we got the organisation started on July 1, 1995, by then we had been in the process for 3-4 years.

Inger Björk

It was the significant growth of the organisation. We became an important voice in the advocacy work together with other organisations in Sweden. The staff teams in Stockholm and in the country offices together were absolutely fantastic.

Annica Sohlström

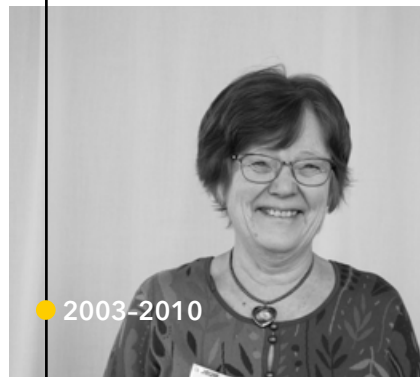
I think it was that we got the country offices into the operations in a completely different way. This meant that the managers at the country offices also sat in the management team and we had global management team meetings. With a shared vision, mission and goals, the country offices activities went hand in hand with the operations that we financed through Sida CIVSAM.

Lisa Sjöblom

It was the continuation of bringing together all parts of the operations and building country offices and regional hubs that not only had their own programs but also worked with the entirety of Forum Syd's activities. That organisational change was about becoming a global organisation as well as being able to benefit from the local presence that Forum Syd has throughout the world.



● 1995-2001



● 2003-2010



● 2011-2015



● 2016-2018



● 1995-1998
Karl-Göran Björnsmark



● 1999-2001
Margareta Israelsson



● 2002-2004
Agnetha Brandt



● 2005-2010
Joe Frans



● 2011-2012
Bodil Valero



● 2013-2014
Sten Rylander



● 2015-2016
Manne Wängborg



● 2017-2019
Kent Närstedt

OUR CHAIRPERSONS OF THE BOARD

THE FRONTRUNNER ON DIGITAL ACTIVISM

Save the climate. Change norms. Influence policymakers.

Forum Syd's Globalportalen has been the front runner for digital activism in Sweden since 2000. A guiding star for civil society on digital trends and new tools for mobilisation.

Gathering over 50 organisations, youth associations and folk high schools, Globalportalen has for over two decades been the focal point for mobilising activists, getting signatures, sending emails to politicians and supporting various causes for human rights, global warming and democracy.

Globalportalen is the place to be for the latest news, internships and job opportunities in the world of development cooperation. With its mission to engage new generations of youth it has been, and still is, an important source to increase young people's knowledge and commitment to stand up for a better world.





THE POWER TO CHANGE

Forum Syd is part of the global civil society. We are convinced that the growth of new social movements, in the broadest sense, has a key role in making the global changes for a just and sustainable world happen.

Civil society is a broad, complex arena of groups of differing ambitions, sizes and interests. The pluralism of civil society has a value in and of itself in that it gives a wide range of groups a voice and the power to affect the political agenda.

Civil society empowers people to change their lives and communities at a local, regional, national and global level. Its actors can monitor powerholders and serve as a channel for popular participation in the public debate. In order to play this role, civil society organisations must embody democratic values and be democratically legitimate and representative.

Strong partnerships build democracy globally. Swedish organisations have a long tradition of networking with civil society groups worldwide, and it was out of this collaboration of social movements that Sweden's development cooperation grew. Today, many development actors understand the importance of strengthening civil society in order to reduce

poverty and increase democracy. Still, Swedish organisations are highly instrumental in ensuring that development cooperation is collaborative. Organisations share values and can meet each other as equal partners despite coming from different circumstances.

Civil society collaborations are much more than merely sharing development projects. They are about exchanging ideas and experiences and possessing a common urge to shape policies in the interests of a more just and sustainable world. Swedish organisations can give space to the voices of organised people in their partner countries, who often find it more difficult to have their opinions heard in international contexts.

THERE IS NO DEMOCRACY WITHOUT CIVIL SOCIETY.



