



GLOBAL COOPERATION SEPTEMBER 2005

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World Summit on the MDGs

Much has been said and written on the World Summit in New York. Overall the reaction of the NGO community has been an unhappy one. There has been no new commitment to tackling poverty. I will add only a little to the many pages already written. If there is failure, it is the member nations of the UN that have disappointed the world. This means your governments. I suggest that you go to the following website. Read what the leader of your nation said. If you are not satisfied, do take it up with your government. On this website you can even watch the presentation by your leader.

<http://www.un.org/webcast/summit2005/statements.html>

ICSW's 32nd Global Conference July 2006

This is the first time in over forty years that the ICSW conference has been held in South America. The time is right. South America is making an impact on the global stage. In particular Mr. Luiz Inácio Lula Da Silva, President of Brazil has become a major global actor. President Da Silva will open the conference on Sunday 16th July. We expect other South American leaders to attend the conference.

In September the ICSW Executive Director met with the conference organisers and the technical committee. Discussions were held with Patrus Ananias de Sousa, Minister for Social Development and the Combat of Hunger. The Minister said this was a most important conference for Brazil. It is occurring at a time when Brazil is consolidating its work in social welfare. The Government is aiming to have no one below the poverty line by July 2006. Programmes to achieve this include the transfer of money to people on low incomes. The Government is seeking to have an integrated system of welfare with all states, cities and political parties.

The conference programme is relevant to all interested in social welfare and social development.

The conference will be divided into three blocks over three days. The first block will define concepts and examine probable causes. The second block will define judgments and examine proposals for change. The third block will consider practical actions in conjunction with appraisal of policies and tools for change.

The first plenary will address the theme “Poverty and inequality in a century of waste”. The symposiums after the plenary will cover “Work and its transformations”, “Poverty and inequality – challenges for education” and “Social inclusion and citizenship”.

On the second day the plenary will address “Ethics and solidarity for a fairer world”. The themes of the following symposiums will be “Human rights today: technology, culture and safety”, “Ethics and the media” and “Ethics and silent violence”.

The theme on the final day will be “World commitment to human and social development”. The following symposiums will cover “The state and social welfare”, “Millennium objectives- victories and challenges” and finally “The area in which civil society operates”

Each plenary will have a speaker from a global perspective and a speaker who will address the impact on Latin America.

The venue for the conference is the newly completed convention centre which is very close to all hotels. We are receiving very strong support from powerful organisations in Brazil including SESI (Industry Social Service) and SESC (Commerce Social Service). The federal government and the government of the federal district of Brasilia are supporting the conference. The host for the conference is the ICSW member in Brazil CBCISS. Do visit the website to learn more <http://www.cbciss.icsw32.org/>

Reform of the Human Rights Commission

The Friedrich Ebert Foundation has produced an excellent briefing paper on the reform of the UN's main human rights body, the Commission on Human Rights. The Commission has become increasingly paralyzed in addressing human rights violations around the world. Kofi Annan's report of March 2005 "In Larger Freedom" took on the growing criticism of the Commission and called for its abolition and the establishment of a smaller Human Rights Council. At the 2005 World Summit member nations resolved to create a Human Rights Council. The details of the new Council are yet to be decided.

The briefing paper "Reforming the UN Commission on Human Rights - Perspectives for NGOs" can be found at www.fes.de/globalization

Single point of access for EU Publications

Until now it has been difficult to obtain EU publications. The EU Publications Office launched a new online service called EU Bookshop. It can be found at www.bookshop.eu.int

New Publications from UNRISD

UNRISD Info No. 26

Contents: Information societies or the (dis)information society?; Failure and success at WSIS; Social knowledge and international policy making; Corporate social responsibility and development; UN world summits and civil society engagement; Ethnic structure, inequality and governance of the public sector; commercialization, privatization and universal access to water; UNRISD policy report on gender and development; HIV/AIDS and development. UNRISD News No. 26 is now available to download.

<http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BF3C2/setLanguageCookie?OpenAgent&langcode=en&url=/80256B3C005BCCF9/search/C360B1FC69A87257C125706D003DDD75?OpenDocument>

New Book: Social Policy and Economic Development in the Nordic Countries

This volume challenges the contention that there is an unavoidable trade-off between equality and efficiency, and shows that social protection and economic development can go hand in hand.

<http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BF3C2/setLanguageCookie?OpenAgent&langcode=en&url=/80256B3C005BE6B5/search/DE4A8935B2CB0BF3C125704B004F75B5?OpenDocument>

Occasional Paper Gender Policy 4: The Politics of Gender and Reconstruction in Afghanistan

The plight of women in Taliban-ruled Afghanistan was invoked, among other concerns, as a humanitarian crisis justifying United States military intervention; and reversing abuses of women's rights became an explicit policy goal, at least at the level of rhetoric.

<http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BF3C2/setLanguageCookie?OpenAgent&langcode=en&url=/80256B3C005BE6B5/search/47327FB476DB8055C125704B00361723?OpenDocument>

Occasional Paper Gender Policy 5: Women, Political Parties and Social Movements in South Asia

Amrita Basu explores a range of issues concerning women, political parties and social movements in South Asia.

<http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BF3C2/setLanguageCookie?OpenAgent&langcode=en&url=/80256B3C005BE6B5/search/AEB7557005A1CBD1C125707A0047E34D?OpenDocument>

Targeting and Universalism in Poverty Reduction

The author discusses the forces behind the shift from universalism toward selectivity in using social policies to combat poverty in the developing countries. Then there is a review of the lessons from such policies, the administrative difficulties of targeting in the poor countries, the political economy bases of policy choices, and the consequences of policy choices for individual incentive.

<http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BF3C2/setLanguageCookie?OpenAgent&langcode=en&url=/80256B3C005BCCF9/search/A1EB5B7F1800A955C125707C004B8899?OpenDocument>

Conferences

ICSW – 32nd. International Conference of 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/>

**Conference on Social Work in Health and Mental Health 10th to 14th December 2006
Hong Kong.**

The conference will be the opportunity for the exchange of good practices and research on social work in health and mental health.

For details of the conference visit the website: www.swh2006.com. The conference secretariat is at The Hong Kong Council of Social Service swh2006@hkcss.org.hk

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