



**GLOBAL COOPERATION NEWSLETTER**  
**April 2009**

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**The world economy**

Isabel Ortiz, a key contributor to global social and economic policy, has reviewed the fiscal stimulus packages announced in 43 countries. In March 2009, the total amount announced for these stimulus plans is USD2.18 trillion, or 3.5% of world's GDP, mostly in higher income economies. The majority of these recovery packages contain measures to stimulate firms, consumers, and public investment in infrastructure. The author argues that a country approach is inadequate; a global crisis requires global responses. Developing countries will be hit hard; there is a need for increased Official Development Assistance (ODA) to enable them to engage in countercyclical stimulation. Stimulating global demand (and reducing poverty) will require further redistributive measures. Responses have been slow. There is an urgent need for a coordinated expansionary global stimulus package.

"Given this is a crisis generated by the "barons" of the financial sector in the North a strong argument exists to compensate the South, particularly not to make taxpayers in developing countries pay for the mismanagement of Northern banks."

For the full article:

[http://www.networkideas.org/news/mar2009/news18\\_Fiscal\\_Stimulus\\_Plans.htm](http://www.networkideas.org/news/mar2009/news18_Fiscal_Stimulus_Plans.htm)

**UN Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)**

**Religion: Ally, Threat, or just Religion?**

This paper is a feminist response to José Casanova's thematic paper on "Public Religions Revisited". It argues that women should mutually recognise and respect each other's agency and freedom of conscience. Those women who are not religious should not assume false consciousness or attribute victim status to those who choose to live their lives by religious precepts; those women who are religious should not assume that the others lack ethical conviction or are slaves to a material culture. The paper, secondly, maintains that the relationship between religion, politics, and gender equality should not be conceived in quasi-corporatist terms as a relationship between democratic and religious authorities, but always viewed through the lens of individual rights and needs. It furthermore discusses how religion differs from culture and non-religious political belief, particularly considering the complicated intersection of individual choices and bowing to external authority. The paper, finally, warns against a demonization of religions as inherently at odds with gender equality as well as against complacency that too readily accepts compromise on matters of equality between women and men.

<http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BF3C2/setLanguageCookie?OpenAgent&langcode=en&url=/80256B3C005BCCF9/search/E41F731891FC6BD3C125757D003403FF?OpenDocument>

### **Religion, Politics and Gender Equality: Public Religions Revisited**

This is the draft of a thematic paper in the Religion, Politics and Gender Equality Project. The paper revisits the argument first presented in the author's book *Public Religions in the Modern World* (1994).

<http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BF3C2/setLanguageCookie?OpenAgent&langcode=en&url=/80256B3C005BCCF9/search/20AFF0187E703F58C125757D0033B5C9?OpenDocument>

### **Noble Networks? Advocacy for Global Justice and the "Network Effect"**

Civil society organisations in Western societies are widely reported to have significant political power. Policy makers increasingly emphasise the important role of such organizations as "equal players" in the political process, while outside institutional politics, civic advocacy recently regained attention through the rise of global and transnational social movements. This paper makes a contribution to the emerging field of critical and normative inter-organisational relations, and identifies some key areas for further work. It will aid understanding of how NGOs relate to social movements through their networks at a time when struggles for financial justice are set to grow.

<http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BF3C2/setLanguageCookie?OpenAgent&langcode=en&url=/80256B3C005BCCF9/search/A93CF6EAA4EDAD27C125757D002931BA?OpenDocument>

### **The Gendered Impacts of Liberalization: Towards "Embedded Liberalism"?**

In the last two decades public policies have reflected a drive for accelerated global economic integration ("globalization), associated with greater economic liberalization. The outcomes have been largely disappointing, even in the estimate of their designers. Rural livelihoods have become more insecure, and the expected growth has rarely materialised. Insecurity is also etched into the growth of informal economies across the world. Yet the economic policy agenda that has been so adverse to many people around the world has also provided new opportunities to some social groups, including some low-income women. In response to widespread discontent with the liberalization agenda, more attention is now being given to social policies and governance issues, viewed as necessary if globalization is to be "tamed" and "embedded". The contributors to this volume address key issues and questions such as whether states have the capacity to remedy the social distress unleashed by liberalization in the absence of any major revision of their macroeconomic policies and whether the proposed social reforms can redress gender-based inequalities in access to resource and power.

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### **International Poverty Centre, IPEA or the United Nations Development Programme. Research Programme on Inclusive Growth**

**Title:** Is the Washington Consensus Dead?

**Authors:** Degol Hailu

**Series:** One Pager # 82

**Download:** <http://www.ipc-undp.org/pub/IPCOnePager82.pdf>

The author argues that the Washington Consensus is far from dead. The policies as well as the conditionalities imposed under the Consensus are alive and well.

**Title:** How Does the Financial Crisis Affect Developing Countries?

**Authors:** Diana Alarcón, Stephany Griffith-Jones, and José Antonio Ocampo

**Series:** One Pager # 81

**Download:** <http://www.ipc-undp.org/pub/IPCOnePager81.pdf>

**Title:** Confronting Crises: Learning From Labour Markets in the Past

**Author:** Eduardo Zepeda

**Series:** One Pager # 80

**Download:** <http://www.ipc-undp.org/pub/IPCOnePager80.pdf>

**Title:** Eliminating Gender Inequalities Reduces Poverty. How?

**Authors:** Joana Costa and Elydia Silva

**Series:** One Pager # 73

**Download:** <http://www.ipc-undp.org/pub/IPCOnePager73.pdf>

**Title:** The Financial Crisis and its Impact on Developing Countries

**Authors:** Stephany Griffith-Jones and José Antonio Ocampo

**Series:** Working Paper # 53

**Download:** <http://www.ipc-undp.org/pub/IPCWorkingPaper53.pdf>

The authors discuss the impact of the current financial crisis and economic downturn on developing countries. They recommend reforms to avoid a similar crisis happening in the future.

**Title:** The Role of Gender Inequalities in Explaining Income Growth, Poverty and Inequality: Evidences from Latin American Countries

**Author:** Joana Costa, Elydia Silva, and Fábio Vaz

**Series:** Working Paper # 52

**Download:** <http://www.ipc-undp.org/pub/IPCWorkingPaper52.pdf>

The authors find that, among several gender related policies, promoting female labour participation has the biggest impact on reducing poverty and inequality.

Click [here](#) to comment on this publication.

**Title:** Changes in Earnings in Brazil, Chile, and Mexico: Disentangling the Forces behind Pro-Poor Changes in Labour Markets

**Authors:** Eduardo Zepeda, Diana Alarcón, Fábio Veras Soares, and Rafael Guerreiro Osorio

**Series:** Working Paper # 51

**Download:** <http://www.ipc-undp.org/pub/IPCWorkingPaper51.pdf>

These two papers discuss the link between labour markets, poverty and inequality. The authors find that, during crisis, the income of the poor may not fall as much as the non-poor. Yet, a small decline in their income can have devastating impacts.

### **International CSO Steering Group (ISG) on Aid Effectiveness**

The International CSO Steering Group (ISG) met recently to renew its mandate and composition and finalise its work plan following its last meeting in Accra. The ISG's mandate is 'To coordinate and facilitate international engagement by civil society organisations (CSOs) promoting reforms in international cooperation for development and aid effectiveness through the global CSO Better Aid Platform'.

The elements of the renewed International Steering Group responsibilities are:

- a) Monitoring and facilitating CSO recommendations on key issues arising from the implementation of donor/government commitments in the [AAA](#) and the [Paris Declaration](#) -- as well as CSO proposals to deepen aid reform at the 4<sup>th</sup> HLF in 2011.
- b) Facilitate communication with sectoral, country and regional CSO/multi-stakeholder consultations on the implementation of the AAA and the Paris Declaration, including monitoring existing case study-based CSO research on donor aid and development effectiveness and identifying gaps.

In an interview to the *Development Gateway*, Eckhardt Deutscher, Head of the OECD/DAC had said in Accra that the AAA had been the outcome of the broadest consultation process in the history of development cooperation. He acknowledged that civil society is an important part of the development cooperation effort, both in terms of policy advocacy and in terms of operations and delivery, and added that if civil society is part of the problem of diversity, fragmentation, etc; but they also have to be part of the solution. He finally stated that civil society is especially important for broad-based ownership, and the dialogue has been extremely valuable in making it clear that we need this broad-based, inclusive ownership to make the aid effectiveness agenda work.

The ISG on aid effectiveness coordinated and facilitated the CSO engagement with the OECD Working Party on Aid Effectiveness. Since 2007, the ISG has produced a policy paper on the aid effectiveness agenda, created a web site ([www.betteraid.org](http://www.betteraid.org)) to communicate CSO research and perspectives on aid and development effectiveness, organised independent CSO liaison with the Working Party on the organisation and participation of CSOs in HLF3, held informal dialogue with developing country governments involved in the Accra process, organised with a Ghana CSO Facilitating Committee a Parallel CSO Forum in Accra, and commented and advocated for changes in various drafts of the Accra Agenda for Action (the official statement coming out of the Accra HLF). Eighty CSO delegates have been accredited to HLF3 and have participated in all of its Marketplace and Roundtable processes, including making a direct contribution to the Ministerial segment of the HLF.

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