



GLOBAL COOPERATION NEWSLETTER
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Stockholm Joint World Conference Social Work Social Development

Registrations are rolling in and Stockholm hotels are filling. Early bird registration finishes on 30th April so register now. <http://www.swsd-stockholm-2012.org/>
The Conference webpage lists the main speakers <http://www.swsd-stockholm-2012.org/Invited-Plenar-Speakers.aspx>

UN Social Work Day Geneva

Mr Assane Diop, Head of Social Protection, International Labour Organisation was the guest speaker on the occasion of the UN Day of Social Work held at the Palais de Nations, Geneva, 26th March 2012. Mr Diop said "It is an honour for me to address you on behalf of the Director-General of the ILO on the occasion of the UN Day of Social Work. I am even more honoured to receive on behalf of the ILO – and in fact on behalf of the Joint Social Protection Floor Initiative of the United Nations – the "Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development" of the International Federation of Social Workers, the International Association of Schools of Social Work and the International Council of Social Welfare. Together, you represent hundreds of thousands of social workers, hundreds of Schools of Social Work and tens of thousands of organizations working in social welfare.

This document is thus an Agenda for action of the three perhaps most powerful international civil society organizations whose mission is social justice, social peace and social development. It is not only fully compatible with the mandate of the ILO and the UN at large – it is also a formidable support for the transmission of that mandate into reality.

Social Protection in the Arab World

A collective work entitled "Social Protection in the Arab World: Comparative Politics" has been published in Arabic as the first publication of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region of ICSW.

The book, coordinated by Mr Driss Guerraoui, Regional President of the ICSW MENA region consists of the contributions made by experts and stakeholders in Arab civil society who met in Casablanca

in May 2011. This was the first meeting of the MENA region of ICSW. The volume focuses on the experiences of Morocco, Mauritania, Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Algeria.

Meeting the challenge of enabling social development in the Arab world is a challenge. Despite the wealth generated by energy, mining and natural resources most Arab countries suffer from chronic deficits in key human development indicators, particularly in education, health, employment, housing, basic infrastructure, medical care and welfare. Rural areas, women, children, people with disabilities and the elderly are most affected by these deficiencies.

The publication of 243 pages outlines the possible social strategies that will improve the living conditions of people in Arab Countries. The book will be available later in French and English.

Fiftieth session of the Commission for Social Development

At its fiftieth regular session, held from 1st to 10th February 2012, which was the policy year of a biennial cycle, the Commission for Social Development considered the priority theme "Poverty eradication". The theme takes into account its interrelationship with social integration and full employment and decent work for all. The Commission also reviewed relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups, and the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

During its two-week session, the Commission convened two high-level panel discussions — one on the priority theme, and the other on the emerging issue of "Youth: poverty and unemployment" — and a special event on the theme "Financing of social development".

The Chair's summaries of the discussions on the priority theme and on the emerging issue of youth poverty and unemployment, as well as the special event on financing of social development, can be accessed at <http://social.un.org/index/CommissionforSocialDevelopment/>.

In connection with the review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups, the Special Rapporteur on disability presented his report to the Commission. The Commission adopted draft resolutions entitled "Poverty eradication", "Future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development", "Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda", "Preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family" and "Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development", and recommended to the Economic and Social Council their adoption. In its resolution on its future organisation and methods of work, the Commission decided that the priority theme for the 2013-2014 review and policy cycle should be "Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all".

ICSW was represented at the Commission by Christian Rollet President, Braema Mathiaparanam, Regional President for South East Asia and the Pacific and Eva Holmberg-Herrström Regional President for Europe and Chair of the organising committee for the Joint World Conference on Social Work and Social Development.

<http://social.un.org/index/CommissionforSocialDevelopment/Sessions/2012.aspx>

and for draft resolutions

<http://social.un.org/index/CommissionforSocialDevelopment/Sessions/2012/DraftResolutions.aspx>

Civil society forum on social protection

Before the Commission for Social Development session in New York the NGO Committee on Social Development conducted a civil society forum on 31st January on the social protection floor initiative. The speaker presentations including that of ICSW Regional President for South East Asia and the Pacific, Braema Mathiaparanam are available at:

<http://www.ngosocdev.net/index.php/2012-commission-on-social-development/>

The papers related to the International Year of Cooperatives are available at: <http://social.un.org/coopsyear/documents/NGOPaperGiagnocavo.pdf>

<http://social.un.org/coopsyear/documents/AlmeriaPaperGiagnocavo.pdf>

You can also view the recording of the Forum at:

<http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBF1458BC100032A4>

OECD Media release on drop in development aid in 2011

Major donors' aid to developing countries fell by nearly 3% in 2011, breaking a long trend of annual increases. Disregarding years of exceptional debt relief, this was the first drop since 1997. Continuing tight budgets in OECD countries will put pressure on aid levels in coming years.

In 2011, members of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the OECD provided USD 133.5 billion of net official development assistance (ODA), representing 0.31 per cent of their combined gross national income (GNI). This was a -2.7 % drop in real terms compared to 2010, the year it reached its peak

http://www.oecd.org/document/3/0,3746,en_21571361_44315115_50058883_1_1_1_1,00.html

Development Goals after 2015.

U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron has accepted the UN Secretary General's invitation to chair a new U.N. committee that will establish a fresh set of development goals after 2015. The implications are yet to emerge. Devex quoting the Guardian ponders whether with Cameron as chair "the focus of post-2015 goals will veer away from mother and child to economic development. The prime minister and U.K. Secretary of State for International Development Andrew Mitchell have wanted to shift the debate toward economic development."

http://www.devex.com/en/blogs/the-development-newswire/next-set-of-mdgs-ask-david-cameron?mkt_tok=3RkMMJWWf9wsRolu6jOZKXonjHpfsX54uopW6GyIMI%2F0ER3fOvrPUfGjI4AScVrI%2FqLazICFpZo2FFcH%2FaQZA%3D%3D Source Devex 12th April 2012

Jenny Lei Ravelo also writing in Devex on 5th April 2012 says the consultation process for post MDG planning is past the deadline and things seem in disarray. Ravelo quoting the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD), which co-chairs the Beyond 2015 campaign, says the UN has not released concrete details of the consultation process. It is due to start in May.

In a report released 6th April CAFOD said the global body does not even have half the needed funds to complete the consultations. In addition, U.N. coordinators were being left to decide for themselves who they should include in the process. Worse, the poorest people might not even get to have a voice in the consultations — which CAFOD calls a must if the world wants to meet success with the post-MDG framework. The report, titled *1,000 Days: An End and a New Beginning*, made a list of what the international community can do to make sure no "last minute rush" happens in coming up with a post-MDG framework. <http://neo-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/news/Final-PDF-1000daysdocument.pdf>

UNICEF publications

A Recovery for All: Rethinking Socio Economic Policies for Children and Poor Households

has just been published. Authors are Isabel Ortiz, Associate Director, Policy and Practice, UNICEF and Matthew Cummins, Social and Economic Policy Specialist, UNICEF and the foreword is by Sir Richard Jolly. *A recovery for all* is recommended by Duncan Green, Head of Research, Oxfam GB, Jayati Ghosh, Executive Secretary, International Development Economics Associates (IDEAs), Sarah Cook, Director, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), Bob Deacon, Emeritus Professor of International Social Policy, University of Sheffield, and founder of the journal *Global Social Policy*, Roberto Bissio, Executive Director, Third World Institute, and Coordinator, Social Watch and Michael Cichon, Director of Social Security Department, International Labour Organization (ILO). The book is available for free download at

http://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/index_62107.html

Child Poverty and Inequality: New Perspectives

This new publication draws on over two years of UNICEF's collaboration with innovative and leading thinkers on these matters. Contributors include Armando Barrientos, Sarah Cook, Andrea Cornia, Sir Richard Jolly, Jomo K.S., Naila Kabeer, Nora Lustig, among many others. They argue for multidimensional poverty measurements, describe current trends on global poverty and inequality, and present policies to reduce poverty and inequality, such as socially-responsive macroeconomic and sector policies, including social protection, good governance and human-rights, as well as addressing systemic issues like inequalities among and within countries.

http://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/index_62108.html

Combating violence against indigenous women and girls

In January 2012, the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) held an International Expert Group Meeting at UN Headquarters entitled "Combating violence against indigenous women and girls: Article 22 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples." NGLS e-Roundup reports on the outcomes of the International Expert Group Meeting and features various interviews with leading experts on indigenous issues.

More information is available <http://www.un-ngls.org/spip.php?article3783>

Sweden - new funding for HIV and Aids in sub-Saharan Africa

Sweden has set aside 700 million Swedish kronor (\$79.5 million) for efforts to stop the spread of AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa and to promote the rights of homosexual, bisexual and transsexual people.

The funds will support the new regional strategy Sweden adopted on the 2nd April to guide its efforts to fight AIDS and address other sexual and reproductive health concerns in sub-Saharan Africa. The strategy also outlines ways Sweden can contribute to protecting the human rights of homosexual, bisexual and transsexual people across the regions.

Sweden's efforts in the region will be led by the HIV and AIDS team based in its embassy in Lusaka, Zambia. The team is expected to work in close coordination with Norway, the African Union, various regional organizations, local civil society groups and the region's business community. <http://www.sweden.gov.se/sb/d/16086/a/189943>

Review of Swedish civil society organisations

The Swedish Agency for Public Management will examine the suitability of the long-term framework agreements Sida has entered into with a number of Swedish civil society organisations. Issues including effectiveness, transparency and diversity will be illuminated. Forms for the possibility of new actors to enter into framework agreements with Sida, follow - up and control will receive particular attention, as well as whether the level of self - financing affects the organisation's quality and results. The assignment is to be reported by February 2013 at the latest. Over the past years, more than one third of the development assistance from Sida has gone to and through Swedish and foreign civil society organisations. The Minister for International Development Cooperation Gunilla Carlsson said "The Government has instructed Sida to this year increase its support to vulnerable civil society organisations and their possibilities to continue their work, particularly regarding the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association"

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