



GLOBAL COOPERATION NEWSLETTER **February 2011**

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UN Commission for Social Development

ICSW was represented at the 49th Session of the Commission for Social Development held in New York from 9-18 February under the priority theme "Poverty Eradication". UN Member States, civil society and other stakeholders examined poverty's interrelationship with social integration, full employment and decent work for all.

Social protection was chosen as the emerging issue of the 49th session by the Economic and Social Council (resolution 2006/18). It affects the capabilities of individuals and families to manage and overcome any challenges of their well-being. It is also essential to reduce vulnerability and prevent the deterioration of living conditions. ICSW made an extensive statement on the theme and social protection – this can be found at <http://www.icsw.org/un/un.htm>

In addition to the priority theme, the session reviewed relevant UN plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups: persons with disabilities, youth, ageing, and the family.

A high level panel discussion on the theme "poverty eradication" was held on the second day of the session. It focused on key factors impeding poverty eradication, successes in poverty eradication due to specific policies, as well as ways to successfully mobilise public resources for poverty eradication and make the process a priority in national policy and government planning.

As 2011 is a review year, Commission members were not expected to adopt any policy-shaping resolution on the priority theme of poverty eradication. For the background note on the priority theme Poverty Eradication see <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/csocd/2011/prioritytheme-note.pdf>

For the concept paper "Emerging Issues: Social Protection" see <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/csocd/2011/conceptnote.pdf>

For all statements including those by NGOs visit <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/csocd/2011/conceptnote.pdf> .

The right kind of global recovery

The following are extracts from a speech made by Dominique Strauss-Kahn, Managing Director, International Monetary Fund at the Monetary Authority of Singapore, 1st February 2011. Mr Strauss-Kahn refers to social protection as part of a holistic approach to managing economies. (Editor). It is worth reading the full text at:

<http://www.imf.org/external/np/speeches/2011/020111.htm>

"The IMF's latest forecast, released just last week, is for global growth of 4½ per cent this year. This is higher than the average over the last decade, and an upgrade from our October WEO forecast.

"But while the recovery is underway, it is not the recovery we wanted. It is a recovery beset by tensions and strains—which could even sow the seeds of the next crisis. I see two dangerous imbalances:

First, the recovery is unbalanced *across* countries. While growth remains below potential in the advanced economies, emerging and developing economies are growing much faster—and some may soon be overheating.

Second, the recovery is unbalanced *within* countries. Global unemployment remains at record highs, with widening income inequality adding to social strains.

"In my view, we will only get the recovery right if we take a holistic approach to managing the economy—one that focuses not only on standard macroeconomic and financial policies, but also on job creation and social protection. Because without jobs and income security, there can be no rebound in domestic demand—and ultimately, no sustainable recovery.

The two-speed recovery

"Let me begin with how the recovery is proceeding at the global level.

In the advanced economies, we are expecting subdued growth of 2½ per cent in 2011, with high unemployment and household debt weighing on demand. In the emerging and developing economies, we are forecasting much faster growth of 6½ per cent—with Asia (excluding Japan) expected to grow by 8½ per cent.

The "global growth gap" is also straining the recovery in other ways. Energy prices are rising swiftly, reflecting rapid growth in the emerging economies. Food prices are rising too—though here supply shocks are the main reason—with potentially devastating consequences for low-income countries. Together, these price increases are beginning to feed into headline inflation. Large and volatile capital flows to emerging economies is another challenging development. They are complicating macroeconomic management and in some cases raising concerns about financial stability.

How best to re-balance the recovery? The priorities are by now well-known.

In the advanced economies, the key is to promote growth and job creation. While structural reforms are essential to make these economies more competitive, these reforms are only likely to pay off over time. So what can be done to improve the short term? The most urgent task is to repair and reform financial sector, to reduce risk and pave the way for healthy credit growth.

Unemployment and income inequality

"Let me now turn to the second imbalance, which occurs within countries: high unemployment and rising income and wealth inequalities.

The sharp rise in global unemployment is a major social problem. If you lose your job, you are likely to suffer from poorer health and shorter life expectancy, and your children are

likely to perform worse in school. And where people are without hope of finding a job, society as a whole suffers—which in turn can threaten political stability.

Here in Asia, there have been remarkable social advances over the last decades, with over half a billion people lifted out of poverty. At the same time, income inequality has been on the rise. The leaders of China and India have put tackling income and wealth disparities high on their policy agendas. And even in a wealthy nation like Singapore, Prime Minister Lee has noted that the widening income gap is an issue of national concern.

There are abundant social and ethical reasons why we should care about income inequality. But there are also important macroeconomic reasons.

Inequality can dampen economic opportunity, since the poor have less access to credit. It can divert people toward unproductive activities. It can also make countries more prone to shocks—where fewer people have savings for a rainy day, more will suffer when the storm hits. Inequality can even make it harder to recover from shocks: more equal societies tend to grow for longer.

How best to respond to these challenges?

In countries facing high joblessness, well-designed unemployment schemes, social assistance and public work programs effectively prevent long-term unemployment and help shorten recovery from recession. Adequate social protection, drawing on a basic social protection floor as proposed by the ILO, can protect the most vulnerable from the brunt of the crisis. As fiscal consolidation gets underway in the advanced economies, we must also ensure that fiscal policy remains as job-friendly as possible.

Over the long haul, the most effective way to promote income growth at the lower end of the distribution is to invest in education, innovation, and ramping up the skills of workers. The 21st century economy is ultimately a knowledge economy, where returns to education are tremendously important. We must give people everywhere the tools they need to prosper in the highly competitive global economy of today.

Zambian envoy elected to ECOSOC for 2011



H.E. Lazarous Kapambwe, Permanent Representative of Zambia to the UN was elected on 18 January to serve as the next President of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

"I represent the region that is lagging behind the most in terms of development in all socio-economic sectors and I pledge to do my best to ensure that Africa's challenges as well as all other regions are tackled in the best way possible by the Council," Mr. Kapambwe told ECOSOC.

Achieving equitable and effective climate finance: civil society perspectives

"Achieving Equitable and Effective Climate Finance: Civil Society Perspectives." highlights civil society perspectives on the outcomes of the UN Climate Change Conference in Cancun, Mexico (COP16) as well as on issues related to sources and governance for climate finance. <http://www.un-ngls.org/spip.php?article3230>

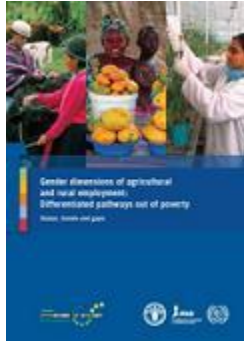
Rio 2012: Making it Happen

The UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio 2012) is circulating a biweekly newsletter called *Rio 2012: Making it Happen*. It is available online and will also be sent to subscribers. To obtain the latest copy go to http://www.uncsd2012.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=173:rio-2012-making-it-happen-volume-2-issue-3&catid=76:newsletter&Itemid=128

Impact of remittances on poverty in developing countries.

http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/ditctncd20108_en.pdf

Gender dimensions of agricultural and rural employment



Gender inequality varies considerably across regions and sectors, depending on social, cultural, religious and economic factors. Nevertheless, a recently released United Nations interagency report on the gender dimension of agricultural work finds that there is evidence that, globally, women still benefit less than men from (decent) rural and agricultural employment, whether in self- or wage-employment. Progress to overcome this inequality has stalled due to the recent economic and food crises.

<http://www.un-ngls.org/spip.php?article3231>

Child poverty and disparities study

http://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/index_43137.html

UNICEF is advancing a multidimensional analysis of poverty and disparities. UNICEF has 23 country reports completed and others underway; all developed with Southern research centres/partners.

[Bangladesh](#), [Burundi](#), [Cameroon](#), [Democratic Republic of the Congo](#), [Djibouti](#), [Egypt](#), [Ghana](#), [Jamaica](#), [Indian Ocean Islands](#), [Kosovo](#), [Kyrgyzstan](#), [Mali](#), [Mexico](#), [Nicaragua](#), [Niger](#), [Nigeria](#), [Philippines](#), [Republic of Congo](#), [Senegal](#), [Tanzania](#), [Thailand](#), [Ukraine](#), and [Uzbekistan](#).

For more information, please visit the Global Study on Child Poverty and Disparities [blog](#) - <http://www.unicefglobalstudy.blogspot.com/>

Managing rising food prices, again

From CGD Development Update 15th February 2011

Corn and wheat prices are climbing again in response to severe weather events and U.S. ethanol policies. Kim Elliot and Vijaya Ramachandran suggest ways to avoid another crisis. Amanda Glassman urges focusing interventions on the poor.

http://blogs.cgdev.org/globaldevelopment/2011/02/another-food-price-spike-weather-again-to-blame-for-wheat-corn-pushed-by-even-worse-ethanol-policies.php?utm_source=nl_weekly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nl_weekly_0215_2011

Nominate Your 'Agents of Change'

To celebrate the 2011 Commonwealth theme 'Women as Agents of Change' and to highlight the achievements of inspiring women, the Commonwealth is asking organisations and associations in the Commonwealth family to nominate a woman who has made a difference to the lives of others as an 'Agent of Change'. The contest is now open and ends on Commonwealth Day, 14 March 2011. Please nominate your 'Agent of Change' and find more details via the online form: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CWagentsofchange> If you have any queries, please contact CPAD via: agentsofchange@commonwealth.int

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