



GLOBAL COOPERATION NEWSLETTER

March 2008

In this edition:

Changing notions of Civil Society in "North" and "South"
South Asian Ministers of Social Development meet in New Delhi

Social Security and Africa

New from OECD

New MDG Indicators

International Monetary Fund - paper from the Friedrich Ebert Foundation

New from International Poverty Centre

New from UNRISD

2008 ICSW 33rd Global Conference on Social Welfare

Changing notions of Civil Society in "North" and "South"

The Civil Society and New Forms of Government Network conducted a stimulating discussion on civil society in London in March 2008.

The first discussant Professor Neera Chandhoke of Delhi University immediately stepped into controversial ground by suggesting that 20 years ago she was concerned about governments overreaching themselves. Now her concern is that civil society is overreaching itself. She was very clear that governments are responsible for creating policy. It was not the responsibility of civil society to create policy. Civil society has the role of making the state responsible.

Professor Partha Chatterjee of the universities of Calcutta and Colombia argued that the concept of "South" is "fast losing its coherence as a meaningful idea". He based his challenge on the trajectory of development in some Asian countries that have moved from the problems that still face most of Africa.

Dirk-Jan Koch of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Radboud University spoke of his research on what leads NGOs to work in particular countries. He found three strong determinants. First, NGOs work in countries that are favoured by official aid agencies. Second, NGOs are concentrated where other NGOs are active. Third, NGOs work where there is a like-mindedness or similarity with their organisations.

Dr Silke Roth of University of Southampton reported on her research involving 44 biographical interviews with staff of NGOs and UN agencies. Global North interviewees said that their work opened their eyes to inequalities. Highlighted were the inequalities between international and local staff in salaries, conditions and security policies. (Local staff are more vulnerable to attacks). Some Global North respondents described their life style as "post colonial". Dr Roth found that the boundaries between development cooperation and emergency relief have become blurred.

Sam Bickersteth of Oxfam spoke of Oxfam's "rights based framework that seeks to build the voice and capacity of social movements and partners in order to overcome poverty and suffering". These comments seemed in contrast to the findings of Dr Roth's research. Members of ICSW in the Global South have reported the opposite to the claim made by Oxfam. They talk of a new form of colonialism in which Northern NGOs come into their

countries and by-pass the local organisations and establish their own structures. ICSW has observed the minimal resources available to indigenous NGOs. The major part of ICSW's global programme is to strengthen indigenous NGOs. This is of course dependent on the resources ICSW receives from Northern donor governments.

The arguments relating to civil society were extended by Lars Engberg-Pedersen of the Danish Institute for International Studies. He described trends that include; bilateral donors preferring to provide direct support to civil society in the South; strengthening South ownership of development activities; increasing capacity of civil society organisations to have the necessary technical capacity to carry out their work; heterogeneity of the South (the same point as made by Professor Chatterjee and later by Mike Edwards of the Ford Foundation); and aid more closely linked to other policy areas including security, trade, climate, immigration etc.

The changing nature of aid was pursued by Professor Jude Howell and Jeremy Lind of the Centre for Civil Society, London School of Economics. They spoke of the shifting focus of donors in regard to security and aid. In a longer paper available on the LSE website, "The Backlash against Civil Society in the Wake of the Long War on Terror" the authors examine the backlash against civil society within the context of the war on terror. <http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/CCS/>

They argue "while the manifestations of the backlash, such as crackdown on NGOs in Russia or the taming of NGOs by bilateral and multilateral agencies, may appear to be disparate, unconnected phenomena, on closer inspection it is clear that they are intricately intertwined". The impact on civil society has included new regulatory controls with new due diligence requirements.

I have probably not done justice to the comments made by various speakers. I apologise in advance and to the many other speakers whose papers I have not covered. Editor.

South Asian Ministers of Social Development meet in New Delhi

The Second Forum of Ministers of Social Development from South Asia met on 5 and 6 March 2008 in New Delhi, India. Ministers and High Level Officials from Afghanistan, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka attended the meeting co-organized with UNESCO and with the support of the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR):.

The "New Delhi Declaration" arising from the forum contains some good material including acknowledgement of the "relevance of empowering the peoples and civil society of the region through transparency, public accountability and right to information leading to better governance and social development" and recognising "the predominant place which needs to be accorded to social development, in line with the Copenhagen commitments on Social Development and its follow-up, the Millennium Development Goals and the SAARC Development Goals as outlined in the SAARC Social Charter". The full text of the Declaration is at www.icsw.org/doc/NEW%20DELHI%20DECLARATION.doc.

Social security and Africa

Mr. Hans-Horst Konkolewsky, Secretary General of the International Social Security Association (ISSA) said in March in Cape Town that social security can contribute to making sustainable poverty reduction in Africa a reality. The extension of social security coverage should be an integral part of development strategies. Extension of social security coverage will be good for the poor and good for economic growth. Mr. Konkolewsky pointed to evidence that investment in social security brings high rates of return for the national economy by increasing the productivity of the work force. It is hard to identify any other instruments that could enable the African nations to reduce their poverty and mortality levels as rapidly and reliably as the basic instruments of social security – social health insurance, social pensions and child benefits. Social security should be one of the permanent ingredients in all national and regional strategies aimed at poverty reduction, pro-poor economic growth and sustainable livelihoods. For further information - http://www.issa.int/pdf/publ/PressRelease/ISSC_declaration.pdf

OECD From DAC News March 2008 Development Co-operation Report 2007

The Development Assistance Committee (DAC) has launched the 2007 edition of its annual [Development Co-operation Report](#) (DCR). In this report, Richard Manning (DAC Chair until January 2008) looks at the 12 measures of success he formulated in 2003, when he began his mandate. [Read more...](#)

Fragmentation: The more the merrier, or too many cooks?

When there are many donors in one country giving small amounts of aid, the results might be more negative than positive. One of the questions donors have to ask themselves is, does it all add up to results? [Read more...](#)

The road to Accra

One and a half of the three days of the [Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness](#) in Accra will be devoted to roundtable discussions that will feed in to the Accra Action Agenda (AAA), a focused list of deliverables designed to produce results where they are most needed to meet the targets of the Paris Declaration by 2010. [Read more...](#)

New MDG indicators

There is a new official list of MDG indicators after the 2007 revision. New MDG targets on full employment, access to reproductive health, AIDS treatments and biodiversity <http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Host.aspx?Content=Indicators/OfficialList.htm>

International Monetary Fund - paper from the Friedrich Ebert Foundation

Roberto Frenkel writes on **Current Problems with the IMF and Challenges Ahead - A Latin American Perspective Dialogue on Globalization** Briefing Paper 16-07, FES Berlin, December 2007. In his Briefing Paper, Roberto Frenkel analyses the current problems of the International Monetary Fund from a Latin American Perspective. The Briefing paper N16 is at <http://library.fes.de/pdf-files/iez/global/05126.pdf>

New from International Poverty Centre

What is poverty? The International Poverty Centre has announced the Portuguese and Spanish versions of One Pager #26, "What Is Poverty? Good Question" <<http://www.undp-povertycentre.org/pub/IPCOnePager26.pdf> In this One Pager, the author, Terry McKinley, Acting Director of IPC, discusses the differences between income poverty and human poverty and warns against trying to merge the two. For example, he criticizes some recent efforts to develop a comprehensive income measure of basic human capabilities. He notes that it is difficult to measure some capabilities in income terms while it is pointless to put a price on others, such as human freedom.

Latin America's MDG Progress on Gender Equality: Poor Women Still Lag Behind –

One Pager # 49. Eduardo Zepeda notes that Latin America and the Caribbean have shown notable progress on MDG indicators for gender equality. But he emphasizes that when national averages are disaggregated, the picture is less impressive, particularly for poor women workers. They are not, in fact, making significant progress in securing decent wage employment in the non-agricultural sector. <http://www.undp-povertycentre.org/pub/IPCOnePager49.pdf>

The Many Dimensions of Poverty – New book by Nanak Kakwani and Jacques Silber. This book draws together 14 articles that were presented at the IPC-sponsored International Conference on "The Many Dimensions of Poverty" <http://www.undp-povertycentre.org/md-poverty/> held in Brasilia in 2005. It takes a multidisciplinary approach to poverty, including five different perspectives from the disciplines of economics, sociology, anthropology, psychology and institutional economics. There are also studies of chronicity of poverty, the concept of vulnerability, the political economy of poverty alleviation and the pro-poorness of government programs. The broad view of poverty that the book offers is likely to orient

research on poverty in directions neglected hitherto and to help those in charge of implementing poverty reduction policies.

Information about the full book is available at the Palgrave Macmillan website:

<http://www.palgrave.com/products/title.aspx?PID=276181>

The Urgent Need for Financial Reform to Mobilise Savings in Sub-Saharan Africa – One Pager # 50 The authors, Sedat Aybar and Costas Lapavitsas, note that financial liberalization has failed to boost the region's low savings rate and call for specific financial-sector reforms to support increased domestic resource mobilization. Emphasizing that there is there no absolute scarcity of savings, they call for a range of reforms, such as mobile banks, strengthened microfinance institutions and public mechanisms such as revitalized postal savings institutions and development finance institutions.

Available at <http://www.undp-povertycentre.org/pub/IPCOnePager50.pdf>

New from UNRISD

Small but Smart: Small States in the Global System is the title of a paper by UNRISD Research Coordinator Naren Prasad. He talks about development strategies in small economies.

<http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BF3C2/setLanguageCookie?OpenAgent&langcode=en&url=/80256B3C005BE6B5/search/COC7723F9A3BC6FAC12573F400553607?OpenDocument>

China's Family Support System: Challenges and Solutions under the Circumstances of Rural-Urban Female Labour Migration.

Based on interviews with rural-urban migrants in Anhui and Sichuan provinces of China, this paper focuses on the coping strategies adopted by Chinese rural-urban migrant families to deal with the tensions caused by changes in generational care chains.

<http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BF3C2/setLanguageCookie?OpenAgent&langcode=en&url=/80256B3C005BCCF9/search/88EBA49BA3FF4D72C1257401003B4257?OpenDocument>

2008 ICSW 33rd Global Conference on Social Welfare

The programme for the conference is taking shape. On the website

<http://www.icsw2008.org/> you will find updates on speakers and the programme.

Date: 30th June to 4th July 2008

Venue: Tours, France

Contact Information: globalconference@cnas-icsw.org

This will be the 80th Anniversary of ICSW. The theme of the conference is Social Work, Social Protection and Social Development: Where have we been? Where are we going?

The content of this Global Newsletter may be freely reproduced or cited provided the source is acknowledged. The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily the policy of ICSW.

Newsletter Editor: Denys Correll – Executive Director
ICSW C/- MOVISIE Netherlands Centre for Social Development

PO Box 19129

3501 DC Utrecht

Netherlands

Email: icsw@icsw.org

Tel: +31 30 789 2226



GLOBAL COOPERATION NEWSLETTER **April 2008**

In this edition:

**Report on the UN Commission on the Status of Women
UN Commission for Social Development Final Resolution on Employment
UNRISD Annual Report 2007
2008 ICSW 33rd Global Conference on Social Welfare – Early Bird Registrations
finish end of April. Register NOW.**

Report on the UN Commission on the Status of Women

Judith Kaulem, ICSW Regional President for East and Southern Africa reports on the 52nd Session of the United Nation Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) that was held at the UN Headquarters in New York in March.

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is a commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) exclusively set up for gender equality and the advancement of women. Every year representatives of Member States gather at the UN headquarters in New York to evaluate progress on gender equality including identifying challenges and gaps in the advancement of women's rights. The Commission also seeks to make recommendations on global standards and policies to promote gender equality. Recommendations of the Commission which are aimed at promoting women's rights in political, civil, economic, social and educational fields are then submitted to the ECOSOC. The theme for the 52nd CSW was "Financing for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment".

Violence Against Women Campaign

The official opening of the 52nd session witnessed the launch of the Violence Against Women Campaign by the United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. In his opening remarks the Secretary General deplored violence against women. He stated, "Violence against women is never acceptable, never excusable and never tolerable". Mr. Ban Ki-moon urged all states to ensure that violence against women is outlawed in their national legislation. The negative effect of violence against women on the women themselves and on global development was strongly deplored by several speakers during the official opening. Speakers put across a challenge that the unity of purpose displayed at the session to end violence against women should be translated into funding commitments and favourable policies to end violence against women by all stakeholders at all levels.

The Secretary General's report highlighted gender equality and the empowerment of women as goals in and of themselves, as well as important means of moving towards the achievement of all internationally agreed goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

In the United Nations Millennium Declaration, Heads of State and Governments rededicated themselves to supporting all efforts to uphold the equal rights of women and men and to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease and to stimulate development that is truly sustainable. However, during the several NGO parallel sessions, it became very apparent that in many

cases, civil society organisations (CSOs) were not aware of the number and variety of agreements, conventions, declarations nor agencies and bodies that exist relating to women or issues relating to women on which they could leverage in their lobby and advocacy work.

In cases where they do know, these instruments are not used to the maximum to build the capacities of local voices. This raises more profound questions regarding CSOs' effectiveness in lobbying for change or influencing policy formulation at global and national levels. There is therefore more need for more awareness-raising on the variety, form and use of international instruments and mechanisms. In addition there is a vital need for training in information sharing and skills on how to use these mechanisms to maximum effect. As organisations become more accustomed and experienced in using the international instruments and mechanisms, they will be able to provide a robust civil society voice in the creation and development of future policy and legislation with more pragmatic indicators, monitoring and evaluation systems.

The Gender Equality Architecture Reform (GEAR) Campaign

The GEAR campaign was premised on the realisation that the UN has been viewed by the women's movement as the galvanising force for the advancement of women's rights. However, a glaring fact is that UN agencies dealing with women's issues such as UNIFEM, Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) and Office of the Special Advisor on Gender Issues (OSAGI) are under-funded and very small. The campaign sought to influence the UN to strengthen the gender equality architecture as part of its reform process. One of the proposals put forth was to combine the women's division in the UN into one big structure headed by an Under Secretary General with powers for decision making.

International Commitment on financing gender equality and empowerment of women

Global commitment on financing for gender equality and women's empowerment has been made by Governments, including the Fourth World Conference on Women (1995), the twenty-third session of the General Assembly (2000), the Millennium Summit (2000) and the International Conference on Financing for Development (2002), as well as in intergovernmental processes, including the General Assembly and the Commission on the Status of Women. The Secretary General's report highlighted that sufficient resources should be allocated to national machineries for the advancement of women as well as to all institutions as appropriate, that can contribute to the implementation and monitoring of the Platform for Action.

In line with the theme of financing gender equality and women's empowerment, several parallel sessions organised by NGOs focused on financing for women's rights. Gender budgeting was strongly highlighted as a strategy for ensuring that women's concerns and rights are financed. Civil society organisations raised concerns over the shift by most donors to fund projects and allocate very small budgets for administration and institutional development.

Global Fund

The Global Fund has put out the call for proposals for Round 8. There are many opportunities for CSOs to tap into these funds. The Global Fund Round 8 priority areas include:

- Preventing HIV in women and girls
- Reducing violence against women
- Education for girls
- Home Based Care
- Livelihood, property and inheritance rights
- Access to treatment, care and support
- Risk populations, sex workers and girls in difficult situations.

More information on how to develop the proposals can be found on the following website:
www.theglobalfund.org

Information can also be obtained from the website on how the Global Fund operates in conjunction with the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) for each country.

UN Commission for Social Development Final Resolution on Employment

The February 2008 edition of Global Cooperation summarised some inputs into this year's priority theme "*Promoting full employment and decent work for all.*" This edition brings you the results of the Commission. The 46th session of the Commission closed a week later than expected due to difficult negotiations over the resolution on the priority theme.

Since last year the Commission has organised its work according to a two year cycle of dealing with a single priority theme. The first year is a "review session" which aims to share experiences, review current processes and identify best practices. The second year is a "policy session" resulting in a set of resolutions for policy action. In the cycle 2008 is the "policy year" and thus the Commission sought policy options that would help achieve full employment and decent work for all. Negotiations proved painstaking and difficult, as evidenced by the delay in agreeing on the final resolution.

Discussed at length was the link between poverty eradication, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the goals of full and productive employment.

The Commission finally adopted a resolution on the priority theme (E/CN.5/2008/L.8) <http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/LTD/N08/243/86/PDF/N0824386.pdf?OpenElement>

Several contentious issues emerged, including:

- migrant workers' rights;
- the question of official development assistance (ODA) and the link between decent work for all and the commitments made in the Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development;
- the right of peoples to self-determination.

The resolution recognises the link between the goals of full and productive employment and decent work, and poverty eradication, as well as sustainable development; it recalls the prime responsibility of both individual countries and the international community regarding the creation of an enabling environment for social and economic development; it encourages States to adopt national and international policies and strategies that take into account the specific situation of social groups such as women, youth, persons with disabilities, and older persons; and it calls for an effective social dialogue with workers' organisations.

The Future Organisation and Methods of Work of the Commission

The Commission reaffirmed the value of the two-year review and policy cycle. The priority theme for the 2009-2010 cycle is "Social integration". The theme for the next cycle 2011-2012 will be selected in 2010. The G-77/China, the EU and the USA had different opinions on that issue. The G-77/China wanted the priority theme for 2011-2012 to be identified before 2010 and proposed "poverty eradication". The EU and the USA said the theme would not be appropriate. They argued that the topic had been addressed by the Commission in 2006.

Civil Society Participation

Over 200 organisations attended the Commission and several made oral interventions during plenary sessions. Statements on the theme were submitted by 23 civil society organisations.

More than 25 side events, many of which were organised or co-organised by NGOs, took place during the session. They covered a variety of topics including effective employment strategies, social protection, integration and ageing.

Overall civil society was happy with the resolution on the priority theme. NGOs were pleased that many of the points they had raised were included in the text. In particular NGOs appreciated reference to a people-centred approach to economic and social development and the central importance of employment and decent work to poverty eradication. They also welcomed the mention of international migration (not included in the first draft) and the

informal sector, as well as recognition of the importance of International Labour Organisation (ILO) principles relative to decent work and corporate social responsibility.

Some issues could have had stronger language, in particular gender equality, policy coherence, and youth employment. Civil society only appears in the paragraph on the rights of women workers. The fact that the impact of climate change was entirely left out also led to criticism. Most NGO representatives regretted that the resolution was addressed to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), rather than the General Assembly, which is in a better position to mainstream decent work issues throughout the UN system.

Resolutions and documents related to the Commission meeting can be found online: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/csd/csodc2008.htm>

Thanks to the NGO Committee for Social Development and the Non Government Liaison Service for some of the following content of this article.

UNRISD Annual Report 2007

Here are some quotes from preliminary research findings contained in the annual report:

- "Poverty eradication is a function of sustained levels of economic growth and structural change. Most countries have experienced growth episodes and varying degrees of transformation." (Page 12)
- "Current poverty reduction strategies in many low-income countries are constrained by an overly restrictive macroeconomic framework and do not reflect the growth strategies of successful late developers. Fewer countries are successfully following the classical path of structural change in which industry, and manufacturing in particular, played the leading role. The service sector is now dominant in many economies; and in a few countries, such as India, it is also the growth sector. However, in low-income countries, the growth of the service sector is a result of the failure of both industrialisation and agricultural development. Much of the service sector consists of low-value-creating informal sector activities." (Page 12).
- "A two-tier social protection system seems to be emerging or consolidating in most countries. Social insurance schemes, which cover employees in the formal labour force, coexist with a variety of social assistance schemes that are largely targeted at the poor or low-income groups. The character of the labour market and patterns of state-business-labour relations define the scope and redistributive character of insurance schemes. Social insurance schemes in highly unequal societies and fragmented labour markets tend to be regressive." (Page 13)
- "Structural change in many countries that eliminated poverty occurred under authoritarian conditions. Most developmental states were highly centralised, had a firm grip on political power and enjoyed considerable autonomy in the political economy. Structural transformation that reduced poverty also occurred under democratic conditions." (page 13)
- "Preliminary findings of the UNRISD research underline the need for strong interlinkages between social and economic policies. (Page 19)

<http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BF3C2/setLanguageCookie?OpenAgent&langcode=en&url=/80256B3C005BF3C2/search/C9CFD9EE3F161C47C125741F00410C0D?OpenDocument>

2008 ICSW 33rd Global Conference on Social Welfare – 80th Anniversary

Not long to go now to the opening on the 30th June. At <http://www.icsw2008.org/> you will find the latest on speakers and the programme.

Dates: 30th June to 4th July 2008 **Venue:** Tours, France Contact Information: globalconference@cnas-icsw.org The theme of the conference is Social Work, Social Protection and Social Development: Where have we been? Where are we going?

The content of this Global Newsletter may be freely reproduced or cited provided the source is acknowledged. Views expressed in this publication are not necessarily the policy of ICSW. Newsletter Editor: Denys Correll – Executive Director. Contributor this month Judith Kaulem
ICSW C/- MOVISIE Netherlands Centre for Social Development

PO Box 19129
3501 DC Utrecht
Netherlands
Email: icsw@icsw.org



GLOBAL COOPERATION NEWSLETTER **May 2008**

In this edition:
ICSW 33rd Global Conference
New Resource for Civil Society
New International Poverty Centre (IPC) Resources

ICSW 33rd Global Conference

The conference will start on the last day of June in Tours France. To celebrate our 80th anniversary our French hosts will launch the ICSW history at the conference. It is an amazing story that starts in the 1920s. Joining us in Tours will be representatives of our two kindred organisations that had their origins at our first conference in 1928. (International Association of Schools of Social Work and International Federation of Social Workers). After this conference IASSW, ICSW and IFSW come together again for joint conferences in 2010 and 2012.

The Conference has received the label of the French Presidency of the European Union. The French government thus acknowledges the importance of the 33rd ICSW Global Conference by labeling it a social policy event of the French Presidency of the European Union. The French Presidency starts in July 2008.

Alternatives Economiques, a French monthly magazine that focuses on economic and social issues has become a partner of the Conference. An article on the Conference will be published in the June issue of the magazine. Take a look at the website of *Alternatives Economiques*, <http://www.alternatives-economiques.fr/>.

Government Ministers have shown great interest in the conference. The newly appointed Minister of Women, Family and Community Development for the Federal Government of Malaysia YB Datuk Dr. Ng Yen Yen is attending. Also the Minister for Social Development of Morocco Mrs. Nouzha Skalli. From Brazil Secretary of Social Welfare and Human Rights Rio de Janeiro Government will attend.

The speaker line-up continues to strengthen. These are just some of the speakers who will contribute to the conference:

Mrs. Diana Nistorescu is the Executive Director of the Romanian Federation of NGOs active in child protection will make a presentation in symposium 2 - *The Growing Role of Civil Society, NGOs, Empowerment of Citizens*.

Mr. Fabio Veras Soares is researcher at the UNDP – International Poverty Centre (Brazil). He will speak in symposium 7 - *Poverty Reduction and Minimum Income Policies: Results and Limits*.

Mrs. Shereen Usdin is co-founder of the Soul City Institute for Health and Development Communication (South Africa) and 2004 SABC/Shoprite-Checkers Health Woman of the Year. She will give a presentation in symposium 8 - *Human Development: Sustainable Development, Human rights, Social Policies and Multiculturalism, Basic Education*

Driss Guerraoui professor of economics at the University Mohamed V of Rabat – Agdal. He is adviser to the Prime Minister of Morocco on social policies. In Tours, He will deliver a presentation in symposium 8 - *Human Development: Sustainable Development, Human Rights, Social Policies and Multiculturalism, Basic Education*.

Isabel Ortiz has over 15 years experience working in 30 countries in various areas of economic and social development. Recently she has worked with Nobel Laureate Joseph Stiglitz's Initiative for Policy Dialogue. She will speak in plenary session 3 - *Social development: From Targeted Policies on Poverty Reduction to Comprehensive Social Policies*.

The conference organisers recommend you book your hotel as soon as possible as other events are taking place in Tours in early July. You can make a reservation through the Vinci Convention Centre when you register online for the Conference. Also, you can use websites:

- <http://www.tourism-touraine.com/>
- <http://www.ligeris.com/>
- <http://www.booking.com/region/fr/touraine.fr>

See the end of this newsletter for conference registration details.

New Resource for Civil Society

The Black Sea guide (*Advocacy in International Institutions by Civil Society Organizations: A Practical Guide*) was written for Black Sea NGOs. But it is of use to NGOs everywhere as it has chapters on the European Union (EU), World Health Organization (WHO), and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

ICSW has been pleased to assist in the sponsoring and preparation of the Guide. The author of the manual is Dr. Ioannis Stribis, legal advisor at the International Centre of Black Sea Studies.

In addition to chapters on the EU, WHO and UNDP the manual provides a detailed analysis of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC). The Guide examines the structure and activities of these organisations, their experience of interaction with civil society organisations and the possibilities and mechanisms for lobbying and advocacy among organisations.

The manual can be found on the Black Sea NGOs Network website by visiting <http://www.bsngon.com/activities/public.php> or the ICSW website – top news.

New International Poverty Centre (IPC) Resources

IPC has three new sections on its website where you will find information on country experiences with Cash Transfer Programmes in [Asia and the Pacific](#), [Africa](#) and [Latin America and the Caribbean](#). Click [here](#) to visit the website or go to: <http://www.undp-povertycentre.org/CCT.do>

Country Experiences:

- **Asia and the Pacific:** Bangladesh, Cambodia, Brunei, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey, and Vietnam.
- **Africa:** Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Cape Verde, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.
- **Latin America and the Caribbean:** Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay.

A Consistent Measure of Real Poverty: A Reply to Ravallion IPC One pager No.54. Thomas Pogge contributes to the lively debate on poverty measurement. He argues that a-dollar-a-day calculations are not sufficient to inform policy.

Click [here](http://www.undp-povertycentre.org/pub/IPCOnePager54.pdf) to download: <http://www.undp-povertycentre.org/pub/IPCOnePager54.pdf>

Which Poverty Line? A Response to Reddy IPC One pager No. 53.

Martin Ravallion responds to a recent IPC One Pager. He reaffirms the importance of the "\$1 or \$2 a day" measurements in estimating poverty.

Click [here](http://www.undp-povertycentre.org/pub/IPCOnePager53.pdf) to download: <http://www.undp-povertycentre.org/pub/IPCOnePager53.pdf>

Inflation-Targeting in Sub-Saharan Africa: Why Now? Why at All? IPC One pager No. 51.

Terry McKinley questions the adoption of explicit inflation targeting by countries such as Ghana and South Africa. The author argues that such a choice is particularly ill-advised now as supply-side factors, such as rising oil and food prices, are driving up inflation in many such developing countries. He maintains that, instead, policymakers should focus on stabilizing the real exchange rate and free fiscal policy to cushion domestic investment and necessary consumption.

Click [here](http://www.undp-povertycentre.org/pub/IPCOnePager51.pdf) to download: <http://www.undp-povertycentre.org/pub/IPCOnePager51.pdf>

MDG Targets: Misunderstood or Misconceived? IPC One pager No. 33

Author: Hamid Tabatabai Click [here](http://www.undp-povertycentre.org/pub/IPCOnePager33.pdf) to download: <http://www.undp-povertycentre.org/pub/IPCOnePager33.pdf> Also in Portuguese, Spanish and French.

MDGs: Misunderstood Targets? Portuguese and Spanish versions of IPC One Pager No. 28. Jan Vandemoortele, former co-chair of the U.N. Inter-Agency Group on the MDGs, argues that the MDG targets were set at the global level, not at the country level. Thus, he claims that it would be a tragic mistake to classify some developing countries as 'failures' simply because their performance, though significantly improved, did not match artificial global benchmarks. Available at: <http://www.undp-povertycentre.org/pub/IPCOnePager28.pdf>

Alternatives for Projecting MDG Indicators IPC Technical paper No. 2

Rafael Guerreiro Osorio addresses the question: will my country reach all or some of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015? The answer to this question requires some kind of projection. However, scarcities of data and technical skills make this exercise difficult. In this paper, the author introduces simple techniques to project the behaviour of indicators, especially when there are limited data points to work with. Click [here](#) to download: <http://www.undp-povertycentre.org/pub/IPCTechnicalPaper2.pdf>

The Vast Majority Income (VMI): A New Measure of Global Inequality IPC Policy Research Brief No. 7. Anwar Shaikh and Amr Ragab introduce a new worldwide measure of welfare, which they call the Vast Majority Income (VMI). The VMI directly calculates the per capita income of the first 80 per cent of the population. It combines information on income levels and their distribution into a single measure. Click [here](#) to download: <http://www.undp-povertycentre.org/pub/IPCPolicyResearchBrief7.pdf>

Quantitative Approaches to Multidimensional Poverty Measurement edited by Nanak Kakwani and Jacques Silber. <http://www.undp-povertycentre.org/book.htm> This book draws together 14 articles that were presented at the IPC-sponsored [International Conference on "The Many Dimensions of Poverty"](#), held in Brasilia in 2005. This book explores the latest developments in the field of multidimensional poverty measurement. It includes clear presentations of more than a dozen different quantitative techniques. The book provides empirical illustrations based on data sources from developed or developing countries.

Poverty in Focus: PSIA - Gauging Poverty Impacts

IPC's journal, [Poverty in Focus](#), highlights the PSIA and PIA concepts and the experience so far of using these analytical tools for enhancing the effectiveness of poverty reducing policies, programmes and projects. Available online at: <http://www.undp-povertycentre.org/pub/IPCPovertyInFocus14.pdf>

2008 ICSW 33rd Global Conference on Social Welfare – 80th Anniversary

Not long to go now to the opening on the 30th June. You will find the latest on speakers and the programme at <http://www.icsw2008.org/>

Dates: 30th June to 4th July 2008 **Venue:** Tours, France Contact Information: globalconference@cnas-icsw.org The theme of the conference is Social Work, Social Protection and Social Development: Where have we been? Where are we going?

The content of this Global Newsletter may be freely reproduced or cited provided the source is acknowledged. Views expressed in this publication are not necessarily the policy of ICSW.

Newsletter Editor: Denys Correll – Executive Director. ICSW C/- MOVISIE
Netherlands Centre for Social Development
PO Box 19129
3501 DC Utrecht
Netherlands

Website www.icsw.org Email: icsw@icsw.org