

Paris, April 2nd, 2020
Press Release

Forus appoints new Director Sarah Strack as Magda Toma leaves

After 8,5 years, Magda Toma is moving on from her position as Director of [Forus](#), the global civil society network gathering 69 NGO platforms & 7 regional coalitions. From end of March 2020, Sarah Strack took over and became the new Director of the network.



Sarah Strack comes to Forus after having worked with [Climate Action Network](#) (CAN) International since 2013 in various capacities, the last 4 years as Deputy Director. Previously, Sarah has coordinated the [International Civil Society Centre's](#) work on the post-2015 agenda/SDGs and worked with [Transparency International](#) and [the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs](#). She brings extensive experience in managing global alliances and networks, in advocacy and capacity-development, and loves to facilitate the co-creation of strategies and campaigns through genuine collaboration and impactful partnerships. Sarah is a relentless advocate for social and climate justice and passionate about building consensus and supporting diverse movements to achieve transformative change through a people-centred approach.

"I look forward to working with and supporting the members of this vibrant network, while leading and ensuring the wellbeing of its very committed Secretariat team. These are very challenging times, and Forus has a crucial role to play to harness the power of its diverse voices and members to jointly work towards a more sustainable and just world in which civil society is an undeniable force for positive change", said Sarah.

Sarah Strack replaces the outgoing director, **Magda Toma**, who successfully managed Forus since 2011. She led the network through its continuous growth and strengthening, supporting Forus' evolution from an informal network of platforms and coalitions, to a globally structured network. Forus has expanded both in terms of membership and in partnerships with institutions and civil society organizations.

"I have been very privileged to support Forus' development process, working closely with national and regional members from across the world. Now more than ever, we need to continue to invest in solidarity across civil society, enhance efforts to protect its enabling environment and secure resources for its capacity development. I am convinced that alongside Forus' team, its governance bodies and the

entire membership, Sarah will successfully work towards the implementation of Forus' 2021-2025 Strategy and beyond", said Magda.

Speaking on behalf of the board , Forus' Chair, **Iara Pietricovsky** commented : *"We are very fortunate to have had Magda lead Forus for many years and believe that Sarah's experience will allow us to build upon those foundations. Sarah arrives in a moment of transitions and new challenges to successfully implement the new strategic plan and enhance partnerships within international cooperation.*

I want to thank Magda for her passion, commitment and trust within and beyond our membership to help fighting for a strong and resilient civil society. With Sarah, we get an excellent successor who will build on the work being done to advocate for democracy and for the recognition of our unique role in building more just and sustainable societies. We welcome Sarah with open arms and an open heart to inaugurate this new phase".

About Forus

Forus is a global network of 69 national platforms and 7 regional coalitions that brings together more than 22,000 NGOs promoting political, economic and social change to create a just and sustainable world for all.

<http://forus-international.org>

For further information, please contact:

Sanaâ NADIR – Communication Officer

sanaa@forus-international.org / + 34 657 799 620