



GLOBAL COOPERATION NEWSLETTER
July 2012

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Joint World Conference on Social Development

July saw over 2,500 social workers, social work academics and practitioners in social development meet in Stockholm. The programme was outstanding and our Swedish hosts deserve extensive thanks for a remarkable conference.

The opening address was given by ICSW President, Christian Rollet on behalf of the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW), ICSW and the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW). Extracts follow. The full text can be found at www.icsw.org

"Welcome to the second joint global conference on: Social work and social development: action and impact! It is a 'joint' conference because three organizations have decided jointly to convene it. Let me introduce these three partners. The IFSW is the global federation of national social work organizations in 90 countries, representing over 750,000 social workers. The IASSW is an international community of schools and educators in social work. IASSW speaks on behalf of 2,000 schools and 500,000 students. The ICSW is a global NGO which represents tens of thousands of organizations actively involved in the promotion of social development in more than 70 countries.

Globalisation is too often reduced to a financial process or considered as an economic issue. When heads of States meet to find ways to solve the continuing economic crises their agenda is mainly a matter of economics. But we know from experience that sustainable economic growth is not possible without paying attention to social issues, and we may add environmental issues.

This is why IASSW, ICSW and IFSW are working on a 'global social agenda'. A first draft was adopted at the end of the conference in Hong Kong. This was a first step. At the beginning of this year, through a consultation process within our respective memberships, but also open to larger networks, we developed a new version, and we chose Social Work Day on 26th March 2012 to launch and disseminate it. The Agenda is an evolving document as it needs to be framed in the context of both global events and the issues being considered by global and regional bodies. So it will be updated and you will have the opportunity to be involved again.

We would like to bring these essential issues into the post-MDG process - that is to say the development of a new set of goals for world development after the end of the MDGs in 2015. We think we have a role to play to make new goals more people centered and more consistent with the final declaration of the Copenhagen World Summit on Social Development held in 1995. We would

like to introduce a development goal focused on the reduction of social and economic inequalities. For that purpose, we may refer to the adoption by the recent International Labour Conference in June 2012, of a recommendation for the global adoption of a Social Protection Floor, a path to universal access to basic services and to the provision of a minimum pension to people unable to work.

Social Protection Inter-Agency Cooperation Board

ICSW President Christian Rollet represented ICSW at the first meeting of the Social Protection Inter-Agency Cooperation Board which met in New York at the beginning of July 2012. The objectives of the Board are:

- To promote social protection as a top priority at the global, regional and national development agendas;
- To discuss pragmatic approaches in advancing interagency policy coherence;
- To enhance coordination and collaboration among international institutions in providing advisory services, especially at country level, when supporting developing countries in improving their social protection systems;
- To promote the exchange of knowledge, policy experience, good practices, as well as data and information.

The Board is chaired by the ILO and the World Bank and includes representatives of IMF, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, WFP, regional development banks, regional economic commissions, other relevant international organisations, bilateral institutions from G20 and non G20 countries working internationally at country level on social protection advocacy, financing and/or technical advice. In addition the Board has invited social partners including large NGOS with a major work programme in social protection to attend meetings as observers.

The Board will promote global advocacy activities and initiatives and advise on the implementation of joint activities to support knowledge-generation and help meeting country demands for social protections systems. This will include:

- Evidence-based advocacy on “what works”;
- A research agenda to fill needed knowledge gaps;
- Monitoring global developments on social protection;
- Knowledge sharing and capacity building (including South-South transfers);
- At the request of country governments, multi-agency advisory and technical assistance work in pilot countries, with ad hoc task forces established to address specific concerns as appropriate.

New ICSW Board and Management Committee

Following the election process the following were elected:

Global Management Committee

Global President: Mr Michael Cichon

Global Vice President and member elected by members paying five or less shares: Mr Charles Abbey

Global Treasurer: Ms Judith Kaulem

Member of the Management Committee elected by Members paying six or more shares: Ms Eva Holmberg Herrström

Global Supervisory and Advisory Board

President: Mr Michael Cichon (Non-voting) *Switzerland*

Treasurer: Ms. Judith Kaulem (Non-voting) *Zimbabwe*

Vice President: Mr Charles Abbey (Non-voting) *Ghana*

Regional Presidents

Central and West Africa: Mr Amacodou Diouf *Senegal*

East and Southern Africa: Mr Bernard Elizabeth *Seychelles*

Middle East and North Africa: Mr Driss Guerraoui *Morocco*

South Asia: Mr A. S. Shenoy *India*

South East Asia and the Pacific: *Ms Braema Mathiaparanam*

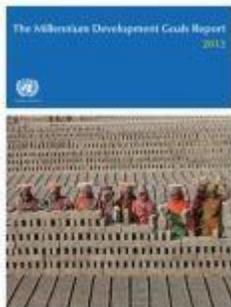
North East Asia: Professor Cha, Heung Bong *Republic of Korea*

Europe: *Mr Christian Rollet*

Latin America: Ms. Mirtha Elizabeth Sosa Crevoisier *Uruguay*

Executive Director: Mr Sergei Zelenev will succeed Denys Correll as Executive Director on 1st August 2012.

Progressing towards 2015: The Millennium Development Goals Report 2012



In response to the request of the UN General Assembly for periodic assessments of progress made in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), an Inter-Agency and Expert Group on MDG Indicators – led by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) – has produced the yearly “MDG Report.” The 2012 report highlights several important milestones that have been reached ahead of the 2015 deadline, as it reports on progress, as well as the lack thereof, in achieving the MDGs.

The report gives a clear idea of where future efforts should be directed to, highlighting that far-reaching efforts are needed to make sure that the MDGs will be successfully achieved by 2015. From UN NGLS Update <http://www.un-ngls.org/newsletters/newsletter.php?id=721>

New from OECD

Social Institutions and Gender Index

Social and legal discrimination against women remains a major obstacle to economic development in emerging and developing countries, according to the latest edition of OECD’s Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI). <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/59/34/50283714.pdf>

Achieving the Millennium Development Goals - More money or better policies (or both)?

Issue paper (PDF - 441 kb) <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/35/27/50463407.pdf>

Pensions: Raising retirement ages and expanding private pension coverage essential

Governments will need to raise retirement ages gradually to address increasing life expectancy in order to ensure that their national pension systems are both affordable and adequate, according to a new OECD report. At a time of heightened global economic uncertainty, such reforms can also play a crucial role in governments’ responses to the crisis, contributing to fiscal consolidation at the same time as boosting growth.

Over the next 50 years, life expectancy at birth is expected to increase by more than 7 years in developed economies. The long-term retirement age in half of OECD countries will be 65, and in 14 countries it will be between 67 and 69. The Pensions Outlook 2012 says that increases in retirement ages are underway or planned in 28 out of the 34 OECD countries. These increases, however, are expected to keep pace with improved life expectancy only in six countries for men and in 10 countries for women.

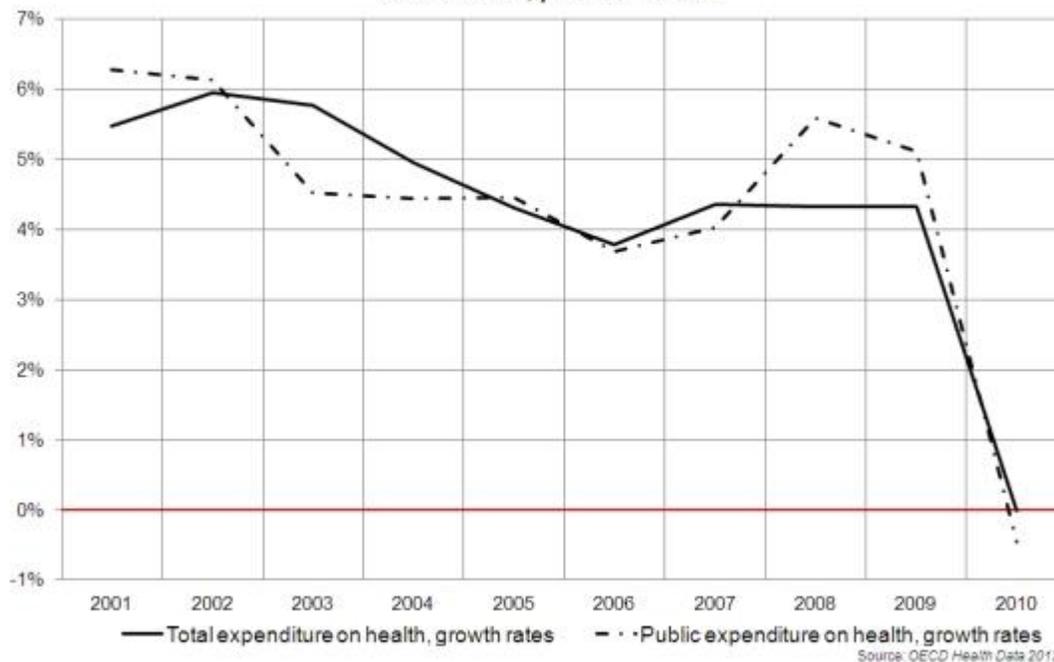
Governments should thus consider formally linking retirement ages to life expectancy, as in Denmark and Italy, and make greater efforts to promote private pensions. For the further details: http://www.oecd.org/document/35/0,3746,en_21571361_44315115_50555875_1_1_1_1,00.html

Growth in health spending grinds to a halt

The OECD reported in July that growth in health spending slowed or fell in real terms in 2010 in almost all OECD countries, reversing a long-term trend of rapid increases. Overall health spending grew by nearly 5% per year in real terms in OECD countries over the period 2000-2009, but this

was followed by zero growth in 2010. Preliminary figures for a limited number of countries suggest little or no growth in 2011. The halt in total health spending in 2010 was driven by a fall of 0.5% in public spending for health, following an increase of over 5% per year in 2008 and 2009.

Figure 1. Average OECD health expenditure growth rates in real terms, 2000 to 2010, public and total



For more detail go to on trends in health expenditure got to:

http://www.oecd.org/document/39/0,3746,en_21571361_44315115_50655591_1_1_1_1,00.html

United Nations Social Development Network (UNSDN)

The Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) has launched a new web portal (as a pilot) project called United Nations Social Development Network (UNSDN) to share knowledge and good practices among social development professionals worldwide on ageing, civil society, cooperatives, disability, employment, family, indigenous peoples, poverty, social integration, technology and youth. UNSDN is uniquely positioned to disseminate information and knowledge produced by the United Nations system in the area of social development, particularly on the three core issues of poverty eradication, employment generation and social integration. UNSDN will act as a major interface between DESA's work in the area of social development and that of its partners involved in advancing the global social development agenda. The portal can be accessed at: <http://www.unsdn.org>.

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