The May edition of the Global Cooperation Newsletter is contributed by the South Asia region of the ICSW. The emphasis is placed on the challenges and interventions related to ageing as well as poverty globally. While the featured article profiles the issues and way forward for working on ageing, the piece on Cycling without Age presents an innovative intervention across the globe in care for the elderly. We also profile the Global Action on Poverty (GAP) initiative started in 2015 to support Changemakers, whose goal is to eradicate poverty. GAP’s goal in next five years is to reach and galvanise the activities of 100,000 Changemakers at the local level where poverty exist in India and other parts of the world in six different domains, including agriculture, education, water, energy and sanitation, livelihood and financial inclusion.

This edition of the Newsletter also contains a letter to our readership regarding the future length and content of the Global Cooperation Newsletter.

Sergei Zelenev, ICSW Executive Director and Editor of the Global Cooperation Newsletter

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Introduction

Demographic ageing—the increasing share of older persons in the population—is poised to become one of the most significant social transformations of the twenty-first century, with implications for nearly all sectors of society. Preparing for the economic and social shifts associated with an ageing population is thus essential to ensuring progress in development, including towards the achievement of the goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

As populations become increasingly aged, it is more important than ever that governments design innovative policies and public services specifically targeted to older persons, including those addressing, inter alia, housing, employment, health care, infrastructure and social protection. The role of civil-society organizations is also becoming more and more important in service delivery for the aged.

Older persons already constitute a large share of the population in the more developed regions. In 2015, close to one in four people living in developed regions was aged 60 years or over, and that is projected to continue to rise, such that, in 2050, older persons will account for one in three people in the developed regions. People aged 60 years or over comprised nearly 10 per cent of the population in developing regions in 2015, and that share is projected to increase to 14 per cent in 2030 and to 20 per cent in 2050. Among the least developed countries, older persons accounted for a relatively small fraction of the total population—5.5 per cent in 2015—but the share of older persons in the least developed countries is also projected to increase in the coming decades, reaching nearly 10 per cent in 2050.

Population ageing has significant social and economic implications at the individual, family, and societal levels and highlights the importance of intergenerational ties. It also has important consequences and opportunities for a country’s development: older persons represent a resource for continuous economic growth; population ageing could be easily integrated into development agendas and pertinent policies and programmes.

Fifties, Sixties or Greying with wrinkles: what defines ageing?

United Nations demographers use the plank of 60 years and above to define older persons. However, in many developed countries, the age of 65 is used as a reference point for older persons, as this is often the age at which persons become eligible for old-age social security benefits. So, there is no exact definition of who are “old persons”, as this concept has different meanings in different societies. Defining “old” is further challenged by the changing average lifespan of human beings. Around 1900,
average life expectancy was between 45 and 50 years in the developed countries of that time. Now, life expectancy in developed countries reaches 80 years. There are other definitions of “old” that go beyond chronological age. Old age as a social construct is often associated with a change of social roles and activities, for example, becoming a grandparent or a pensioner. Old age is often defined as a stage at which functional, mental and physical capacity is declining and people are more prone to disease or disabilities. (UNFPA, 2012). In certain community contexts in India, people do not rely on their chronological age, and ageing is culturally defined. Most of the elderly in the rural and tribal context do not know their date of birth and thus their exact age. In certain cultural contexts, they are considered old, when their children get married. Often the elderly are categorised into one homogenous group, and ageing policies have often evolved with age as a criteria. The older population is always considered as one cohort, however they have diverse characteristics.

**Gender dimensions**

Women are likely to outlive men, and as a result there are more older women worldwide than older men. In 2012, for every 100 women aged 60, there were 84 men. The proportion of women rises further with age. For every 100 women aged 80 or over worldwide, there are only 61 men. Men and women have different health and morbidity patterns; women usually have lower income but larger and better family support networks. (UNFPA, 2012). This presents a greater challenge for older women. First and foremost, they are left alone to take care of themselves in old age. In India, as in some other countries, there is a stigma associated with widowhood. Older women internalise the stereotypes expected by the society and often accept their fate.

There is also a greater financial dependency of women compared to their male counterparts. The codification of Hindu laws in the 1950s was considered a breakthrough for women; the reality on the ground, however, still is that women’s access to residence, property and maintenance remains weak and is largely connected to their marital status. Though there is a right to inherit property, the ability to ask for the partition of property depends on male approval. The subjugation over decades does not allow older women to demand their rights. In India, we can see many older women being abandoned and taking shelter in shrines around Vrindavan and Varanasi. The “feminization of ageing”, particularly the relatively large proportion of the “oldest old”, who are women, has important implications for policy. In this light the concerns of both men and women largely differ, and gender lenses are crucial in shaping ageing policies.

**Retirement and work-force participation**

The participation of the elderly in the labour force declines with age. This has substantial implications for society: as the percentage of older persons is increasing each year, this segment of the population contributes less to the work force, yet requires improvements in the social-protection schemes of the country. The challenges that population ageing poses for the national economies are being widely debated by policymakers. There are concerns that population ageing will negatively affect economic output, or even lead to deflation, and questions about how countries will be able to afford social security as their populations grow older.

Whilst on one hand we talk about retirement income financing, it is also crucial to note that many older persons cannot retire and have to work for their sustenance. In many developing countries, most of the elderly are in the informal labour sector and get meagre wages, putting them among the poorest.
groups. In India, less than 11 percent of older Indians have a pension of any sort, according to national surveys (World Bank 2001; Uppal and Sarma 2007). Setting aside financial savings is difficult or impossible for a majority of Indians because the income or wages are low, most of them are engaged in the informal labour markets and a large share of the ageing population already lives in poverty, largely in rural areas. With meagre old-age income support and few savings, labour force participation remains high among Indians aged 60 and older (39 percent), and particularly high among older rural Indians (45 percent) (Uppal and Sarma 2007). In this light addressing the issue of the excessive labour-force participation of the elderly should be a priority for policy makers.

Living arrangements and families

Living arrangements of older persons are shaped by a multitude of factors, and these arrangements play an important role in their health and well-being. Informal support systems for older persons are increasingly coming under stress, as a consequence, inter alia, of declining family size, lower fertility, out-migration of the young and women working outside the home. There is an increasing consensus globally that countries must develop social-protection systems that cover at least the basic needs of all older persons.

In India, overall, about 10% of women and 3% of men live alone. Changing household structures also have an impact on living arrangements: about 20% of men and women do not co-reside with children. There is much inter-state variation here, with states in the South demonstrating a larger proportion of women living alone, 25% in Tamil Nadu. The main reason for a change in living arrangement for women was the death of a spouse, and the marriage of children, pointing to a departure from traditional arrangements. Weak public pension and social-security systems, coupled with changing household structures, make planning for the support of older persons critical. India’s system of family-based support will not be able to withstand the increasing numbers of older Indians, and there are numerable reasons for that that can be cited.

Health, mental health and acquired disabilities

Health is an important concern for older persons. Ageing and the demographic transition, accompanied by an epidemiological transition from the predominance of infectious diseases to non-communicable diseases, is associated with an increasing demand for health care and long-term care. (UNFPA, 2012). The older population segments are also highly vulnerable to mental-health problems, with the increasing challenges associated with ageing. Apart from the above, elder abuse is on the rise, which also has negative implications on both the health and mental health of older persons. The issue of the disabilities that the elderly may acquire with ageing and the relevant coping strategies have not been studied rigorously. The health-care costs and the disparities in access to health services have become an increasing concern for both developing and developed countries. In India there is inadequate number of decent institutional facilities for the older adults to stay in, be it for money or cost-free. Some developing countries have not even established geriatric facilities yet.

It is evident that the demographic transition and increased longevity have posed challenges to families, communities and governments. It is, therefore, critical to come up with strategies to ensure that the years added to life are quality years rather than being spent in poverty, distress, ill-health, disability and loneliness.

Global response

The Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA), adopted in 2002, was the
first global agreement that considered older people as contributors to development, spelling out their vital role in societies and the ways of adjusting to an ageing world. The Plan provided a forward-looking agenda for addressing both the opportunities and the challenges of ageing. Through the Plan, member states have committed themselves to including ageing in all social and economic policies in the context of an intergenerational life-course approach, placing an emphasis on social inclusion and poverty reduction. Recognizing demographic changes towards an ageing world, the United Nations has called for “a society for all ages”.

By adopting the Madrid Plan, governments agreed to link ageing with human rights. There is a shift away from viewing older persons as simply welfare beneficiaries to seeing them as active participants in the development process whose rights must be respected, protected and guaranteed. The Plan covers 18 areas of concern to older people and makes 239 recommendations for action. Its overall objective is to ensure that people across the globe age with security and dignity and are able to continue to participate in their societies as citizens with full rights.

**Addressing the needs of older persons in India**

The policies in India for the elderly may broadly be classified as constitutional provisions and legal provisions. Some of them deal with the legal rights of parents without any means, who should be supported by their children who have sufficient means. Some other provisions deal with the old-age pension, social security and social insurance of the population at large.

There also are various schemes and policies for the older people, as launched by the government. One example is the *National Policy for Senior Citizens, 2011 /The National Policy for Older Persons (1999)*. In 1999 the Central Government came out with the national policy to promote the health, safety, social security and well-being of senior citizens in India. It also strived to encourage families to take care of their older family members, further enabling and supporting voluntary and non-governmental organizations to supplement the care provided by the family and provide care and protection to vulnerable elderly people. With the broader objective of making the older people fully independent citizens, a number of areas of intervention have been identified -- financial security, healthcare and nutrition, shelter, education, welfare, the protection of life and property and so on.

The *National Council for Older Persons (NCOP)* was constituted by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to operationalize the National Policy on Older Persons.

The *Integrated Programme for Older Persons (IPOP)* came into implementation in 1992, and the main objective of the scheme has been to improve the quality of life of senior citizens by providing basic amenities like shelter, food, medical care and entertainment opportunities and by encouraging productive and active ageing through providing support for capacity building of Government/Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)/Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)/ local bodies and the community at large.

The different ministries also provide for various concessions and facilities for older persons. For example, the Ministry of Railways has special ticket counters for the elderly, the allotment of berths in train with consideration for comfort and convenience, concessions in fares and so on.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare provides for (i) separate queues for older persons in government hospitals and (ii) geriatric clinic in several government hospitals.

In India, however, the emphasis is still on the family, and the state has provisions for only a few segments of the cohort. Most of the
elderly are still below the poverty line and take care for themselves while working in the informal sector. Families need to be supported and mechanisms have to be in place so as to promote the quality of life of the elderly, including their co-residing with adult children.

The way forward

Fifteen years after MIPAA, it is essential to review the situation and understand whether countries have progressed truly towards a rights-based approach, seeing older persons as active participants in the development process, whose rights must be respected, protected and guaranteed rather than viewing older persons as merely welfare beneficiaries. It is important to understand the positive effect of the increases in longevity, refuting the notion that additional “golden years” are necessarily unproductive and thereby burdensome to society. It is, therefore, time to move beyond the stereotypical notions around ageing and see it in its complexity, with the numerous positives that ageing brings to society.

The government should focus on intersectoral approaches to ageing programmes and initiate their effective convergence, including support for geriatric practice. There is an urgent need to reorient health services towards non-communicable diseases and the health needs of older adults, as part of a strategy of promoting life-long health. The concerns of older women should not be overlooked, while elder abuse in all its forms must become a focus of constant attention and prevention.

It is high time that the Governments realise that there is no ‘one size fits all’ template for strategies to invest effectively in an ageing world. Instead, national, regional and international policy makers and practitioners should start appreciating the diversity within this cohort. Appreciating and understanding the complexities of concerns will help them to come up with innovative solutions that are best suited to their own contexts, resources and needs.

Bibliography


Wind in the Hair: Innovations in the care of the elderly through Cycling without Age

Aging is a biological phenomenon that is present in every living organism. But it is also a social phenomenon with numerous implications. The struggles of the elderly don’t show much difference all around the world -- several reports from around the world suggest that the elderly population face humiliation, isolation, abandonment and abuse. At the same time both developed and developing countries are experiencing rapid growth in the number and proportion of older persons in their population. The growing proportion of the aged opened care services for the elderly as a dynamic sector in developed economies. The care services, especially the institutionalized services, are becoming a competitive business, in accordance with the demand from the community. But it brings certain questions too. Does it provide a quality of life, both physical and mental, to the elderly comparable to younger cohorts? Does it connect and include the elderly in the mainstream society? We do not get the same answer to these questions from all around the world. But we can show some role models in institutionalized care from the world map. Cycling without Age creates a new chapter in innovations in the arena of care-giving for the elderly.

Ole Kassow started the movement of “Cycling without Age” in 2012 in Denmark. It was established as a pathway for helping nursing-home residents get back into the mainstream society. The movement initiated an approach to improving the limited mobility of the elderly in nursing homes. A classic Copenhagen trishaw offers a solution for those who have limited mobility in a nursing home. The trishaw has three wheels and a seat at the front to carry the passengers. The organization is encouraging older people to ride on trishaws with the help of a pilot.

Specific motives are important. Ole who lived next to a nursing home was inspired by some older persons who were residents of a local nursing home at Denmark. He offered to take one old man in a wheelchair for a ride, and soon many residents of that nursing home requested rides too. Ole connected the organization with Copenhagen Municipality. They helped to buy five trishaws and started the movement has crossed international boundaries, becoming an international movement called “Cycling without Age”.

The movement has adopted five guiding principles: Generosity, Slow Cycling, Storytelling, Relationships, and Agelessness. The mode of operation of the group Cycling without Age reveals the real intention of the movement. Actually, they did not have any general funding or grants to support all of their global communities. But they have created a platform for mutual inspiration and support among their community members.

Cycling links generations

It is normal to ask why the movement prefers to use cycling as the mode of conveyance. The bicycle was the preferred mode of transportation for generations all around world. It is considered to enable cheap, efficient and easy transport for the ages from the 20s to the 40s. Often age prevents elders from cycling on their own. It turned out that the bicycle is not only the easiest and most convenient means of transport, but it also works as the happiest means of transport by making it possible to travel long distances at a slow pace. The movement allows the bicycle to play a major role in people’s lives without the

Photo Credit: http://cyclingwithoutage.org/
limits of age or disabilities. The movement believes and has proven that they can change the view-point of people around the world about aging and cycling. The movement presents the bicycle as the happiest means of transport that makes any age a good age. The right to wind in one's hair is the answer to every question relating to the movement. “Ageless” as a fundamental principle of the movement

The movement Cycling without Age works under the philosophy that life does not end when one becomes aged or differently able. The movement is about letting and presenting age in a positive context. It provides space for elders to know about the opportunities of ageing that exist and are available in their local communities.

Impact of the movement

The team of Cycling without Age has worked to inspire not only the Copenhageners, but many other Danes to recommend their companionship to elderly neighbours in local nursing homes. The movement Cycling without Age registered as a non-profit organization in 2013 and is now represented across 51 cities and in 18 countries all around the world. Cycling without Age Singapore is positioned to be the first Asian country to kick-start the movement. The vision of the movement is not just riding a trishaw with elderly, but also being a connector between generations and passing the stories of generations. Today, older persons prefer to live within their own premises instead of in community living. Generational replacement through lack of social interaction will be the result of the “bowling alone” policy. But Cycling without Age shows the most magnificent form of social inclusion and social engagement across generations. It acts as a catalyst for renewing the relationship between old and young people through their worldwide network. Once again, the elderly get the chance to connect with their local community and the people in it. The movement provides mutual benefits to the elderly, the voluntary pilots of the trishaw, the staff and the local community. The trishaws in this movement are also used as a tool for conversations, for creating relationships, and for enhancing the quality of life of everybody involved. Health benefits are an added advantage of the movement.

Every Journey has a story

Cycling without Age tells different stories of new relationships, family reunions, sharing knowledge with generations and so on. The joy of the trip cannot move us directly right now. But the stories of the movement make us realize the depth of the joy experienced by all participants in the movement.

The movement may or may not be relevant to care homes in India. But it could provide strength for our approaches to putting smiles on the faces of the elderly. Tomorrow, we may become innovators in our field. The movement
Cycling without Age reminds us of the value of a simple innovation without the limits of the profit motive, seeing the value of a smile on the faces of those who meet the group or even ride once.

Compiled by: Preethi Solomon, Research Scholar, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, India

The story is inspired by a visit to the office of Cycling Without Age in Copenhagen by Professor P.K. Shajahan, ICSW Regional President- South Asia during his recent visit to Denmark.

Courtesy: Stories from Cycling without Age, cyclingwithoutage.org

Watch the inspiring story from Ole Kassov at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O6Ti4qUa-OU

Global Action on Poverty (GAP) – A Unique Approach to Contributing to the UN Goals of 2030 in Eradicating Poverty

According to the United Nations, one in five people in developing regions still lives on less than $1.25 a day. Even though we have come along way forward in eradicating poverty, there is still lot to be done to create the necessary impact so as to reach our goals of eradicating poverty by 2030.

According to Professor Shajahan, Director of the GAP Labs at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), “Poverty is a collective condition and not a condition caused by an individual family's deficit in welfare or development. It is to a great extent policy-induced as well. The atomisation of a collective condition where we identify the poor and find solutions for addressing the issue of the individual or the family does not provide a solution. We need to act on the root causes of poverty and its manifestations.”

There are few organisations like the Global Action on Poverty (GAP) and the Ashoka Foundation that support and build Changemakers, whose the goal is to eradicate poverty. Those kind of initiatives not only accelerate the process of eradicating poverty but also encourage Changemakers to make a difference!

He further adds, “We think that states are important stakeholders in addressing poverty, GAP thinks it is a collective responsibility of the state, the market and civil society to effectively work towards a sustainable solution for addressing poverty. GAP challenges the notion that the poor can be identified and that the solution can be worked out for them and the state can address the situation of poverty effectively. GAP tries to bring the state, industry and the civil society together with the active facilitation of academia.”

Such a holistic approach has made TISS partner with the Global Action on Poverty and use the GAP Labs@TISS to support these Changemakers so as to provide innovative solutions to the challenges they face in their journey.

The GAP’s goal in next five years is to reach and galvanise the activities of 100,000 Changemakers at the local level where poverty exist in India and other parts of the world in six different domains, including agriculture, education, water, energy and sanitation, livelihood and financial inclusion.

GAP is supporting Changemakers by providing them with a development program that enhances the leadership capability of the Changemakers and a resource program which gives the Changemakers access to solutions and people.

There are five development programs offered by GAP, which include:

1. **GAP Learn** enhances Changemakers' knowledge by giving them training support in various organisational and domain-specific areas to help them be successful in
their initiative.

2. **GAP Experts’** vision is to make relevant and expert knowledge available to Changemakers through experts who have years of experience in specific domain areas, can strengthen organization function, and provide inputs on developing strategy and operational advice on their projects.

3. **GAP Coaching** is about making the Changemaker feel empowered so they can gain clarity for further movement. The role of the GAP Coach is to make sure that the Changemaker makes full use of his or her potential to create greater impact.

4. **GAP ‘A’ Team** helps Changemaker to transform the initiative significantly by having an ‘A’ team work actively to double the outcomes of their project.

5. **Mission Impossible Leaders@GAP** is a leadership program that helps people to have a vision of a change-leader by undergoing a transformational and inspiring program.

There are four GAP resource programs, which include:

1. **GAP Accelerate** helps Changemakers to outsource their non-core services needs (professional services such as accounting, communication design, legal and technology services), which enables them to focus on the core objectives of their social initiative.

2. **GAP Funds** is a program to address the challenges that the Changemakers face when they seek funding opportunities.

3. **GAP Labs** provides innovative solutions through research to the challenges faced by the Changemakers.

4. **GAP Serve** is a program where they connect Changemakers to volunteers who can support their work.

GAP’s initiative was started in 2015, the two annual events of the Global Action on Poverty in 2015 and 2016 were held at Sabarmati Ashram and Gujarat Vidyapith, Ahmedabad. These events brought about amazing learning and insights, inspiring energy and connections, among all the participants leaving with a plan and purpose to increasingly impact the world around them.

A few of the speakers involved in the event were Harsh Mander, human-rights worker. During the event he said, ‘One of 2 Indians are below the age of 25. Never in history have there been so many young people in one place and never in the future will there be. My hope
Changemakers who attended the event in Sabarmati Ashram

lies in young people. My hope is that they include some of these ideas and reclaim an India in the world where we care about people who suffer.’ While, Ela Bhatt mentioned how for the working poor – people who work but still remain poor – their condition is no justice.

In 2017, #alittlechange is a movement was started by GAP to create a positive change. The idea of #alittlechange was to make people join hands together and create a sea of change touching millions of people and transforming the world. To honour the historic day when Mahatma Gandhi started the civil disobedience movement, GAP launched this campaign on March 12, 2017. The campaign ran through the entire week, during which individuals, organizations and institutions were encouraged to conduct various #alittlechange events across the country.

Vistara Airlines, one of GAP's partners, was part of this campaign and contributed towards making a little change that would have a huge impact. One had to upload photos/videos of their #alittlechange initiative onto GAP’s Facebook page and win a chance to be featured on Radio City. The best three entries under this campaign would be invited to the GAP Annual Event at Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad, in October 2017.

How GAP is supporting and building Changemakers’ journey...

Based out of Bengaluru, Nawaz Pasha’s Adarsha Community Development Service Centre primarily focuses on the empowerment of the visually impaired through a multi-pronged approach at the youth level, across rural and urban areas.

One of the GAP funding partners will be funding one of the programs run by Adarsha CDS Trust - Samudaya Adharita Udayavana for a year. The Samudaya Adharita Udayavana program focuses on the empowerment of disabled youth – encouraging and assisting them in completing their academic courses, making them employable and strengthening their network skills. Under this program, the Trust is currently running a free residential centre (hostel) for visually impaired youth, which currently has 15 girls who also get classes on personality development through training for improving their spoken English, computer skills, music etc. Pasha’s aim is to increase the capacity of the hostel to 30 residents in the next
financial year.

The story of Atchuta Rao, another Changemaker, is also inspiring. Agriculture is demographically the broadest economic sector and plays a significant role in the overall socio-economic fabric of India. It becomes vital to empower the farmers in such scenario. CM Atchuta’s belief is that “every problem is an opportunity to do something better and make a difference.”

Born in a family that earned its livelihood from agriculture, the challenges, struggles and accomplishments of his father inspired him to change the world and led him to his journey towards fighting poverty. He founded ESTAH, which combines ancient wisdom with modern technology to transform the face of farming in India.

As a GAP Changemaker, Atchuta feels that his business model has got wings. From providing volunteers to facilitating funding, GAP has been a great platform for him to fine-tune the business aspect and grow his group into what they are today. He says, “The biggest support that GAP has provided me is in the form of personal branding, and turning my journey into a success story, which can hopefully inspire many more GAP Changemakers.”

How GAP Labs@TISS has influenced Changemakers' journeys...

GAP Labs@TISS is one of the resource facilities offered to Changemakers, where the GAP Lab co-ordinator at TISS can identify the specific needs of these Changemakers and help them identify solutions. Changemakers' needs could include how to engage with the community, various models used by other Changemakers, how to resolve challenges faced on the ground etc. Based on their needs, TISS faculty who are expert in that domain could suggest research studies, global and national models, schemes, policies offered by the government and NGO contacts.
Useful resources and links—the find of the month

**Elderly Care in India: Societal and State Responses**

Editors: Irudaya Rajan, S., Balagopal, Gayathri

Springer 2017

A first-of-its-kind book on elder care in India, it looks at the provision of care in the family, and by non-governmental organizations and the state. The book includes case studies from diverse populations in India, like indigenous communities, slum residents, widows, and residents of old age homes.


**Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City**

Mathew Desmond

Penguin Random House, 2017

In *Evicted*, Harvard sociologist and MacArthur “Genius” Matthew Desmond follows eight families in Milwaukee as they struggle to keep a roof over their heads. Hailed as “wrenching and revelatory” (The Nation), “vivid and unsettling” (New York Review of Books), *Evicted* transforms our understanding of poverty and economic exploitation while providing fresh ideas for solving one of 21st-century America’s most devastating problems. Its unforgettable scenes of hope and loss remind us of the centrality of home, without which nothing else is possible.


Letter to our readership.

Dear readers of the ICSW Global Cooperation Newsletter,

In an effort to make the ICSW Newsletter a better read in terms of regional and global coverage I am writing to ask your views on the length and content of the ICSW Newsletter.

Kindly respond to three questions:

a) Are you satisfied with the Newsletter as it stands? (Yes or No)

b) What length of the Newsletter would you consider optimal:
   - 5-7 pages
   - 8-12 pages
   - More than 12 pages

c) Apart from the regional coverage of activities of ICSW-affiliated organizations, what substantive social policy issues would you like to see explored in the Newsletter in the near future.

Thank you.

**Sergei Zelenev,**

*ICSW Executive Director and Editor of the Global Cooperation Newsletter*