



A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK
FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

2017 ICVA Annual Conference

28 March 2017

CICG, Geneva, Switzerland

ICVA's 2017 Annual Conference will serve as the launch of a two-year project, supporting NGOs undertaking humanitarian action to **better navigate a complex world** and **strengthen their capacity to operate**. Over the coming two years, we will specifically explore how **more effective NGO engagement with host* governments can strengthen the ability to operate at field levels**.

How can humanitarian civil society better navigate a complex world?

The importance of NGO engagement with host governments

Witnessing an increasingly multi-polar and fragile geo-political environment, coupled with struggling multilateral approaches, humanitarian organisations are experiencing increasing difficulties to operate.

For NGOs, these difficulties are often manifested through increasingly burdensome regulatory environments; limited access to affected populations; provocation and stigmatization in the media; and intimidation, threats and attacks on humanitarian action.

Whilst acknowledging an increasingly diverse humanitarian landscape, it is often host governments who retain the most influence in enabling the space for NGOs to operate.

Most NGOs however, do not engage directly with host governments at national level. This engagement is often undertaken through the United Nations, diplomatic channels and the media. ICVA's Annual Conference and subsequent project will explore additional and complementary approaches to engage with host governments, with the goal of ensuring timely and appropriate support to people affected by humanitarian crisis.

Through a series of key note presentations and panel discussions, join us on March 28 as we discuss:

- What do we mean by 'humanitarian civil society'? Is the operational space of humanitarian NGOs *shrinking or evolving*? What are the *regional* and *global drivers* impacting this shift?
- What changes are *NGOs witnessing and experiencing* in humanitarian contexts?
- What approaches do NGOs currently use to engage with host governments? How can more *effective engagement between NGOs and host Governments* help NGOs in their ability to operate at the field level?

Tuesday 28 March
09:00 – 17.00, CICG, Geneva

To register, visit [ICVA's website](#)

For more information, contact secretariat@icvanetwork.org

* "Host government" refers to the government of a country where humanitarian action is taking place.