



**GLOBAL COOPERATION NEWSLETTER**  
**May 2011**

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**Driss Guerraoui**

Mr Driss Guerraoui ICSW Regional President Middle East and North Africa and President of the Moroccan network of ICSW welcomed delegates from 10 countries to the first meeting of an Arab network of ICSW. The focus of the two day meeting at the end of May was social protection in the Arab region. The building of a civil society network will strengthen the position of social welfare and development in the Arab countries. Mr Guerraoui said it is important for civil society to be active in this time of change in the region.

The aim of this new civil society movement is to combat poverty, exclusion and build solidarity between government and civil society



**Christian Rollet** – one of many media interviews

Christian Rollet President of the International Council on Social Welfare in his opening address spoke of defending social rights in the context of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Civil society has a role in specifying national approaches to social protection. It is important to have the Arab world involved in ICSW. He said ICSW looks forward to seeing national organisations established in each country of the region to support social rights.

The keynote address was given by Mr Martin Hirsch, member of the Social Protection Floor Initiative Advisory Group. Before the current appointment, Mr Hirsch was appointed by President Sarkozy to oversee social protection in France. He is also preparing for the G20 which is to be chaired by France.



**Martin Hirsch**

Mr Hirsch said all countries are starting to transform social structures and discuss social protection. Latin American countries are revamping their social security system. No country can say they have done everything to establish a complete system of social protection. There is an emerging consensus by economists that the widening gap between rich and poor is a threat to growth. Countries cannot wait for a high level of GDP before introducing a comprehensive social welfare system. Social welfare is not a luxury: it can serve the economy.

### **Civil Society Rejects 'Toothless' Istanbul Plan of Action**

by Claire Ngozo, Inter Press Service News Agency  
<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=55605>

ISTANBUL, 12<sup>th</sup> May 2011 Civil society groups vowed to mobilise citizens of the world's poorest nations to take to the streets, rejecting the Istanbul Programme of Action agreed today by the Fourth U.N. Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

"The plan of action has no teeth and appears to have left the people living in the least developed countries in a worse position than before," said Arjun Karki, the spokesperson for the civil society forum at the conference, known as LDC-IV. "We are appalled and disillusioned," he said.

More than 800 million people live in the 48 countries are classified as least developed; 33 of these are found in sub-Saharan Africa.



**Credit: United Nations**

The Programme of Action for the decade 2011 to 2020 declares that the ownership and primary responsibility for development lies with the least developed countries themselves. LDCs are called on to incorporate the Programme of Action into their national development strategies, plans and programmes and identifying the domestic authorities responsible for overseeing implementation and multi-stakeholder engagement by parliamentarians and the private sector.

Civil society says the Istanbul Programme fails to live up to the mandate agreed ahead of conference, which was to formulate and adopt renewed terms for the relationship between LDCs and their development partners, and to mobilise additional international support and action in support of the LDCs. At the beginning of the conference, civil society had expressed the need for a paradigm shift including the immediate and unconditional cancellation of debts owed by LDCs and a review of the mandate and operations of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. They also wanted to see agricultural reform policies that would favour smallholder farmers, as well as measures to regulate genetically-modified seeds, land grabs and large- scale biofuel production, and speculation affecting the price of staple foods.

"It's very disappointing that they did not take into consideration our demands - which are people's demands. In the Istanbul Plan of Action, the northern elite has diluted its role towards equitable and collective international consciousness," Dr Ihsan Karaman, chair of the organisation which hosted the civil society forum, Doctors Worldwide. For the full civil society declaration go to [http://www.ldcwatch.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=197%3Athe-ldc-civil-society-forum-istanbul-declaration&catid=24%3Acsf-announcements&Itemid=44&lang=en](http://www.ldcwatch.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=197%3Athe-ldc-civil-society-forum-istanbul-declaration&catid=24%3Acsf-announcements&Itemid=44&lang=en)

### **UNICEF Chairs the Global Migration Group**

For the first half of 2011, UNICEF is chairing the [Global Migration Group](#). UNICEF is working with all member agencies to coordinate a common approach to major international events concerning migration and promoting the GMG's practical approach to mainstreaming migration in national development planning, with an emphasis on capacity development and support to institutions and government stakeholders.

### **UNRISD Publications**

#### **The Power of Jurisdiction in Promoting Social Policies in Smaller States**

On the basis of a global review of empirical material, this paper argues that a stronger appreciation of strategic issues, institutional practices, legal features, regulatory capacities and behavioural response mechanisms would help in understanding why some small states succeed while others do not.

<http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BF3C2/setLanguageCookie?OpenAgent&langcode=en&url=/80256B3C005BCCF9/search/D4C9913E82705AD9C125781F0061AE49?OpenDocument>

#### **Assessing the Structure of Small Welfare States: Social Policies in Small States Series, No. 4**

This paper examines how the characteristics of small states influence their pursuit of a welfare state. Many of the small states discussed have not previously featured in mainstream thinking about the relationship between country size and the extent of the welfare state.

<http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BF3C2/setLanguageCookie?OpenAgent&langcode=en&url=/80256B3C005BCCF9/search/54BECD7260B25CACC125787700589AE4?OpenDocument>

#### **Religion, Politics and Gender Equality**

Contrary to modernist predictions that religion would retreat into a private zone of worship and practice, recent decades have seen religion become increasingly salient on the political stage worldwide. Does this matter? From the point of view of women's rights and gender equality, much is at stake. UNRISD research shows that politicized religion impinges on women's rights in problematic ways. The challenge to gender equality comes not just from fundamentalist agendas, but also from those who instrumentalise women's rights for political ends.

<http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BF3C2/setLanguageCookie?OpenAgent&langcode=en&url=/80256B3C005BCCF9/search/EE0F97F51F026825C1257894004E4F69?OpenDocument>

## OECD Publications

### **OECD Health Policy Studies Help Wanted? Providing and Paying for Long-Term Care**

Francesca Colombo, Ana Llena-Nozal, Jérôme Mercier, Frits Tjadens. OECD Publishing

This book examines the challenges countries are facing with regard to providing and paying for long-term care. With populations ageing and the need for long-term care growing rapidly, this book looks at such issues as: future demographic trends, policies to support family carers, long-term care workers, financing arrangements, long-term care insurance, and getting better value for money in long-term care

**Availability:** Forthcoming Publication date: 10 Jun 2011 Language: English Pages: 336 Tables: 20 Charts: 56 ISBN: 9789264097582 OECD Code: 812011031P1

**Version:** Print (Paperback) + Free PDF (*Note from Global Cooperation editor - Unfortunately this interesting publication is absurdly priced*) Price: €75 | \$105 | £67 | ¥9700 | MXN1350 which puts it beyond the budget of many NGOs. The OECD publishes much good material it is a pity they make the cost so prohibitive to many in civil society.)

<http://www.oecdbookshop.org/oecd/display.asp?sf1=identifiers&st1=9789264097582>

## Strengthening health workforces in Africa



During the past decade, global AIDS donors' attempts to strengthen the health workforce in Africa have been temporary and HIV/AIDS-specific, doing little to address the long-term sustainability and capacity of the workforce to handle all health needs. The policies and practices of the major donors have included varying degrees of support for strengthening human resources in health; most have been directed toward short-term interventions such as in-service training for existing health workers and temporary hiring in nongovernmental organizations or on special contracts in the public sector.

Systematic monitoring and reporting of donor's strategies, however, has been scarce. This report fills the void by focusing on the workforce strengthening strategies of three of the major HIV/AIDS donors: the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the Global Fund), and the World Bank's Africa Multi-country HIV/AIDS Program (the MAP). The report identifies six tasks for donors, national governments, and country stakeholders to undertake to reverse the severe shortage of skilled, motivated, and productive health workers.

[http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/1424385/?utm\\_source=nl\\_weekly&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=nl\\_weekly\\_09082010&](http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/1424385/?utm_source=nl_weekly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nl_weekly_09082010&)

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Newsletter Editor: Denys Correll, Executive Director

PO Box 28957

Kampala Uganda

Phone: +256 414 32 11 50

Website [www.icsw.org](http://www.icsw.org) Email: [icsw@icsw.org](mailto:icsw@icsw.org)

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