

***“Civil Society, Democracy and Development:  
International Experiences and the Ethiopian Context”***

**An International Conference Organized by the Forum for Social Studies**

Hilton Hotel, Addis Ababa, 28 March 2008

**Conference Program**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Executors</b>
8:15 – 9:00	<b>Registration of participants</b>	<b>FSS Staff</b>
<b><i>Opening Ceremony</i></b>		
9:00 – 9:10	<b>Welcoming Statement</b>	<b>Prof. Bahru Zewde</b> (FSS Executive Director)
9:10 – 9:20	<b>Opening Statement</b>	<b>Ms. Irène Mingasson</b> Head, Governance & Civil Society, EC Delegation
<b><i>Session I: International Experiences</i></b>		<b><i>Chair: Dr. Retta Menberu</i></b> Country Director, Action Aid
9:20 – 9:50	<b>Challenges and Opportunities for Civil Society Coalition Building in an Era of Globalisation</b>	<b>Mr. Kumi Naidoo</b> Secretary-General, CIVICUS
9:50-10:20	<b>The Resilience of Home-Grown Civil Society and Its Implications for Policy: The European Experience</b>	<b>Dr. Gerry Salole</b> CEO, European Foundation Centre
10:20 – 10:50	<b>Discussions</b>	
10:50 – 11:10	<b>Coffee break</b>	
<b><i>Session II: International Experience &amp; National Context</i></b>		<b><i>Chair: Ms. Aster Birke</i></b> Board Chairperson, FSS
11:10 – 11:40	<b>Harvest of Thorns: Whither Policy Advocacy in Post-9/11 Africa?</b>	<b>Mr Brian Kagoro</b> Pan African Policy Manager, Action Aid
11:40 – 12:10	<b>Independent Policy Research Institutions: The FSS Experience and Future Challenges</b>	<b>Ato Dessalegn Rahmato</b> Senior Research Fellow, FSS
12:10 – 1:00	<b>Discussions</b>	

1: 00 – 2:00	<b>Lunch Break</b>	
<i>Session III: National Context</i>		<b>Chair: Ms Bizuwork Ketete</b> Founder and Board Chair of Zega Leidget
2: 00 – 2:30	<b>Participation of women in politics and public decision-making in Ethiopia</b>	<b>Ms. Meaza Ashenafi</b> Board Chairperson, National Organization of Women
2:30 – 3:00	<b>Networking and Coalition Building in the Civil Society Sector in Ethiopia: Challenges and Prospects</b>	<b>Mr. Regassa Aboma</b> Acting Head, Membership & Networking Development Department, CRDA
3:00 – 4:00	<b>Discussions</b>	
4:00 – 4:15	<b>Coffee break</b>	
<i>Session IV: The Way Forward</i>		<b>Chair: Dr. Assefa Admassie</b> Executive Director, Ethiopian Economic Association
4:15 – 4::45	<b>Progress Report of the CSO Task Force on “Creating an Enabling Environment for Civil Society in Ethiopia”</b>	Representative of the Task Force
4:45 – 6:00	<b>Discussions</b>	
7:00 – 9:00	<b>FSS Tenth Anniversary Reception</b>	<b>Semien Hotel</b>