**OCIC launches Istanbul Principles Icons in collaboration with CCIC and Open Forum**

**[MONTREAL – Sept 6, 2012]** - The [Ontario Council for International Cooperation](http://ocic.on.ca/), in collaboration with the[Canadian Council for International Co-operation](http://www.ccic.ca/) and the [Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness](http://www.cso-effectiveness.org/home,091), used the CIVICUS World Assembly in Montreal for the official global launch of the icons that will come to represent the **Istanbul Principles for CSO Development Effectiveness**.

“*This is an exciting new way to interact with the Istanbul Principles, which were developed by and for civil society to give shape to their effective development work*,” said Amy Bartlett, Global Coordinator of the Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness. “*Civil society organizations around the world can use these icons to help popularize and implement these important values and principles, in solidarity with the thousands of organizations already working to improve their effectiveness as development actors*,” she added.

The eight [Istanbul Principles](http://www.cso-effectiveness.org/istanbul-principles,067) are a set of mutually shared values that guide the development work of civil society organizations (CSOs) worldwide, developed through a global consultation process known as the Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness. Today, the Istanbul Principles are being applied by CSOs worldwide in their own countries.

Developed for open to use by all, the Istanbul Principles icons are intended as a visual reference for those involved in development activities worldwide - particularly CSOs who created and are now putting the Istanbul Principles into practice.

“*The Istanbul Principles are an important milestone for any CSO working to improve its effectiveness and impact. We are delighted that the CIVICUS World Assembly was used as the opportunity to launch the icons*,” said Katsuji Imata, Acting Secretary General of CIVICUS.

The [CIVICUS World Assembly](http://civicus.org/what-we-do-126/cross-cutting-projects/world-assembly) is a primary venue for civil society practitioners, researchers, activists, concerned business leaders and representatives from governments to share ideas and experiences on strengthening citizen participation.

We invite you to [download](http://ocic.on.ca/sites/all/sites/default/files/files/istanbul_principles_icon_set.pdf), view, and disseminate widely!

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The *Ontario Council for International Cooperation encourages* the development of the Ontario international development and global education sectors and sharing of resources between OCIC members by providing forums for networking, communications and collaborative reflection and action, and facilitating capacity building in public engagement and organizational development. [www.ocic.on.ca](http://www.ocic.on.ca/)

The *Canadian Council for International Co-operation* is a coalition of Canadian voluntary sector organizations working globally to achieve sustainable human development. CCIC seeks to end global poverty, and to promote social justice and human dignity for all. [www.ccic.ca](http://www.ccic.ca/)

*Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness* is a global fully participatory space run by and for civil society organizations worldwide to improve their effectiveness as development actors and advocate a more enabling environment from governments and donors. [www.cso-effectiveness.org](http://www.cso-effectiveness.org/)

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