



**GLOBAL COOPERATION NEWSLETTER**  
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(From DESA News June 2011 - Vol. 15, No. 6)

<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/newsletter/2011/june/feature.shtml#fea1>



Mr. Sha Zukang Under-Secretary-General for UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) shared his experience, vision and hopes with DESA News. Mr Sha is leading the work that will culminate in Rio+20 (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> June 2012). Mr Sha is the Secretary-General of Rio+20 - the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development.

***What is your vision as Secretary-General of the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development?***

"I am a strong advocate of sustainable development and I think, if there is a future for our civilization, it will be through achieving sustainable development across the globe. As a conference dedicated to sustainable development, I hope Rio+20 will re-launch our world on a sustainable trajectory. That, in short, is my vision."

***What message would you like to convey to governments and organizations around the world, as we prepare for Rio+20?***

"I believe that Rio+20 is one of the most important events of this decade. It is an event for the whole world; it is about tomorrow, about the future. And sustainable development should be our common future. History has given all of us an opportunity to make a difference. Let us do it, together.

Rio+20 can be captured in 1, 2, and 3:

- One focused political document on the outcome;
- Two themes - a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication and the institutional framework for sustainable development; and
- Three objectives - renew political commitments, assess gaps in implementation and identify new and emerging challenges.

Overall, I would like to see governments and organizations produce two kinds of results - at the political level, renewing their political commitment to sustainable development; at the action level, launching concrete initiatives in support of implementation. These initiatives could be country-led, supported by multi-stakeholders; or led by UN organizations; or by business and civil society.

Rio+20 should be a milestone event, with broad participation at the grass root level. We owe it to ourselves and to future generations."

***What are the chances for success in Rio? Are you optimistic?***

"A large international conference like Rio+20 is often a difficult and complicated process, because it is seeking to address broad, inter-linked challenges. But I am optimistic. I see enthusiasm and passion for Rio+20 on the rise. Governments are becoming more engaged. They are setting up national coordination committees or task forces. Businesses are also engaged. They have set up a dedicated mechanism for Rio+20. And civil society groups are active. Many are preparing to launch initiatives in the lead-up to Rio or at Rio.

Equally important, Rio+20 offers a timely opportunity to take sustainable development forward. Rio+20 can, and I hope, will live in history as an event that provided the momentum to re-launch the world on the pathway to sustainable development.

While gaps remain on how to proceed, Governments agree that the current international environmental governance is fragmented and there is need for a better balance between governance for the three pillars of sustainable development. While there is concern over green economy, in the area of trade, aid and capacity building, countries agree that a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication can be an important avenue to accelerating sustainable development."

***What in your view are the new challenges?***

"During preparatory discussions, delegates identified a number of new, emerging challenges.

Though many are long-known challenges, they have taken on new dimensions. One example is the need for enhancing disaster preparedness, in view of the increased frequency and severity of natural disasters.

Others include energy (energy access, energy efficiency, renewable energy), water (water stress and shortage), land degradation (soil loss), population dynamics, urbanization, sustainable agriculture, ocean and fisheries (the blue economy) and others.

I think Rio+20 will need to address these new challenges. Agreement is needed on measures and commitments that can accelerate implementation in meeting them."

***How is your job as Conference Secretary-General?***

"Not easy. It is hard work, but I am not afraid of hard work. I do work hard. However, there are lots of frustrations. Lack of funding is an important one.

Despite frustrations, I also have a strong team working with me and supporting me, which makes this job more enjoyable."

**For more information:**

The 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20: <http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/>  
Sha Zukang, Secretary-General of the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development and Under-Secretary-General of DESA: <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/usg/index.shtml>

**International Labour Conference June 2011**

At the conclusion of the 100<sup>th</sup> annual Conference of the International Labour Organization (ILO) the ILO Director-General Juan Somavia referred to "a new era of social justice". He said "I believe that future delegates will proudly look back and say: it was at the 100<sup>th</sup> ILC where the roots of a new era of social justice started to emerge ... where the dignity of domestic workers was upheld, when the new notion of a social protection floor took hold, when we were told once again by important world leaders that our voice, values and actions were needed for a more stable world."

In his report to the ILC Mr Somavia referred to the 1995 Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development which said at the beginning: "We acknowledge that the people of the world have shown in different ways an urgent need to address profound social problems, especially poverty, unemployment and social exclusion that affect every country. ... We share the conviction that social development and social justice are indispensable for the achievement and maintenance of peace and security within and among our nations. ... We are deeply convinced that economic development, social development and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually

reinforcing components of sustainable development, which is the framework for our efforts to achieve a higher quality of life for all people.” (Paragraph 53). To read Mr Somavia’s full report - [http://www.ilo.org/ilc/ILCSessions/100thSession/reports/reports-submitted/WCMS\\_155656/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/ilc/ILCSessions/100thSession/reports/reports-submitted/WCMS_155656/lang--en/index.htm) (in all UN languages)

### **Social protection, social security**

The Conference included a discussion on one of the ILO's strategic objectives, social protection, focusing specifically on social security. The Conference report entitled "Social Security for Social Justice and a Fair Globalization", served as the basis for discussions in a tripartite Conference committee, summarizes the main trends in social security worldwide and identifies key issues for the future of social security, including the extension of social security coverage and the UN Social Protection Floor initiative; the adaptation of social security systems to changing demographic, economic and social structures and crises; sustainable financing of social security, which includes effective and equitable cost-control measures in countries with mature social security systems; options to extend fiscal space for social protection in developing countries; and ensuring the economic and social adequacy of social security.

<http://www.ilo.org/ilc/ILCSessions/100thSession/on-the-agenda/social-protection/lang--en/index.htm> (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Russian and Spanish)

### **UNICEF Social and Economic Policy Update June 2011**

The June issue of the UNICEF update focussed on social protection. In recent years, [social protection](#) has emerged as a major new focus in efforts to reduce poverty around the world. The food and economic crisis have highlighted the urgency to protect populations from shocks and the need to build up comprehensive systems during the current recovery period. UNICEF is supporting governments' social protection efforts in 76 countries.

#### **Documents and publications on social protection**

- Social Protection: Accelerating the MDGs with Equity, Isabel Ortiz, Gaspar Fajth, Jennifer Yablonski and Amjad Rabi [http://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/index\\_55915.html](http://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/index_55915.html)
- Social Protection for All - An Agenda for Pro-Child Growth and Child Rights, Timo Voipio [http://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/index\\_57385.html](http://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/index_57385.html)
- Enhancing Social Protection for HIV Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support, UNAIDS and UNICEF [http://www.unicef.org/aids/files/Social\\_Protection\\_Brief\\_LowresOct2010.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/aids/files/Social_Protection_Brief_LowresOct2010.pdf)
- Malawi: Impact Evaluation Report, External Evaluation of the Mchinji Social Cash Transfer Pilot, Candace Miller, Maxton Tsoka and Kathryn Reichert [http://childresearchpolicy.org/images/Impact\\_Evaluation\\_Report\\_Final\\_August.pdf](http://childresearchpolicy.org/images/Impact_Evaluation_Report_Final_August.pdf)
- Statement on Child-Sensitive Social Protection, available at [http://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/index\\_53801.html](http://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/index_53801.html) in English, French and Spanish

#### **Social Protection Floor Costing Tool**

The UNICEF-ILO Social Protection Costing Tool allows costing of different social protection measures and helps examine the affordability and sustainability of increasing the scope and extent of social protection coverage by providing concrete quantitative figures over a 20 year period. The tool can be used to analyse both existing and planned social protection benefits.

[http://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/index\\_56917.html](http://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/index_56917.html)

### **Denmark’s aid funding and policies set good examples**

(Extracts from *What's new from the OECD* 1 June 2011)

Denmark’s Official Development Assistance stands at USD 2.87 billion, or 0.90% of its gross national product. One of the five most generous donors as a percentage of its total economy, Denmark has surpassed the UN aid target of 0.7% of GNI every year since 1978. It is also a leader in its approach to development - working with fragile states, delivering effective humanitarian and development aid, and focusing on gender equity and climate change.

In line with good development practice, Denmark is paring down the number of countries and multilateral organisations it supports and its aid is transparent and predictable. It is also taking

more 'risks'- working with fragile states on governance concerns, expanding its focus on employment, gender equality, democracy and environment. The review recommends advance planning as Denmark withdraws aid from some countries and better training for staff going into high-risk areas.

In order to encourage continued public support for development, the Review recommends that Denmark provides evidence that it is improving the lives of people in poor countries. These 'good news' stories would be useful for development staff as they communicate to the public through the media. Denmark should also seize the opportunity of its 2012 EU presidency to ensure that EU policies support the aspirations of developing countries. The Review was written by the OECD secretariat and peer reviewed by DAC members Luxembourg and New Zealand. To obtain a copy of the Review - [http://www.oecd.org/document/59/0,3746,en\\_2649\\_37413\\_47834427\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_37413,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/59/0,3746,en_2649_37413_47834427_1_1_1_37413,00.html)

### **UNRISD E-News**

UN Research Institute for Social Development produces a most interesting "newsletter" which you can also receive by contacting [info@unrisd.org](mailto:info@unrisd.org) In the latest issue Katja Hujo reports on sustainable financing for social policies. "Policy debates on implementing and expanding social policies in developing countries often revolve around costs and affordability. Some contend that poor countries cannot afford to provide public social services due to a lack of fiscal resources. Yet UNRISD research shows that universal social policies are not only more cost-efficient but also have better delivery with regard to social development." [Read more.](#)  
([http://www.unrisd.org/unrisd/website/newsview.nsf/\(httpNews\)/D81C0EF0D98B7BFBC12578A200596D4F?OpenDocument](http://www.unrisd.org/unrisd/website/newsview.nsf/(httpNews)/D81C0EF0D98B7BFBC12578A200596D4F?OpenDocument) To read the full newsletter go to:  
[http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005C2802/\(Newsletters\)/62F53A20BBB66D2FC12578A200590E74?OpenDocument](http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005C2802/(Newsletters)/62F53A20BBB66D2FC12578A200590E74?OpenDocument)

### **Blurring the boundaries - Citizen action across states and societies**

A ten-year global-grassroots research project found 150 different examples of how citizens cross the boundary between state and society to affect the institutions that affect their lives. Researchers from the Development Research Centre on Citizenship, Participation and Accountability spent a decade working with citizens from around the world who are taking action to sway the institutions that affect their lives. The researchers were led to dozens of local associations: cooperatives, women's groups, religious assemblies, and other civic organisations. They visited the offices of movements and networks that are pressing national governments and international actors for change on their behalf. They observed the public forums where the state has invited citizens to voice their concerns and interests, discuss solutions and collaborate - an array of participatory arenas such as health councils, local legislative bodies and policy forums. A simple yet important discovery was made in the process. The most effective citizens are the most versatile: the ones who can cross boundaries. They move between the local, the national and the global, employ a range of techniques, act as allies and adversaries of the state, and deploy their skills of protest and partnership at key moments and in different institutional entry points. The lessons from this unique project are summarised in one report. Visit [www.drc-citizenship.org](http://www.drc-citizenship.org) to download this report or other resources.

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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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