



**Workshop:**  
**Local governance in fragile settings.**  
**Strengthening local governments, civic action or both?**

**Tuesday 24 November 2009**  
**10.00 - 17.00 hours**

**Theatre Concordia, The Hague**

**Citizen participation** can be conducive to building inclusive democratic systems and legitimate institutions. However, in order for participation to be *meaningful* certain conditions need to be in place. These conditions are usually absent in fragile settings. Here, formal governmental institutions often lack authority, and chiefs and the own ethnic group are the (de facto) points of reference.

What are strategies for strengthening citizen engagement in local governance in situations where there is limited space, where political institutions are fragile and where social relations suffered from insecurity, authoritarian regimes or violent conflict? In these contexts there may be little history of organised citizen engagement. Both citizens and local governments face huge challenges in creating a functioning, inclusive governance system.

This workshop will focus on the challenges and opportunities for participatory governance in post-conflict settings. Sessions will specifically address issues around legitimacy of formal and informal government structures, accountability mechanisms, and how conflict affects the relation between citizens and the local state. Building on the expertise of participants, we will subsequently take the debate further and derive the possible roles of donors and civil society in (re)building local democratic governance. Participants will receive a background paper and detailed programme in advance.

Prof. **John Gaventa** will introduce key issues in an opening lecture and comment on the discussions during the day. John Gaventa is a professor at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS, Brighton). He is director of the *Development Research Centre on Citizenship, Participation and Accountability* and currently chair of Oxfam GB. He has written widely on issues of power (e.g. the 'Power Cube'), participatory development and governance, civil society and social change.

This is a joint effort of IDS (John Gaventa, Marjoke Oosterom) HIVOS, ICCO and PSO. The research is facilitated by ICCO and HIVOS. PSO, in its role of facilitating knowledge management in the sector, proudly offers this workshop to those involved in policy development, research and programme support in fragile states.

**When:** on Tuesday the 24<sup>th</sup> of November 2009 from 10.00 hours till 17.00 hours, followed by drinks.

**Where:** at Theater Concordia [www.theather-concordia.nl](http://www.theather-concordia.nl), Hoge Zand 42, The Hague, the Netherlands.

**Sign up:** The maximum number of participants is limited to 30 and participants are therefore kindly requested to register as soon as possible. Please register at [aanmelding@pso.nl](mailto:aanmelding@pso.nl) before the 17th of November with “Local governance in fragile settings” in the title. Registration is free. Please note that the workshop will be in English. For questions please email or phone Michael Baumeister [baumeister@pso.nl](mailto:baumeister@pso.nl) +31 70 3385847