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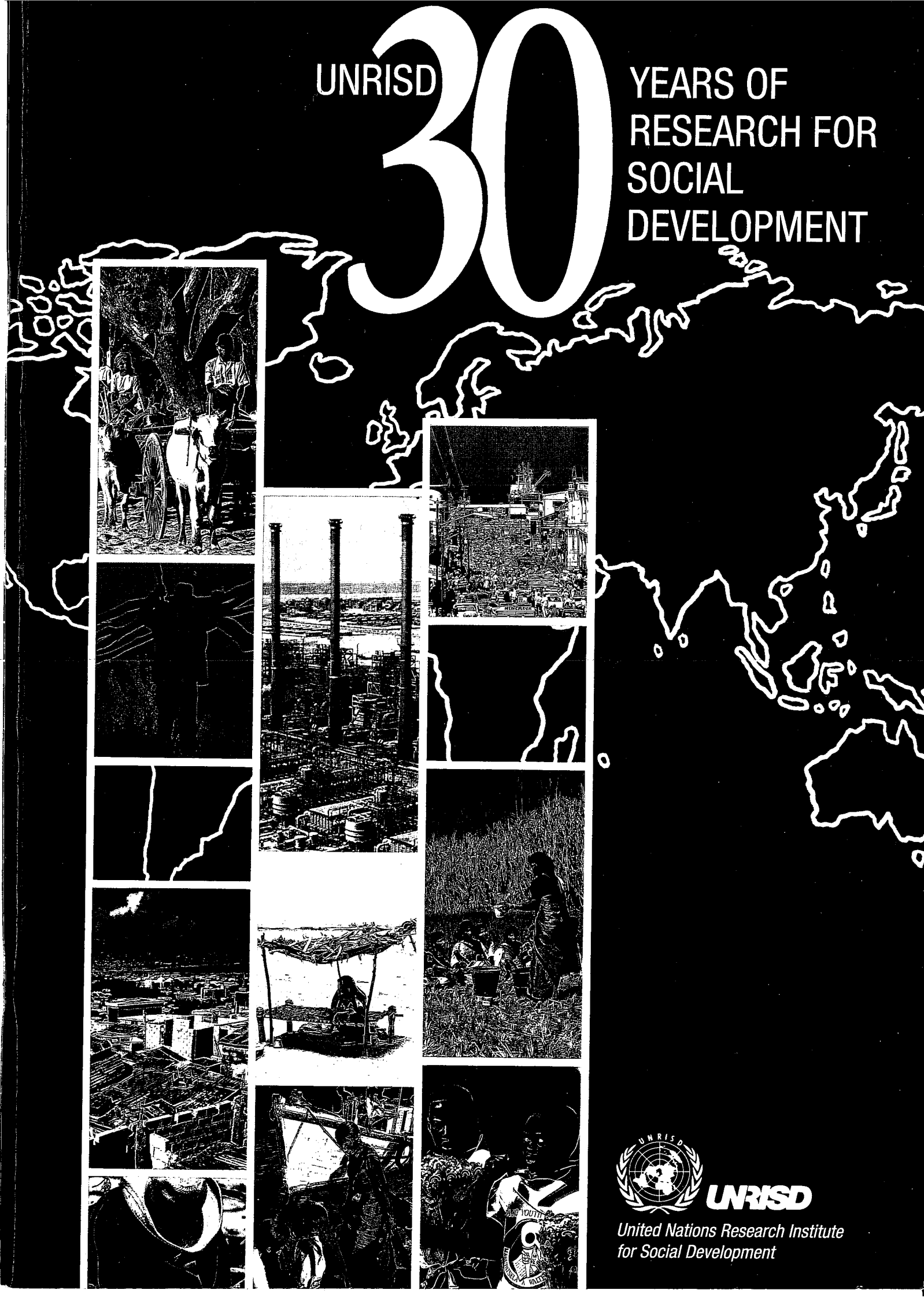


UNRISD 30 years of social development

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UNRISD 30 YEARS OF RESEARCH FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



UNRISD

United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

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Dharam Ghai

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UNRISD 30 YEARS OF RESEARCH FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

"The United Nations Research Institute for Social Development is truly a gem amongst international research and policy institutions and a great credit to the United Nations. With modest resources but exceptionally fine professional leadership UNRISD has during the past 30 years produced studies and analyses of exceptional quality which have focused attention and stimulated action on a wide range of critical political, economic and technological issues. In doing so it has performed a unique and indispensable service to the United Nations and the world community."

Maurice F. Strong (formerly Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development – UNCED), Chairman, Ontario Hydro, Toronto, Canada.

UNRISD

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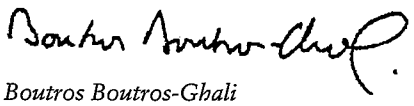
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The year 1993 marks the thirtieth anniversary of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD). In marking this important anniversary, we pay tribute to the Institute's valuable contribution to the study and analysis of social development issues, while appreciatively acknowledging the ongoing importance of its role.

UNRISD's contribution is particularly vital now, as the struggle for economic development confronts the challenges of the 1990s. All too often in the past the drive for economic development has been pursued with insufficient regard to the resulting social costs. Growth and development have often been unequally distributed and poorly planned for. Income disparities and social conflict have increased in many countries while social problems such as illicit narcotics use, crime, homelessness, prostitution and broken families have assumed unprecedented dimensions.

The challenge of the 1990s is to promote integrated development strategies which are sensitive to the link between economic development, political development and social development. In undertaking this task, policy makers and development practitioners must address the themes of poverty alleviation, political participation and social cohesion – themes which have guided UNRISD research over the past 30 years. Progress in these three areas is crucial if humanity is to advance toward the goal of "social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom" envisioned in the Charter.

The United Nations has added further impetus to the promotion of social development by convening the World Summit for Social Development, planned for 1995. UNRISD has a crucial role to play in the build-up to the Social Development Summit through the dissemination of its findings, through its analysis of key issues, and as a forum for the exchange of ideas. It is vitally important that the international community take full advantage of this rich source of knowledge, experience and expertise.



Boutros Boutros-Ghali
Secretary-General
United Nations

PREFACE

I have been privileged to provide leadership to the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development for the past five and a half years, a privilege for which I would like to express my deep appreciation to Javier Pérez de Cuéllar and Boutros Boutros-Ghali. For my colleagues and me, these years have been a period of challenge, excitement, creativity and fulfilment. Working with a fluctuating, uncertain and modest budget, the Institute has implemented an ambitious and innovative programme of global research focused on some of the most critical and complex problems of contemporary social development. In close partnership with the world community of scholars and the United Nations system, the Institute has provided a forum for creative dialogue among policy makers, officials from donor countries and international agencies, resource persons and representatives of social and development organizations. This approach has proved to be highly productive: since 1990, the Institute has published nearly 70 books and Discussion Papers, organized 30 international and national conferences and produced many reports for United Nations publications.

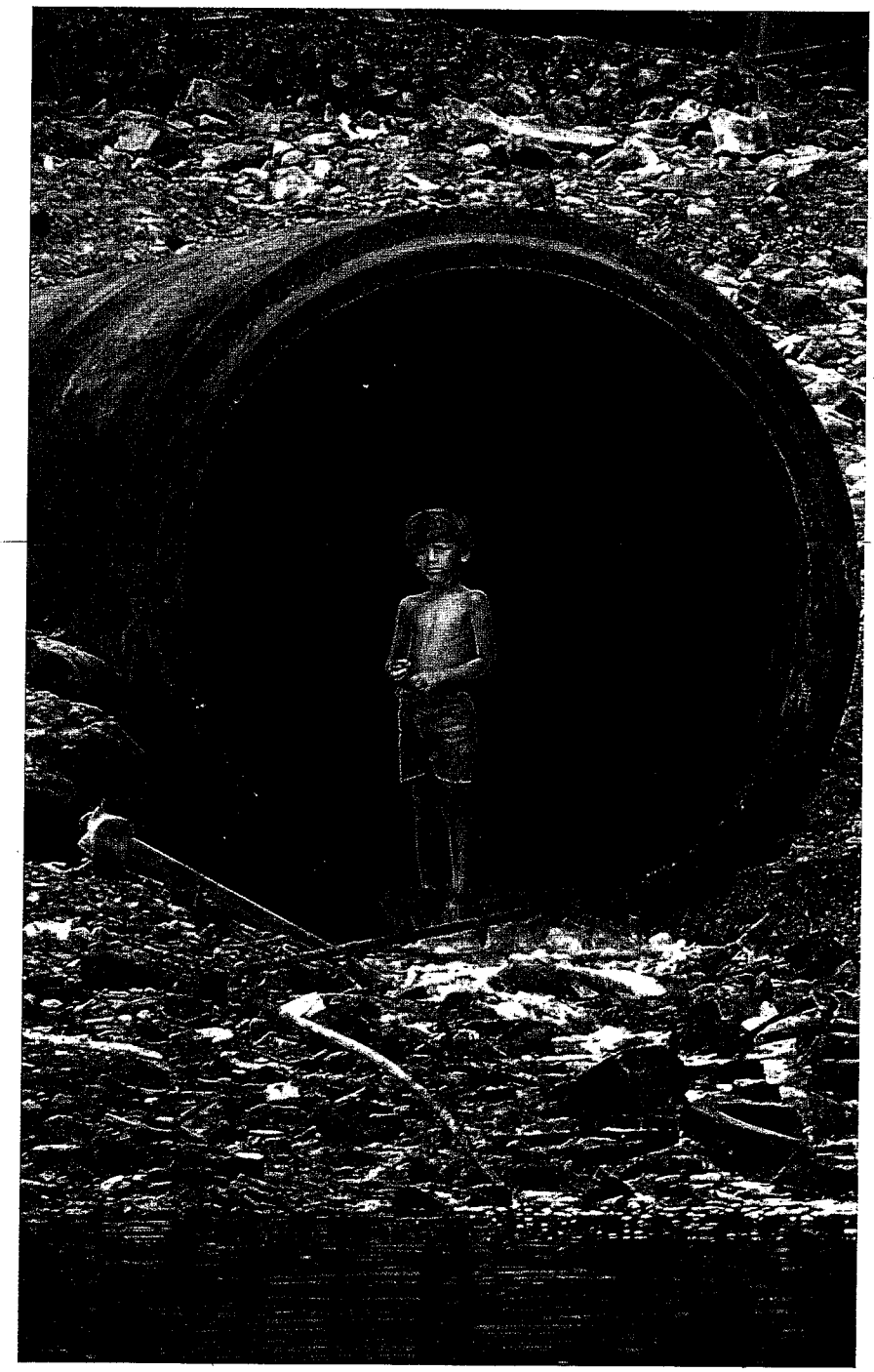
This brochure provides a sketch of the Institute's approach to research, how its work has evolved and highlights of its performance over the last 30 years. Both as an international agency and as a global research centre, UNRISD has many unusual features. While most United Nations agencies are large and intergovernmental, the Institute is small and autonomous. In contrast to most United Nations bodies, UNRISD raises its funds through voluntary contributions from a host of governmental, United Nations and private grant giving institutions. While United Nations agencies typically carry out their work through large bureaucracies, the Institute works though networking, linking hundreds of research centres in a common endeavour with shared objectives. UNRISD is unusual in the United Nations system in having a Board and professional staff half of whose members are women.

As an international research centre, UNRISD is exceptional in promoting a multi-disciplinary and holistic approach in its work. While most comparable centres put emphasis on in-house research based on secondary sources, UNRISD has sought to engage outside scholars in original field level studies. Whereas most international research centres use consultants predominantly from the industrialized countries, the bulk of the Institute's work is carried out by Third World research centres and scholars. Unlike many similar research centres, UNRISD does not have endowment funds nor does it benefit from international funding consortiums or grants from the United Nations Secretariat. These features present both formidable difficulties in organizing the work of the Institute and exceptional opportunities for initiating pioneering and innovative research.

The achievements highlighted in this anniversary brochure would not have been possible without the commitment and dedication of the Institute's staff members, past and present. The co-operation and support of the UNRISD Board and of the United Nations and specialized agencies, have been of great importance in all aspects of its work. The far-flung community of scholars and activists who have collaborated with the Institute over the years have been a source of inspiration and enrichment. UNRISD is profoundly grateful to a handful of donor countries and a score of private grant giving bodies which have shown faith in its work through their generous and loyal support over the years. It is hoped they will feel that their resources have been used effectively in a worthy enterprise.

Dharam Ghai

Dharam Ghai
Director



ACTIVITIES AND APPROACH

The United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) was created in 1963 on the initiative of the government of the Netherlands. Over the past 30 years, the Institute has engaged exclusively in research on social development and remains the only United Nations organization that does so.

For UNRISD, the field of social development research embraces not only traditional social policy concerns such as health, education and nutrition but also issues relating to inequality, discrimination, social movements and participation. Therefore considerable attention is focused on society's decision-making processes, its often conflicting social forces, and the question of who wins and who loses as economies grow or contract and societies change.

As an autonomous institution within the United Nations system, UNRISD is associated with no single specialized agency. It is restricted to no narrow field of concern, and its work is not bound by the bureaucratic or political restrictions which characterize many intergovernmental agencies. The Institute enjoys real autonomy in defining research questions, deciding upon methodology, selecting researchers, drawing conclusions and publishing results. Funded entirely by voluntary contributions, UNRISD is free to:

- take up and discuss central problems of contemporary social development, even when such issues are too controversial to be addressed by most international organizations;
- design research programmes which draw upon the knowledge of many kinds of people, including scholars, activists, government officials, agency personnel and local community residents; and
- organize conferences and disseminate studies of high quality, under the author's name, without the kind of restrictions usually implicit in the operating procedures of intergovernmental agencies.

With its unusual flexibility and openness, UNRISD thus provides people from many walks of life with a high level forum for debate on some of the most pressing issues of our day. The fact that the Institute is a full member of the United Nations system allows it to consider questions of concern to other United Nations agencies, draw on the expertise of their staff members and channel UNRISD research findings into the ongoing work of the United Nations system.

"UNRISD has many distinctive features, in particular, its work in maintaining a global network of researchers, the cost-effectiveness of its research activities, the relevance of its research output to major current issues, and the timeliness of production of research reports and monographs. Certainly these have been very significant reasons for UNDP's decision to select UNRISD as the implementing agency for one of its largest research projects."

Gus Edgren, Assistant Administrator and Director, Bureau for Programme Policy and Evaluation, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), New York, USA.

Over the course of its 30-year history, UNRISD has taken progressively greater advantage of its uncommon institutional potential. This has been reflected in a substantial increase in the scope of the research programme during the past five years. The current programme now covers a dozen major areas in the field of social development:

- The socio-political implications of economic crisis and restructuring in Africa and Latin America.

- The implications for welfare and social organization of the transition to capitalism in Central Europe and the former Soviet Union.
- Problems associated with the mass voluntary return of refugees to their countries of origin in Africa.
- The dynamics and internal logic of political violence in a number of industrialized and Third World countries.
- The roots and social consequences of ethnic conflict.
- The socio-economic implications of the production, marketing and consumption of illegal drugs.
- The impact of environmental degradation on the welfare and status of women, and on demographic variables, in various regions of the Third World.
- The causes of tropical deforestation and its impact on different social groups.
- The environmental implications of agricultural expansion, and of population trends, in different rural contexts.
- The impact of national parks and nature reserves on the livelihood of low income rural populations.
- Problems of integrating research on the livelihood of women into real-world development planning.
- The social consequences of the reconstruction of wartorn societies.

With an output which surpasses that of many larger and better funded organizations, UNRISD has legitimate reason to be proud of the use it has made of its limited resources. Few institutions could have accomplished as much with a total budget averaging approximately 2 million US dollars per year over the past five years.

BOX 1.1

WHO FUNDS UNRISD?

The Institute relies on voluntary contributions from governments, development agencies and foundations. Governments of the following countries have contributed to UNRISD over the past 30 years:

Australia, Austria, Canada, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Jamaica, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Yugoslavia

The current research programme has received support from the following governments and agencies:

Governments: Denmark, Finland, France, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland

NGOs and foundations: Ford Foundation (New York), Ford Foundation (Mexico), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

United Nations and other multilateral agencies:
Agence de coopération culturelle et technique (ACCT)
Commission of the European Communities (CEC)
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP)
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
United Nations University (UNU)
The World Bank

A DISTINCTIVE RESEARCH APPROACH

There are a number of features which, when taken together, tend to distinguish the Institute's approach from that of most other research organizations working in the field of social development.

Research on a Global Scale: The Institute specializes in cross-country comparative analysis. At any one time, research is under way in a large number of countries as each project will usually involve between three and 15 country case studies. The Institute's current programme, for example, has called upon the skills of scholars and grassroots activists working in 70 countries around the world.

Building Research Capacity in Developing Countries: UNRISD studies are generally carried out by teams of researchers drawn from the country where the research is being conducted. Such a procedure means that research themes can be adapted to local situations and considered by those most knowledgeable on local conditions, rather than by outsiders attempting to come to grips with an unknown environment in a limited time. This decentralized structure provides tremendous flexibility, facilitates networking and enables the Institute to function with only a small Geneva-based staff.

Overall responsibility for directing the research rests with a number of highly qualified and experienced specialists based at UNRISD headquarters or in other research establishments. Project co-ordinators comment on project proposals, advise on conceptual and methodological issues, seek funding, provide bibliographical references and literature when it is not available in the study country itself, refer researchers to others working on similar issues, provide editorial support when required prior to publication and ensure that research findings are widely disseminated. They also organize regional or international conferences and workshops which encourage dialogue across national boundaries on issues of mutual concern to specific countries or to the entire international community.

The UNRISD Internship Programme also provides training for a select number of graduate students from around the world. Over the past three years, 27 interns from 20 countries have assisted project co-ordinators in developing project proposals, compiling annotated bibliographies, organizing research seminars and carrying out a variety of tasks in the UNRISD Reference Centre.

"UNRISD has played a vanguard role and opened up – often ahead of time – areas of research and intellectual awareness, that later have come to be regarded as key issues in development. This is a remarkable achievement by any institution, and more so by one within a global structure of agencies, where bureaucratic tape, the ever-present tendency to negotiate 'truth' and to compromise or keep silent on sensitive issues, represent the norm."

Karl-Eric Knutsson, Regional Director, UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Kathmandu, Nepal.

Promoting Original Research: UNRISD research generally involves in-depth field work and primary data gathering. Each country case study normally involves at least one year's work,

BOX 1.2

RESEARCH ON A GLOBAL SCALE

In recent years, research has been carried out in the following countries:



Afghanistan, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, the Czech Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, India, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Laos, Lebanon, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Senegal, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, former Soviet Union, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States, former Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

with researchers spending several weeks or months in rural communities or urban neighbourhoods and interviewing informants drawn from diverse sectors of the society and levels of government.

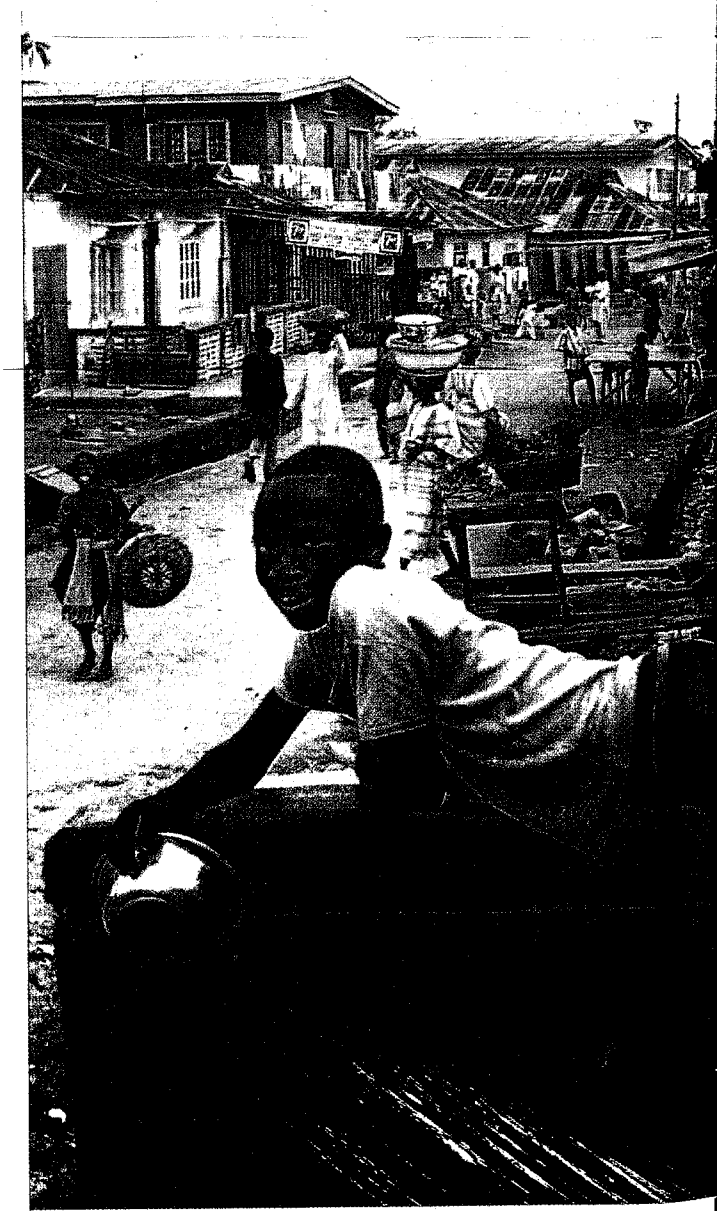
A Multi-Disciplinary Approach: By engaging research teams or project co-ordinators with a multi-disciplinary background, UNRISD tries to overcome the limitations which often characterize research that adopts a narrow

BOX 1.3
MULTI-DISCIPLINARY RESEARCH: AN EXAMPLE FROM NIGERIA

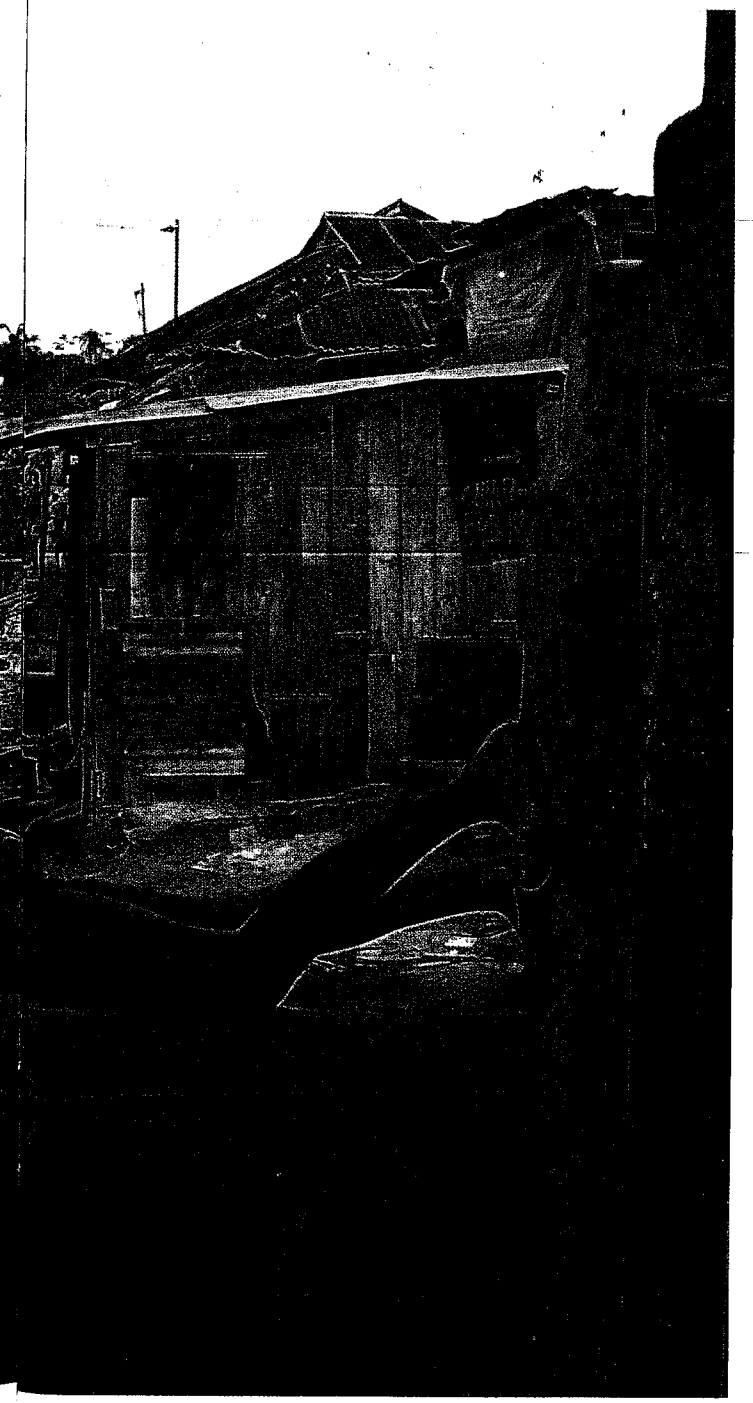
Since 1989, UNRISD has carried out work on the social effects of crisis and adjustment in Nigeria. Undertaking research on such aspects is extremely complicated given the country's size, diverse traditions and differences in levels of development between regions, states and localities. To examine the coping strategies of different social groups, a multi-disciplinary team of 12 principal researchers from seven universities and research institutes has been assembled. Field work has been undertaken in 11 states of the federation.

Co-ordinated from Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria, researchers with knowledge of local conditions have been able to construct a complex picture of changing opportunities and constraints, and varied coping mechanisms. In three studies on the informal sector, for example, researchers in Zaria with specializations in rural and urban sociology examine the coping strategies of 16 different groups in three different localities in the city; a Lagos-based urban sociologist and a political scientist at the same university look at the plight of the urban poor in several locations of the metropolis; and an economist, with knowledge of the operations of small-scale industries in the east of the country, examines the dynamics of such industries in Aba and Nnewi, two pioneering cities in indigenous small-scale manufacturing enterprises.

One vital component of the project relates to the way researchers have sought to involve policy makers, statisticians and organized interest groups. A series of meetings and seminars have provided an opportunity for a dialogue between researchers working on micro-level issues and representatives of governmental, employers' and trade union organizations concerned with macro trends.



disciplinary focus. This is essential since most social development issues cut across disciplinary boundaries. Moreover, the UNRISD research focus attempts to go beyond broad generalizations about how development



policies and processes affect people. Since societies are comprised of diverse social groups with varied needs and interests, it is important to see how different social groups are affected by and respond to particular initiatives and events.

"UNRISD has been able to build up an international network of scholars and co-operating centres which is unique. By adhering to the highest standards of scientific quality and objectivity, and at the same time relating to policy issues of concern to governments and the international community, UNRISD constitutes a bridge between the academic community and the United Nations system. After 30 years, it can be said that the reasons that justified its creation have not fundamentally changed. If anything, the United Nations system is more in need than ever of the kind of activities that the Institute carries out."

Rodolfo Stavenhagen, Visiting Professor, Center for Latin American Studies, Stanford University, California, USA, and Centro de Estudios Sociológicos, El Colegio de México, Mexico City, Mexico.

Encouraging Dialogue and Participation: By virtue of its status as a United Nations institution and its autonomous position, UNRISD can work with and promote dialogue among a diverse range of agencies and social and political actors. The Institute is situated at a point of convergence between the United Nations system, national governments, development agencies, the academic community and grassroots organizations. This position not only facilitates research and the dissemination of information and findings but also enables UNRISD to promote dialogue among agencies and actors whose interests sometimes conflict.

BOX 1.4
NETWORKING

Given the global scale of UNRISD research and the emphasis placed on promoting dialogue, linking project participants in regional and global networks has been an important feature of several research programmes.

Between 1979 and 1983, the **Participation Programme** promoted close interaction among researchers and the social groups and movements they studied. In some countries, the programme played a catalytic role in bringing together a wide range of actors linked by their common interest in the research issues.

The programme initiated a global debate among groups and movements concerned with participation issues through the periodic publication of **Dialogue about Participation/Diálogo sobre la participación**, with over 1,000 contributing "participants". Contributors covered a very broad spectrum of countries, academic disciplines, ideologies and activist experiences. Regional thematic sub-debates were also organized, usually by the co-ordinators of national research projects. A series of meetings (Bangkok, Bogotá, Bombay, Managua and Oxford) involving researchers and activists from Asia and Latin America encouraged dialogue about methods and questions for field studies. In India, a network of 20 grassroots organizations working in local languages, exchanged evaluations of their own experiences in seeking assistance from various outside allies and from the state. In some countries, the close involvement of social movements influenced the very content and orientation of the research.

More recently, UNRISD has promoted interaction among its research teams working within the programme on **Participation and Changes in Property Relations in Communist and Post-Communist Societies.** Since access to advanced and reliable communications systems is one advantage of the Institute's location in Geneva, UNRISD researchers in China, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland can communicate with each other via the Institute's fax or electronic mail facilities. A project bulletin, containing progress reports on work in the various countries, bibliographies and summaries about relevant literature, and printouts of the E-mail message board, is regularly compiled and sent to all the research teams.

Furthermore, UNRISD attempts to strengthen the capacity of disadvantaged groups to influence decision-making processes and to access resources. This may be achieved in various ways: increasing their awareness of appropriate mechanisms or channels through which to pressure for change; bringing the issues that concern them to the attention of policy makers and the development community; and providing a forum through which representatives of grassroots organizations can voice their concerns and meet with government and agency personnel.

REACHING OUT: THE DISSEMINATION PROGRAMME

Over the years, UNRISD has developed an active Dissemination Programme. Users of the Institute's research results typically include researchers, teachers, policy makers, activists, and international, regional and bilateral development agencies. These groups are reached through three major channels, namely, publications, the specialized and mass media, and conferences, seminars and workshops.

Publications: UNRISD publishes some books and monographs in-house and distributes them in both the North and the South. Co-publication arrangements with commercial publishers are also used in order to ensure a wider readership. During the past three years, UNRISD has published 23 books (see pages 46-47). A list of UNRISD books and monographs can be found in the thirtieth anniversary companion volume on the Institute's publications.

BOX 1.5 RECENT UNRISD CONFERENCES

Social and Economic Aspects of the Mass Return of Refugees (12-14 March 1991, Harare, Zimbabwe, in co-operation with the University of Zimbabwe). During the 1980s, there was increasing recognition that refugees should be assisted in their efforts to return home, if they were not to become "internally displaced" persons, and that there was an urgent need to explore how *ad hoc* relief programmes for returnees could be linked to long-term local reconstruction and development programmes. These concerns were at the heart of the Harare symposium, the first ever international meeting on the social and economic aspects of the mass voluntary return of African refugees to their country of origin. The papers and discussions at the symposium generated new insights into the process of repatriation and national integration and its links both with historical patterns of migration and with the continuing problems of poverty and underdevelopment in the countryside. The volume **When Refugees Go Home: African Experiences** (Tim Allen and Hubert Morsink (eds.), James Currey, London, forthcoming) is a collection of papers from the symposium.

Meeting of Experts on Social Development Indicators (8-11 April 1991, Rabat, Morocco, in co-operation with the government of Morocco). Policy makers everywhere are faced with making choices based on imperfect information. In much of the developing world, data and indicators for guiding decisions that can mean life or death for many can often be totally unreliable. At the request of the United Nations General Assembly, UNRISD convened this meeting to review recent work in the field of social development indicators and explore ways of providing better information on which to base social policy decisions. Specialists from multilateral organizations, research institutes, government agencies and NGOs presented their findings on a variety of issues in the field. These included the persistence of data problems that limit the usefulness of numerous key indicators; the need for lower-cost and innovative methods for collecting and managing social data; efforts to improve the applicability of existing indicators; and new initiatives to develop indicators for the analysis of diverse phenomena such as environmental degradation, the level of democracy and gender inequality. Participants also felt keenly the need to improve methods for monitoring poverty and the social impact of structural adjustment programmes. **Monitoring Social Progress in the 1990s: Data Constraints, Concerns and Priorities** (Dharam Ghai and David Westendorff (eds.), Avebury, Aldershot, forthcoming) is an edited volume combining a selection of papers from the Rabat meeting and several recent UNRISD research reports analysing the experience of Côte d'Ivoire, India, Kenya and Morocco in implementing systems of social indicators

Conference on the Social Dimensions of Environment and Sustainable Development (22-25 April 1992, Valletta, Malta, in co-operation with the Foundation for International Studies, University of Malta). This conference responded to the concern that important social issues associated with environmental degradation and conservation were not sufficiently addressed in the build-up to the Earth Summit. Sessions were held on indigenous resource management systems, grassroots environmental action and movements, women and the environment, the social impact of deforestation, population-environment linkages, and urban poverty and pollution. The discussions emphasized the need to pay closer attention to the role played by social, cultural and political factors in environmental change, as well as the role of both privatization and nationalization schemes in diminishing people's access to land and other natural resources. They also highlighted the need to transfer more responsibility for resource management to local communities and to supplement population control policies with comprehensive social development policies and a more equitable distribution of resources in order to protect the natural environment. The conference findings are summarized in **Development, Environment and People** (UNRISD, Geneva, 1992).

"Since its creation in 1963, UNRISD has been fulfilling a vital and unique function within the United Nations system. No other United Nations agency engages in a systematic reflection on social systems, institutions, movements and conflicts. And yet, without such reflection, the political debate within the General Assembly is destined to remain limited and truncated. With extremely limited means, UNRISD has multiplied its initiatives and created around itself extensive networks of research and debate and in so doing made itself known to and respected by those who are concerned with social issues the world over."

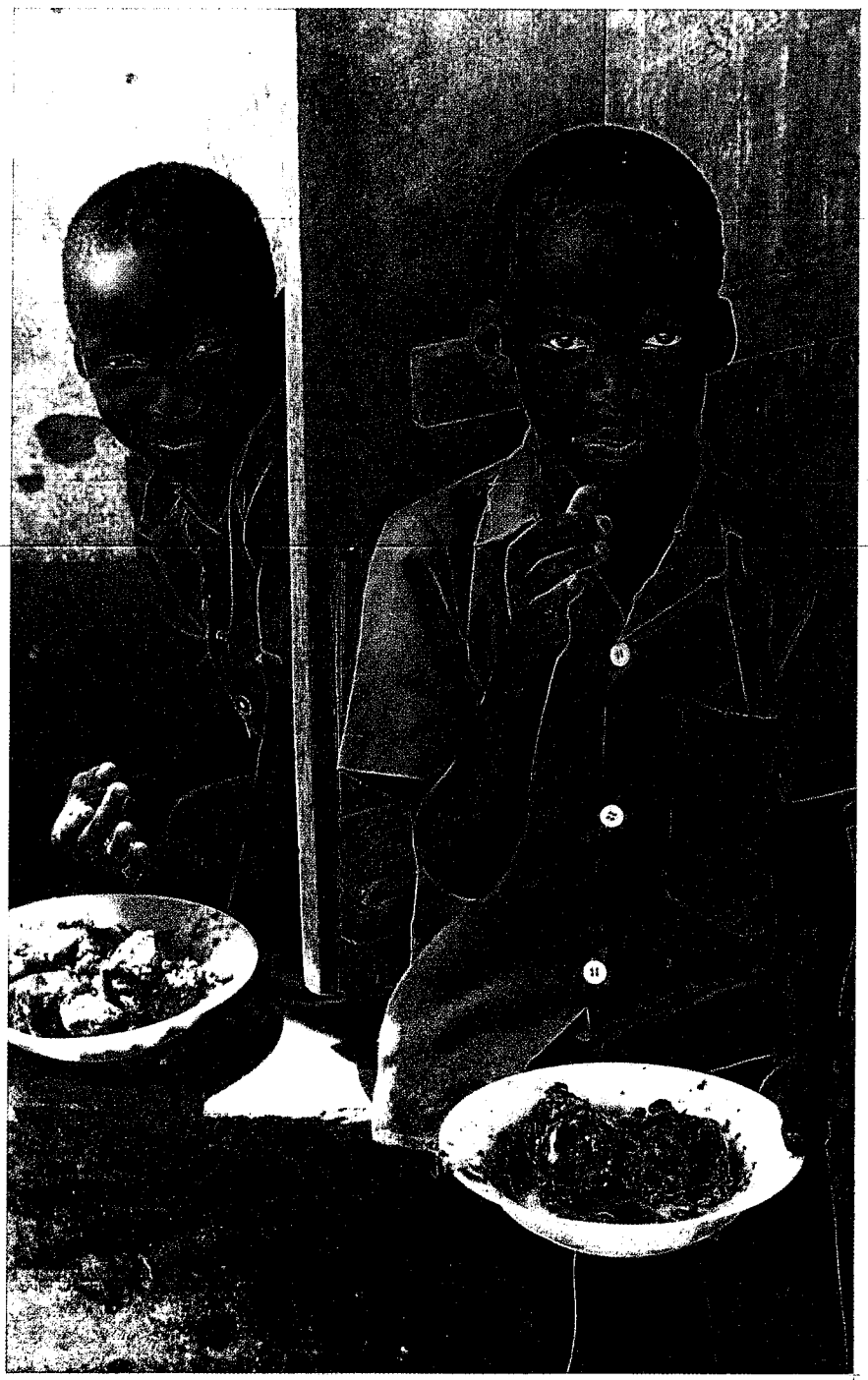
Samir Amin, Director, Programme on Strategies for the Future of Africa, Third World Forum, Dakar, Senegal.

UNRISD News provides a regular update on the Institute's activities, research findings, summaries of conference discussions and reviews of recently released publications. The newsletter appears in English, French and Spanish and reaches over 7,000 individuals, research centres and libraries around the world.

The Discussion Paper series is designed to stimulate discussion and critical comment on subjects related to the Institute's ongoing programmes. Numerous libraries and research institutes in both the North and the South subscribe to the series, which is also made available to readers on an individual basis. Since the series began in late 1987, some 45 papers have been published.

Specialized and Mass Media: Press releases about publications and conferences are systematically sent to a select number of specialized journals around the world. In the last two years, press releases, abstracts of conference summaries and/or reviews of books and Discussion Papers have appeared in over 75 relevant publications in English, French, Spanish and Arabic.

Conferences: UNRISD conferences bring together scholars, governmental and non-governmental policy makers and activists to discuss the Institute's research results. Specialized media contacts systematically receive review copies of conference summaries. Since 1990, the Institute has sponsored five national and 23 international conferences to disseminate research findings and promote the comparison of case study material.



2

THE CONTRIBUTION TO DEVELOPMENT THEORY AND PRACTICE

Development is a normative concept, implying progress towards accepted goals, like higher living standards, greater equality of opportunity and security of certain basic human rights. When UNRISD was established in 1963, development was generally conceived within the United Nations to be a linear process, through which societies all over the globe moved in a relatively similar fashion from lower to higher levels of well-being, following the path already travelled by the industrialized world. The keys to progress were thought to be foreign aid, trade, investment and technical assistance, through which economies could be modernized and improvements introduced in social services. It was widely assumed that social progress flowed automatically from economic modernization, and that the latter should therefore be given priority in the work of the international community.

MEASURING SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

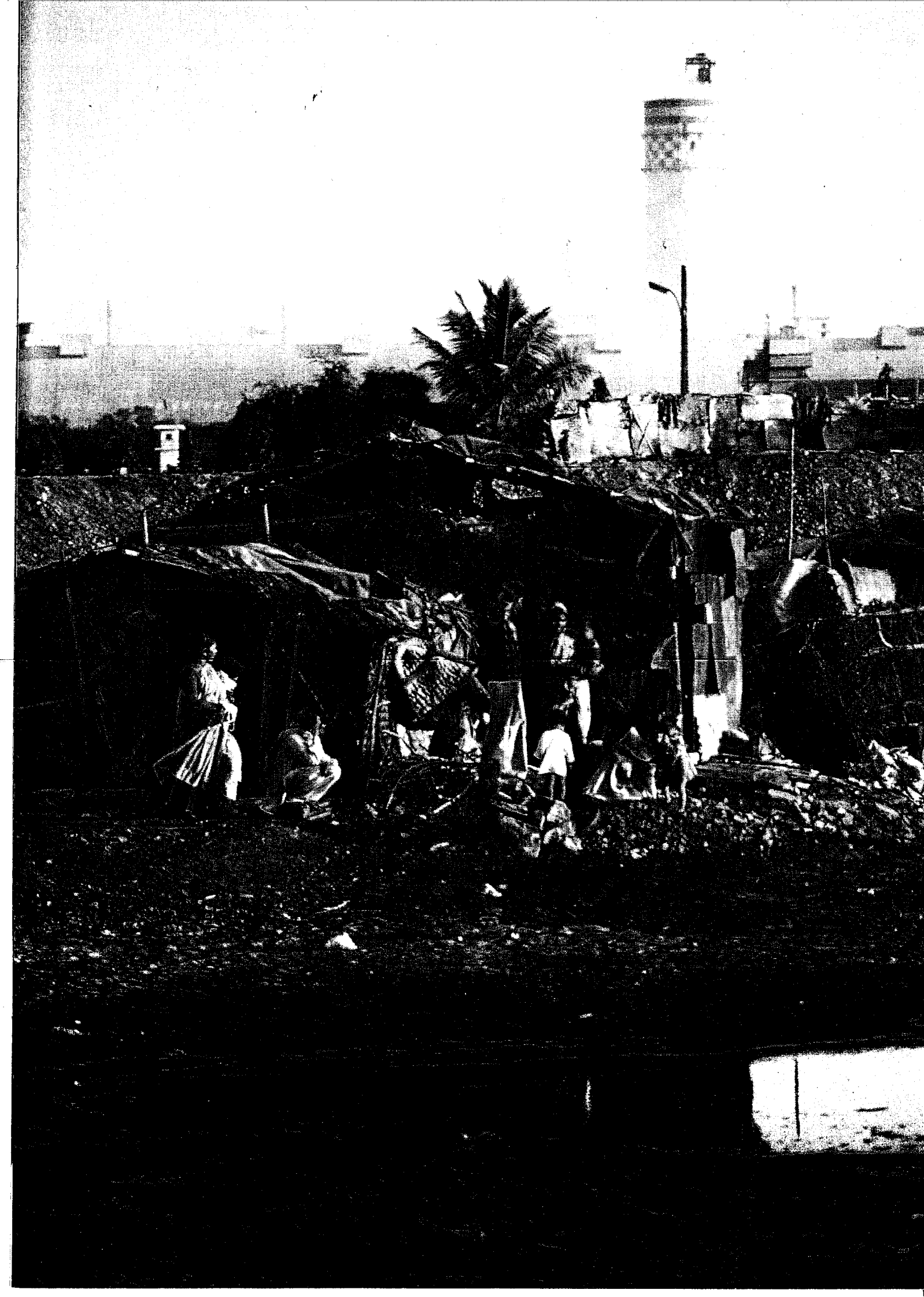
Within the United Nations system, the relegation of social issues to secondary status at the turn of the 1960s was quite clearly illustrated in the field of statistics. At the time, the economists who dominated development thinking within the institution were often econometrically trained and wedded to the "hard data" of national accounts. Social statistics were less systematically collected and were burdened with a somewhat dubious status. Moreover, many who worked in the fields of development policy and planning tended to use any statistics (however poor in quality) and to apply sophisticated methods of quantitative analysis (however irrelevant) in an attempt to demonstrate the scientific nature of an argument.

"UNRISD was founded 30 years ago as part of the first United Nations Development Decade which emphasized human factors and human resources. As a corollary of this 'new approach to development' it was stated that 'the purely economic indicators of progress were seen to provide only limited insight and might conceal as much as they indicated'. Hence UNRISD became a pioneer in developing social and human indicators of development, in ancestry of the 'human face' now sought after in structural reform and adjustment programmes, and of the 'human capital' approach now universally recognized as holding the key to development.

Since then, UNRISD has branched out into many other areas of inquiry. But human face and human capital have continued to be its distinguishing feature. I believe UNRISD can be proud of its impact and of the insights which it has provided."

H.W. Singer, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, Brighton, United Kingdom.

Given the centrality of the debate over statistics in the 1960s, it is not surprising that the early contributions of the Institute were made in this area. The first of these, which had both methodological and conceptual implications, rested on a pioneering effort to





establish the connections between economic and social spheres. At the time the Institute was established, these tended to be rigorously separated within the development discourse of the United Nations.

The second was to subject the prevailing faith in macro-economic and demographic data to critical evaluation, exposing many of the obvious problems of data gathering and analysis, and to embark on a long-term effort to improve social statistics, of the kind regularly compiled for the United Nations Report on the World Social Situation. Data culled from many countries were compared, by sources and over time, and the nature and reliability of information available at national and international levels were examined with a critical eye.

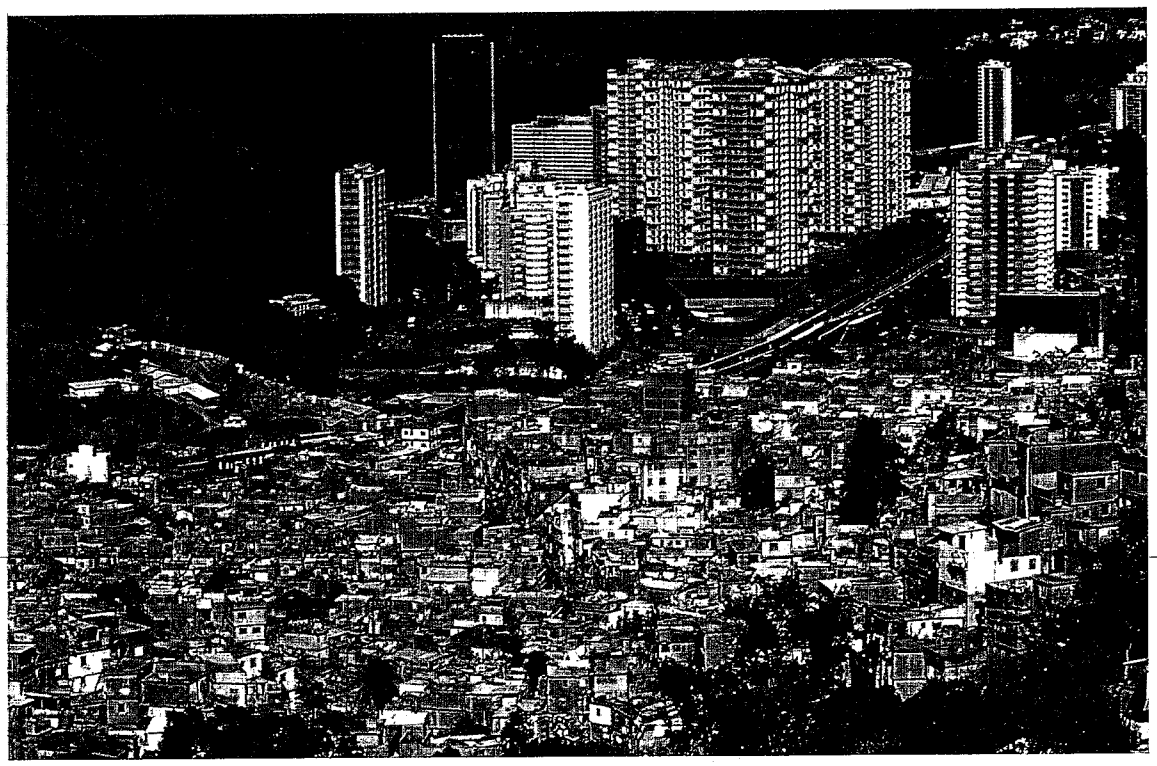
UNRISD researchers set out not only to find correlations between economic and social developments, but also to distinguish between different paths or patterns of development – thus fundamentally challenging the view that the latter could be seen as a single, linear process. This approach mirrored the conviction of early members of the UNRISD Board, such as Nobel Prize winners Jan Tinbergen and Gunnar Myrdal, that current approaches were unsatisfactory. The volume **Measurement and Analysis of Socio-Economic Development** (Donald McGranahan, Eduardo Pizarro and Claude Richard, UNRISD, Geneva, 1985) provides an account of UNRISD efforts to identify the principal problems of existing development data and to explain the weaknesses of prevailing methodologies of data analysis. It also provides suggestions for an improved research methodology, more suited to the nature of cross-national development data.

EXPLORING THE POTENTIAL AND LIMITS OF PLANNING AND TECHNOLOGY

During the 1960s, the idealistic picture of progress also came under attack by those who argued that modernization (and concomitant forms of international trade, aid, investment and transfer of technology) often increased inequality – among groups within nations, among regions and among countries. UNRISD focused on the polarizing effects of growth in its programme of work on statistics; but it also began to explore this question through a large comparative study of problems of regional development, which was eventually to produce numerous volumes on attempts to reduce spatially-bound inequality of opportunity in countries across the world.

"Thirty years ago there were good reasons for creating UNRISD. The approach to development policy placed excessive emphasis on economic and technological aspects, while social dimensions were largely ignored. Income inequality, both within developing countries and between the poor and rich countries, was increasing. It was essential that the United Nations establish an agency to conduct research on these aspects. While inequality among, as well as within, countries diminished somewhat during the 1970s it will take centuries to attain equality between developing and developed nations. UNRISD can perform a vital role by searching for ways and means to reduce the time needed."

Professor Jan Tinbergen, first Chairman of UNRISD Board: 1963-1974; Nobel Prize (Economics), 1969.



The output of the research programme on regional development reflects the diversity of views on modernization and development which marked the latter 1960s and early 1970s. Most studies professed clear faith in planning and in the capacity of governments to improve levels of living if provided with adequate information. Not surprisingly, the authors of some of these studies have since made brilliant political careers in Western Europe and the Soviet Union. Others, however, were more sceptical of planning and gave more attention to the deeper conflict of interests which often underlies the growth of inequality and makes its reversal so problematic.

By 1970, research at UNRISD was moving towards a more central concern with the social and political dynamics of modernization, as the structuralist current of development theory gained ground among social scientists in many parts of the world. In fact, an UNRISD programme evaluating the effectiveness of agricultural co-operatives in improving the life chances of the rural poor had concluded in that year that institutional reform could only be as effective as the local balance of power permitted. Co-operatives were not a panacea: they could not be expected to operate to the benefit of groups whose growing organizational strength would threaten the interests of local and national powerholders.

The research programme on co-operatives was directed by a Latin American sociologist whose views reflected the rising importance of dependency theory in that region. Within a short time,

other events reinforced the importance of Latin American social thought in the evolving conception of development at UNRISD. In 1970, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly commissioned a major re-evaluation of the United Nations approach to development, to be carried out by UNRISD in co-ordination with the United Nations Social Development Division and the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA). The latter was one of the few institutions within the United Nations system which had already attempted to incorporate a theoretical sociological approach into its thinking on economic change.

The Council and the General Assembly requested consideration of a "unified approach to development" – one which could help explain and interpret the extremely complex and contradictory course of modernization and the frequent failures of efforts to channel change in a given direction through planning. The report of the subsequent project emphasized, however, that there were no universally applicable recipes for progress, and that the options open to each society must be studied with reference to historically specific economic, social, cultural and political factors, interacting within a single social system. At the close of the study, the retiring Chief of the Social Development Division of ECLA presented his own views in the volume **Elusive Development** (Marshall Wolfe, UNRISD/ECLA, Geneva, 1981). The book is highly critical of "utopias devised by committees", whether of the left or right, or lodged in supposedly neutral bureaucracies, and unswerving in the belief that popular participation – the most elusive element in development strategies – is also the most important element of all.

Such conclusions had immediate implications not only for development policy but also for development studies. It meant, for example, that large-scale technical assistance programmes might produce unintended consequences as they promoted standard technical solutions within complex social fields. It also meant that "policy-making" was not a simple technical process occurring in a similar fashion in all countries, but an outgrowth of specific pressures and compromises, likely to have different outcomes in every concrete case.

"UNRISD's research, at least what I know of it, is always scrupulous, often courageous and thus frequently controversial. The Institute has never been governed by fashion nor has it hesitated to take on difficult or unpopular subjects. Seventeen years ago, as an inexperienced writer trying to make sense of world hunger, Andrew Pearse's and Ingrid Palmer's work for UNRISD on the Green Revolution helped to give me the courage of my own convictions. The Institute's subsequent publications in the 'food systems' field remained consistently the most coherent and useful of any appearing under an 'official' imprimatur. I hope UNRISD will continue in the future to use the instruments of critical scholarship to goad and to reveal."

Susan George, Associate Director of the Transnational Institute, Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

For students of development in general, and for UNRISD in particular, working within this conceptual framework required both reaching up and reaching down: the likely impact of any given element of modernization on welfare or economic growth could only be understood within the context of complex national societies, integrated into international systems; and, at the

BOX 2.1 THE GREEN REVOLUTION PROGRAMME

In collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNRISD studied attempts to introduce Green Revolution technology in rural areas of 26 countries, including Colombia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Tunisia and Zambia.

Sixteen books were published within the programme during the 1970s. The overview volume by programme director Andrew Pearse, **Seeds of Plenty, Seeds of Want: Social and Economic Implications of the Green Revolution** (Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1980), stressed the critical role of existing agrarian institutions in determining the impact of the new agricultural technology on rural people and showed how in situations of sharp social inequality, the introduction of high-yielding varieties tended to marginalize small cultivators and undermine the customary means of livelihood.

The dramatically negative impact of the new technology on small commercial farmers in the birthplace of the Green Revolution (Mexico) was traced for the project by Cynthia Hewitt de Alcántara, in **Modernizing Mexican Agriculture: Socioeconomic Implications of Technological Change, 1940-1970** (UNRISD, Geneva, 1976). The Spanish version of this book, published in six editions by Siglo XXI between 1978 and 1985, introduced UNRISD findings into the debate on technological change in agriculture throughout Latin America during the first half of the 1980s.

The New Agrarian Technology and India, by Biplab Dasgupta (Macmillan, Delhi, 1977) was particularly influential, as were a series of studies of the rice revolution in Asia by Ingrid Palmer. Two of her more general studies on science, nutrition and agricultural production were translated into Spanish and published in Mexico by SEP Setentas.

Finally, Keith Griffin's pioneering economic analysis of the Green Revolution formed the basis for perhaps the best-known book associated with this programme, **The Political Economy of Agrarian Change: An Essay on the Green Revolution** (Macmillan, London, 1974). It has been reprinted on numerous occasions and translated into Spanish and Hindi.

same time, these societies varied markedly from one region – or even one community – to another, making it imperative to carry out critical, empirical research at the local level.

The concern with integrating macro- and micro-analysis of processes of social change, which was to become a hallmark of work at UNRISD, was reinforced in 1971, with the inauguration of a large research programme on the Social and Economic Implications of the Large-Scale Introduction of High-Yielding Varieties of Foodgrain. By the 1960s, high-yielding varieties of foodgrain, specially adapted to certain local conditions and supported by area-specific "packages" of inputs and practices, held out hope for a technological breakthrough which could eventually improve rural livelihood in developing countries and ensure freedom from hunger. Between 1971 and 1976, the Institute studied the course of the so-called Green Revolution. The specific conclusions and recommendations put forward in each country study often played a significant role in national policy debates of the day.

The general conclusion of the project, while highly controversial at the time, seems almost commonplace now: in situations of highly unequal access to agricultural resources, poorer cultivators are likely to be displaced or marginalized in the race to benefit from high-yielding seeds and the associated technological "package". The studies highlighted the negative impact of the new technology on small commercial farmers and landless peasants and stressed

the critical role of existing agrarian institutions in determining the impact of the new agricultural technology on rural people. Despite the supposedly "scale-neutral" nature of the technology, the size of holdings adopting it was likely to be of critical importance throughout much of the Third World. This criticism turned on problems associated with the strategy for introducing Green Revolution technology in often unequal rural societies, and did not imply a rejection of the technology *per se*. It was shown that "peasant-based" development strategies in China and Japan, for example, had created conditions appropriate for combining a steady advance in yields and cropping intensity with the general promotion and protection of rural livelihood.

LIVELIHOOD AND PARTICIPATION

The effort to document the impact of the Green Revolution on many different kinds of people, in very different settings across the world, reaffirmed a commitment at UNRISD to a particular form of social science research – one which draws local populations into a dialogue with the researcher and develops a picture of social change from the bottom up. At the same time, the broad nature of the questions to be addressed in this project (which ranged across both physical and social sciences) required creation of multi-disciplinary teams – another element of UNRISD research methodology which was to be continued and reinforced in later work.

In the wake of the Green Revolution it became clear that the availability of ample food supplies at the global level was not sufficient to keep approximately one quarter of the world's population from being undernourished. During the late 1970s and early 1980s, UNRISD undertook a major study on Food Systems and Society to explore the intricate webs of social and economic relations, interacting with equally complex ecosystems, which determine who will get enough to eat and who will not.

"In this rapidly changing world, UNRISD is constantly dealing with the most relevant questions of our time. Publications that deal with holistic approaches to the environment and sustainable development through their effects on the majority have been basic reading for our staff. I am particularly impressed with ***An End to Hunger? The Social Origins of Food Strategies****, by Solon L. Barraclough, who presents important lessons and strategies of food security in a way that makes this book relevant and influential on decisions made every day here at Oxfam America.*
Thank you for your service to all those who suffer from mass poverty and hunger, and to our project partners around the world."

John C. Hammock, Executive Director, Oxfam America, Boston, USA.

This programme constituted an effort to apply some of the insights of systems theory to issues of food security and to examine the subset of social relations involved in the production, distribution and consumption of food. These aspects, which had traditionally been analysed in a piecemeal manner, were to be approached in relation to each other, as part of integrated social systems. This approach was to have immediate policy implications. A wide array of

decisions and policies set throughout government ministries were shown to be interrelated, to involve trade-offs and to respond to interests of particular groups. They formed part of "food strategies", inchoate though the latter might be. The concept of "food system" gained increasing currency in the field of food policy studies during the 1980s and was utilized by a growing number of governments and development agencies engaged in broad-ranging efforts to reorganize and co-ordinate food-related programmes.

The two largest research efforts within the Food Systems and Society Programme were mounted in India and Mexico, where an attempt was made to develop a new theoretical framework for the study of food systems. In both countries, interdisciplinary teams carried out a series of linked regional studies, often including original survey work. And, in both, research design was characterized by a pioneering interest in the relationship between social and environmental change.

BOX 2.2 THE FOOD SYSTEMS AND SOCIETY PROGRAMME



In its **Food Systems and Society Programme**, financed partially by IFPRI, UNDP and UNICEF, UNRISD set out to explore the networks through which basic foodstuffs are produced, marketed and consumed in 10 Third World countries, and to evaluate the effectiveness with which specific kinds of food systems can meet the minimum requirements of food security.

Solon Barraclough reflected on the lessons learned from this programme in **An End to Hunger? The Social Origins of Food Strategies** (Zed Books, London, 1991). The book contains a lucid and comprehensive analysis of the issues and dilemmas of food security in an interdependent world. As Hans Singer noted in his review for the **Times Higher Education Supplement**, "everybody who is genuinely concerned and eager to inform himself or herself about hunger, in a world which has the capacity to end it, should read this book".

Two other studies can be mentioned to illustrate the unusual breadth and depth of the field research. The first, **The Family Rice Bowl: Food and the Domestic Economy in China**, by Elisabeth Croll (Zed Books, London, 1983), was based on a unique opportunity to undertake interviews in 1980, first with 75 families in Beijing, Shanghai and their suburban environs, and then at many points in the wider food circuits surrounding these families and shaping their food strategies. A singular moment in the provisioning history of China was captured in this book, which continues to be required reading for those attempting to understand the current reform process.

La modernización forzada del trópico: El caso de Tabasco – Proyecto integrado del Golfo, by Fernando Tudela (ed.) (UNRISD/IFIAS/CINVESTAV/El Colegio de México, Mexico City, 1989), is a remarkable analysis of social and environmental change in the Mexican tropics, as successive waves of deforestation, expansion of extensive cattle raising, urbanization and petroleum exploration fundamentally altered the parameters of urban and rural livelihood. Carried out in conjunction with the Man and Biosphere Programme of the International Federation of Institutes of Advanced Study (IFIAS), this study sets high standards for multi-disciplinary work on food systems.

In Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Nicaragua and Senegal, the UNRISD team provided the first available integrated analysis of the national food system. In Chile, researchers documented the impact of military dictatorship and neo-liberal orthodoxy on food security. In Bangladesh, they mapped the physical, social and seasonal correlates of food insecurity through a survey which reflected weekly changes in the position of 178 poor families in six villages over the course of an entire year.

By the latter 1970s, UNRISD had clearly centred its work around the exploration of two central themes of social development: livelihood and participation. The former was defined as the bundle of goods, services and social relations required to meet culturally defined standards of a good life. It could be distinguished from another concept simultaneously gaining currency in international development circles – that of basic needs – by its emphasis not only on meeting minimum material requirements, but on having the ability to "make a living" in a broad sense, within a context of access to the social and cultural prerequisites of well-being.

Livelihood was, and is, inseparable from participation: a satisfying life implies the capacity to influence its course at varying levels; and in fact, there is no way of determining what a decent livelihood is, except by asking those concerned. In the second large programme of research at UNRISD at the turn of the 1980s, on Popular Participation, the Institute defined participation as a process involving "organized efforts by the hitherto excluded to increase their control over resources and regulative institutions".

This programme developed work within a number of exclusionary contexts in Asia and Latin America. The first of these, and the one most thoroughly studied, involved struggles by rural people to defend their land and livelihood, or to influence governmental programmes to

BOX 2.3
THE POPULAR PARTICIPATION PROGRAMME

The UNRISD programme of research and dialogue on **Popular Participation**, funded largely by the Inter-American Foundation, provided an arena within the international community, and at the national level, where organized efforts to overcome exclusion, and gain control over resources and regulative institutions, could be discussed.

In their book, **A Voice for the Excluded: Popular Participation in Development – Utopia or Necessity?** (Zed Books, London, forthcoming), Matthias Stiefel and Marshall Wolfe discuss major issues raised in 14 books and numerous other publications associated with the programme. They conclude that the world setting for popular participation at the beginning of the 1990s is even more unfavourable than it was a decade earlier. While it is true that in a majority of countries new and unexpected institutional and political arenas for action have been created, it is also true that ever larger and more heterogeneous groups of excluded find it increasingly difficult to defend their livelihood through participatory initiatives.

One of the most cited books written for the Participation Programme is **The Agrarian Question and the Peasant Movement in Colombia: Struggles of the National Peasant Association, 1967-1981**, by León Zamosc, published by Cambridge University Press in 1986. In his foreword, Teodor Shanin calls it "a massive testimony and analysis of a contemporary peasantry ... in a major struggle"; and Eric Wolf describes it as "an outstanding work, both for its empirical detail and theoretical sophistication".

Of the UNRISD work on Asia, Andrew Turton's **Production, Power and Participation in Rural Thailand: Experiences of Poor Farmers' Groups** (UNRISD, Geneva, 1987) should also be mentioned. Social scientists, development workers and organized peasants collaborated in an innovative dialogue, spanning seven different rural communities in three regions of Thailand over a period of more than two years.

improve production technology, economic opportunities and welfare. Major studies of peasant organization were undertaken in Bolivia, Colombia, Mexico and Thailand, and there was also a more limited evaluation of modes of grassroots participation in rural China.

Second, the interface between exclusion and inclusion was examined in relation to efforts by low income groups in urban areas to improve their neighbourhoods and gain control over local institutions, organize gainful activities in the informal sector or make official development programmes more responsive to community priorities. Teams of researchers collaborated with residents of poor urban neighbourhoods in Buenos Aires, Lima and São Paulo to learn from their experiences. And since struggles on the part of unionized workers, facing repressive military régimes, also formed part of the conundrum of participation in Latin America during the 1980s, UNRISD commissioned studies of this complex confrontational situation in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Guyana and Peru.

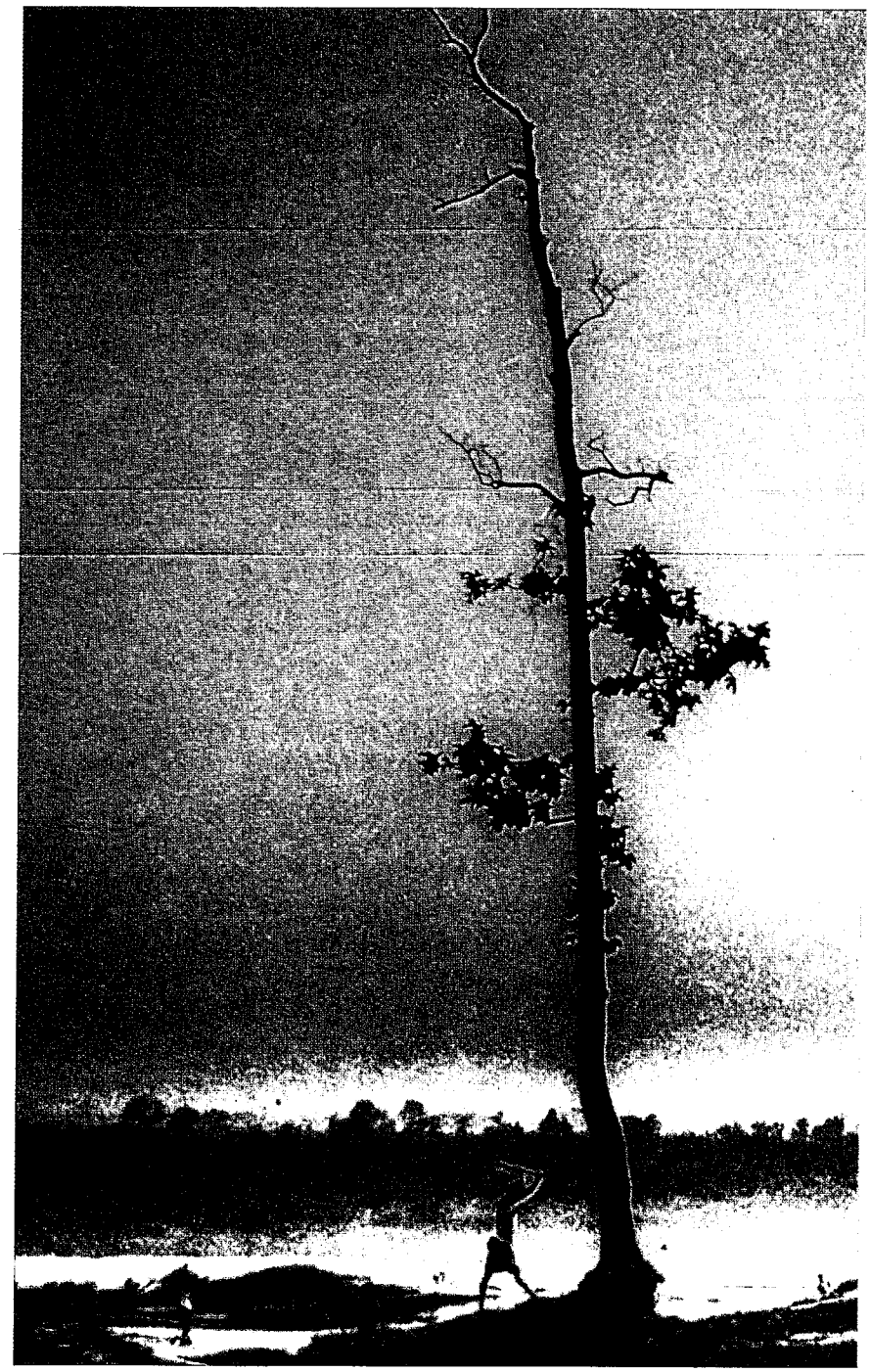
Groups excluded as much by gender as by class received attention in studies of women in popular movements in India and Thailand, and in a much cited collective effort to trace the role of women in Latin American social movements. In the realm of ethnic conflict, attempts of Aymara and Qhechwa peoples to preserve their ethnic identity and traditional forms of organization were explored.

It should be noted that, again, the meaning given by UNRISD to popular participation differed from the one often implicit in parallel programmes in other institutions, where emphasis was frequently placed on how to induce local participation in projects designed from above and outside. Researchers associated with the Institute's programme formed part of an international network of people attempting to learn from local initiatives, to write the histories of local struggles and to help participants understand the numerous difficulties they faced when consolidating and institutionalizing their efforts.

"The work of UNRISD has always impressed me for its high quality, timeliness and relevance. We frequently quote UNRISD publications in our own research activities at ECLAC, and have, from time to time, had fruitful interchanges between our respective staff. Many of the topics that have been the subject of analysis have been politically sensitive, but approached in a straightforward and direct manner. I believe that UNRISD has made a major contribution over its institutional lifespan to development thinking and knowledge, and its work deserves ample recognition."

Gert Rosenthal, Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Santiago, Chile.

By the late 1980s, the twin themes of livelihood and participation were being explored at UNRISD through a series of new programmes which, like their predecessors, reflected a commitment to holistic, multi-disciplinary research. The Institute was reaching out to much wider publics than ever before, to present the findings of empirical, critical research. At a time when stereotypes were easy to come by and hard to dispel, there was a special need for a view of social development which tempered the general with the specific and continued to stress the complexity of the human condition.



3

RECENT RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AND FINDINGS

During the past five years, the Institute has broadened considerably the scope of its research activities. In addition to ongoing work on refugees and social indicators, research has also been undertaken on environmental deterioration, the political economy of macro-economic adjustment and restructuring, ethnic conflict, political violence, and the drug problem.

ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL CHANGE

"While the scope of work undertaken by UNRISD is impressively wide, the quality of analysis and topical relevance of the research remain at a high and deservedly recognized level. In terms of environment and development, UNRISD's work is highly relevant to today's urgent needs. The integrated approach on the conservation, social and economic front, and the emphasis on local community importance and capacity are central to the furtherance of Sustainable Development in both South and North."

Kevin Lyonette, Director, Conservation Policy Division, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF International), Gland, Switzerland.

Since 1988, when UNRISD research on socio-environmental issues commenced, research under four projects, involving work in 27 developing countries, has sought to provide answers to four central questions:

- How do social factors and government policies influence the way people use and manage natural resources?
- How are different social groups affected by environmental degradation?
- To what extent and in what ways can local people manage resources on a sustainable basis?
- What has been the impact of conservation programmes on patterns of natural resource use and people's livelihood?

The emphasis on social and political economy dimensions which underscores UNRISD research on environment emanates from the belief that programmes and projects concerned with conservation and sustainable development will only succeed on any scale when they address the social factors influencing the way people interact with the environment. These factors include access to employment and essential resources such as land, credit and food; property relations, associated not only with land but also water, trees and marine resources; gender relations, which often constrain women's access to capital, labour power, knowledge and time; and the question of empowerment, or the level of control people exert over resources and decision-making processes which affect the management of natural resources.

Research under the different projects has revealed that the causes of environmental degradation, its impacts and people's responses to it cannot be completely disentangled from one another. Local actions both affect and are affected by local, national and international dynamics. Moreover, lines of causality are generally not simple and uni-directional. Rather, environmental degradation is often the outcome of a web of interconnected factors linked primarily to processes of modernization, market integration and the marginalization of certain social groups. Simple explanations blaming population growth or peasant farmers practising

BOX 3.1 ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS

Sustainable Development through People's Participation in Resource Management

So many top-down external interventions fail to protect and rehabilitate the environment. By focusing on local level responses to environmental stress, this project examines how people are reacting to environmental problems, how their activities can contribute to the alleviation of such problems, and what can be done to support their efforts.

Project duration: 1989-1993

Case studies: Brazil, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Niger, the Philippines, Senegal, Solomon Islands, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

Women, Environment and Population

Since women are increasingly acknowledged as local environmental resource managers and also have prime responsibility for household nurturing, it is crucial to investigate the gender aspects of environmental resource degradation. This project has examined the impact of environmental degradation on women's livelihood and how women cope with environmental decline.

Project duration: 1991-1994

Case studies: Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico and Morocco.

Population Dynamics, Environmental Change and Development Processes

There has been much heated debate over the extent to which population growth contributes to environmental decline. This project sought to shed light on the complex linkages between population dynamics and environmental degradation by examining processes of environmental decline in highly varied agro-ecological, socio-economic and demographic settings.

Project duration: 1991-1992

Case studies: Costa Rica, Pakistan and Uganda.

Social Dynamics of Deforestation in Developing Countries

While there has been much discussion in recent years about the phenomenon and causes of tropical deforestation, realistic policies to deal with deforestation have often not been forthcoming. This has been partly due to the failure to understand the social dimensions of deforestation. Research carried out under this project attempted to fill this gap by analysing how deforestation processes are generated in different ecological and socio-economic contexts, the linkages between deforestation and government policies, how people's livelihood is affected by deforestation, and how they respond individually and collectively.

Project duration: 1990-1993

Case studies: Brazil, Central America, Nepal and Tanzania.

slash-and-burn agriculture, for example, are likely to result in narrow and ineffective policy prescriptions.

Environmental degradation very often arises in a context where local groups lose control over resource use and the decision-making processes associated with the management of natural resources. Many systems of resource management, including common property régimes, which historically ensured a significant degree of social and environmental security, have broken down, often following privatization or nationalization of land.

A study on population-environment linkages in Pakistan revealed how market forces and government policies have contributed to the breakdown of systems of collective local decision making. This process – which has been called

"deresponsibilization" – means that local individuals, households and communities no longer feel able or obliged to respond to problems associated with environmental degradation. In such cases, there is a need to recreate social responsibility through local government, judicial systems and civic institutions.

"Among United Nations agencies UNRISD displays a unique capacity for independent and innovative research into critical development issues. Its ability to bring together scholars, government representatives and activists, from North and South, ensures that it confronts and elucidates the hard political choices that have to be made to achieve a socially just and ecologically balanced development process. I am proud to have been associated with it."

Marcus Colchester, Director, Forest Peoples Programme, World Rainforest Movement, Chadlington, United Kingdom.

The social impacts of environmental degradation take many forms. Most importantly, people's livelihoods and productive capacities are likely to suffer as a direct result of the depletion and misuse of the natural resources on which they depend. Health consequences may be severe and nutritional status is likely to be affected. New demands are often made on people's labour as they attempt to adapt to changed circumstances. Both economic and psychological stresses arise from the displacement of individuals or communities from degraded areas, and social conflict may be generated by increasing pressures on the natural resource base, competing claims on scarce resources, and the upsurge in illicit activities centred on the exploitation of natural resources, especially trees, forests and wildlife.





Research in India, Kenya, Malaysia and Mexico found that women, in particular, often feel most immediately the effects of environmental degradation because they are typically responsible for water and fuel collection, food preparation and family health care. It cannot, however, be assumed that all environmental conservation measures will benefit women. In drought-prone areas of Africa, for example, millet is a more environmentally appropriate crop than maize. However, millet processing is much more labour intensive, and the reintroduction of millet farming without a corresponding development of millet processing technology would increase women's workloads considerably.

Studies in several countries reveal the importance of local efforts to manage natural resources, the range of situations in which local input is crucial to sustainable development, and the need to draw heavily on local knowledge, management practices and institutions rather than rely on external interventions. Policies, programmes and projects should aim to increase the control people have over their resources and enable them to develop or obtain the information and technology, institutions, economic resources and political space which they require for sustainable development.

But ensuring greater participation and creating local responsibility are not simply a matter of local level changes and organizational efforts. Local action to rehabilitate the environment and improve livelihood is constrained by the effects of interest groups, government policies and social and economic structures. A sustainable development strategy must address the range of factors at local, sub-national, national and international levels which determine the opportunities, incentives and constraints of resource users.

This suggests the need for holistic approaches to sustainable development, rather than piecemeal technical initiatives or *ad hoc* responses to perceived crisis situations.

Sustainable development is likely to require important changes in the balance of social forces, involving efforts on the part of disadvantaged groups to form themselves into a constituency which can demand accountability from local, national and international leaders. The creation and support of a network of informed people's organizations has been shown to be effective in increasing the awareness of and response to local social and environmental problems. However, the research on environmental action and movements has shown that grassroots movements are often caught in a culture of opposition which limits their ability to advance the cause of sustainable development. In situations where institutions for collective or political bargaining exist, it is important for such organizations to pay more attention to understanding and utilizing the mechanisms of political bargaining which are necessary for bringing their ideas to reality.

If conservation measures are taken which fail to give due consideration to the needs and rights of local people, then the latter are likely to respond in ways that will undermine the environmental goals of particular programmes and projects. Responses may involve "apathy" or non-cooperation, the growth of illicit activities, or more overt forms of conflict. If these types of problems are to be minimized, conservation programmes must address the question of who will bear the costs of such measures, how those costs will be compensated and what alternatives exist for people whose livelihoods are affected by such schemes.

A more socially oriented approach to environmental projects requires that they have longer time frames than has traditionally been the case. Participatory and socially accountable implementation procedures are typically more time-consuming and may appear less efficient in the short term, but are ultimately more sustainable in both environmental and social terms. A greater degree of flexibility in defining project goals and methods is necessary to ensure that projects are able to adapt in the best possible way to social and environmental conditions, some of which may only become evident when the project is in the implementation stage. Most importantly, however, a socially oriented project approach will require that projects be less reliant on technical "fixes" or *ad hoc* interventions and use more process-oriented approaches that deal systematically with the complex range of social, economic, technological and institutional factors which account for environmental degradation.

CRISIS, ADJUSTMENT AND SOCIAL CHANGE

Within the international community, debate on issues of macro-economic stabilization and adjustment has tended to centre on short-term issues of policy reform. The purpose of the UNRISD programme on Crisis, Adjustment and Social Change, launched in 1989, is to broaden and deepen this discussion through considering the longer term structural implications of economic crisis and consequent reform efforts in a number of African and Latin American countries. Specifically, the programme:

- promotes dialogue among social scientists and policy makers in Africa and Latin America

on the political economy of crisis and adjustment in specific country settings;

- explores the locally and regionally specific impact of a harsh recession, and often disruptive attempts to restructure the economy, on the behaviour of various groups;
- considers how this changing behaviour affects economic, social and political structures within each country, and thus delimits the range of future policy options; and
- evaluates the adequacy with which existing socio-economic statistics can reflect current patterns of change.

Research within the programme, initially undertaken in Chile, Jamaica, Nigeria and Zambia, has more recently been extended to Brazil, Ghana, Mexico and Tanzania.

Field work illustrates the fact that patterns of gains and losses during adjustment are extremely complex and vary significantly from one society to another. With devaluation and market liberalization, the profitability of many activities generating foreign exchange – the export of agricultural and manufactured products, other trading and currency transactions, extraction of precious minerals and the drugs trade – has of course increased. In some sectors of some societies, this has stimulated the creation of a new élite. But in many others, those who have benefited most are members of the pre-reform élite, already strengthened by access to patronage arrangements and positions of political power.

Opening previously protected economies to wider international competition has polarized the manufacturing sectors of relatively more



industrialized societies, posing almost insurmountable challenges to some sectors of local industry, whose owners often switch their resources from production to the import trade. Especially in Latin America, new forms of enterprise organization have emerged, in which functions are delegated to semi-autonomous units making as "flexible" a use of labour as possible. As in the industrialized North, where similar trends are under way, the survival of manufacturing thus implies a fundamental redefinition of labour relations, usually associated with a weaker position of organized labour in national political coalitions.

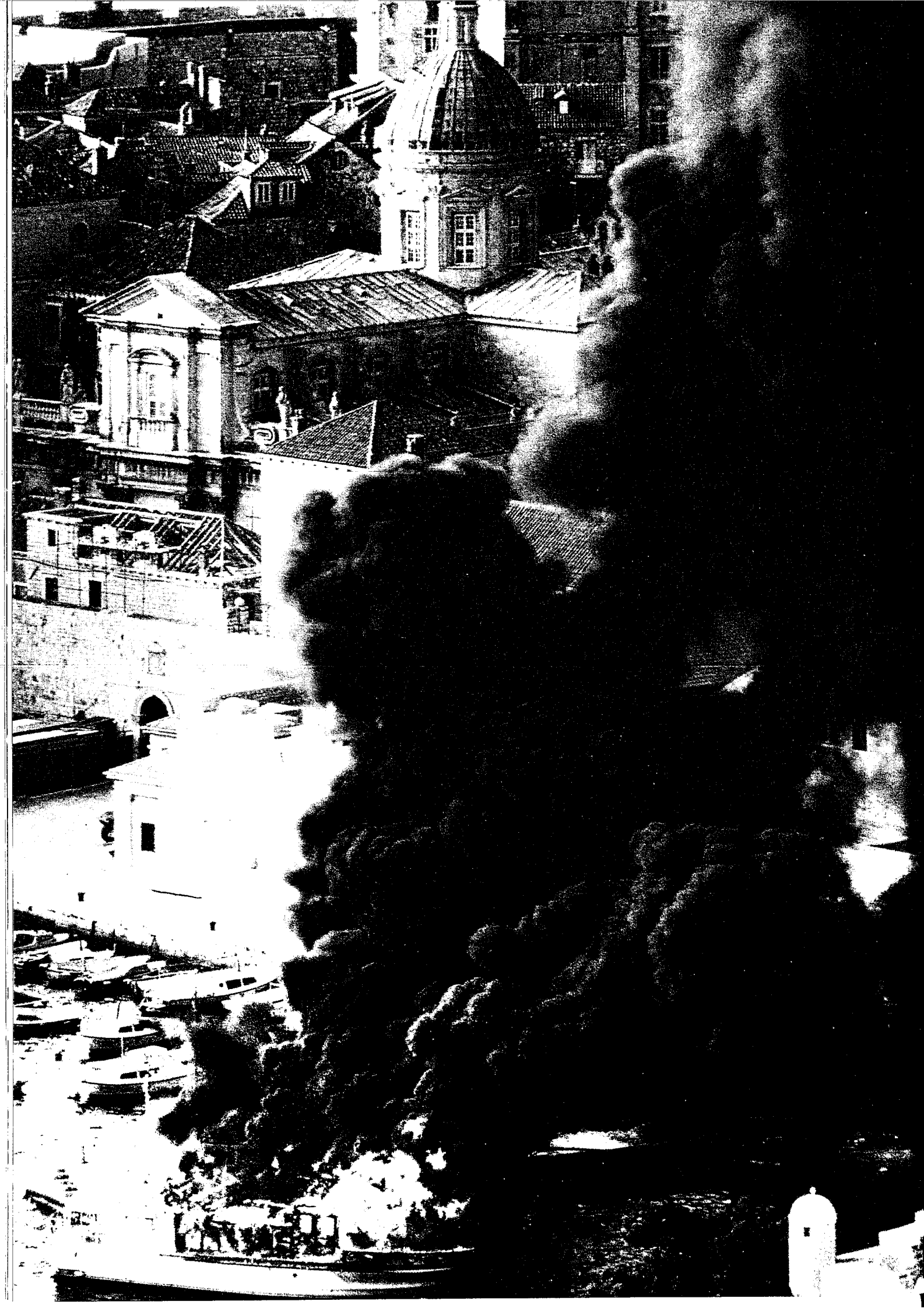
Terms of trade for rural producers in export agriculture have been improved by market-oriented reforms – a fact which should in theory imply a boost for small farmers in Africa and Latin America cultivating crops like cocoa, coffee and tea. Although some of these farmers have indeed benefited, most of the gains in the export sector have accrued to middle and upper income rural groups. Most advantages in the farming sector have also accrued to men. In the meantime, a persistent decline in the international price of many export commodities threatens to undermine the position of large numbers of producers throughout the Third World. Non-traditional agricultural export ventures, dependent upon cheap labour, can be more profitable; but this is a risky and unstable business in which larger producers in more developed countries, like Chile and Mexico, have a definite edge.

In both Africa and Latin America, the withdrawal of official support services for small farmers, including the elimination of input subsidies and marketing services, has exerted great pressure on poor farming households and on the population of food deficit areas. A Nigerian case study shows, for example, that gains experienced by cocoa farmers, following devaluation, are being offset by the high cost of chemical inputs, accelerating rates of national inflation and environmental degradation. At the same time, the diversion of farm labour to cocoa has induced a serious setback in vegetable production, which is labour intensive. Many smaller and middle-sized producers of food crops are reducing their activities or abandoning them altogether.

Crisis and adjustment have adversely affected most urban people: civil servants, the middle class, industrial wage workers and the urban poor. Attempts by many families to protect their livelihood through work in the informal sector have depressed average incomes in that sector and led to new forms of stratification within it. Case studies in Zambia and Nigeria suggest, for example, that the most profitable informal sector activities in those countries are being taken over by middle class groups and previously well-established businesses enjoying greater access to skills, capital and state patronage. In Jamaica, the balance of power and prestige within the middle class is also undergoing change, as those engaged in trade gain new standing while those in the professions have lost it.

Most groups in the informal sector face increasing marginalization, within a context of rising operating costs, weakened markets and declining profitability. In many instances, women in particular are trapped in low income activities, where they are confronted with stiffer competition and less access to additional labour than men. In some societies, however, long experience in trade provides women in the urban informal sector with better established





networks and an easier access to capital than men of the same educational background.

The deep current of informalization running through most contemporary societies leaves a particularly strong mark on the socio-economic and political systems of African and Latin American countries, in which crisis and adjustment have been most severe. Informalization affects not only the structure and sources of household income, and the division of roles and responsibilities within households, but also the parameters of profitability within all economic sectors; the capacity of employees to bargain with employers; and the legitimacy and/or capacity of a range of institutions from the family to the state.

Detailed analysis of the political economy of crisis, stabilization and restructuring in each study country illustrates the futility of generalizing too broadly when describing the reasons for the crisis or prescribing the nature of the remedies to be applied.

ETHNIC CONFLICT AND DEVELOPMENT

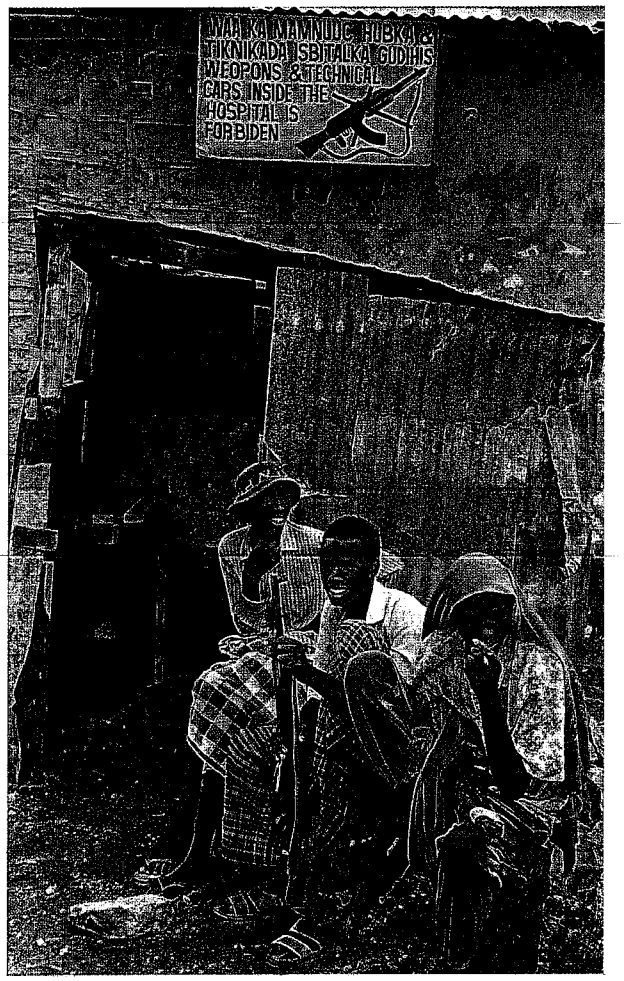
Ethnic conflicts have become a major source of instability in world affairs. Since research on this subject was launched in 1989, ethnic clashes have exploded with great intensity in former communist countries of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, and in several South Asian and African countries. There has also been a resurgence of xenophobia in Western Europe, directed against ethnic minorities, guest workers and asylum seekers. Such events underscore the vitality of ethnicity as a medium of political mobilization.

"Ethnic tensions played an important role in the break-up of the Soviet Union. People are now going through the very complex process of searching for new identities, of finding their lost pride, their collective worth, and also trying to find a therapeutic solution after the giant trauma they suffered not just during the Soviet period, but also under the Russian Empire.
As people engage in this process, extreme forms of ethno-nationalism and inter-ethnic unrest are emerging which pose a major obstacle to democratic transition. From the UNRISD project on Ethnic Conflict and Development will emerge a clearer understanding of this worldwide phenomenon and of appropriate mechanisms for governance in situations of conflicting ethnicity."

Valery Tishkov (former Minister of Nationalities), Director of the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia.

The research has involved 14 case studies of conflict situations in Burundi, Fiji, Guatemala, Guyana, the Horn of Africa, India, Lebanon, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, the former countries of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia, as well as the region inhabited by the Kurds. It has sought to examine:

- the conditions under which ethnic conflicts arise and sustain themselves;
- the roles of economic, cultural, social and political factors in shaping ethnic consciousness and claims;
- the effect of development processes, state policies and international politics on the dynamics of ethnic conflicts;
- the interests and goals of ethnic movements, and what kinds of strategies and ideologies they pursue;



- the reasons why some ethnic conflicts become violent while others are regulated within existing political and constitutional structures;
- the mechanisms which can be developed to prevent, contain or resolve such conflicts.

Several of the case studies reveal that, despite the significance of ethnicity as a mobilizing principle, ethnic consciousness itself should not be seen as a permanent problem in multi-cultural societies. Rather, ethnicities are "constructed", "invented" and "imagined" under particular circumstances and for specific reasons and objectives. Many current ethnic conflicts have their roots in the history of state formation, a process which structures relationships between dominant and powerful ethnic groups on the one hand, and various subordinate, less powerful or less numerous peoples on the other. The process of economic change is also important in shaping ethnicities, in terms of the way it differentiates populations into social classes and strata through patterns of production, distribution and consumption. Certain economic occupations may be identified with distinct ethnic groups, and competition among groups in such occupations may impinge upon inter-ethnic relations, leading, as the studies on Fiji, Guyana, Lebanon and Malaysia show, to generalized ethnic animosities or tensions.

Ethnic identities are often considered to be identical to national identities when linked to recognized territorial boundaries, but in other situations, religious, linguistic or racial characteristics become important in defining ethnic identities. In some cases, such as Eritrea, Kashmir, the Punjab, southern Sudan and the area inhabited by the Kurds, ethnicities are an umbrella term for regional interests. The studies reveal that both objective as well as subjective factors must be taken into account to identify the interests and parties in conflict.

Even though ethnic conflicts resulted in violence in a number of the countries studied, and several areas such as the Horn of Africa, the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia witnessed the birth of new states, there are cases, like that of Malaysia, in which violent conflicts have been avoided, and in which problems are being managed through institutional channels commanding wide consensus among the population.

The studies underscore the increasingly limited capacities of states to handle ethnic conflicts as purely internal matters, with obvious implications for conventional notions of sovereignty. Many of these conflicts have had international dimensions and would seem to require further involvement by the international community.

Although it is often assumed that behind an ethnic conflict there is an ethnic "problem" and that therefore there is a "solution", it is apparent that in certain situations conflict resolution may not be possible and that conflict management is required. Strategies aimed at resolving or managing ethnic conflicts must be based not only on techniques of negotiation, bargaining and mediation, but should also take into account issues of freedom, equality, dignity and opportunity which underpin many ethnic conflicts.

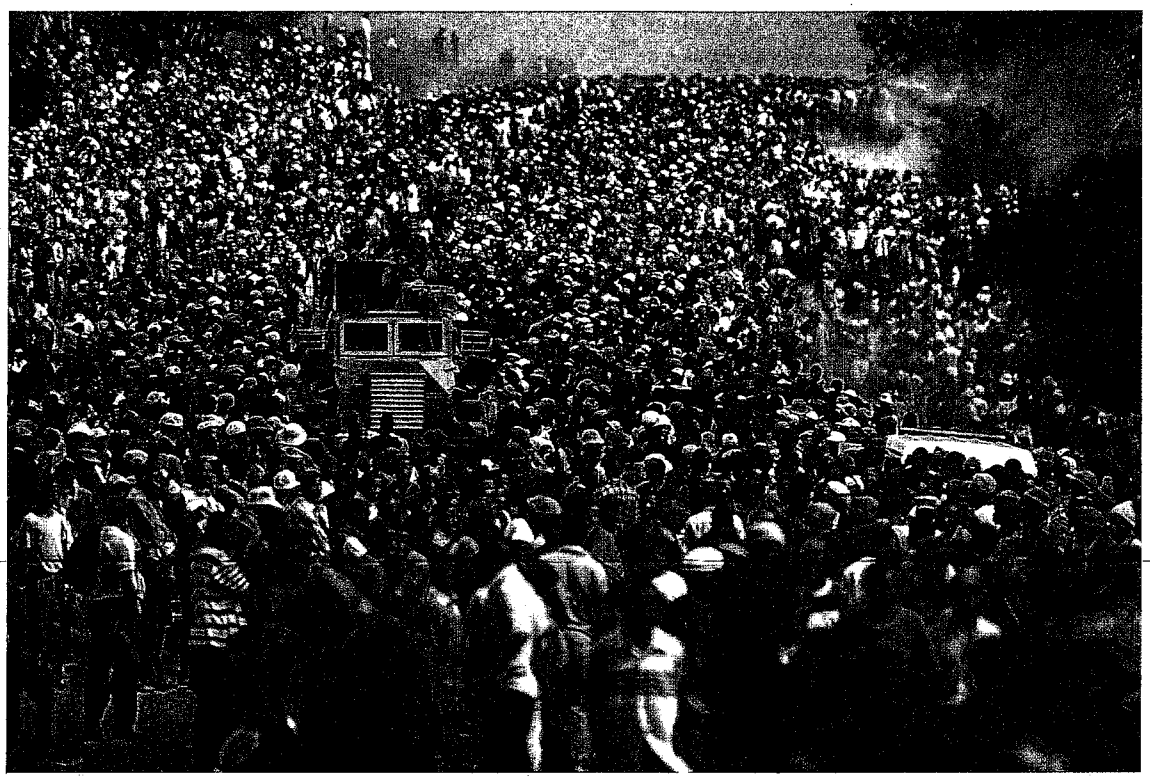
POLITICAL VIOLENCE AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

Political violence is one of the most troubling and intractable issues of our time. In 1989, UNRISD launched a project which attempts to understand the persistence of political violence with reference to its own internal dynamic. This research effort departs from previous approaches which tended to treat violence as abnormal behaviour or simply as a response to external factors associated with exploitation and repression. By linking internal and external factors it becomes possible to see how the sheer momentum of violence may create a situation which does not respond easily to changes in the external situation, or responds in ways which are not anticipated.

The eight case studies on Colombia, Italy, Lebanon, Northern Ireland, Peru, South Africa, Spain and Sri Lanka are concerned with questions of how interpretations given to concrete events by those engaged in violent movements serve to reinforce group solidarity and the sense of power felt by such movements. Research has thus focused on questions relating to discourses within movements; ways in which "discourse communities" are formed and sustained; how people of different backgrounds are bonded together through interpretations given to texts; and the symbolism of violent encounters.

The case studies can be classified in terms of two models: an inversionary discourse model and an exchange model. Inversionary movements challenge a number of basic assumptions about politics, society and development, contending that existing institutions can never be sufficiently reformed to accommodate the interests of the disadvantaged. It is only through violent revolution that oppression can be eliminated and the victims of development allowed to participate in the institutions of society. The clearest example is Sendero Luminoso in Peru. Here a mythology has emerged involving the bonding of individuals through the use of Marxian-inspired revolutionary texts and narratives, and a synthesis of experiences based on interpretations of violent events and the belief in millennial solutions. By applying the discourse model to Sendero one can see how "symbolic capital" is created out of violent events, and how a language is formed with its own codes, out of which a discourse community is organized around networks engaged in violent activities.

Under the exchange model, violence follows well-understood rules of a game. Institutionally, the discourse is structured around mechanisms and instruments which allow for choices to be



made at different levels of society. The aims are instrumental, and symbolic encounters are of little significance. Guerrilla movements in Colombia conform closely to this model. Violence is often based on competition between groups over power and followers, and fluctuates according to how gains and losses are distributed among movements.

All other cases fall somewhere on the spectrum formed by the two models. The Irish Republican Army (IRA) in Northern Ireland can be identified with the inversionary model but with significant differences. The Italian Red Brigade and the Tamil Tigers in Sri Lanka are more on the inversionary discourse side, while the Basque movement (ETA) in Spain and the African National Congress (ANC) are on the exchange model side. The Shi'a movements in Lebanon are more or less at the centre.

From this framework emerge certain ideas that have implications for political analysis and policy. Under the inversionary discourse model an individual's sense of self-worth is enhanced only through group association and loyalty to collective goals. This challenges some of the rationalist assumptions of the exchange model, in which private citizens are seen as self-conscious and rational agents of civic life. Cases that fall under the exchange model can be resolved through distributional and democratic strategies that would allow gainers and losers to negotiate their grievances as interests rather than as principles.

Cases of inversionary discourse pose different

sets of problems. As the inversionary discourse takes its point of departure from issues of marginality and oppression, it emphasizes the many levels of injustice present in forms of domination and hegemony which often get obscured even in the most democratic states. The implication of this analysis is that change is a much more complex and bumpy process encompassing threats, reactions to threats and eventual accommodations.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF PRODUCTION, TRADE AND USE OF ILLICIT DRUGS

While attention has been given to the consumption of illicit narcotic drugs in the industrialized countries, and to policy alternatives for dealing with this problem, very little is known about the impact of production, commerce and consumption of drugs in developing countries. Similarly, while policy discussions, proposals and actions have concentrated for the most part on methods to control the production and trade in illicit drugs, much less attention has been focused on efforts to influence their demand. For these reasons, UNRISD launched a research programme in 1989 on the Socio-Economic and Political Impact of Production, Trade and Use of Illicit Narcotic Drugs.

In conjunction with the United Nations University, the Institute commissioned case studies in Bolivia, Colombia, Laos, Mexico, Myanmar, Pakistan and Afghanistan, Peru, Thailand and the United States. The studies addressed the following questions:

- What illicit drug activities are occurring in major producer or transiting regions?
- What are the effects of these activities on the socio-economic and political fabric of those areas?
- What drug control activities are being carried out and with what results?
- What consequences, both intended and unintended, are to be expected from any new policy initiatives?

A striking feature of the programme is the wide range of issues addressed by the research, including social traditions and customs, ethnic groups, environmental concerns, insurrectionary movements and international security. The studies show that nothing less than an integrated development approach is likely to produce effective results in curbing illegal narcotic drug trade and use.

Production and consumption of certain narcotic drugs is firmly embedded in the social and cultural fabric of many societies. In some major producing countries, indigenous peoples have traditionally and legally used narcotics for ceremonial and medicinal purposes. In such cases, traditional legal activities and modern illegal ones overlap and interact in complicated ways.

The lack of alternative economic opportunities in both producing and consuming countries for important sectors of the population continues to contribute to the growth of the drug economy. Alternative economic prospects are frequently so limited for the affected groups that both supply and demand reduction efforts have been largely ineffective.

Some of the studies have provided examples of cases in which policies to suppress illicit drug production and/or use have been successful. At the same time, however, suppressed transit

routes or illegal products have tended to be replaced by new ones. While poppy production in Pakistan, for example, has declined sharply as a result of government policies, trafficking of heroin, primarily from Afghanistan, continues unabated. In Thailand, there has been a recent and rather rapid increase in heroin addiction among certain tribes, following the "success" of opium eradication there.

The existence of illegal drug industries constitutes a major obstacle to national projects of economic and political democratization. The elimination of illegal drug profits often depends, however, on factors outside the control of national governments. In Colombia, the phenomenon of illegal drugs promotes violence, concentrates income and wealth, feeds the underground economy, opposes some socially progressive reforms and weakens the state. The conclusions of the Colombian study are not encouraging: curtailing illegal drug profits will probably only come about following a demand shift towards other drugs produced and distributed by non-Colombians, or the growth of an import substituting synthetic industry in the consumer countries manufacturing cheaper synthetic cocaine.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF MASS VOLUNTARY RETURN OF REFUGEES IN AFRICA

Since the early 1970s, there have been numerous mass movements of refugees voluntarily returning to their country of origin. This phenomenon has been taken up for study within an UNRISD programme, which commenced in 1989, focusing on policies and issues that influence the capacity of refugees who return home to take care of themselves, to reintegrate and to make a contribution to the development of the area to which they return. The programme is concerned with:

- the way obstacles to reintegration are overcome;
- the extent to which experience gained by the returnees during their refugee period can be capitalized upon by the returnees themselves and by their home society; and
- the experience gained in special programmes devised by national or international agencies to facilitate reintegration and reconstruction.

Since sub-Saharan Africa constitutes one of the poorest regions in the world and since the region has seen and may see further massive return movements, three countries in this region – Chad, Uganda and Zimbabwe – were selected for study. For each country the programme consists of three phases: (a) one year of field research by a multi-disciplinary team of researchers from the country selected; (b) the organization of an international symposium, primarily for countries of the sub-region, in which preliminary research findings from the field study and from other African countries are presented to policy makers and administrators; (c) the publication of a selection of symposium papers in book form and of a brief analytical report for easy reference by administrators and practitioners dealing with operational issues.

Both the findings of field research and the discussions of symposia held in Addis Ababa, Harare and N'Djamena during 1991 and 1992, demonstrate the vital role refugees play in initiating, planning, organizing and handling their



BOX 3.2
REFUGEES AND RETURNEES

Principal Sources of the World's Refugees and Asylum Seekers
(as of 31 December 1991)

Afghanistan	6,600,800*
Palestinians	2,525,000
Mozambique	1,483,500*
Ethiopia/Eritrea	752,400*
Somalia	717,600*
Liberia	661,700*
Angola	443,200
Cambodia	392,700
Iraq	217,500*
Sri Lanka	210,000
Burundi	208,500
Rwanda	203,900*
Sudan	202,500
Sierra Leone	181,000*
Western Sahara	165,000*
Viet Nam	122,650
Yugoslavia	120,000
China (Tibet)	114,000
Myanmar	112,000

Significant Voluntary Repatriations 1991

To	From	Numbers
Afghanistan	Iran	62,600
Afghanistan	Pakistan	130,000
Angola	Zaire	15,000
Burundi	Tanzania	18,000
El Salvador	Central America	2,500
Ethiopia	Djibouti	2,400
Ethiopia	Somalia	320,000
Ethiopia/Eritrea	Sudan	10,000
Guatemala	Mexico	1,765
Iran	Iraq	15,200
Iraq	Iran	1,300,000
Iraq	Saudi Arabia	1,300
Kuwait	Saudi Arabia/Others	400,000
Liberia	West Africa	56,000
Nicaragua	Central America	15,000
Somalia	Ethiopia	100,000
South Africa	Southern Africa	7,400
Sudan	Ethiopia	270,000
Viet Nam	South-East Asia	10,200

* Indicates that sources vary significantly in number reported.
Source: **World Refugee Survey 1992**, U.S. Committee for Refugees, 1992.

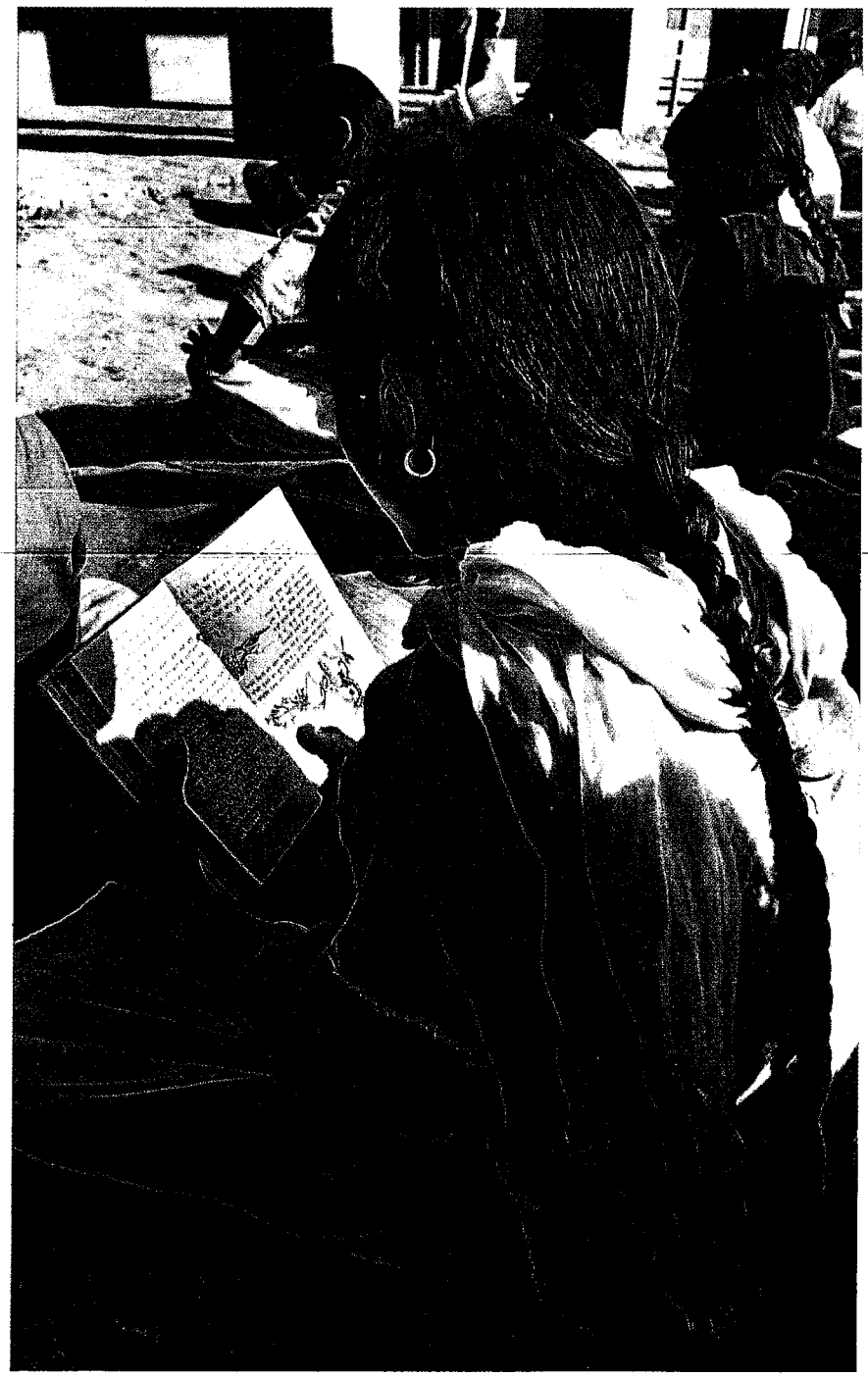
return as well as the supportive role non-governmental organizations can play on condition that they work in consultation with the local communities concerned.

A key feature of this programme is its work among female returnees. While many women experience extreme difficulties when they return to their places of origin, some are able to capitalize on the experience gained in agriculture or trade during their period of exile.

The study on Zimbabwe shows how, after its independence in April 1980, the country linked humanitarian assistance for refugees and displaced persons with development assistance to the areas where they returned, thus forging an integrated strategy towards "returnee aid and development" advocated only years later by international conferences. Zimbabwe's heavy emphasis on food production proved to be strategic. Without the first 1980-1981 bumper harvest, the country might have faced food shortages and food insecurity over the subsequent period of resettlement.

Field research addresses not only economic issues but also the critical question of how people attempt to recreate social cohesion and local community feeling in situations of severe psychological and social trauma. The programme has led scholars and practitioners to question current definitions of "refugee", "repatriation", "returnee" and "stayee"; to reconsider mandates of United Nations agencies; and to re-examine notions of ethnic identity and state boundaries.

Although concentrating on Africa, the programme is of far broader relevance. It is concerned with a virtually unresearched topic and is strongly policy-oriented within the overall perspective of "returnee aid and development". In practice it provides a platform for communication between scholars and researchers, on the one hand, and policy makers, administrators and practitioners, on the other. Moreover the programme plays a role in rebuilding research capacity in Africa and promotes links among African researchers interested in this topic.



4

UNRISD IN THE 1990s

In 1995, the international community will meet at a World Summit for Social Development. The need for such a conference is stark: deepening recession in the industrialized West, unless it can be quickly reversed, is likely to worsen the already difficult situation of most people in Africa, Central Europe, Latin America and the former Soviet Union. A long economic crisis, too often associated with civil strife, has left its mark on hundreds of millions of people, whose welfare is now in grave jeopardy.

"UNRISD will gain yet further in importance and relevance in the future because the 1990s will witness an unavoidable and essential re-equilibration within development policies in favour of the social question. This has become necessary in order to 'defuse' the social time-bomb which is ticking under the economic and financial policies of the 1980s."

Louis Emmerij, Special Advisor to the President, Inter-American Development Bank, Washington, D.C., USA.

The problem, of course, is not simply one of renewing growth. Poverty, environmental degradation and political exclusion are as likely to be generated during periods of rapid modernization as during periods of stagnation, although the processes which lead to such outcomes may vary. While some countries achieved high rates of economic growth during the last decade, accompanying patterns of social and political change often had contradictory implications for the level of living and political participation of many of their citizens.

The *laissez faire* ideology which dominated the 1980s gave relatively low priority to social issues, which were in principle to be resolved automatically through the working of market forces. But that attitude of general neglect is now being replaced by concern, as critical questions of livelihood – and in fact of survival – come once more to the fore.

New approaches to development must be sought within an unusually fluid and unstable international setting, marked by contradictory tendencies toward accelerating global integration, on the one hand, and increasing parochialism and fragmentation, on the other. Both traditional and modern social institutions providing security and defining identity are under stress, from the level of the nation state to communities and households. And existing structures of international economic and political co-operation, created in earlier times, are proving often unsuited to meeting current challenges.

During the next few years, the Institute intends to promote new dialogue on various aspects of this difficult and complex situation by pursuing a research strategy which draws upon insights generated in recent UNRISD work on processes of social change during the latter 1980s. For example, large UNRISD research programmes, now nearing completion, concerned with ethnic conflict, political violence and the problems of reintegrating displaced populations have much to contribute to a new effort to address the challenge of rebuilding wartorn societies. A recently initiated project concerned with the impact of external assistance programmes, including United Nations peacekeeping operations, on Cambodian society will make a further contribution in this regard.

UNRISD programmes on crisis, adjustment and social change in Africa and Latin America will shortly be supplemented by similar research

BOX 4.1 NEW RESEARCH PROJECTS

During late 1992 and early 1993, work commenced on a number of new projects.

Agricultural Expansion and Tropical Forests

Agricultural expansion is one of the major processes causing tropical deforestation. Although forest areas are being rapidly depleted in many countries, government and development agency policies generally continue to promote land clearance to grow export crops, raise cattle and produce food. Research under this project will analyse the factors leading to the clearance of tropical forests for agricultural use and examine both technical and policy alternatives which might reduce pressures on forests.

Project duration: 1993-1994

Case studies: Brazil, Cameroon, China, Guatemala and Malaysia.

The Social and Environmental Impact of National Parks and Protected Areas in Developing Countries

While important for the preservation of biodiversity and ecosystems, the incorporation of large areas of forests and land into strictly protected areas has often resulted in negative social, economic and environmental impacts. This project seeks to examine the ways in which parks and reserves are established and managed, and to suggest how these areas could be better integrated with the socio-economic development of local people and surrounding areas.

Project duration: 1992-1995

Case studies: Brazil, China and India.

The Social Consequences of the Peace Process in Cambodia

Cambodian economy, society and culture have been devastated by two decades of war and genocide. As the possibility of peace emerges, new tensions and conflicts have arisen. This project will examine the impacts on different social groups and local level institutions of processes associated with the peace process such as the reintegration of displaced persons, military demobilization, inflows of external aid, and the sudden influx of international agency personnel and peace-keeping troops.

Project duration: 1993-1994

Integrating Gender into Development Planning

While the subject of women's position in the process of development has been heavily researched, translating research findings and recommendations into practical planning guidelines and policy measures has presented great difficulties. By engaging researchers and policy makers in an active and ongoing dialogue on such issues, this project explores ways of incorporating gender concerns in national planning and programme formulation.

Project duration: 1993-1998

Case studies: Bangladesh, Chile, Egypt, Indonesia, Jamaica, Mali, Morocco, Poland and Uganda.

Participation and Changes in Property Relations in Communist and Post-Communist Societies

The introduction of market forces and changes in enterprise ownership and management in centrally planned economies has had far-reaching socio-economic implications. Societies have become more stratified and new forms of social organization have emerged. The aim of this project is to study changes in the relative position and forms of participation of different social groups. In Eastern Europe, where in-depth research commenced in 1993, researchers are examining the effects of new forms of enterprise ownership on the distribution of income and wealth, workers' behaviour and the situation of women.

Project duration: 1992-1994

Case studies: China, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland.

in South Asia. The findings of these multi-disciplinary projects will in turn support further work on problems of socio-political integration and social welfare provisioning within a context of global restructuring. Here the contributions of a parallel programme of research on changing patterns of participation in China and societies in Eastern Europe which are undergoing fundamental reform of property relations are of central importance as well.

"As a professional economist I have learned a great deal from collaborative interdisciplinary research in the teams assembled by UNRISD. In particular, the UNRISD contribution to the social problems posed by the construction of markets in centrally planned economies, and by the exposure of poor countries to world markets, has proved extremely prescient and highly relevant to policy formation – particularly for those vulnerable groups whose claims tend to be overlooked by national and international authorities."

E.V.K. FitzGerald, Director, Finance and Trade Policy Centre, Oxford University, United Kingdom, and Professor of Development Economics, Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, the Netherlands.

Finally, a great deal of recent work at UNRISD on the social implications of environmental degradation, on the one hand, and of environmental protection initiatives, on the other, will reinforce continuing concern in coming years with the complex interrelationship between socio-economic and environmental change. Like future research of the Institute in other areas (including a more systematic attempt to explore the changing life chances of women), this ongoing exploration of environmental issues is essential for understanding the global political economy of development at the turn of the twenty-first century.

UNRISD AND THE SOCIAL SUMMIT

All of the areas of work just outlined can obviously further what must be the main objectives of the World Summit for Social Development:

- To promote discussion on the nature and dimensions of current social problems.
- To stimulate debate on alternative ways of dealing with these problems.
- To work towards a consensus on international co-operation in the field of social development.

UNRISD will contribute to preparatory work on the Social Summit through the following programmes and events:

A Seminar on Summit Issues: As part of its thirtieth anniversary celebration, UNRISD will host an international meeting in July 1993 to discuss four areas of social development of clear relevance to the Summit: ethnic conflict; the social dimensions of environmental deterioration and protection; the socio-economic and political implications of the production, trade and consumption of illegal drugs; and patterns of political and social change associated with crisis and macro-economic restructuring in Africa, Latin America and Eastern Europe. The closing session of the seminar will then be devoted to a panel discussion on the Social Summit itself.

The fact that this celebration coincides with

meetings of the Economic and Social Council in Geneva provides an unusual opportunity for UNRISD to draw ECOSOC delegates, staff of national missions to the United Nations and representatives of international organizations into a debate on these issues. This will provide a useful opportunity for raising interest in the future work of the conference and exploring a range of issues which might be taken up under its auspices.

The UNRISD Briefing Paper Series for the Social Summit: During the remainder of 1993 and 1994, the Institute will draw upon its existing research, distilling its lessons and creating readable, brief monographs or position papers on key issues of social development. Each of these publications will attempt to provide a clear picture of the nature of a particular problem (such as political violence, the mass return of refugees, the dynamics of particular processes of environmental change), its dimensions, an analysis of attempts to cope with the problem, lessons learned and central issues requiring discussion and debate.

Papers will also be commissioned from leading authorities in areas which are of obvious relevance to the work of the Summit but on which UNRISD has not done recent research. For example, religious fundamentalism might be explored in this way, as might the social implications of the arms trade and/or the range of concerns associated with increasing undocumented migration.

Every effort will be made to produce booklets which are at the same time authoritative, provocative (in the sense of stimulating well-grounded debate on central issues) and readable. These monographs can then assist governments, non-governmental organizations, the media and the public at large in developing their positions on basic social issues; and they can provide a useful input for the preparatory work of the Summit secretariat as well.

At the same time, papers and studies produced during 1994 within the framework of new UNRISD research programmes (in areas such as rebuilding wartorn societies, and global restructuring and social welfare provisioning) will be systematically channelled into the preparatory process of the Summit; and seminars or symposia will be organized in these and other programmes for the purpose of introducing important findings into the wider debate as quickly as possible.

The Summit must take a broad view of the current social crisis, recognizing its complexity and exploring both the diversity and the interdependence of a wide range of factors contributing to growing poverty, social disintegration and cultural malaise throughout the world. In other words, the conference must become a force promoting high level, innovative and even iconoclastic thinking on central issues of social development. By drawing upon its 30 years of experience and distinctive research approach UNRISD intends to play its part in ensuring that the conference achieves this end.

"Innovation, both in topics and approaches, has been a hallmark of UNRISD's work. I wish the Institute a long life and ongoing success in breaking new ground. It should continue its tradition of undertaking research, not simply on what happens to be fashionable, but on serious questions addressed to the medium- and long-term issues."

Ismail-Sabri Abdalla, Chairman, Third World Forum, Cairo, Egypt.

Hungary in Transition: From Socialism to Capitalism?, J. Ann Zammit et al., UNRISD, Geneva, 1990

Kenya: Monitoring Living Conditions and Consumption Patterns, Judith Heyer, UNRISD, Geneva, 1990

The Reconstruction of Afghanistan: A Chance for Rural Afghan Women, Hanne Christensen, UNRISD, Geneva, 1990

Sindicatos bajo regímenes militares: Argentina, Brasil, Chile, Manuel Barrera and Gonzalo Falabella (eds.), UNRISD/CES, Santiago, 1990

Women and Social Change in Latin America, Elizabeth Jelin (ed.), Zed Books, London, 1990

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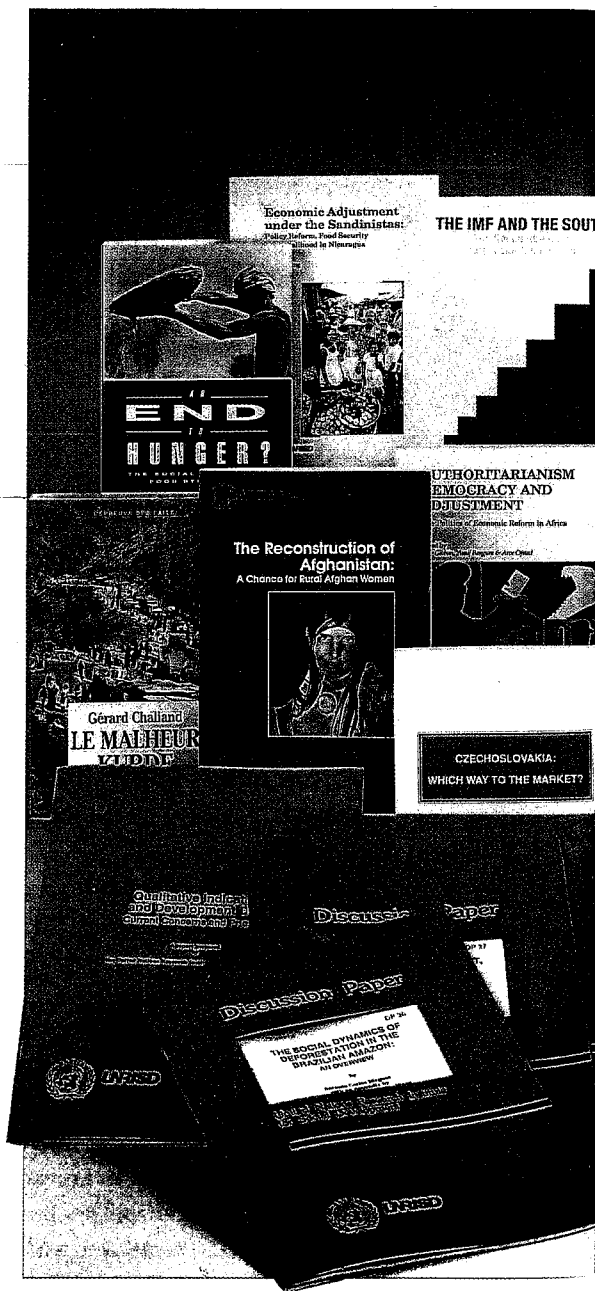
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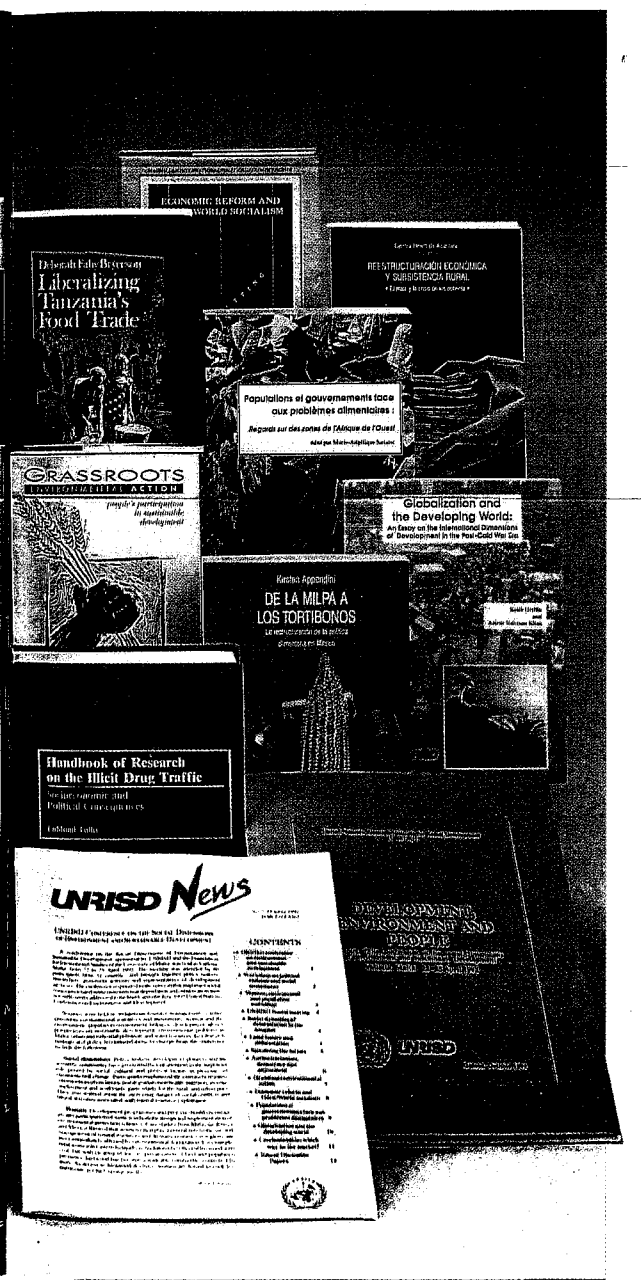
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ACRONYMS

ACCT	Agence de coopération culturelle et technique (Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation)
ANC	African National Congress
CEC	Commission of the European Communities
CES	Centro de Estudios Sociales (Centre for Social Studies)
CINVESTAV	Centro de Investigación y Estudios Avanzados (del Instituto Politécnico Nacional) (Centre for Research and Advanced Study – of the National Polytechnic Institute)
ECLA	Economic Commission for Latin America (now ECLAC)
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ETA	Euskadi Ta Askatasuna (the Basque Country and Freedom)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FLACSO	Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences)
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IFIAS	International Federation of Institutes for Advanced Study
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IRA	Irish Republican Army
PREALC	Programa Regional de Empleo para América Latina y el Caribe (Regional Employment Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean)
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNDCP	United Nations International Drug Control Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNRISD	United Nations Research Institute for Social Development
UNU	United Nations University
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

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"I am very impressed with the range of issues UNRISD has included in its work programme. Key concerns of our times are being addressed. UNRISD has effectively taken up the difficult challenge of making these issues critical to social development thinking and practice. This effort must be supported, especially at this period of human history."

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"These past 30 years have been well spent in undertaking quality research on a number of major development problems and in increasing awareness in the international community about the social dimensions of development and, in particular, the importance of the rural sector in the development process. May it continue to grow from strength to strength."

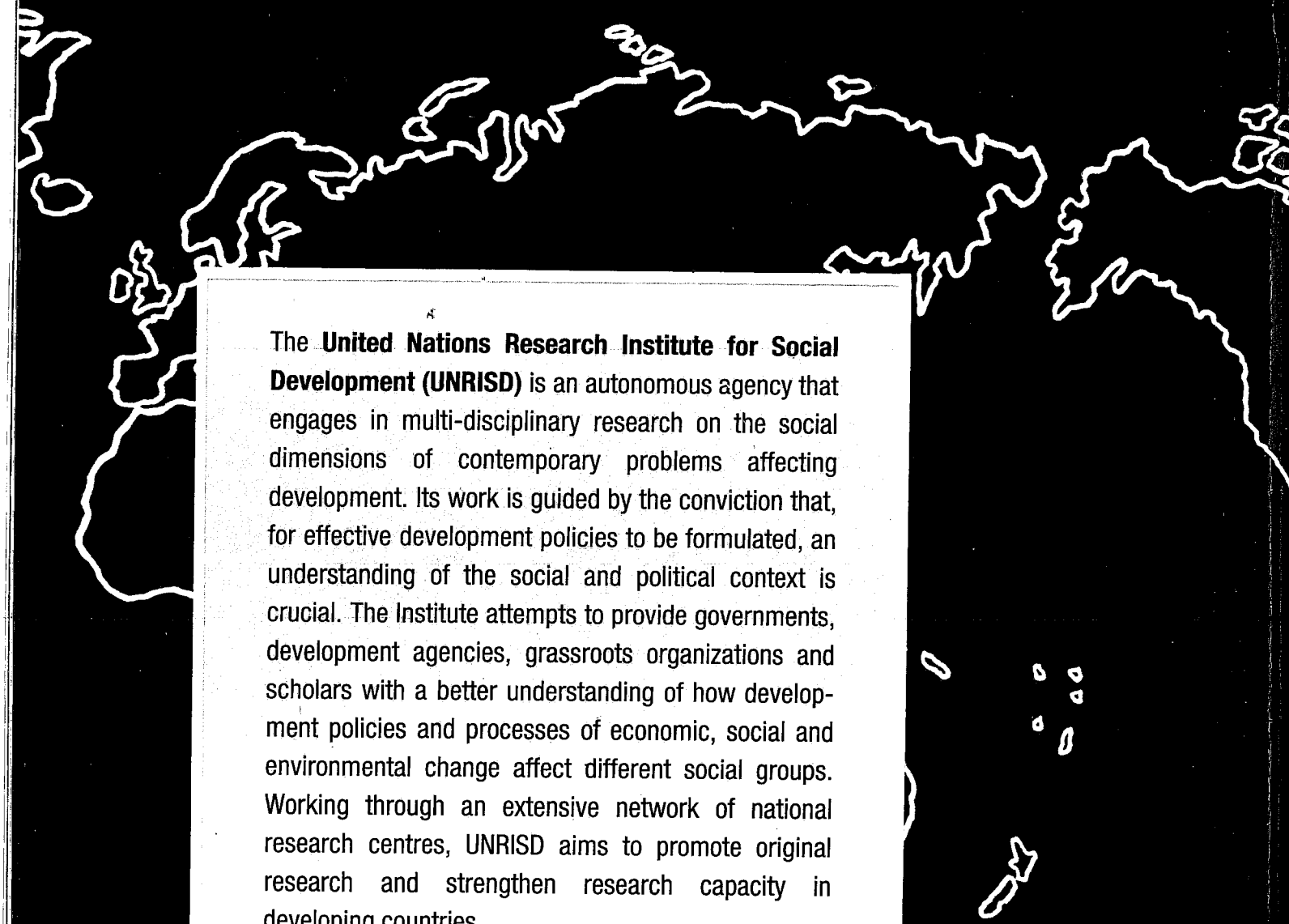
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The **United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)** is an autonomous agency that engages in multi-disciplinary research on the social dimensions of contemporary problems affecting development. Its work is guided by the conviction that, for effective development policies to be formulated, an understanding of the social and political context is crucial. The Institute attempts to provide governments, development agencies, grassroots organizations and scholars with a better understanding of how development policies and processes of economic, social and environmental change affect different social groups. Working through an extensive network of national research centres, UNRISD aims to promote original research and strengthen research capacity in developing countries.

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UNRISD

United Nations Research Institute
for Social Development
Palais des Nations
1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Tel (41 22) 798 84 00/798 58 50
Fax (41 22) 740 07 91
Telex 41 29 62 UNO CH