



*GLOBAL COOPERATION April 2006*

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32<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Social Welfare**

**Finland starts North South Project**

Finland is committed to strengthening the multilateral system. Maybe that is not news but it was heartening to hear this commitment at the Seminar “Globalization and Development Cooperation between North and South”. The expression of commitment was included in the speech by Ritva Koukku-Ronde Director General Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.

The seminar was organised by the Finnish National Committee of ICSW and the Association of Social Policy and marked the commencement of the North South project between Finland and Tanzania. More of that later.

Ms Koukku-Ronde outlined her Ministry’s focus on extreme poverty. The Ministry seeks to strengthen national approaches to poverty reduction and enhancing the social aspects of development. She emphasised the need for coherence with civil society particularly at the national level. In speaking of aid effectiveness she spoke of ownership, partnership, effectiveness, complementarity and transparency.

Finland’s commitment to development cooperation is increasing. At the present rate of GDP growth, the government estimates that it will reach a development budget of 0.44 of GDP by 2007 and 0.7 by 2010. This will then mean that Finland has reached the target set by the UN.

Much has been written about the Poverty Reduction Papers process. Ms Koukku-Ronde described the Finnish approach which is to provide budget support based on the Poverty Reduction Papers. Targets are agreed to with the recipient governments and the donor community. Emphasis is placed on supporting capacity building.

Finland has been seeking ways to increase the effectiveness of its development policies. The method chosen is to direct the majority of its appropriations to bilateral development. Finland has long term commitments in Africa to Mozambique, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Zambia and Kenya. In Latin America to Nicaragua and in Asia to Vietnam and Nepal. In

addition they are working with countries in transition. These include Egypt, Namibia and Peru.

Ms Koukku-Ronde explained that during Finland's Presidency of the European Union in 2006 they would focus on policy coherence for development. This includes coherence in trade, development and migration. (Note by Editor: it is interesting to compare Finland's 2006 Presidency Priorities with those of their 1999 Presidency. The 1999 priorities are dominated by post cold-war issues and the Kosovo conflict. Fins themselves emphasise they are a small nation of just over five million people. This certainly has not prevented them from being ambitious in their thinking and leadership in development.)

The theme of development was extended by Mr Leo Olasvirta, Director of the non-government unit of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. He emphasised the importance of non government organisations in mobilising resources, advocacy and delivering services. He suggested that civil society has a watchdog role in monitoring poverty reduction.

Ronald Wiman of the National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health (STAKES) presented a very thought provoking paper on Global Social Development Strategies and Multi Stakeholder Networks. Mr Wiman reflected the concern that has been expressed in this newsletter of the problems with the Millennium Development Goals. Yes, they are measurable but "you get what you measure". The goals are exact but omit "institutional development, employment and social protection".

He indicated a strong understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of international institutions in taking leadership in global social development eg the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs does not have a mandate in the area of social protection.

Mr Wiman suggested Finland's position on development is as follows:

- Poverty reduction is too narrow a goal for social development.
- Targeted interventions may be "cheaper" but not sustainable.
- Poverty can be reduced through *appropriate*, comprehensive social policies.
- All stakeholders need to be involved.
- Governments are responsible.
- Multi stakeholder platforms for action are necessary but challenging to manage.

Mr Wiman concluded a very comprehensive presentation with his answers to "How can we promote social development?" –

- Investing in knowledge and understanding.
- Investing in society: good governance and trustworthy institutions (public and private).
- Investing in organised collective action.
- Investing in people: basic services for all. (Health, education, nutrition, housing, information)
- Investing in partnerships to get our job done.

Returning to the Finland – Tanzania partnership. This arose from the ICSW global programme. Ms Theofrida Kapinga and Mr Thomas Nzumbi from the Tanzania Council for Social Development (TACOSODE) spent over a week in Finland at the time of the

seminar to work on the details of the bilateral project with the Finnish National Committee of ICSW. The project is being assisted by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. The Finnish leaders in the project are the President of the Committee Professor Mikko Mäntysaari and Mr Leif Rönneberg Secretary General of the Finnish Committee.

The TACOSODE representatives presented a paper at the seminar. They outlined in detail the current economic and social situation in Tanzania. Civil society in Tanzania is growing rapidly but it is not vibrant as it should be to meet the challenges of reforms. There needs to be capacity building of civil society so that it can participate effectively in development actions at both national and district level. TACOSODE as a national umbrella organisation needs to be strengthened to play an increasing role in public policy issues and to serve better the civil society community.

To achieve these ends and the ultimate goal of poverty reduction, the Finland – Tanzania project has developed an agreement to run for at least five years. The plan includes the strengthening of civil society, strengthening the capacity and impact of civil society action and developing regional citizen-based approaches for welfare and well being.

The Tanzania – Finland programme is seen by ICSW as a pilot project to strengthen national umbrella organisations in the South. Always the aim is to increase the effectiveness of civil society to assist in poverty reduction.

At the ICSW global conference in Brasilia from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> July there will be sessions on poverty reduction strategies and this project.

### **New Publications from UNRISD**

Occasional Paper Gender Policy 13: Gendered Spaces in Party Politics in Southern Africa: Progress and Regress since Beijing 1995

This paper takes stock, focusing on political parties both as possible instruments and as sites of negotiated power, against a historical background where they have also been instruments of coercion and exclusion.

<http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BF3C2/setLanguageCookie?OpenAgent&langcode=en&url=/80256B3C005BE6B5/search/9CC186D5B56A2199C125714E00300BDC?OpenDocument>

### **Conference News: Ethnic Inequalities and Public Sector Governance**

The United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) initiated a project in 2002 to examine the complex ways ethnic diversity affects the constitution and management of the public sectors of multiethnic societies under formal democratic rule. The findings of this research were discussed in an international conference organized in Riga, Latvia, from 25 to 27 March 2004 by UNRISD, the Office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Latvia and the Latvian Ministry for Social Integration.

<http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BF3C2/setLanguageCookie?OpenAgent&langcode=en&url=/80256B3C005BCCF9/search/241DAECECF5865A1C125714D00450230?OpenDocument>

**32<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Social Welfare** 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> July 2006. Brasilia, Brazil.

Theme: Social Inclusion: facing poverty and social inequality.

Check the website which is in Spanish, Portuguese and English.

<http://www.cbciss.icsw32.org/>

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July Opening in the afternoon

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July Plenary: Poverty and social inequality in a Century of Waste

Symposiums: 1. Work and its transformations; 2. Poverty and Inequality - Challenges for education; 3. Social Inclusion and citizenship

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July Plenary: Ethics and solidarity for a fairer world

Symposiums: 1. Human rights today: technology, culture and safety; 2. Ethics and the media; 3. Ethics and silent violence

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July Plenary: Global commitments to human and social development

Symposiums: 1. The state and social welfare; 2. Millennium objectives – progress and challenges; 3. The operations of civil society organisations

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July - Field Visits

For up to date information and registration go to <http://www.cbciss.icsw32.org/>

**International Federation on Ageing 8th Global Conference on Ageing** Denmark 30<sup>th</sup> May to 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2006 Visit the Conference website [www.global-ageing.dk](http://www.global-ageing.dk)

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