



***GLOBAL COOPERATION August 2006***

**In this edition you will find a wealth of new research and publications in the field of social development. Thanks to the Centre for Global Development, the UN Research Institute for Social Development and the Overseas Development Institute for some excellent material. In this edition there is also a report of the UN General Assembly hearings on migration. In the next edition there will be reports on the ICSW Global Conference in Brazil.**

**Ranking the Rich: 2006 Commitment to Development Index**

Rich and poor countries are linked by aid, commerce, migration, the environment, and more. The 2006 Commitment to Development Index (CDI) ranks 21 rich countries on how well they help poor countries. Each rich country gets scores in seven policy areas, which are averaged for an overall score. This year, Netherlands comes out on top.

<http://www.cgdev.org/section/initiatives/active/cdi>

**New Database of Health Professional Emigration from Africa**

The migration of doctors and nurses from Africa to rich countries has raised fears of an African medical brain drain. Research on the issue has been hampered by lack of data. How many doctors and nurses have left Africa? Which countries did they leave? Where have they settled? To answer these questions, CGD researchers compiled the first dataset of cumulative bilateral net flows of African-born physicians and nurses to the nine most important destination countries. <http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/9267>

Both the above were reported in the Centre for Global Cooperation Development Update August 15, 2006

**United Nations General Assembly Hearings on Migration**

The General Assembly on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2006 held informal interactive hearings with representatives of NGOs, civil society organizations and the private sector. The subject was globalization and interdependence: international migration and development. The hearings were part of the preparatory process for the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development to be held during the sixty-first session of the General Assembly on 14-15 September 2006 in New York. The hearings were divided into three topics: (a) promoting a comprehensive rights-based approach to international migration, and ensuring respect for and protection of the human rights of all migrants and their families; (b) international migration and development: challenges for social and economic policies in sending and receiving countries; and (c) policy responses: promoting the building of partnerships and capacity-building and the sharing of best practices at all levels, including the bilateral and regional levels, for the benefit of countries and migrants alike.

### **Key findings (Extracts only)**

There was a widely held view that international migration, development and human rights were intrinsically interconnected and that the High-level Dialogue presented a unique opportunity to make progress in maximizing the benefits of international migration, while addressing the challenges it posed and taking measures to reduce its negative impacts.

Participants emphasized the need for a rights-based approach in addressing the interrelations between international migration and development. Respect for the human rights of all migrants, regardless of status, was viewed as the cornerstone of any policy related to the international movement of people. Explicit consideration of human rights issues was viewed as crucial with respect to international migration movements, especially to reduce the vulnerability of certain groups of migrants, such as children, youth, women, indigenous peoples and migrants in irregular situations. Respect and protection of human rights were also seen as essential to promote the successful integration of migrants in the receiving countries and to ensure the best possible outcomes of labour migration.

The hearings underscored that Governments, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, including migrant organizations, and the private sector all had a role to play in protecting the rights of migrants and in ensuring that international migration had a positive impact on development.

Participants felt that any future consultations on the issue of international migration and development should include the effective participation of migrants themselves, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector. Several participants pointed out, in describing the operation of the consultative forum proposed by the Secretary-General, that it was stated in his report<sup>1</sup> that civil society would participate when Member States deemed it “desirable and appropriate”. Participants stressed that the forum should include the participation of all stakeholders and thus benefit from the expertise and experience that civil society and the private sector could bring to a discussion of international migration and development.

For more information and full reports go to [www.unmigration.org](http://www.unmigration.org)

### **New From UNRISD**

#### **Trends in Government Support for Non-Governmental Organizations: Is The "Golden Age" of the NGO Behind Us?**

This paper looks at trends in government support for non-governmental organizations (NGOs), asking whether the “golden age” of the large international NGO (INGO) is behind us. Since the 1980s, INGOs have been seen as increasingly important actors in development policy. The first part of the paper outlines the role of INGOs in development policy from 1980 to the present, arguing that, although the sector was promoted strongly during the heyday of neoliberalism, donor governments have always used INGOs as a tool to carry out aid policies in the South. Current donor rhetoric, however, stresses the need to work with recipient governments to reduce poverty; new aid instruments including budget support and sector-wide approaches (SWAs) aim to channel aid directly to recipient governments.

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### **NGOs and Social Movements: A North/South Divide?**

This paper examines those contemporary agencies broadly termed non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and social movements. Emphasis is placed on political differences in approach, and the paper poses the question of how such differences coincide with geographical distinctions between the North and South. Differences in approach are also a product of different types of analysis and different strategic proposals, although among many NGOs and social movements there is a broad belief in the need to change the existing global political and economic order.

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### **Beijing Plus 10: An Ambivalent Record on Gender Justice**

The 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women (the “Beijing Conference”) was a landmark in policy terms, setting a global policy framework to advance gender equality. Ten years after Beijing, in March 2005, the UN’s Commission on the Status of Women presided over an intergovernmental meeting in New York to review the progress achieved on the commitments made in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. This “Plus 10” event was decidedly low key. Its aim was not agenda setting but agenda confirming; not policy formulation, but policy affirmation. Whether it proves to be part of an ongoing worldwide movement in support of gender equality, or whether it marks the decline of that process, is a question that many in international women’s movements are asking. This paper, drawing on research undertaken for the UNRISD report, Gender Equality: Striving for Justice in an Unequal World, reflects on the ambivalent record of progress achieved by women over the last decades and considers how the policy environment has changed over the period since the high point of the global women’s movements.

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### **Development: Funding Social Change**

Funding Social Change: UNRISD staff and affiliates contribute to the latest issue of Development

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### **New Book: Reclaiming Development Agendas: Knowledge, Power and International Policy Making.**

This book looks at why changes in discourse and policy are taking place, as well as the potential and limits of what has been called “the new development agenda”.

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### **New Book: Gender and Social Policy in a Global Context: Uncovering the Gendered Structure of “the Social”**

This book attempts to move the gender analytical framework closer to the centre of social policy thinking by exposing how the social institutions through which social policy is filtered—families and communities, markets, informal arrangements for care, health and education systems, the public sector—are all bearers of gender

<http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BF3C2/setLanguageCookie?OpenAgent&langcode=en&url=/80256B3C005BE6B5/search/AE8F0127D1D3AE38C12571C6004CC03E?OpenDocument>

### **New from the Overseas Development Institute (ODI)**

You may be interested in a new short working paper, *What’s Next in International Development? Perspectives from the 20% Club and the 0.2% Club*

The ‘20% Club’ and the ‘0.2% Club’ offer different perspectives on the development agenda, with different, though overlapping priorities. The ‘20% Club’ consists of countries which derive around 20% of GDP from aid. These countries will be major beneficiaries of the commitment in 2005 to double aid. Their agenda will cover such topics as absorptive capacity, political development and the use of aid to achieve both growth and human development. They will want to hold donors to account for delivery against commitments and will have a strong interest in streamlining the aid architecture. The ‘0.2% Club’ consists of countries in which aid plays a much smaller role. Here, the issues are more to do with managing the changing challenges of globalization, with regional and inter-regional collaboration, and with linkages to non-aid development issues like security and the management of the global commons. Countries in this Club are becoming aid donors themselves, and are looking for new kinds of partnership with developed countries. These different agendas are closely related, of course. In both areas, they challenge aid agencies to rethink their roles and their competencies. They also challenge development researchers to work on new issues and in new ways.

The working paper can be found on ODI’s website at:

[http://www.odi.org.uk/publications/working\\_papers/wp270.pdf](http://www.odi.org.uk/publications/working_papers/wp270.pdf)

### **5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Social Work in Health and Mental Health**

10 to 14 December 2006, HK Convention and Exhibition Centre [www.swh2006.com](http://www.swh2006.com)

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