



GLOBAL COOPERATION DECEMBER 2005

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Black Sea Civil Society Forum

NGO representatives from the twelve countries of the Black Sea Region reached unanimous agreement on a programme, key issues, a structure, a board and a President. In the week before Christmas the ICSW President and Executive Director worked with representatives attending the second Black Sea Civil Society Forum to bring about these outstanding results.

The Black Sea area is not in the main vision of those outside the region. Some of the problems of the region are covered in the ICSW submission to the February 2006 meeting of the Commission for Social Development. The Commission will be reviewing the first Decade for the Eradication of Poverty.

ICSW states, “Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) (have) experienced a dramatic increase in poverty. The number of people living on less than \$2 a day in Central and Eastern Europe and CIS rose from 23 million in 1990 to 93 million in 2001, or from 5 per cent to 20 per cent.” Further, “In the countries of the former Soviet Union life expectancy has dropped dramatically, especially for males. In the Russian Federation life expectancy for males had dropped from 70 years in the mid 1980s to 59 today – lower than India”.

The alarming indicators for the region further convince the leaders of ICSW that the growth of civil society in the Black Sea region is a high priority in the quest to alleviate poverty.

Representatives of government participated in the Forum and encouraged the Network to seek the recognition of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC). The positive comments by political leaders were reported widely on Armenian television. Fortuitously, PABSEC is to be chaired by Armenia for the next six months. ICSW representatives and the newly appointed President of the Black Sea Non Government

Organisations' Network, Ms Hripsime Kirakosyan visited the Armenian Parliament at the end of the Forum. Mr Gagik Minasyan, Chairman Standing Committee on Finance, Loan, Budgetary & Economic Affairs, National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia was enthusiastic and supportive of the involvement of non government organisations in regional activities and networks.

Returning now to the work of the Forum. The Black Sea Non Government Organisations' Network has recognised Focal Organisations in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Moldova, Romania, Russia and Ukraine. The representatives from the four other countries, Albania, Greece, Serbia and Montenegro and Turkey agreed to assist in ensuring that Focal Point Organisations are appointed in their own countries.

The goal of the Network is to consolidate the efforts of non government organisations in collaboration with each other for the development of social partnership, the promotion of solutions to social issues as well as for the elaboration and execution of efficient and effective social policy in the region.

The Network identified its key issues as unemployment, declining public health, labour driven mass migration, violation of human rights and women's rights in particular and deterioration of the environment.

The Network will pay particular attention to vulnerable groups in the region and in particular to, older people, refugees and internally displaced people, disabled persons and children and youth.

A work plan was developed by the participants in the Forum as was a strategy for the Network's lobbying group.

The host for the Forum was Mission Armenia which has been appointed secretariat to the Network. Hripsime Kirakosyan is the first President of the Network. A major contributor to the Forum was Dr Rohit Nepali, Executive Director, South Asia Partnership Dr Nepali's participation reflects ICSW's commitment to "South – South Cooperation" ICSW will continue supporting the work of the Network for at least some years. ICSW in turn is being supported in its programme "Global Programme and Strengthening the South" by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Norway, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, The Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs of Norway and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

New Frontiers of Social Policy: Development in a Globalizing World Arusha Tanzania 2005

Charles Abbey, ICSW Regional President, Central and West Africa represented ICSW at this conference held in Tanzania in December 2005.

Ten years after the World Summit for Social Development the New Frontiers conference provided a forum for the review of research and to debate on how to increase development effectiveness by integrating social policy within national and trans-national programmes. At the end of the conference the participants issued a statement which

appears in full at

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTSOCIALDEVELOPMENT/0,,contentMDK:20761071~pagePK:210058~piPK:210062~theSitePK:244363,00.htm>

The following is a brief extract.

Since the WSSD, there has been a growing international consensus about the complementarity between social and economic development. Development policy is always simultaneously economic and social policy. Mainstreaming social policy involves recognizing and drawing on the social dimensions of all policies and programs.

The first new frontier of social policy is the transformation of subjects and beneficiaries into citizens. This implies policies that recognize and promote the universal rights and responsibilities of citizens, and strengthen the capacity of citizens to claim their rights.

Some of the most effective examples of progress on citizens' rights have come from alliances between the poor and other segments of society, suggesting that targeting public resources at the poor alone is not always the most effective way of empowering and building their capabilities.

The second new frontier of social policy consists of fostering an enabling, accessible, responsive and accountable state. This entails universal application of rule of law, and equal rights under the law for all citizens. Universal rights, however, need to be accompanied by legitimate, effective, and accountable institutions for policy formulation and implementation, with rigorous monitoring of outcomes. This implies recognizing and celebrating multiculturalism as a source of strength for societies, and supporting policies that accommodate diversity in the achievement of universal rights. And this also involves recognizing the role of power relations and creating institutional mechanisms that offer redress against power inequities.

These two imply the third new frontier: strengthening the capacity of states to mobilize revenue from their citizens, and diminishing reliance on external aid. Domestic resource mobilization is the most effective means of enhancing citizen ownership and state accountability, and of ensuring sustainability. This presupposes a stronger enabling environment and resources for accelerated development. The international community—donors, governments, international organizations, and the private sector—will have to play their part to enable these processes.

The Arusha conference was organised by the World Bank in collaboration with UK DfID, SIDA and the Governments of Finland and Norway.

ICSW Europe meets in Paris

The first debate at the Paris meeting concerned the so called Lucerne paper *Considerations and recommendations on the Future of the European Social Model*. The paper creates a framework for further direction and for giving ICSW a clearer profile at the European level. It is quite unique that a European network is so explicitly supporting the European Social Model. This Model is not a model for a welfare system or a specific regime but a set of values, social rights and objectives. The aim is an inclusive Europe

with an actively participating civil society, based on respect and trust, on social justice and solidarity.

At the same time the ICSW paper expresses the need for modernisation, an open attitude to change and to the resolution to meet new challenges. By accepting the *Lucerne paper* ICSW Europe is asking members to support the model explicitly and to discuss this document with their national networks. In particular members are asked to discuss the consequences and the implementation.

ICSW Europe agreed to cooperate closely with the European Schools of Social Work, the International Federation of Social Workers and FESET (schools for social education). Other planned activities include encompassing new members from Central and Eastern Europe.

The Committee of Representatives agreed to hold the next European Conference in 2007 in Vilnius, Lithuania under the provisional title *Inclusive Europe: opportunities for all*. A theme in line with the EU Year of Equal Opportunities 2007.

A full report on the Paris meeting appears in the Winter edition of the ICSW European Newsletter which will be on the ICSW website in early January 2006.

Conferences

32nd. International Conference on Social Welfare 16th to 20th July 2006. Brasilia, Brazil.

Theme: Social Inclusion: facing poverty and social inequality

Other themes will include; Poverty and Inequality in a Century of Waste and Strategies for Human Development. For further information <http://www.cbciss.icsw32.org/>

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