

GLOBAL COOPERATION NEWSLETTER

January 2010

ICSW wishes all our readers the very best for 2010 – the Chinese year of the tiger.

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International development central pillar of U.S. Foreign Policy

With thanks and acknowledgment to the Center for Global Development (CGD) Washington D.C.

<http://www.cgdev.org/content/article/detail/1423520/>



In a major policy speech hosted by CGD, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton declared international development a central pillar of U.S. foreign policy, together with diplomacy and defence. She hailed Raj Shah, recently confirmed as administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, and said she intends to rebuild USAID into, "the premier development agency in the world." In her speech, Clinton said that, especially in tough economic times, the American people have the right to ask why the United States spends tax dollars to help developing countries.

Development overseas is critical to U.S. security and prosperity, she said, and development professionals must do a better job of measuring and communicating the impacts of their work.

"We must evaluate our progress and have the courage to rethink our strategies if we're falling short," said Clinton. "We must not simply add up the dollars we spend or the number of programs we run, but measure the results—the lasting changes that those dollars and programs have helped achieve."

Seasoned observers in the standing-room-only audience of development professionals said afterwards that the speech was the most detailed and forceful on development by a top U.S. official in many years. This reflected, they said, both Secretary Clinton's personal interest in global poverty reduction and the Obama administration's broad commitment to elevate development policy issues.

CGD president Nancy Birdsall said that she has been pleased to learn that a 2008 CGD book, [*The White House and the World: A Global Development Agenda for the Next U.S. President*](#) has been widely read within the administration.

A central idea in Clinton's remarks was the need for better coordination of development assistance, both within the U.S. government and in U.S. activities overseas. She highlighted the multitude of U.S. agencies involved in international development and described the complexity of today's aid environment, in which aid flows not only from traditional bilateral and multilateral donors, but also

from the emerging powers, from non-profit organisations, individual charity, venture capital funds and for-profit corporations.

Clinton highlighted key sectors where she says the United States will focus its assistance. She described significant commitments to global health and agriculture, and stated that support for women and girls will be a theme that runs through all of the U.S. development work. "I will not accept words without deeds when it comes to women's progress," Clinton said.

Poverty in Focus - The MDGs and beyond

The latest issue of *Poverty in Focus - The MDGs and beyond: Pro-Poor Policy in a Changing World* - is a joint effort with the Institute of Development Studies in the United Kingdom. This new publication reviews the experience of the MDGs to date and asks what needs to be done to achieve the goals by 2015. The guest editors are Andy Sumner (Institute of Development Studies Sussex) and Claire Melamed (ActionAid) and the issue has a foreword by Lord Mark Malloch-Brown. [More...
http://www.ipc-undp.org](http://www.ipc-undp.org)

Tribute to Avraham Lavine a major contributor to social welfare

Avraham Lavine, after 40 years in the Israel civil service has decided to retire at the age of 65. Avraham has been Director of the Department of International Relations in the Ministry of Social Affairs and has worked in this area since the age of 25.

ICSW is grateful for all Avraham has done for social welfare over four decades. No recognition or words are sufficient to do credit to the enormous contribution Avraham has made over the years.

During Avraham's time Israel hosted two ICSW global conferences – 1978 and 1998. Avraham has been very much engaged in migration issues and his Ministry was a key driver of the 2007 ICSW Expert meeting on *Cultural Preservation and Empowerment of Immigrant Communities*.

Avraham has worked closely with the Israel Council on Social Welfare and has facilitated the payment of the annual membership fee to ICSW for 39 years. Surely a record for consistency and dedication.

Avraham said in his farewell message "My personal warmest thanks to you for all your warm friendship and close cooperation that made my work during the past forty years so enjoyable and satisfying, and hopefully productive!"

I am often asked "How big is ICSW?" My answer is that ICSW is enormous because of the dedicated volunteers like Avraham who contribute so much of the personal time and effort to international welfare and to the relief of those in poverty.

ICSW wishes Avraham a long and happy retirement with his wife Miryam and his family.

Denys Correll Executive Director

NGO Statement to WHO on Prevention and control of non-communicable diseases

In January 2010 NGOs including ICSW submitted to the Executive Board of WHO a statement on Prevention and control of non-communicable diseases: implementation of the global strategy.

In part the statement read:

We welcome the report by the Secretariat on the overview of progress made in implementing the action plan for the global strategy for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, including a short summary of the outcomes of the 7th Global Conference on Health Promotion held in Nairobi, Kenya, 26-30 October 2009.

In particular, the NGO and civil society community would like to draw the attention of the Executive Board Members to the "Nairobi Call to Action", which aligns with the aspirations of Member States, reflects the vision of the Alma Ata Declaration on Primary Health Care and supports the recommendations of the WHO Commission on the Social Determinants of Health.

On behalf of over 600 experts from more than 100 countries represented at the conference, we would like to reiterate our request to Member States to mandate WHO to:

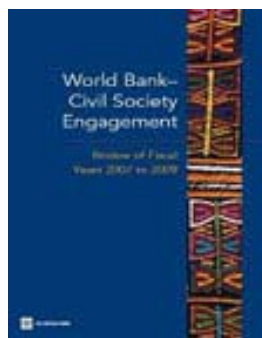
1. Develop a Global Health Promotion Strategy and action plans with regional follow up that respond to the major health needs.
2. Strengthen its internal capacity for health promotion so as to be able to assist Member States in developing sustainably funded structures and in setting up accountable reporting mechanisms.
3. Gather and disseminate compelling evidence on the social, economic, health and other benefits of health promotion to other key governmental sectors.

A lot has been said and much is known about health promotion, however there is an urgent need for more to be done to close the implementation gap.

Therefore, in order to reduce the growing health equity gap, we believe that it is imperative to empower the people of low-income communities to conduct health promotion using community assets, focusing on the people themselves and their knowledge, abilities, and skills. For countries to achieve sustainable health improvements, local people themselves must be the active agents of empowerment, taking charge of their own health with the support and encouragement of national, regional and global social policies, infrastructures, systems and organisations. Medical and public health education should also adopt a more holistic health promotion approach that goes beyond disease control.

In conclusion, we as NGOs and civil society are called to be responsible partners to provide a vital link in spanning the health equity gap. NGOs and civil society by working directly with local people at the grass roots level and partnering with their governments will fulfil our responsibility not only for promoting the health and well-being of all citizens, but also for building the community capacity in finding sustainable solutions to tackle the social determinants of poor health.

World Bank - Civil Society Engagement: Review of Fiscal Years 2007 to 2009



The World Bank's Global Civil Society Team recently launched a new report that assesses the Bank's relations with civil society for the period 2007-2009. The review report provides detailed information on the Bank's increased engagement with civil society worldwide and reports on global consultation processes, examples of operational collaboration, CSO funding mechanisms, and civil society outreach initiatives by region and constituency teams.

World Bank - Civil Society Engagement: Review of Fiscal Years 2007 to 2009 notes that the World Bank's engagement with civil society has been evolving from being "institutionally based to being more issue oriented."

At the same time civil society organisations interacting with the World Bank have shifted from a "do-no-harm" to a "do-good approach" in their efforts to influence the Bank to further adopt socially just and environmentally sustainable development approaches.

It further finds that the Bank has been mainstreaming its engagement with more specific constituencies, such as indigenous peoples, labour unions, parliamentarians, persons with disabilities, and youth.

However, the report underscores that although progress has been made in the Bank's engagement with civil society, "the challenge remains to streamline and scale up institutional partnerships and funding mechanisms."

For more information and to access the report, click [here](#).

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/CSO/0,,contentMDK:22361954~pagePK:220503~piPK:220476~theSitePK:228717,00.html>

An evaluation of progress toward the MDG one-Hunger target

One of the targets of the first Millennium Development Goal (MDG) is to reduce the proportion of people who suffer from hunger by half between 1990 and 2015, with hunger measured as the proportion of the population who are undernourished and the prevalence of children under five who are underweight. Many countries remain far from reaching this target, and much of the progress made has been eroded by the recent global food price and economic crises. As we enter the final five years to achieve the MDGs, we look upon one of the greatest challenges of our time with one billion people hungry, 129 million and 195 million children underweight and stunted respectively and more than 2 billion people deficient in micronutrients. <http://www.undg.org/index.cfm?P=327>

UNRISD Conferences and Publications

UNRISD Conference 'Social and Political Dimensions of the Global Crisis: Implications for Developing Countries'

<http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BF3C2/setLanguageCookie?OpenAgent&langcode=en&url=/80256B3C005BD6AB/search/58DA663256DB6A34C125769B0054C1E8?OpenDocument&category=Conference+Details>

Pension privatization and economic development in Central and Eastern Europe: A political economy perspective

The paper takes a political economy approach to analyse the importance of economic factors and motives in the making of pension privatisation in Central and Eastern Europe, with a closer look at the cases of Hungary and Poland.

<http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BF3C2/setLanguageCookie?OpenAgent&langcode=en&url=/80256B3C005BCCF9/search/B6182D3FED8BDEE4C1257601003F64B2?OpenDocument>

Financing Social Policy: Mobilizing Resources for Social Development

The contributors in this volume edited by Katja Hujo and Shea McClanahan explore the economic, social and political implications and the developmental impact of a wide range of potential resources – including taxation, aid, mineral rents, social insurance, pension funds and remittances – for financing social policy in development countries.

<http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BF3C2/setLanguageCookie?OpenAgent&langcode=en&url=/80256B3C005BCCF9/search/612F3E661B8B1600C125765E0049535B?OpenDocument>

2010 Joint World Conference on Social Work and Social Development The Agenda

Update: Nearly 2000 abstracts have been submitted. The conference will be held from 10th to 14th June 2010 at Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (www.hkcec.com.hk). Three international and eight local hosts will jointly organise the conference. This first ever consortium offers a unique platform for more than 2,000 professionals, academics, practitioners, social planners, policy makers and advocates from East and West to meet, exchange and develop an action agenda for social work and social development in the next decade. **Early bird registration to 1st March.**

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