



**GLOBAL COOPERATION NEWSLETTER**  
**February 2012**

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**Joint world conference Stockholm July 2012**

The conference programme committee is reviewing two thousand abstracts. Authors will be notified of the acceptance of their abstract by email in the middle of March. Guidelines for scholarships are being developed and will be posted on the conference website. For those planning to attend the conference and who will need a visa to Sweden the organisers urge you to start your registration and visa application process very soon to avoid last minute panic.

In the 2012 conference, we will advance the work on the *Agenda* developed for the 2010 conference. We will address and demonstrate the actions that might be required to develop and accomplish the Agenda through practice and research, through social policy and social work education and in a broader discourse of global commitment and cooperation. The conference will provide opportunities to discuss issues which the social work and social welfare sectors face every day. This will be linked to evidence-based practice, policy objectives and social development goals. ([www.globalsocialagenda.org](http://www.globalsocialagenda.org)) We particularly want to leave visible signs for the future in three areas: human rights and social equality; environmental change and sustainable social development; global social transformation and social action. For registration go to <http://www.swsd-stockholm-2012.org/>

**ICSW at the UN Commission for Social Development (CSocD)**

ICSW President Christian Rollet, South East Asia and the Pacific Regional President Braema Mathiapparanam and European Regional President Eva Holmberg-Herrström represented ICSW this month at the UN Commission. ICSW submitted a statement on the major theme of poverty eradication.

In our conclusions we said "Basic social protection for all is a must in an era of regular global crisis, increased economic insecurity and accompanying informalisation and casualization trends in the labour market. The current global crises and the impact on workers in developed and developing countries alike further underscore the importance of providing a social protection floor for poor people as well as for the non-poor. For people living in poverty, the extension of some form of basic social protection will help avert their falling deeper into poverty; for the non-poor, such protection will reduce their vulnerability to poverty.

Social protection is about preventing, supporting and promoting. Therefore, it is not only about protection, but also about empowerment. It is not to create dependency, but to unlock the

productive capacity of women and men to participate in the economic, social and political lives, as workers, employers, consumers and citizens.

The concept of social protection floor addresses essential rights and embraces all these elements: policy coherence, gradualism starting from the basics, sustainability and empowerment.

ICSW identified five factors that are needed to take the social protection agenda forward: Firstly, it is a matter of political will: to give the vision, to set the principles, to define the ground rules for the societies that we want; to be prepared to overcome fiscal constraints; to make the hard decisions and push forward.

Secondly, it requires finding resources to finance, on a sustainable basis, the implementation of the floor. Mr Juan Somavia, the ILO director general, rightly says: "the world does not lack the resources to eradicate poverty, it lacks the right priorities."

Thirdly, it demands a major effort in social dialogue. Dialogue is essential to shape common objectives and strategies that respond to national specificity and to make the necessary compromises. Empowerment of citizens and civil society organisations to take responsibility and initiative in programmes to relieve poverty is essential. ICSW is assisting in this process and both the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and the Commonwealth Foundation have assisted ICSW to conduct programmes to strengthen civil society's engagement with their governments on social protection.

Fourthly, while adopted as a universal concept, the social protection floor should be nationally shaped within a framework of national-specific institutional structures, economic constraints, political dynamics and social aspirations. There is no one-size-fits-all solution.

Finally, increase in the level of protection should be envisaged as economies grow and financial and fiscal space widens. The floor cannot become a ceiling. But it should be understood as the first step towards higher levels of protection, as well as creating the conditions for successful insertion of the poor and disadvantaged in the labour market.

The United Nations Millennium Declaration recognised that poverty eradication ultimately rests with individual countries. Poverty eradication is a shared responsibility and the Declaration urged for 'strong partnerships' to promote a more open and equitable system of international finance and trade, to increase development assistance and to enhance international commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction. International partners can and must support and enhance individual country's commitments to the above-mentioned pursuits. In this regard, international donors and institutions must continue to honour their development-aid commitments. And multilateral institutions, such as the United Nations' bodies and regional commissions; the World Bank and regional development banks, have to heed the criticisms of their poverty-reduction operations, the resources they consume, and the impact of their programmes on poverty. These institutions should remain at the front line in international development efforts but their international, regional, and bilateral assistance must be better coordinated, less competitive and more committed to narrow the gap between words and institutional action.

The full ICSW statement is at <http://www.icsw.org/un/un.htm>. The statement in UN languages is at <http://social.un.org/index/CommissionforSocialDevelopment/Sessions/2012/NGOsStatements.aspx>

Before the Commission meeting Braema Mathiaparanam presented to the Civil Society Forum an excellent paper on *Bridging the Gap to Poverty Eradication – The Social Protection Floor Initiative*. This can also be found at <http://www.icsw.org/un/un.htm>.

## **MSc Social Policy and Development: Non-Governmental Organisations**

The course is aimed at students who want to know more about how NGOs work in international development, who are you interested in issues of civil society, global social transformation, development and social justice and want to know how to improve their own NGO's performance. Since 1995, the London School of Economics (LSE) has provided innovative postgraduate training for those working with or interested in, the world of NGOs and development.

Today, the NGO sector needs to be able to assess and develop its roles and it requires a new level of expertise to meet the increasingly complex goals of development and relief work. NGOs are now being expected to deliver projects and programmes more and more effectively as well as to contribute to a healthy 'civil society'.

From 2012-13, the LSE is upgrading its provision with the launch of the new *MSc Social Policy and Development: Non-Governmental Organisations*. The degree is taught by a team of leading researchers in the field, each of whom has both research and hands on policy experience.

Located in the LSE's Department of Social Policy (rated the UK's top department in the Research Assessment Exercise), the new MSc Degree focuses on key issues such as the changing context of development policy, NGO organisational issues and the theory and practice of civil society.

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<http://www2.lse.ac.uk/socialPolicy/Study/masters/mscNGOsAndDevelopment.aspx>

## **UNRISD News**

### **Business Regulation and Non-State Actors: Whose Standards? Whose Development?**

This volume assesses the achievements and limitations of a new set of non-state or multistakeholder institutions that are concerned with improving the social and environmental record of business, and holding corporations to account.

[http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BF3C2/setLanguageCookie?OpenAgent&langcode=en&url=/80256B3C005BCCF9/search/A387BDB9E46E7158C12579A400562AF6?OpenDocument&utm\\_campaign=email\\_alerts\\_weekly\\_20\\_2\\_2012&utm\\_medium=email\\_text&utm\\_source=en&utm\\_content=content\\_link](http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BF3C2/setLanguageCookie?OpenAgent&langcode=en&url=/80256B3C005BCCF9/search/A387BDB9E46E7158C12579A400562AF6?OpenDocument&utm_campaign=email_alerts_weekly_20_2_2012&utm_medium=email_text&utm_source=en&utm_content=content_link)

### **Maureen O'Neil Appointed Chair of the UNRISD Board**



UNRISD announced that the Secretary-General of the UN has appointed Maureen O'Neil of Canada as Chair of the UNRISD Board. Ms O'Neil will hold the position for a term of four years. Ms. O'Neil is President of the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation. On learning of her appointment, Ms. O'Neil said "I am honoured to have been appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to Chair the UNRISD Board. UNRISD has always put people at the centre of global policy research. Fifty years of excellent work by researchers from every corner of the world is a wonderful beginning for the next fifty. The struggle for human dignity and fairer societies needs ideas based on UNRISD's solid evidence."

### **Green Economy and Sustainable Development: Bringing Back the Social is the first of six films in the series "Bringing the Social to Rio+20".**

The film uses footage from recordings and interviews from the 2011 UNRISD conference, "Green Economy and Sustainable Development: Bringing Back the Social Dimension". It explores green economy's potential as a path to inclusive, sustainable development and poverty eradication.

[http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BF3C2/setLanguageCookie?OpenAgent&langcode=en&url=/80256B3C005BE6B5/search/1174A5D9EBF76836C125797C0039F31E?OpenDocument&utm\\_campaign=email\\_alerts\\_weekly\\_6\\_2\\_2012&utm\\_medium=email\\_text&utm\\_source=en&utm\\_content=content\\_link](http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BF3C2/setLanguageCookie?OpenAgent&langcode=en&url=/80256B3C005BE6B5/search/1174A5D9EBF76836C125797C0039F31E?OpenDocument&utm_campaign=email_alerts_weekly_6_2_2012&utm_medium=email_text&utm_source=en&utm_content=content_link)

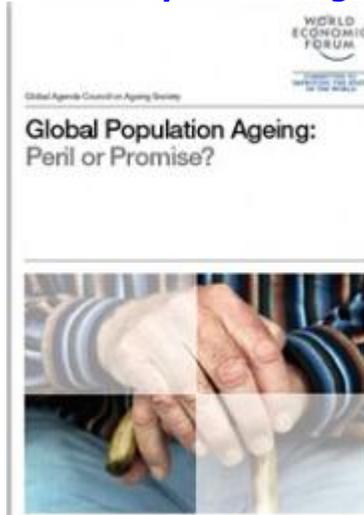
## Social Watch Report 2012

The world's most vulnerable groups in its poorest countries, such as women, poor farmers and indigenous populations, have been affected in multiple ways by the global financial and economic crisis, including through retraction of credit availability, recession and by reduced official development assistance from countries seeking to protect their own budgets. The Social Watch report 2012 demonstrates that countries including Brazil, China and India, in which anti-crisis policies were basically directed to support the poor in different ways, have recovered faster from the crisis than industrialized countries, which bailed out banks and rich people.

The stimulus in these countries focused on protecting jobs and wages, expanding social services or, in Brazil's case, direct cash transfers to the poor. Where stimulus money reached the poor, it was spent because poor people had no other choice. Stimulus packages given to banks or to the rich and upper-middle class were saved, as a natural response to excess money — the fear of continued crisis and a lack of confidence in recovery.

The report concludes that growing inequalities and unregulated finances are expropriating people everywhere from their fair share in the benefits of global prosperity. Our children will inherit the burden of deforestation, desertification, erosion of biodiversity and climate change. To reverse this trend, the promise of universal dignity brought by human rights has to be enforced and the rights of future generations need to be recognized and properly defended. The Report can be found at <http://www.socialwatch.org/report2012>

## Global Population Ageing: Peril or Promise?



This report is the first product of the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Council on the Ageing Society. The free "big picture" eBook covers why, and how, our societies, policies and systems will need updating in order to better manage global population ageing. Global ageing, in developed and developing countries will dramatically alter the way that societies and economies work. The issues covered include how individuals find fulfillment, at what age they retire, their quality of life once they do retire; how governments devise social contracts to provide financial security; how the older and younger generations interact as they divide up the economic pie; how businesses manage staffing to compensate for shrinking workforces; and how health systems respond to the altered needs of those living longer. To download the eBook click [http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_GAC\\_GlobalPopulationAgeing\\_Report\\_2012.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GAC_GlobalPopulationAgeing_Report_2012.pdf)

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