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**UNITED NATIONS RESEARCH INSTITUTE
FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
(UNRISD)**

Forty-first session of the Board
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**PROGRESS REPORT
BY THE DIRECTOR**

For the reporting period January–December 2002

February 2003

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	4
SPECIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES.....	8
UNRISD'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNITED NATIONS SECOND WORLD ASSEMBLY ON AGEING	8
IMPROVING RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS II.....	10
UNRISD AND THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.....	12
UNRISD'S 40 TH ANNIVERSARY	13
UNRISD'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY.....	15
POLICY REPORT ON GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT.....	16
PROGRAMME ON SOCIAL POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT	20
SOCIAL POLICY IN A DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT	20
PROGRAMME ON TECHNOLOGY, BUSINESS AND SOCIETY.....	32
BUSINESS RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.....	32
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT.....	37
PROGRAMME ON CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS.....	39
CIVIL SOCIETY STRATEGIES AND MOVEMENTS FOR RURAL ASSET REDISTRIBUTION AND IMPROVED LIVELIHOODS.....	39
EVOLVING AGRICULTURAL STRUCTURES AND CIVIL SOCIETY IN TRANSITIONAL COUNTRIES: THE CASE OF CENTRAL ASIA	41
FUTURE ORIENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME ON CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS.....	45
PROGRAMME ON DEMOCRACY, GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS	48
ETHNIC STRUCTURE, INEQUALITY AND GOVERNANCE OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR.....	48
FUTURE RESEARCH	52
UNRISD INITIATIVE ON HIV/AIDS.....	55
BACKGROUND AND PROGRESS	55
ADVISORY WORK (JANUARY–DECEMBER 2002).....	59
OUTREACH: PUBLICATIONS AND DISSEMINATION	62
UNRISD WEB SITE	62
DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES.....	64
OTHER PUBLICATIONS.....	67
UNRISD STAFF "PROFESSIONAL OUTREACH": CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUTSIDE PUBLICATIONS	70
UNRISD REFERENCE CENTRE	70
RESEARCH ASSISTANTS AND GRADUATE STUDENT PROGRAMME.....	72
STAFF LIST (2002).....	73

INTRODUCTION

1. The present report sets out the Institute's achievements during January–December 2002, highlighting its conference, research, publication, dissemination and advisory activities. It is supplemented by an administrative and financial report.
2. UNRISD has continued to provide a forum for dialogue among policy makers, donors, scholars and civil society organizations through the organization of workshops, seminars and conferences on themes related to its programme of work. As part of its contribution to the Second World Assembly on Ageing, UNRISD organized a two-day conference on *Ageing, Development and Social Protection* in Madrid in April 2002. At the conference, papers were presented addressing the dynamics and challenges of population ageing in contexts of rapid social change and crisis, as well as policy responses to population ageing through formal social protection mechanisms and informal care. During the reporting period, a conference report was prepared and will be published in early 2003 in English. French and Spanish translations will follow. The full set of papers is being brought together into an edited volume.
3. UNRISD held its second seminar on *Improving Knowledge on Social Development in International Organizations* in Prangins, Switzerland, in May 2002. This initiative brings together high-level United Nations officials to engage in substantive discussions on the current research programmes of key UN agencies and to consider how these efforts can contribute to an improved understanding of important development issues. The 2002 seminar was concerned with the issues of globalization and inequality; and four papers by experts from outside the UN system were presented and discussed. These papers will be published by UNRISD in an edited volume.
4. UNRISD seized the opportunities offered by the *World Summit on Sustainable Development*, in Johannesburg in August 2002, to disseminate the research results of its wide-ranging past work on environment and development. It published a report titled **People, Power and the Environment: 15 Years of UNRISD Research**, commissioned papers from specialists on socio-environmental movements and the political economy of sustainable development, and co-organized a seminar at the University of the Witwatersrand. The Institute also organized a stand at the Global People's Forum and distributed publications and other information about its research programmes.
5. UNRISD has entered into its 40th year of existence. To mark this anniversary, UNRISD will publish an anniversary report summarizing the principal findings of its research in key thematic areas, and will hold a two-day international conference in Geneva on "Using Social Knowledge in the United Nations".
6. During this reporting period, UNRISD began work on its contribution to the *World Summit on the Information Society*, the first phase of which will be held in December 2003 in Geneva. A series of analytical briefing papers relevant to the summit's themes has been commissioned, and the work will also draw on the findings of the project on *Information Technologies and Social Development*.
7. Finally, preparatory work has begun on a major *Policy Report on Gender and Development*. The report will aim to bring fresh insights into policy debates on gender and development within the UN system and beyond, at a time when there is a need for informed discussion. Its preparation will also provide a valuable opportunity for UNRISD to assess its own past work on gender and to help it chart future areas of research.

8. With respect to the Institute's research activities, work has been consolidated in four programme areas (**Social Policy and Development**; **Technology, Business and Society**; **Civil Society and Social Movements**; and **Democracy, Governance and Human Rights**), with progress in research and networking activities. In each of these programme areas, ideas and propositions for future areas of work are also being developed.

9. The programme area **Social Policy and Development** made substantial progress. As recommended by the Board, this is now the largest UNRISD programme in terms of both funding and research activities. To consider the methodology and scope of research under the wide-ranging project on *Social Policy in a Development Context*, a project co-ordinators' meeting was held in April 2002 in Geneva. Following the meeting, project work was organized into two strands of activities: thematic comparative research and region-centred comparative research. Within each strand, a number of sub-projects are under way. Background Papers have also been commissioned.

10. Under the programme area **Technology, Business and Society**, the project on *Business Responsibility for Sustainable Development* made progress on the completion of draft reports from six countries, on the political economy of corporate social and environmental responsibility. Progress has also been made in the preparation of reports in three thematic areas. Two books were produced, and the project also pursued a range of dissemination activities. As for future research in the field of business and development, preliminary ideas centre on the issues of *Public-Private Partnerships* and *Transnational Corporations and Social Development*. Under *Information Technologies and Social Development*, the Senegal research came to an end, and publication and dissemination activities continued. The future orientation of the Institute's work in this area is currently being examined, with the goal of securing funding for case study research in other developing countries on the social, organizational and technological changes resulting in and from new information flows, as well as encouraging increased debate and networking among policy makers, practitioners, academics and donor agencies.

11. With regard to the programme area **Civil Society and Social Movements**, progress included the publication of various reports prepared under the project on *Civil Society Strategies and Movements for Rural Asset Redistribution and Improved Livelihoods*. A volume on civil society and the market question is also being prepared. A series of thematic studies are being completed on the scale and outcome of civil society initiatives related to agrarian reform and rural development, and on policy interventions and the influence of the state, donor agencies and private sector investment, under the project on *Evolving Agricultural Structures and Civil Society in Transitional Countries: The Case of Central Asia*. Two book projects, on *Education and Social Movements* and *From Unsustainable to Inclusive Cities*, are under way. Under this programme area, the Institute plans to orient future research toward an examination of civil society activism and policy influence at the international level, which also has significant impacts at national and local levels.

12. Under the programme area **Democracy, Governance and Human Rights**, work is being concluded on the project on *Technocratic Policy Making and Democratization*, which has examined the complex ways institutions of new democracies cope with increased pressure to integrate into the world economy. The main findings of the reports from the eight case study countries are available on the UNRISD Web site, and are being prepared for publication as UNRISD monographs. New work began on *Ethnic Structure, Inequality and Governance of the Public Sector*. Proposals have been drawn up to carry out research in 11 countries, and a methodology workshop was organized in May 2002 in Geneva. Work in this programme area will continue with two new projects: *The Political Economy of Poverty Reduction Strategies*, and *Employee Responses to Public Sector Reform and Service Delivery*.

13. Two new project proposals have been elaborated in the programme area **Identities, Conflict and Cohesion**, under which the conference-project on *Racism and Public Policy* was implemented in 2001. These projects will study *Coping Strategies and Integration of Marginalized Youth in Post-Conflict Societies*, and *Pluralism, Conflict Management and Citizenship*.

14. UNRISD has in the past pursued work on **HIV/AIDS and Development**. However this has been rather sporadic. We now plan to initiate a comprehensive long-term research programme on this topic. Three themes have been identified for future UNRISD work in this area: *The Politics of HIV/AIDS Policy*; *Community Responses to the HIV/AIDS Pandemic*; and *Social Policy and HIV/AIDS*. The Institute has obtained funding from Norway to begin new research.

15. UNRISD staff members are frequently called upon to act in a range of advisory roles for United Nations agencies, multilateral and bilateral organizations, governments, NGOs, research institutes and universities. This provides UNRISD with opportunities to make substantive contributions to the thinking and programmes of other institutions and groups, while staff members benefit from the exchange of ideas and are also able to network, identify potential researchers and explore funding opportunities. During the reporting period, UNRISD staff members carried out advisory and consultancy activities on over 50 occasions.

16. UNRISD's output of publications maintained a respectable level in 2002, with an average of two per month. Eight Programme Papers, three issues of **Conference News**, and one issue of **UNRISD News** (No. 25, Autumn/Winter 2002) were issued. In addition to the publication of **Visible Hands** in Arabic, and of that report's Executive Summary in Portuguese, 11 books were produced in collaboration with co-publishing partners.

17. UNRISD research results were disseminated via the Institute's publications; in targeted mailings to a wide range of constituencies; through conferences, seminars and workshops organized by UNRISD and other organizations and institutions; in articles and interviews in specialized journals and general media outlets; through the participation of UNRISD staff in public events; and via the new UNRISD Web site, which was launched in June 2002 and updated weekly. Special attention was given to increasing and personalizing contacts with the specialized and mass media, and with the academic world.

18. The United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) mandated a team of independent scholars from the Institute of Development Studies to review the Institute's work over 1999–2001. The evaluators carried out interviews with a range of UNRISD's constituents, and the results were heartening. The Institute is seen to fulfil its mandate of conducting policy-relevant research on pressing issues of social development. UNRISD research is considered to be an important complement to the dominant development paradigms. Two salient features were highlighted in particular: the Institute's multidisciplinary approach, which provides a useful counter-point to economic approaches; and its capacity to draw the attention of international policy makers to issues that are the focus of intellectual and political concerns at the national level. The evaluators recommended that UNRISD reinforce efforts in several areas: distilling research results in concise formats suitable for use by policy makers and others; targeting key audiences; and interacting more directly with developing country debates. They also emphasized that UNRISD must insist on high quality and academic rigour in its work. Following the evaluation, DFID decided to extend its financial support to the Institute for another three years.

19. During the reporting period, there were several staff changes at the Institute. Huck-ju Kwon joined as a research co-ordinator, Suroor Alikhan as an associate editor, and Katrien De Moor as a secretary. Cynthia Hewitt de Alcántara, former deputy director, and Irene Ruiz de Budavari, former secretary, left UNRISD.

20. The level of core funding received by the Institute for the financial year 2002 decreased from USD 2,168,155, received in 2001, to USD 2,113,327 (a decrease of USD 54,828, or 2.5 per cent). This was due to technical reasons, which delayed the payment of USD 320,320 by one of the Institute's main donors. This contribution thus figures in the UNRISD accounts in 2003 instead of 2002.

21. In 2002 the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and the government of the Netherlands increased their contributions by the equivalent of USD 113,848 and USD 73,309, respectively, while the contributions of five other core funders realized a net increase of USD 45,696 due to favourable exchange rates when converting them into USD, the accounting currency of the United Nations.

22. In 2002 the Institute negotiated three-year core funding agreements with Sida/Sweden (2003–2005) and DFID/United Kingdom (2002–2004) for a total of SEK 26,500,000 and GBP 610,000, respectively.

23. The level of project funding received by the Institute increased from USD 849,945 in 2001 to USD 1,145,945 in 2002. This corresponds to an increase of USD 296,000, or 34.8 per cent. The *Social Policy in a Development Context* project received record contributions for the year 2002, amounting to USD 552,359, contributed by Sida/Sweden (USD 211,834), DFID/UK (USD 146,110), the Ford Foundation (USD 165,000), and RUIG/IUED (USD 29,415).

24. UNRISD accounts show a contribution of USD 98,328 from Finland for consultancy work related to the co-ordination of a Partner Review of Finnish development assistance. The Netherlands contributed USD 66,798 for UNRISD work on gender; the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and Norway have provided USD 37,100 and USD 206,519, respectively, for work on HIV/AIDS; FAO provided USD 26,729 for the project on *Evolving Agricultural Structures and Civil Society in Transitional Countries*; the MacArthur Foundation contributed USD 138,132 to the project on *Business Responsibility for Sustainable Development*; and the Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), Germany, contributed USD 19,980 to the *Ethnic Structure, Inequality and Governance of the Public Sector* project.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

UNRISD's Contribution to the United Nations Second World Assembly on Ageing

25. As part of its contribution to the Second World Assembly on Ageing, UNRISD organized a two-day conference on *Ageing, Development and Social Protection* in Madrid (8–9 April 2002). At the conference, 14 internationally renowned social scientists and gerontologists presented papers that addressed the dynamics and challenges of population ageing in contexts of rapid social change, as well as in situations of social crisis. Other papers examined policy responses to population ageing through formal social protection mechanisms as well as informal care.

26. Because research about population ageing, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, remains underdeveloped and patchy, there is an urgent need for a stronger knowledge base and for coherent policy frameworks that address the effects of ageing and the needs of older people. The conference therefore examined the opportunities, problems and challenges of effective social protection for older people—including formal public policies and more informal strategies such as household support systems. In session one, participants considered the dynamics and challenges of population ageing in countries experiencing different development trajectories. The second session focused on formal social protection mechanisms, including pension programmes, health care and social services. And session three examined a range of issues relating to the care economy.

27. The four presentations of session one offered perspectives on different stages in the evolution of formal social protection systems: a case where embracing old age welfare programmes are long established (Great Britain); an example of recent, rapid extension of such programmes (Brazil); a country where formal provision has been reduced (Ukraine), and a case where services are at an incipient stage of development (China). These experiences are closely linked to wider processes of economic development and crisis. However, their evolution also reflects processes of public choice about where, and to whom, resources should be allocated. In every case, it was observed, informal social protection for elders is under stress. Yet this seems less problematic in countries like Brazil where the coverage and the value of social security benefits have been extended in recent years. This may indicate that formal and informal social protection constitute complementary, rather than alternative, strategies.

28. A key part of the relationship between development and the well-being of older people hinges on the creation of formal social protection programmes. Thinking about public policy for older people in the South is strongly influenced by the experiences of the North, and has been dominated by controversies about pension reform. Yet in session two, conference participants identified a wider range of issues, as well as varied models of social protection, emerging from the South. One of the papers drew attention to the diverse approaches to pension provision and reform in the South (comparing Brazil, Chile, Singapore and South Africa); the experiences of Brazil and South Africa show that basic universal pensions can decrease impoverishment, improve the well-being of elders and contribute to economic development. Other papers looked at the provision of formal care services (Japan) and the provision of health services (Argentina and South Africa) for older people. The papers noted that the capacity of states to manage complex institutional structures of financing and delivery is a key challenge for all countries.

29. As presentations in session three underlined, the divisions between formal social protection and informal means of support are blurred, and increasing attention is now being paid to the interface between them. This is particularly significant in the area of long-term care for groups such as the very old. In most developing countries the great majority of older people continue to live with children or other family members. However, this in itself does not guarantee satisfactory care. Contexts of poverty and rapid change may put families under strain and reduce their capacity to meet the special needs of the elderly. Furthermore, increased female participation in the salaried labour force is likely to constrain the supply of informal care, regardless of household structure.

30. The care economy has received scant attention from policy makers and academics in both North and South. In the North there are growing concerns about the capacity of the state to meet care needs, yet the bulk of these services are still being provided through the private sector or informal carers. The role of the private sector raises issues about regulation and equity; the role of the informal sector raises concerns about social justice and sustainability. In the South it is still assumed that traditional family and community structures can meet care needs. However, families, norms and values are undergoing unprecedented changes, and so it may be dangerous to assume that they are an effective guarantee of care.

31. In summing up, the external research co-ordinator, Peter Lloyd-Sherlock, argued that any discussion of population ageing and older people begs one very important question: in what way are elders (or later life) significantly different from younger age groups (or earlier stages in the life-course)? This is not an easy question to answer, for several reasons. First, there is no obvious cut-off between later life and earlier life, nor is there a satisfactory definition of old age. Second, as illustrated by the conference discussions, older people are a very heterogeneous group, living in very different circumstances. The problems faced by elders in low-income countries may have much more in common with those of younger generations than with those of elders living in the rich North.

32. Nevertheless, he suggested, some generalizations can be made about older people. As a group, they are less likely to be engaged in salaried economic activity. They are more exposed to age-related risks, such as physical decline and some kinds of chronic disease. Older people are also exposed to the general stereotypes and prejudices of society at large—attitudes that may become self-fulfilling prophecies. Taken together, these mean that the capabilities of older people tend to be restricted. These common characteristics go some way toward justifying the emerging academic interest and policy focus on older people around the world. However, they do not justify the portrayal of older people as a special interest group whose interests are separate from, and possibly in conflict with, those of other generations. Elders do not exist in isolation, and so their well-being is intimately bound with that of society as a whole. Many of these concerns, he argued, relate to wider issues, such as poverty reduction and gender equity. As with gender, policy needs to recognize both difference and interdependence.

33. On the day prior to the UNRISD conference, the paper-writers, external research co-ordinator and two UNRISD researchers met in a closed workshop to present the commissioned papers and to discuss the overarching issues and concerns.

34. During the reporting period, an issue of **UNRISD Conference News** was prepared. It will be published in English in March 2003, and in French and Spanish subsequently. The commissioned papers have gone through multiple revisions, and the full set is currently being brought together in an edited volume. The manuscript will be submitted to Zed Books in April 2003.

35. Funding and logistical support for this project were provided by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the government of Spain and UNRISD core funds.

Improving Research and Knowledge on Social Development in International Organizations II

36. UNRISD held its second seminar for high-level United Nations officials engaged in research on social development in Prangins, Switzerland, on 29 and 30 May 2002. With this seminar series, UNRISD aims to improve the flow of information among these officials by bringing them together in an informal setting to engage in substantive discussion on the current research programmes of key UN agencies, and to consider how these efforts are contributing to an improvement in understanding of important development issues. Over the longer term, the Institute's initiative should enhance the coherence of the position of the United Nations on social development, and reinforce the collective capacity of the UN system to influence the global economic and social agenda toward greater social justice.

37. The UNRISD seminar this year was concerned with globalization and inequality, and four experts from outside the UN system presented papers. At the first session John Quiggin (Department of Economics, Faculty of Economics and Commerce, Australian National University, Canberra) presented a paper titled **Interpreting Globalization: Neoliberal and Internationalist Views of Changing Patterns of the Global Trade and Financial System**. In this paper he examined globalization from a historical perspective, tracing changes in the global trade and financial systems. Quiggin argued that globalization need not inevitably follow the tenets of neoliberalism, and that technological advances in the second half of the twentieth century, which have often been seen as catalysts of globalization, have been exaggerated. In response to Quiggin's critique of technological determinism, a long discussion ensued on the impact of technological change on globalization and inequality, during which it was stressed that structural changes had taken place.

38. The second paper, **The Sources of Neoliberal Globalization** by Jan Aart Scholte (Department of Politics and International Studies, Centre for the Study of Globalization and Regionalization, University of Warwick, United Kingdom), defined globalization as a spatial transformation in national territoriality. Advances in modes of communication and transportation have modified social space toward supra-territoriality, allowing social relations that have transworld simultaneity and instantaneity. This supra-territorial quality is what makes contemporary globalization different, he argued. In terms of governance, for example, it has rendered old structures of sovereign statehood unviable. This, in turn, has far-reaching implications for citizenship and democracy. However, like Quiggin, Scholte held that there is nothing inherently or inevitably neoliberal in this transformation. Explaining why contemporary globalization has been dominated by a neoliberal agenda, Scholte offered an account of multifaceted causation—including interrelated realms of *governance*, *production*, *knowledge* and *community*—that encompasses institutional arrangements and underlying social structures, such as capitalism and rationalism.

39. During the discussion following Scholte's presentation, many participants argued that the state needs to play an important developmental role within the rapidly changing context of globalization. Some participants also pointed out that the United States, for example, is not only a strong proponent of neoliberal policies, but also a nation that freely adopts anti-liberal policies whenever this suits its own aims. This not only contradicts neoliberal predictions of the demise of state power, but also illustrates that the world is a hierarchical system in which state power is clearly contextual.

40. The third paper, **Approaches to Globalization and Inequality within the International System** by Roy Culpeper (The North-South Institute, Ottawa, Canada), focused on *intranational* inequality, which, he asserted, is more easily modifiable through policy interventions than is inequality between countries. Furthermore, it is more likely to pose challenges to social cohesion and to be a source of political friction. Culpeper maintained that there has been a shift toward greater intranational inequality as neoliberal economic policies have become the norm around the world. Yet even if there is a general trend toward greater intranational inequality, he argued, globalization is not necessarily the culprit. Domestic factors could be the principal causes.

41. The fourth paper was on **Methodological and Data Challenges to Identifying the Impacts of Globalization and Liberalization (G&L) on Inequality**. In this paper, Albert Berry (Center for International Studies, University of Toronto, Canada) emphasized that the lack of understanding of the effects of neoliberal globalization on income inequality and poverty in the world is a result of the dearth of adequate quantitative data. Berry argued that the most serious weakness lies in the analysis of causation linking neoliberal globalization to inequality and poverty, because this leads directly to indefensible policy recommendations. It is therefore equally important to consider other determinants of poverty and inequality. Poverty depends not only on the distribution of resources, but also on the size of the economy and it is therefore important to comprehend how growth is achieved. Berry noted that intranational inequality has increased in the developing world over the period of rapid economic integration, implying a first causal link between globalization and inequality. He suggested three possible explanations for this. First, the nature of economic reforms, including free trade and capital flows, has been excessively liberal and caused inequality to grow. Second, the pace of technological change has accelerated, making this period excessively prone to inequality. Third, economic recession, which in some cases has accompanied the process of globalization or market reform, has had a negative impact on distribution.

42. Toward the end of the meeting, a general discussion was held, during which seminar participants revisited a number of issues, including the sources of neoliberal globalization, the relative importance of global and national focuses, a global taxation system, the democratic deficit of global governance and need for economic pluralism.

43. During the closing session, participants discussed possible themes for the group to take up in the future. At the previous meeting (7–8 November 2000, Bellagio, Italy) a number of topics of particular interest to the UN system were identified. While some were covered at this year's meeting, three remained: the politics of economic globalization; prescriptive studies on reducing inequality in the international system; and national development agendas in the context of globalization. It was recommended that the next meeting focus on empirical cases and prescriptive measures, and on how to move beyond the post-Washington Consensus. This should involve an exposition of policy difference between the United Nations and the international financial institutions, and analysis of the feasibility of diverse policy instruments according to national contexts. These efforts should both provide policy prescriptions, and illustrate current forms of economic pluralism that can provide alternatives to standardized prescriptions.

44. The seminar was well received not only by participating UN officials, but also by researchers who contribute to UNRISD's work, since this seminar provides a direct channel between academia and the policy-making world. UNRISD plans to have the seminar at a regular interval (at least every two to three years). The provisional topic for the next seminar is *Understanding and Responding to Globalization at the International Organizations and National Governments*.

45. During the reporting period, an issue of **UNRISD Conference News** was prepared. It was published in English in January 2003 (**UNRISD Conference News: Improving**

Knowledge on Social Development in International Organizations II, Report of the UNRISD Seminar, 29–30 May 2002, Prangins, Switzerland). The papers presented at the Prangins seminar will be published by UNRISD in an edited volume.

46. Funding for the commissioned papers was provided by the Rockefeller Foundation. The seminar was financed by UNRISD core funds.

UNRISD and the World Summit on Sustainable Development

47. The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), which was held in Johannesburg in August 2002, brought together several thousand representatives of government, business and civil society to review progress since the 1992 “Earth” Summit. UNRISD’s participation in the WSSD involved four main activities.

48. First, the Institute published a report, **People, Power and the Environment: 15 Years of UNRISD Research**, and disseminated it at the conference. The report synthesizes the findings of UNRISD’s research on environment and sustainable development, and includes an annotated bibliography of the 27 books and 43 papers that were based on UNRISD’s work and published since the late 1980s. The report presents the contributions of UNRISD research in relation to five sets of issues: theoretical and conceptual aspects; environment and society linkages, and the relevance of social and political dimensions in the analysis of environmental issues; the assessment of mainstream interventions to protect the environment; the way development and conservation agencies, and the private sector, interpret and apply new thinking and concepts; and key policy and analytical implications of UNRISD’s work.

49. Second, UNRISD commissioned four papers from specialists on socio-environmental movements and the political economy of sustainable development. Three looked at socio-environmental movements and activism in different countries and regions:

- Juan Martinez-Alier, **The Environmentalism of the Poor**;
- María Pilar García-Guadilla, **Environmental Movements, Politics and Agenda 21 in Latin America**;
- Cyril Obi, **Environmental Movements in Sub-Saharan Africa**.

50. Another paper, titled **In Quest of Sustainable Development**, provided a more general assessment of sustainable development trends, the relative strengths and weaknesses of different processes and actors promoting or undermining sustainable development, and relevant policies and programmes adopted by the international community. This paper also examines the types of institutional contexts and policy frameworks that might facilitate improvements in social and environmental conditions. It cautions that new institutional arrangements associated with “decentralization”, “corporate social responsibility” and “partnerships” should not be seen as panaceas. Given the current economic climate and gross imbalances in global power relations, the paper casts doubt on the possibility that global summits such as the WSSD can achieve very much. It suggests, however, that they may provide an opportunity to advance a modest agenda by agreeing common goals and reasserting social and political dimensions of development in particular, the fact that human rights, social justice, reform of property rights, poverty elimination, democratic popular participation, and the rights of countries to design and implement their own development strategies are as integral to sustainable developments as are economic growth or ecological considerations. In particular, global conferences may help if they provide a space where some of the social forces capable of bringing about change can meet, exchange views, formulate

alternatives, and consolidate their organizational, networking and advocacy structures and strategies.

51. This paper was prepared by Solon Barraclough, a former director of UNRISD and senior consultant to the Institute for many years, who died in December 2002. He insisted on completing the paper despite a year-long struggle with cancer, and partial paralysis and blindness. He was able to finish a full draft which is being revised for publication, along with the other commissioned papers.

52. Third, UNRISD and the University of the Witwatersrand organized a WSSD “parallel event” on *The Political Economy of Sustainable Development: Environmental Conflict, Participation and Movements*. In addition to the commissioned papers referred to above, the following studies prepared by UNRISD and university staff were presented at the event:

- David Fig, **Making Environmental Policy in a Democratic South Africa**;
- Krishna Ghimire, **Grassroots Mobilization for Land**;
- Peter Utting, **Corporate Responsibility and the Movement of Business**.

53. One of the purposes of the conference was to highlight the importance of “political economy” and “political ecology” perspectives for understanding environment and development problems and for formulating strategies for sustainable development.

54. Finally, UNRISD organized a stand at the Global People’s Forum and distributed publications and other information about the Institute and its research programmes to participants at the Forum.

55. UNRISD’s WSSD activities were supported by a grant from the Government of Norway.

UNRISD’s 40th Anniversary

56. UNRISD was founded in 1963. To mark its 40th anniversary, the Institute is preparing an anniversary report and will host an international conference at the United Nations in Geneva.

57. The report will sum up the findings of UNRISD research in relation to six thematic areas:

- Globalization, restructuring and governance;
- Markets, business and society;
- Social policy and development;
- Gender dimensions of development;
- Environment and sustainable development;
- Civil society and social movements.

58. The main purpose of the report is not to document chronologically UNRISD’s numerous research projects, but rather to draw out what UNRISD research has had to say about some major contemporary development issues. This analysis will be complemented by descriptions of specific projects, publications and the way UNRISD operates, as well as short commentaries from selected individuals and organizations on the role and contribution of UNRISD.

59. The report is expected to be published in August 2003 and translated into French and Spanish by October. The official launch will coincide with an international conference that

UNRISD will host in November 2003 on the topic *Using Social Knowledge in the United Nations*.

60. The conference aims to address various concerns about the way knowledge on social development issues is generated, disseminated and used by the United Nations system:

- Does it reach policy makers and inform policy making?
- How should it be packaged?
- Is research sufficiently independent and critical?
- Is there a coherent UN position on key development issues?
- Does the research of one agency inform or duplicate that of another?
- Can UN research add anything to that being undertaken within academic institutions, NGOs or the World Bank?
- Is it helpful to other actors, such as civil society organizations and academia?

61. While various steps have been taken to improve the exchange of information and inter-agency co-ordination, there remains the crucial question of the relevance and quality of research findings, and whether they are informing the policy process. This is important not just for the obvious reason that researchers and agencies want their results to be disseminated and to influence policy making, but also because social development research within the UN often forms part of a reformist or “alternative” approach to thinking about development. This was particularly evident in relation to work on the social effects of structural adjustment carried out by agencies such as the ILO, UNICEF and UNRISD in the 1980s and early 1990s. It was also apparent in UNDP’s work on sustainable human development and sustainable livelihoods, and OHCHR’s work on rights-based development.

62. Periodically this “UN approach” has been critical of mainstream thinking associated with the “Washington Consensus”, which emphasized “trickle down” social development, to be achieved in the wake of economic liberalization, privatization and export-led growth. The shift in recent years to the so-called post-Washington Consensus is in part a response to the growing criticism of neoliberal policies, which was informed to some extent by UN social development research. The post-Washington Consensus essentially retains the central pillars of neoliberalism—deregulation, privatization and export-led growth—but complements these with poverty reduction strategies and “good governance” approaches, involving, for example, participatory poverty reduction strategies (as reflected in the development of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers—PRSPs), micro-credit, targeting of social expenditures, decentralization, multi-stakeholder dialogues, partnerships, transparency and accountability. Not only are governments and development agencies increasingly promoting these aspects, so too are transnational corporations through initiatives associated with corporate social responsibility. Through this new approach the UN has found greater common ground with the Bretton Woods institutions and transnational corporations.

63. The conference is expected to be organized around the following sessions, issues and questions.

- Global trends in social development research and the intellectual contribution of the UN.
- Mainstreaming concepts and key research findings. This session will look at the impact and fate of key concepts and findings that have been generated or popularized by UN research agencies, for example, “adjustment with a human face”, “sustainable human development”, “gender mainstreaming”, “social exclusion” and “basic needs”.
- Reaching policy makers. How effective are current ways of packaging and disseminating research findings? Does research influence policy making? What sort of information do policy makers need and are they receiving it?
- Maintaining independence and critical thinking. There are concerns that the United Nations is losing its critical edge, that self-censorship is on the increase and that

research into alternative development policies and strategies is on the decline. How serious are these concerns, and what can be done about them? Is UN research sufficiently informed by other work going on in academia and civil society, in both North and South?

UNRISD's Contribution to the World Summit on the Information Society

64. The first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) will be held in Geneva in December 2003. Phase two is planned for Tunis in 2005. The summit is evidence of the belief of Secretary-General Kofi Annan in the importance of the “technological revolution” created by information and communication technologies (ICT), and of his conviction that there is a vital role for the United Nations to play in seeking to ensure that the revolution benefits all of humanity, not just those with the easiest access to the technology. The conference is being co-ordinated by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), with significant support and interest from the government of Switzerland and the city of Geneva.

65. The Secretary-General is far from alone in his view of the significance of ICT-driven change processes, or in his wish that the United Nations be seen as playing a leading role in guiding them. The G-8 countries and the World Bank have similar visions. However, the process of organizing a summit is proving problematic for a number of reasons.

66. First, the scope of the subject is poorly defined. Is the “information society” a technical creation or a social one? To what extent does it differ from or overlap with globalization? Does the subject include new understandings, uses and organization of knowledge? Is it, as some NGOs argue, about the future of human life on earth or about better wiring? Not surprisingly opinions differ, both according to political and economic interests—for example, the United States wants a much clearer technological focus than the European Union—and to professional background and expertise. The ITU itself is seen by many as being rooted, because of its history and mandate, in technology.

67. Second, this is the first UN summit that is not simply a gathering of governments, but also seeks to involve civil society and private sector interests. While this is generally regarded in a positive light, the complexities of how such participation can be made to work are daunting. There are many historic differences and long-held positions about the roles of different sectors and their interactions, which are having to be carefully navigated by the organizers.

68. Finally, it is a huge undertaking. The second meeting of the summit Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) is due to be held in Geneva in February 2003, involving some 800 organizations over 10 days.

69. Much of UNRISD's work on information and communication technology to date has been critical, either implicitly or explicitly, of much of the standard “ICT and development” thinking. This relates especially to the occasional over-optimism of the latter—wire everyone up and all our problems will be solved—and to some of the foreseeable economic implications of strategies for how such wiring takes place, such as entrenchment of existing dominant interests.

70. In this context, UNRISD is seeking to contribute to the summit process through producing and disseminating well-researched briefings on some of the specific themes to be taken up by the summit. UNRISD will also aim to use both the PrepCom and the summit

itself as opportunities to promote its other work on ICT and social development. This, it is felt, would be a far better use of resources, and closer to UNRISD's core mandate, than engaging in the difficult process of seeking to influence the agenda or the outcomes of the summit directly.

71. Accordingly UNRISD contracted Bruce Girard and Seán Ó Siochrú, authors of the joint UNRISD, Rowman and Littlefield publication, **Global Media Governance: A Beginner's Guide**, to co-ordinate the preparation of a series of briefing papers on some important, if sometimes neglected, subjects. These are:

- **From Communication Rights to the Information Society**, Cees Hamelink (Professor, Centre for Communication and Human Rights, University of Amsterdam);
- **Democratizing the Media in the Information Society**, Marc Raboy (Professor, University of Montreal);
- **Media, Globalization and Development**, Jan Servaes (Professor, Catholic University—KUB, Brussels);
- **Gender and the Information Society**, Dafne Sabanes Plou (Regional Co-ordinator for the Gender Evaluation Methodology Programme, Women's Networking Support Programme, London);
- **An Annotated Glossary for the Information Society** (provisional title), Antonio Pasquali (former Assistant-Director-General, UNESCO);
- **How Should the Information Society Be Built?** (provisional title), Jean-Claude Guedon (Professor, University of Montreal).

72. This series of briefing papers will form UNRISD's main contribution to the work of the summit. The Institute will also have a display booth to give prominence to the full body of its work on the social impacts of information and communication technologies. The material on offer will include the series, an issues brief, Programme Papers, the book by Girard and Ó Siochrú referred to above, and the volume titled **Technologies, pouvoirs et société au Sénégal** edited by Momar-Coumba Diop.

73. The work under this project is being carried out with UNRISD core funds.

Policy Report on Gender and Development

74. In June 2000 at the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Beijing Plus 5, governments unanimously agreed to assess the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in 2005. A decision on how this assessment would take shape, however, was not taken. Some activist groups and networks, which have been involved in UN conferences in the past, have expressed concern that a conference in 2005 could lead to an erosion of the negotiated position that was reached in 2000. These groups suggest that the Fifth World Conference on Women be convened in 2010, and that 2005 be used as a platform for reflection and debate. Others have argued that by pressuring governments to convene the Fifth World Conference on Women in 2005, gender advocates may be able to galvanize political support for the women's policy agenda in order to make progress on the commitments that were made in Beijing.

75. As an autonomous research institute within the UN system with an on-going programme of research on the gender dimensions of development, UNRISD is well placed to make a useful and substantive contribution to this global event/process—whether it takes the form of a formal UN conference, or reflection and debate.

76. The UNRISD contribution will take the form of a major policy report (along the lines of **Visible Hands**) analysing some of the pressing and contentious issues that currently

preoccupy a wide range of actors in the field of gender and development. While drawing on the Institute's past and ongoing research, a systematic effort will be made to reach out to and draw upon high-quality international feminist scholarship to give the report a solid empirical foundation and a sharp conceptual edge.

77. The preparation and dissemination of this report aims to: (i) bring fresh insights to policy debates on gender and development (within the UN system and beyond) at a time when there is a need for informed discussion; and (ii) provide a valuable opportunity for UNRISD to assess its own past work on gender and to help it chart its future areas of research.

78. Some informal discussions have already been held, both internally at UNRISD and with colleagues in other UN agencies and academic institutions. The response so far has been positive. Some preliminary ideas about the report are provided below—the purpose being to get feedback from the members of the UNRISD Board on the content/scope of the report; names of institutions/individuals with whom UNRISD should engage in different capacities (as paper-writers, advisory group members, interlocutors and so on); parallel activities that may be taking place; and suggestions for potential sources of funding.

Report scope and content

79. The report will explore the challenges of forging developmental, democratic and socially inclusive states from women's perspective. It will include both historical analyses of the developmentalist era (1950s and 1960s), as well as more contemporary preoccupations with liberal and neoliberal economic and social policies and governance agendas. While the geographical focus will be on developing and "transitional" countries, an effort will also be made to include, where relevant, comparative material from the advanced industrialized countries.

80. The title of a DAWN newsletter—"Between Globalization and Fundamentalism"—provides a good indication of what the central focus of the report should be: globalization and neoliberal economic and social policies, and their gendered impacts; the rise of fundamentalisms and identity politics of various shades and the threat this is posing to democracy and human rights agendas in general, and women's rights agendas in particular. Governance issues—about the state and state power, the character and role of civil society and global institutions—are clearly central to both thematic components. A tentative outline follows.

- **Introduction**

Major findings of the report and policy implications; conceptual and methodological debates within feminism; the report's approach.

Part I: Developmentalism from a Gender Perspective

- **Chapter One: Developmentalism and its Gender Content, 1950s to early 1970s**

Historical analyses of developmental states ("successful" and "failed") and their policies (economic and social) vis-à-vis women.

- **Chapter Two: Globalization and Neoliberalism, 1980s to present**

The neoliberal economic agenda from a gender perspective; the care economy; the democratic deficit in macroeconomic policy processes; the "night watchman" state.

- **Chapter Three: Social Policy, Care and Citizenship**

Viewing "the economy" from a gender perspective: production/reproduction, the "care economy", and inclusive forms of citizenship; taxation and public expenditure from a gender perspective; gender implications of social sector restructuring (health, education, social security); the response to HIV/AIDS at the global, national and community levels (crystallizing issues around vulnerability, care, rights and citizenship).

Part II Gender Justice and Livelihoods

- **Chapter Four: Economic and Social Indicators and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**

Assess progress and regress in gender justice over the past five decades or so, using quantitative indicators; problems in accessing timely, reliable and gender-disaggregated data. Progress in reaching the MDGs; how can MDGs be substantiated? Data sets from UNIFEM, World Bank, Social Watch and others to be carefully studied.

- **Chapter Five: Agrarian Change, Livelihoods and Land Rights**

Liberal agricultural policies, trade liberalization, and livelihood diversification; reforming land tenure institutions (market-friendly) and the struggles for gender justice; community and civil society activism around access to land and the gender question.

- **Chapter Six: Female Employment, Formal/Informal, Strategies for Organizing**

The informalization and feminization of employment, institutional frameworks for enhancing labour security, and the role of trade unions and other civil society organizations; movements for corporate social responsibility (strengths and limitations).

Part III Governance, Human Rights and Social Movements

- **Chapter Seven: Civil Society and Identity Politics**

Civil society, social movements, and women's movements; identity politics and the rise of fundamentalisms.

- **Chapter Eight: Governance from a Gender Perspective**

Mainstream governance agenda, the dangers for gender justice, and the alternatives; fragile and "male" democracies, the limitations of minimalist democracy; women's experiences of the state (diverse regional perspectives); the "rule of law", the judiciary, and access to justice (global, national, local/community); the dilemmas and challenges of engaging with global institutions of governance; a new role for "civil society"?

- **Chapter Nine: Human Rights Agendas and Rights-Based Development**

Progress in human rights and women's rights; different conceptions of rights; the problem with liberal rights agendas; alternative conceptions of rights; rights as a contested terrain and hence importance of engagement by those seeking gender justice.

- **Chapter Ten: Women in War, Peace-Building and Reconstruction.**

Advisory group and commissioned papers

81. It would be useful to have a small advisory group (composed of five or six distinguished feminist scholars, preferably with diverse regional backgrounds) to provide UNRISD with substantive inputs on the report.

82. For each chapter a core team of paper-writers will be identified. The commissioned papers will be brought together into discrete chapters by one of the team members or the research co-ordinator at UNRISD. An editor will be specifically hired for this report.

Budget

83. UNRISD has some "seed money" to initiate this project but would need to find considerable additional funding for the report and a dissemination conference.

Timing

84. February/March 2003 through March 2005.

PROGRAMME ON SOCIAL POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT

85. Social policy is broadly defined as state policies and practices that directly influence the welfare and security of various groups within a particular society. In this programme area, the Institute is encouraging interdisciplinary debate on the relationship between social policy, social and political institutions, and economic development.

86. The project on *Neoliberalism and Institutional Reform in East Asia* came to an end. An edited volume that brings together project studies was completed by the external research co-ordinator, Meredith Woo-Cumings, and submitted for publication to Cornell University Press. The volume will be published in 2003.

87. The research under *Agrarian Change, Gender and Land Rights*, including country studies on Brazil, Ghana, India, South Africa, Tanzania, Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe, has been completed. Two of the research reports were published as UNRISD Programme Papers in 2002, and two more are scheduled for publication in 2003. A special double issue of the **Journal of Agrarian Change** (Vol. 3, Nos. 1 and 2, edited by Shahra Razavi) was published in January 2003, bringing together some of the major findings of the project. The book version of the journal is scheduled for publication by Blackwell in 2003.

88. The project on *Globalization, Export-Oriented Employment for Women and Social Policy* was also completed in 2002. Most of the research reports have been finalized, although a small number of them are still being revised. Two of the reports were published as UNRISD Programme Papers in 2002. An edited volume, bringing together the full set of research papers, is being prepared.

Social Policy in a Development Context

Background

89. One of the greatest challenges in development policy is the edification of a state-society nexus that is *developmental* (in the sense that it facilitates and promotes economic growth and structural transformation), *democratic* (in the sense that it derives its legitimacy through popular participation and electoral process) and *socially inclusive* (in the sense that it pursues social policies that provide equitable entitlements for all citizens to ensure that their capacities and functionings are adequate for a decent inclusion in societal affairs).

90. In order to address these challenges, UNRISD is commissioning research under several regional and thematic components. The regional components cover the following: East Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, Latin America, the Nordic countries, and East and Central Europe. The thematic components are pro-poor macroeconomics, health care commercialization and equity, gender and social policy, and democratization and social policy. Several background papers have also been commissioned.

91. This project was initiated at a conference in September 2000 in Tammsvik, Sweden. During the current reporting period, significant progress has been made. On 12–13 April 2002, UNRISD held a project co-ordinators' meeting in Geneva to discuss the methodology and scope of project work.

92. The research under this wide-ranging project is being co-ordinated by a team of seven external and two internal co-ordinators. Manuel Riesco will be the external co-ordinator for

the Latin America region. Funding for the research is provided by the Ford Foundation, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and the Department for International Development (DFID, United Kingdom). UNRISD core funds are also financing some of the work.

Progress under region-centred comparative research

93. This strand of the project includes five sub-projects to cover East Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and North African region, Latin America and the Nordic countries. Huck-ju Kwon (UNRISD) is responsible for co-ordinating the East Asia component, Jimi Adesina (Rhodes University, South Africa) for the sub-Saharan Africa component, Massoud Karshenas (SOAS, UK) for the Middle East and North Africa component, and Joakim Palme (Institute for Future Studies, Sweden) and Olli Kangas (University of Turku, Finland) for the Nordic component. And as has been mentioned above, a co-ordinator for the Latin America component, Manuel Riesco, has now been identified. The co-ordinators have commissioned a number of studies, and the names of authors are listed below.

The East Asia component

94. This component focuses on the development of social policy institutions in East Asia. In this region, as in many other parts of the world, social policy has been developmental in the sense that it has been used as an instrument for economic development. This project will examine the development of social policy, focusing on its developmental nature. It will also look into the politics of social policy, in which authoritarian political forces have been dominant, while voices for social protection have had to struggle in order to be heard. Thus, lessons will be sought by exploring historical experiences of social policy contributing to the developmental, democratic and socially inclusive imperatives of the project. What could be done to move further toward these goals? Since the Asian economic crisis of 1997–1998, there have been significant changes in social and economic thinking in East Asia, and a number of governments in the region have implemented economic and social reforms. What have been the main driving forces for such changes? Will these changes make the welfare states in East Asia more socially inclusive? Can the East Asian welfare states maintain their developmental credentials despite such changes?

95. Case studies, with special reference to social policies in both political and economic contexts, will seek to answer such questions. The project will cover eight East Asian countries, which will be divided into three sub-groups: Northeast Asian countries and economies (Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan), Southeast Asian countries and economies (Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong) and countries with less developed social welfare systems (China and Thailand). A team of scholars and researchers with proven expertise on the region will conduct the research. Their draft reports will be discussed at a workshop in Bangkok, Thailand, in April 2003. Papers will be finalized based on comments received from members of the research team, following a workshop planned for August 2003. Research findings will be published as UNRISD Programme Papers and form the basis of an edited volume. UNRISD will also publish a policy brief highlighting the policy-relevant research findings of the project.

The sub-Saharan Africa component

96. While social development outcomes have been uneven across and within sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries, the escalation in poverty, anaemic growth rates, persistence in the structural weaknesses of these economies, and reversal in social development indicators, raise major challenges for them. This social deterioration, which has taken place over the last two decades, shows the urgency of social policy in the region. At the same time the capacities of the SSA states have been reduced dramatically after years of structural reform, while the necessity of tackling social challenges is greater than ever. Furthermore, violent communal and civil conflicts in several parts of the region point to the continued importance of nation-

building projects. Interacting with and aggravating these difficulties are the problems posed by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. By exploring this developmental crisis, the project will elaborate upon the social, political and economic forces that have promoted as well as impeded social policy adoption. Specifically, it will explore social policies aimed at education, health and sanitation, and social security.

97. It will seek to answer the following questions in particular: Which political forces, in governments or civil society, have acted in support of, or in opposition to, extending social policy? Have structural adjustment programmes and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers promoted economic growth in the region? What has been their impact on social policy? Is social development integrated into macroeconomic policy? What is the role for social policy in nation-building in the context of a conflict-ridden SSA?

98. Case studies grounded in macroeconomic and social policy analysis will seek to answer such questions and evoke lessons for the enhancement of social development. The project will examine the development of social policy in 12 countries that have shown varying degrees of success in economic and social development: Francophone African countries (Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso and Gabon), Anglophone West African countries (Nigeria and Ghana), East Africa (Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya) and Southern Africa (South Africa, Zimbabwe and Botswana). A team of scholars and researchers with proven expertise on the region will conduct the research and they will hold a methodology workshop in Grahamstown, South Africa, in February 2003. Papers will be finalized, based on comments received from members of the research team and during the workshop. Research findings will be published as UNRISD Programme Papers and form the basis of an edited volume. UNRISD will also publish a brief that highlights the main policy-relevant research findings of the project.

Middle East and North Africa component

99. In the Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA), social policies have often been seen as handouts from the state rather than entitlements that accrue to tax-paying and gainfully employed citizens. Furthermore, the beneficiaries have tended to be groups with access to, and influential in the preservation of, the power of authoritarian states. This project will examine the political background of such a paradigm as social policy. In particular, it will ask to what extent social policy has played a role in nation-building efforts, and mobilization of political support for the regime in power.

100. In the post-oil-boom period since the 1980s, the welfare system in the MENA region has been challenged in two ways. First, the IMF and the World Bank have demanded that governments carry out neoliberal-inspired reforms of social policy. Second, emerging civil society actors have increasingly demanded citizenship rights. These challenges warrant examining the possibility of introducing social policies contributing to the developmental, democratic and socially inclusive imperatives sought in this project. How inclusive have the social policies in the region been, and what have been the political economy underpinnings of social policy and its outcome? The project will also examine to what extent social policies have impinged upon economic development in the MENA region.

101. The project will cover six MENA countries: Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey. A team of scholars and researchers with proven expertise on the region will conduct the research. Their draft reports will be discussed at a workshop in London in June 2003. Papers will be finalized, based on comments received from members of the research team and during the workshop. Research findings will be published as UNRISD Programme Papers and form the basis of an edited volume. UNRISD will also publish a brief that highlights the main policy-relevant research findings of the project.

Latin America component

102. Latin America presents a wide range of stages of development, both between and within countries, with correspondingly diverse social policies and institutions. The social protection system appears to be a product of a historical constellation of political and economic forces in these societies. The welfare state institutions in Latin America were built mainly during the middle part of the twentieth century, but also were influenced by the neoliberal reforms promoting privatization, liberalization and deregulation during its last two decades. The former took place in a context of traditional agrarian social relations. The latter were first implemented by authoritarian or dictatorial regimes, but were continued by transitional and democratic regimes. In all cases the neoliberal model for development and social policies was promoted by the Bretton Woods institutions.

103. Current trends have raised two questions central to this project: Have the resulting welfare systems been socially inclusive? Have the welfare systems in Latin America been democratic? Furthermore, the recent regional crisis, a part of the economic turbulences inherent in today's globalization, raises another fundamental question: Does the current economic and social protection model provide an answer to the current crisis?

104. Case studies will shed light on such questions. Although the final selection of cases will be done in co-operation with the research co-ordinator, this component is likely to include the two biggest economies of the region, Brazil and Mexico, as well as Argentina, which was worst hit by the recent economic crisis. Other possible countries for study include Chile, Uruguay, Cuba and Costa Rica, each of which has very particular models and experiences in social policies, socioeconomic and historical developments.

Nordic component

105. This component examines social policy in the Nordic countries. By and large, the welfare states in the Nordic region have been of an inclusive nature, based on productivism, universal social investment and democratic governance. They managed to maintain an inclusive welfare state in the midst of post-Keynesian reform and are now faced with new challenges brought about by globalization. One of the important features in the Nordic welfare states, often ignored, is their developmental credentials. Nordic countries introduced social policies at a relatively early stage in relation to their economic development. Did social policy facilitate economic development? If so, what lessons can be elicited for developing countries? This project will also pay attention to the historical role played by universal social policies to contribute to common identities and nation building. And it will explore the new challenges to the welfare state posed by an ageing population and declining fertility rates.

106. Specific research questions will be addressed within the following six topics: the origins and development of social protection; social policy institutions and their outcomes; empowering social policy; education, equity and growth; health, equity and growth; and institutions, inequality and development. A team of scholars with proven expertise on the region will conduct the research. Their draft reports will be discussed at a workshop in April 2003. Papers will be finalized, based on comments received from members of the research team and during the workshop. Research findings will be published as UNRISD Programme Papers and may form the basis of an edited volume. A policy brief summarizing the principal research findings of the project will also be prepared.

Planned work on social policy in East and Central European countries

107. A series of background papers will be commissioned on social policy in East and Central European countries. Since the breakdown of the Soviet systems and transition to a market-oriented economy in the region, the social protection systems of the past have deteriorated and new ones have not yet been introduced. Only patchworks of social programmes have filled the most urgent gaps. Although there is also significant difference in

social conditions within the region, poverty and unemployment became a norm rather than an exception in most countries. Deteriorating health conditions have resulted in lower life expectancy. Systematic studies are lacking, and UNRISD will attempt to fill this serious gap.

Progress under thematic components

108. The project on *Social Policy in a Development Context* also includes four thematic components. The first, on social policy and pro-poor macroeconomics, is co-ordinated by Andrea Giovanni Cornia (University of Florence); component two on globalization, privatization and welfare is co-ordinated by Maureen Mackintosh (Open University, UK) and Meri Koivusalo (STAKES, Finland); component three on gender and social policy is co-ordinated by Shahra Razavi (UNRISD); and component four on democratization and social policy is co-ordinated by Laurence Whitehead (Nuffield College, Oxford).

Social policy and macroeconomics: Pro-poor macroeconomics

109. Despite improvement during the last two decades, progress in most aggregate indicators of human well-being slowed down, or was unequal and limited to fewer sectors. This situation provides policy makers and researchers with two broad challenges. The first is concerned with social policies that improve well-being and, at the same time, promote economic growth. The second focuses on economic policies that lead simultaneously to growth and social progress—pro-poor macroeconomics. This thematic component takes up the second challenge.

110. In tackling such a question, the project is paying special attention to two important new characteristics of macroeconomics that have emerged in the last two decades. The first is the growing instability of the global financial economy, which is associated with an increase in the number of financial crises, greater volatility of growth, and an asymmetric distribution of the benefits and costs of financial globalization. The second involves a loss of domestic policy-making capacity in an open economy, which poses policy makers with serious dilemmas when dealing with problems of increasing poverty and inequality. Given these challenges and constraints, what are the policy instruments that can be adopted for pro-poor macroeconomics?

111. In an increasingly unstable world economy, the first task of pro-poor macroeconomics is to adopt policies that reduce volatility and the risk of macroeconomic shocks. Thus, issues to be tackled include the following:

- (i) controlling and harnessing the capital inflows, through sequencing of capital account liberalization, increasing regulatory capacity of the government, or introducing capital controls across or within national boundaries;
- (ii) establishing and choosing the ideal features of a pro-poor exchange rate regime, which may leave developing countries less vulnerable to shocks emanating from the world economy; and
- (iii) establishing a global insurance mechanism, which should be set up before an explosion of global crisis and should come into play when shocks originate from the global economy.

112. Once a country has been hit by a shock, stabilization is necessary and beneficial, including for the poor. By exploring the issues mentioned below, the project will seek to devise pro-poor macroeconomics, which pursue stabilization in ways that are protective of growth and the poor.

- (i) The distributive and poverty effects of devaluation-based versus monetary/fiscal-based stabilization in different archetypes of developing countries. The former generally maintains employment, while reducing real wages for all, and the latter tends to affect employment prospects for some. However, different types of

economies have different optimal solutions, depending on the size of foreign debt and the price elasticity of exports.

- (ii) The optimal choice of stabilization targets and the pace of adjustment. The two most common adjustment targets involve reducing inflation and the budget deficit. When these are pursued with excessive prudence, key investments in infrastructure and human capital risk being forgone. This is especially true for temporary deficits, which have no appreciable effects on macroeconomic performance. Pro-poor macroeconomics must also take into consideration the higher social discount rate of the poor, entailing a general preference for a slower adjustment pace even if this implies a higher overall output loss.
- (iii) The nature of (permanent and temporary) domestic safety nets compatible with the new macroeconomic characteristics. Economic and social rationality demands that pro-poor and efficient public spending be preserved, or even accelerated, during crisis situations. In the budget process, such objectives can be promoted by earmarking revenue to a few essential programmes or by establishing, by law, transparent public expenditure priorities. The project explores the conditions and political coalitions that facilitated the adoption of efficient expenditure cuts and reallocations in some countries but not in others.
- (iv) Debt relief, fiscal flexibility and public deficit. Countries hit by external shocks or facing enduring crises often try to reduce the public deficit by freezing, reducing or cancelling part of the debt. The project explores the fiscal benefits and impacts on the poor of these different approaches, as well as alternatives such as automatic and costless “debt standstills” and fiscal flexibility.

113. In order to critically assess these kinds of issues, the papers commissioned under the project include theoretical analysis, a review of the pertinent literature, regression analysis and structured comparisons of country experiences.

Globalization, privatization and welfare

Health care commercialization: Global and local dynamics and policy responses

114. Health care was chosen as the focus of this component for three reasons. First, health care systems currently act, in many parts of the world, as powerful drivers of impoverishment and exclusion. Conversely, they have been and can be key arenas for redistribution and inclusion. The scope and capacity for inclusive public action in health care is therefore a core issue for social policy. Second, that scope and capacity for public action is itself shaped by the patterns of ownership and behaviour in health care systems. Commercialization of health care provision and finance generates incentives and rewards that are known to be strongly perverse, unless heavily constrained by public action. Therefore, third, current international policy and market pressures for trade and investment liberalization in health services—framed in policy debate as “globalization”—and their potential consequences have become the subject of international concern.

115. The main objectives of this component are:

- (i) to contribute, through original collaborative research, to international research and debate on feasible policy for inclusive health care in contexts of commercializing provision;
- (ii) to base this collaboration on the needs and perspectives of researchers in low- and middle-income countries, including “Southern” perspectives on international/global policy issues; and
- (iii) through collaboration between health care and health policy researchers and open-minded microeconomists to develop a health systems-based approach to policy analysis as a challenge to currently dominant policy perspectives.

116. During the reporting period, contributions were commissioned, through a process of detailed individual discussion, at international conferences and via email. As envisaged, the contributors are based in, or are from, the South and are a mix of economists and health specialists, each contribution bringing together the exploration of a major aspect of commercialization of health care and its consequences with empirical exploration of evidence, either country-based or international.

117. The focus of inquiry is commercialization of health care: a process within which various aspects of globalization play an important role. "Commercialized" health care means the provision of health care services through the market to those able to pay, the associated production of those services for cash income or profit, and payment systems focused on individual payment or private insurance.

118. "Globalization" is understood as an aspect and a driver of commercialization. Four aspects of globalization are explored: international market integration in goods and commoditized services; the increasing extraversion of economies and societies, in the sense of increasing leverage exercised by the international over the evolution of domestic services and markets; and the detachment of the global from the local, including increasingly "footloose" capital and global wealthy top professional classes increasingly detached from national identification; and as a hegemonic international policy project to strengthen globalization in the other three senses.

119. The commissioned papers fall into four categories:

- (i) conceptual overview papers, from the methodological perspectives of economics, health systems and political economy;
- (ii) papers exploring drivers of international market liberalization and integration, including papers on multinational firms' strategies toward market development and the role of aid in trade development in health care;
- (iii) research on specific aspects of health care market commercialization and transnationalization in specific countries, and its consequences; and
- (iv) exploration of specific policy initiatives to universalize health care access in semi-commercialized health care systems, and their lessons.

120. Many of the papers directly address the key question of health care commercialization, and global and local dynamics, and the book that is being planned as one outcome of the project will draw together principal policy implications. The interim project workshop is scheduled for 3–5 March 2003 in Geneva; some authors of commissioned papers will be presenting substantial interim drafts; other papers involving fieldwork are at an earlier stage.

The RUIG initiative: Globalization, inequality and health

121. As reported in the 2001 Board Report, there is another UNRISD collaborative research initiative closely related to the above project. Called *Le défi social du développement*, this is a joint research programme of the Graduate Institute of Development Studies, the Département d'économie politique of the University of Geneva, the Faculté des sciences sociales of the University of Lausanne, and UNRISD. It is financially supported by the Réseau universitaire international de Genève (RUIG), a foundation created by the Swiss authorities to encourage academic collaboration between United Nations agencies and Swiss academic institutions.

122. The shared focus of the joint research initiative is the impact of globalization on inequality; it includes sub-projects on macroeconomic issues including problems of growth with equity and health, education and social protection. UNRISD is responsible for the sub-project on globalization, inequality and health care. This is also co-ordinated by Maureen

Mackintosh, who has designed the research in synergy with the UNRISD project described above.

123. The joint research initiative is integrated in part conceptually, and in part through a focus on five countries common to all sub-projects: Mali, Viet Nam, South Africa, Bulgaria, and the canton of Geneva/Switzerland. In addition to these core country papers, further papers have been commissioned for comparative purposes on Lebanon, the Russian Federation and Argentina. The core country papers have all been commissioned, and drafts have been completed. In two cases (Mali and South Africa), papers produced for the RUIG project are likely to be further developed, with additional research for the UNRISD project, as are the papers on Lebanon, Russia and Argentina.

124. The workshop for the RUIG project is to be hosted by the Universities of Lausanne and Geneva, on 26–28 February 2003. This will include a public conference on 26 February 2003 at the University of Lausanne. UNRISD has invited the core country contributors to this workshop. After the conference a synthesis report, project report and publications will be prepared.

Gender and social policy

125. There is consensus among critics of neoliberalism that deflationary macroeconomic policies and the abandonment of full employment as a policy objective constitute major sources of social bias in macroeconomic policy. Yet macroeconomic policy approaches that rely solely or principally on full employment to achieve socially desirable outcomes are also limited because they fail to recognize different forms of care work that are just as much at the heart of provisioning human needs and ensuring well-being as paid work. The idea of constructing systems of mutual assurance around recognizing the different kinds of contributions that people make to society—and not only their contributions to paid work—is vital for devising systems that are citizenship-based and socially inclusive (especially of women). Yet there are many questions about how fiscal, economic and social policies can be made gender equitable and supportive of the care economy.

126. There exists a sizeable feminist literature on social policy grounded in the political economy of welfare provision in the advanced industrialized countries. However, in moving from this set of literature to writings on gender and social policy in developing countries, two immediate disparities become apparent. First, the feminist literature that engages with social policy in developing countries is dispersed into a number of different clusters or streams that run almost in parallel. The second noticeable point, possibly flowing from the first, is a certain conceptual thinness.

127. This project intends to explore some of the key aspects of the gender/policy nexus through original research, with a focus on developing countries where the gender dimensions of social policy have not been so thoroughly studied, and where arguably the processes of transition to economic liberalism have been socially most disruptive. It will also encourage reflection on conceptual frameworks for a gendered social policy analysis that is appropriate for “Southern” contexts.

Proposed research

128. The proposed research is taking place under three discrete, though related, parts:

- (i) In part one we look at the overall evolution of social policy arrangements and their gender content through broad-based historical and comparative country studies. Each country study will assess the explanatory power of a set of different approaches for understanding transition and change in social policy (for example, human rights/social rights and citizenship approaches, capital accumulation logic

and “path dependency”). Some of the country studies will be historical in nature (such as Sweden), while others will cover a shorter and more recent time span (such as South Africa).

How do the imperatives of accumulation and developmentalism impact on state policy vis-à-vis women? The trajectories of “late industrializers” offer diverse scenarios as far as state policy vis-à-vis women is concerned. The project will thus undertake historical analyses of developmentalism and its interface with gender in two diverse political economies, possibly those of Sweden and Korea.

In a number of developing countries the developmental project is currently in deep crisis. Some countries have experienced de-industrialization and serious problems in generating employment and keeping their nascent welfare states solvent. Yet, it is also in some of these countries that women’s activism through social movements is keeping a number of key gender issues on the policy agenda and facilitating the democratic monitoring of some aspects of state economic and social policy. Brazil and South Africa provide two scenarios where, despite deep social inequalities and macroeconomic constraints, women’s activism is intersecting with government policy at important junctures.

There is a tension in the Central and Eastern European region between the tradition of (and in some countries continued commitment to) extensive social policy, strong state involvement and substantive redistribution, on one hand, and a residualist social policy set-up that the current economic transition within a global neoliberal framework offers, on the other. A commitment to redistribution and solidarity underpins social policy in the Czech Republic, while an alliance between neoliberal social policy and Catholic family ideology seems to dominate in Poland. The comparative study of these two countries will examine the gender content of social policy reforms and their outcomes, exploring the political processes and the role of national and international actors, as well as structural, socio-cultural and institutional mechanisms that underpin the different trajectories.

- (ii) The second part focuses on the entitlements and obligations that govern the relationship between states and citizens, particularly the circuit of taxation and expenditure through which state revenue is raised and allocated. The activities making up this circuit impact on the behaviour of corporate entities and individuals. They have not only the potential to entrench or diminish social inequalities (in terms of class, gender, race and other social markers), but also the capacity to subsidize the unpaid provision of care or alternatively to penalize those who provide unpaid care.

Difficulties in generating revenues domestically, and the increasing informalization of the economy, converge and underpin the current crisis in public finance in many developing countries, with serious implications for the care economy. The project will thus explore the intersections between paid work, unpaid care and entitlements to social provision through the prism of fiscal policy. It will commission two or three papers to explore the gendered political economy of taxation and public expenditure, reflecting on some of the recent government and/or civil society initiatives to scrutinize national budgets from a gender perspective, as well as efforts to organize women workers in the informal economy and enhance their social protection through various group-based schemes.

- (iii) Part three focuses on the more explicit areas of social policy—health and education services, and the gender-differentiated impacts of recent reforms in those sectors. Health sector reform (HSR) is likely to impact differently on women and men in their capacities as users of health services and as providers of health services (formally and informally). It is clear from international experience that HSR has very different meanings in different national and regional contexts. For many middle-income countries, health insurance plans are now being emphasized. Private insurance only exists in high- and middle-income countries and is inaccessible to the poor. Since most private insurance is employment related, the majority of women are also likely to be excluded. Even where women are covered (either on their own or through husbands), private insurance schemes tend to discriminate on the basis of gender, often failing to cover reproductive health needs. But there is very little information on how women fare under social health insurance programmes and the extent to which such programmes are more or less likely than private insurance to cover the full range of reproductive health services. The project will commission two papers. One will explore the employment-related social security schemes in China, where entitlements to health services are being transformed, and where surveys indicate that an increasing proportion of the population is not being covered by any kind of health insurance. The second paper will study the mutual insurance schemes that are being promoted throughout sub-Saharan Africa, possibly in Tanzania.

Another paper will be commissioned to analyse how gender, along with other deep-seated axes of inequality, have contributed to the “political economy of risk” that produces and reproduces the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and the community responses to the pandemic. The geographical focus will be on southern Africa.

In recent years there has been an influx of resources through external funding, especially for the primary education sector, in many poorer countries. While this appears to have reversed the decline in social sector expenditure in some countries, there are questions about its sustainability, about modes of financing universal education (with continuing emphasis on the need to raise revenue through levying fees and recovering costs), about the extent to which the expansion of primary education has been at the expense of quality, and about the dismantling of the formal system of primary education in some contexts. There are also broader questions about the minimalist emphasis on primary education alone, when in reality the education system, from pre-primary to tertiary levels and adult education, needs to be seen as a whole. The emphasis again would be on how policy reform and modes of financing are affecting quality of, and access to, education services by different social groups (across class, gender, and ethnic/caste lines), as well as the impacts of institutional reforms on the service providers. Possible case studies include Malawi in sub-Saharan Africa, and India in South Asia. Both countries have seen an influx of donor funding for universal primary education with differing impacts on institutional reform, the outcomes being largely determined by political battles in which supranational and national actors have been differently positioned.

The names of authors and titles of papers have not been included here, since at the time of writing they were not finalized. Papers will be commissioned in February 2003—even though discussions with authors about content/method are likely to stretch into March 2003. The paper-writers will come together in a workshop, tentatively planned for June 2003, at which they will discuss the preliminary draft papers. Most papers should be finalized by November 2003.

Democratization and social policy

129. This project examines the extent to which new democracies have succeeded in socially embedding their democracies, as well as the ways in which institutions facilitate or constrain pursuit of effective social policies. Democratization is viewed as a long-term, open-ended process of social construction. Even though many countries can now be classified as formally democratic, the quality of their institutions varies considerably, as do their commitments and capacities to pursue social policies that will benefit the majority of their citizens. Democratic regimes of higher quality may be more viable in the sense that their chances of survival are stronger; and they can better embed democratic norms and practices as well as improve the quality of services they can deliver to society.

130. The project will adopt a structural historical method of enquiry. First, cases will be selected from a universe of developmental democracy experiments undertaken over the past one or two generations. The starting assumption will be that the cases are characterized by “cumulative and circular” causation, which may operate positively (that is, reinforcing the links between democratization and social policy) or negatively. The case studies will be classified into two groups—relatively successful (“virtuous circles”) and relatively unsuccessful (“vicious circles”). The cases that will be selected should be neither too recent, too long-established, lack sufficient “stateness” nor found wanting in social policy effort. This rules out more than half of the 120 countries that have been described as electoral democracies.

131. Second, some fairly standardized performance indicators on democracy and social progress will be developed. Quantitative indicators will be supported by textual evaluation based on in-depth judgement and interpretation. The initial ranking of countries will be re-evaluated after each case has been studied.

132. Third, countries that are approximately identical will be paired (normally one “success” paired with one “failure”) to verify initial rankings as well as to strengthen the “quality audit” of each case. The researcher of country A (success) may be asked to review the report on country B (failure) and vice versa, highlighting reasons for the postulated differences.

133. Fourth, comparative historical analysis will involve “process tracing” (identifying the specific processes through which initial conditions reinforce or undermine consequent dynamics); and study of “critical conjunctures” (the point at which decisive choices shift a country into a different development path). “Counter-factual” reasoning about what might have happened, but did not, will also be employed, and attention given to factors such as “contingency” and “leadership”.

134. Researchers will evaluate whether or not social policy provisions are helping to embed the democratic regime in society. Which policies, if any, have that potential, or that effect? In low-income countries, research will focus on education, health and nutrition, as well as on state capacity, and the way social policy demands arise through the political system and are managed. In middle-income countries, the welfare system extends beyond basic areas of provision and has generated beliefs about citizenship and entitlements. Key questions may include the following. In what ways and to what extent do social policies in these countries help to embed democracy? To what extent does democracy provide a guarantee that these rights or expectations will continue to receive attention? Are there negative feedbacks? Does the legitimizing effect of expanded welfare provision erode over time? The overall effects of social policy will be evaluated on three scores: whether it promotes social cohesion; whether it is compatible with the requirements for capital accumulation; and whether it helps the formation of human capital.

135. The project co-ordinator is finalizing the research proposal, which will identify country case studies, researchers and dates for workshops.

Background Papers

136. Apart from the two strands of research elaborated upon above, a number of background papers have been commissioned. These are intended to provide conceptual and theoretical clarity to all of the studies of the project in order to promote a more coherent outcome.

- **Economic Development and the Origin of the Welfare State**
This paper, by Christopher Pierson (University of Nottingham), will review the historical development of social policy in Europe. By covering the earlier period of industrial development since the 1880s and analysing the origins and development of the welfare state among the “late industrializers”, it will seek to answer the following question: Was a more active role of the state in social policy instrumental to economic development for the “late industrializers”, compared to the pioneer countries of industrialization? It will reflect on what implications such historical experience would have for the developing countries as present-day late industrializers.
- **The Developmental Welfare State in Scandinavia: Lessons to the Developing World**
This paper, by Stein Kuhnle (University of Bergen) and Sven Hort (Södertörn University), will review the debates on the developmental welfare state in Scandinavian countries. This is pertinent to the UNRISD project since the Scandinavian experience showed that it is possible to combine comprehensive welfare and social security programmes with economic growth. The paper will address the following questions: What was the economic justification for the welfare state in Scandinavian countries, especially in times of economic downturn, for example in the 1980s and the early 1990s? Are there moral grounds for the welfare state in terms of democracy and social equality? What lessons can be drawn for the other regions in the project? UNRISD organized a seminar in Geneva on 16 September 2002 at which Kuhnle presented some of his research on this topic.
- **Toward a Productive Welfare State in Development Contexts**
This paper, by Ian Gough (University of Bath) will review the idea of productive welfare, and will thus represent a theoretical contribution to the study of social policy. It will examine the varying theoretical positions on the productive welfare state. The paper will also seek to determine whether the productive welfare state is more compatible with countries in the phase of “intensive economic growth” than those in the phase of “extensive growth”. And it will reflect on what implications the idea of productive welfare would have in a development context.
- **Globalization and Social Policy in a Development Context**
This paper, by Nicola Yeates (Queen’s University of Belfast), focuses on the significance of globalization for social policy. It pays particular attention to the following question: How does globalization shape the possibility of maintaining or realizing a socially inclusive, democratic, developmental social policy?

PROGRAMME ON TECHNOLOGY, BUSINESS AND SOCIETY

137. This programme area examines the impact of rapid advances in technology, foreign direct investment and corporate management systems on sustainable human development. It also explores ways of encouraging more socially responsible use of knowledge, technology and private sector resources. Research areas include *Business Responsibility for Sustainable Development* and *Information Technologies and Social Development*.

Business Responsibility for Sustainable Development

138. This project promotes research and policy dialogue on issues of corporate social and environmental responsibility (CSER). It examines the extent to which improvements in labour standards, environmental management systems and stakeholder accountability are occurring, and the types of policies, pressures and partnerships that are promoting socially responsible changes in business practices. Particular attention is focused on the role of “voluntary initiatives” in promoting CSER, and the social and environmental impact of business activities in developing countries.

139. With support from the MacArthur Foundation and UNRISD core donors, research is being carried out in six developing countries on CSER policy and practice, and also on specific thematic issues by researchers based at UNRISD.

Country studies

140. Country reports on *The Political Economy of Corporate Social and Environmental Responsibility* have been completed either in draft or final form for all six countries. The country research co-ordinators are: Paola Cappellin (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil), Atul Sood (Jawaharlal Nehru University, India), David Barkin (Universidad Autónoma de Xochimilco, Mexico), Renato Alva (consultant, Peru), Francisco Magno (De La Salle University, Philippines) and David Fig (University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa). These reports provide information on key CSER initiatives and identify the main actors, organizations, institutions and contexts that promote CSER. They also provide a preliminary assessment of the strength of the corporate responsibility “movement” in each country and the prospects for ongoing improvements in corporate policy and performance.

141. Research co-ordinators from India, Mexico, the Philippines and South Africa met in Manila in March 2002 to review the draft papers and finalize plans for additional research. It was decided to incorporate the results from the political economy papers in the final country reports due in 2003, rather than publish them separately. Following the conference, fieldwork was carried out in Mexico, the Philippines and South Africa in order to examine CSER initiatives in selected companies and sectors of the economy such as mining, energy, food and beverages, and semi-conductors. Three or four sectors were selected in each country. The results of these company and sectoral case studies will be integrated with political economy analysis in country reports that are due to be completed in the first half of 2003. National dissemination conferences will be held between March and June 2003, and a final international conference held in Geneva toward the end of 2003.

142. By the end of 2002, final country research reports had been submitted for Brazil and India. In addition to the country research co-ordinator, the Brazil report is co-authored by Gian Mario Giuliani. These reports describe the substance and scope of the corporate responsibility agenda in each country and identify the main actors, institutions and conditions that are both promoting and constraining CSER.

143. Contrary to the common assumption that CSER in developing countries is essentially driven by external influences that emerged particularly in the 1990s, the reports reveal that CSER has a longer history where internal drivers are also highly relevant. Contemporary CSER in India builds on a long tradition of philanthropy, while in Brazil various CSER initiatives emerged in the 1970s when some business leaders and organizations sought a reformist alternative to the model of authoritarian and exploitative capitalism.

144. In both countries the CSER agenda has broadened considerably as the economy has opened up to foreign direct investment, transnational corporations and international trade. As a result, the instruments and symbols of CSER, such as codes of conduct, certification, environmental reporting and corporate social investment, are being taken up by an increasing number of large firms, both domestic and transnational. The Brazil study, however, notes a sharp difference in the dynamics of corporate social responsibility and corporate environmental responsibility. While some firms are engaging with the voluntary agenda related to social and labour issues, they are also enmeshed in processes associated with privatization and restructuring that imply a decline in labour standards and a weakening of labour rights. Corporate environmental responsibility, while still incipient, has been promoted to some extent by more significant drivers associated with national and international law and civil society pressures that became more pronounced in the build-up to, and following, the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

145. In Brazil and India, CSER is being promoted by an expanding and complex range of organizations that include business associations, NGOs, academic institutions and the media. Civil action has been particularly important in exerting various forms of pressure and influence on big business. In more open economies such as Brazil, where pressures to deregulate appear stronger, the CSER agenda, as well as government regulation, have focused to a greater extent on environmental concerns while labour issues have received less attention. In both countries it is difficult to conclude that the CSER agenda has significantly improved the social and environmental performance of big business. Indeed, so-called counter-trends involving ongoing environmental degradation and declining labour standards (as a result of sub-contracting, for example) appear to outweigh the gains associated with CSER.

146. Both studies argue that voluntary initiatives should not be seen as a substitute for binding regulation. Rather, they should be complementary. Voluntary initiatives can pave the way for binding regulation by building consensus about certain norms; regulation related to freedom of information and public disclosure can stimulate voluntary initiatives. The study of CSER in India argues that the opening up of markets requires more, rather than less, vigilance from government and international institutions. The weakness of government enforcement capacity, however, means that its regulatory and monitoring role needs to be reinforced through pressures and democratic institutions involving civil society and the judicial system. The study also notes that, while civil society activism emphasizing the need for corporate accountability and international rules is important, it may have contradictory effects. It may yield positive results in terms of some social and environmental impacts, but also strengthen the domination of markets and developing country economies by transnational corporations (TNCs), and it may also generate divisions between some Northern and Southern civil society actors.

Thematic Issues

147. In addition to the country-level research, thematic reports are being prepared on “partnerships” between multilateral organizations and large corporations; the rise and influence of the “corporate accountability movement”, and international regulation of TNCs. These reports are expected to be completed during the first half of 2003.

148. Work on UN-business interactions, conducted by Ann Zammit and Peter Utting, has been following and analysing developments associated with the Global Compact and certain health sector initiatives involving large corporations. The trend toward partnerships has received much support from international organizations, governments, and some sectors of business and civil society in recent years. UNRISD's research has addressed the question of whether partnerships can significantly transform certain business practices associated with corporate irresponsibility and address, more generally, the issue of maldevelopment.

149. The research suggests that initiatives such as the Global Compact have proved useful in raising the profile of labour, human rights and environmental issues in a global policy context where, for many years, attention focused too narrowly on issues of economic liberalization, stabilization and adjustment. Using the United Nations infrastructure to broaden the corporate responsibility agenda in developing and transitional economies has been useful. Such initiatives can also serve to reinvigorate certain aspects of international "soft law", such as the ILO Core Conventions and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as the Precautionary Principle agreed at UNCED.

150. The research also raises a number of concerns regarding partnerships. As currently constituted, initiatives such as the Global Compact interact, in particular, with large transnational corporations. Many such corporations are already engaged with the CSER agenda and it is not clear what the added value of the Global Compact is, in terms of significantly changing corporate discourse and policies. This is particularly so in view of the fact that the Global Compact does not monitor compliance with the Global Compact Principles, and demands relatively little of the companies that participate. Also of concern is the fact that UN-business partnerships, while modestly helpful or innocuous in a limited context, may in fact pose obstacles to the United Nations adopting other approaches for dealing with the major problems of globalization and development. This is apparent in various respects. First, they may divert attention away from underlying systemic and policy issues, such as the social and environmental impacts of deregulation, privatization and public sector reform. Second, there is a danger that activities associated with certain partnerships, while cloaked in the language of social and environmental responsibility, may involve little more than opportunities for foreign direct investment and marketing TNC products in developing countries. Third, they have been used by some business interests to oppose other regulatory initiatives proposed by United Nations entities. Fourth, they generally ignore situations of double standards where corporate CSER agendas coexist with corporate lobbying for socially and environmentally regressive policies, fiscal irresponsibility, and trends associated with sub-contracting and restructuring that imply a deterioration of labour standards and rights. Fifth, certain partnership initiatives have antagonized some influential sectors of civil society and strained relations with the United Nations. A report on partnerships will be finalized during the first half of 2003.

151. Research on the corporate accountability movement is examining the rapid rise in the number of civil society organizations and networks concerned with issues of corporate responsibility and accountability. Of particular interest is the recent shift in the nature of reforms being demanded of business. Dissatisfaction with "corporate self-regulation" and voluntary initiatives such as company codes of conduct has resulted in increasing calls for "corporate accountability" and international regulation. A report, which is currently being prepared on this subject by Jem Bendell, suggests that new coalitions are emerging, drawing from diverse sectors and political persuasions with a common conviction that intergovernmental action on corporate accountability is necessary for social development. These coalitions have four elements. First, in civil society, *some NGOs that have established working relations with corporations* have witnessed the limitations of their actions: working with some good companies does little to regulate social and environmental laggards. Second, they are joined by *some corporate leaders*, who realize that their progress on social responsibility could result in their being undercut by competitors. While these first two groups

have been involved in corporate social responsibility, they are beginning to express sentiments, and propose policy recommendations, that resemble those of more “oppositionist” groupings in civil society. The third element is thus the *network of academics and activists* that, for years, has been arguing for a new regulatory regime to address the problem of corporate power and accountability. Their proposals are receiving increased attention from activist networks that have hitherto focused their energies on protesting at world summits and corporate offices—the so-called *anti-globalization movement*, which is the fourth element.

152. These four groupings are beginning to map out a new terrain of proposals and actions on the issue of corporate accountability, and there is already evidence of new coalitions being formed across sectors and issues. This marks a complex new era of international policy, which will present a number of contradictions for participants and challenges for nation states. Of particular interest is the extent of Southern participation in this new debate. Given the explosion of activity in 2002 around the issues covered by this research, efforts have focused on identifying trends for the future of corporate accountability, rather than the impact at the time of writing. This has inevitably delayed the completion of the report, which is expected to be finalized by mid-2003.

153. Work conducted by UNRISD project staff on international regulation of TNCs has documented the diverse forms of regulation related to environmental, labour and human rights issues that currently exist. These include: United Nations conventions; the ILO, OECD and Global Compact principles or guidelines; the new generation of multistakeholder initiatives involving codes of conduct, monitoring, reporting and certification; and legal procedures that allow TNCs to be prosecuted for malpractice abroad related to social, labour and human rights abuses. Work on this topic will continue in 2003 by examining the different theoretical and analytical positions that exist on the question of corporate regulation, as well as the history of United Nations regulation of TNCs. In 2003 UNRISD aims to publish a “resource guide” that incorporates information related to conceptual, historical and empirical aspects of regulation.

Other studies

154. UNRISD work on corporate social responsibility was expanded in 2002 with a study that examines the response of transnational corporations to the problem of HIV/AIDS. This study is reported on in the section of this report dealing with UNRISD work on AIDS.

Publications and dissemination

155. Three project papers or reports on company codes of conduct, multistakeholder initiatives, and CSER references and websites, were published in 2002 by NGLS and UNRISD in the volume **Voluntary Approaches to Corporate Responsibility: Readings and a Resource Guide**. With a print run of 12,000 copies, this volume has been disseminated widely. The papers included:

- Rhys Jenkins, **Corporate Codes of Conduct: Self-Regulation in a Global Economy**;
- Peter Utting, **Regulating Business via Multistakeholder Initiatives: A Preliminary Assessment**;
- Renato Alva, **Corporate Social and Environmental Responsibility: Selected Sources of Information: Bibliography and Websites**.

156. The book (edited by Peter Utting), **The Greening of Business in Developing Countries: Rhetoric, Reality and Prospects**, was published by Zed Books in the first half of 2002.

157. The following articles by project staff were published in academic journals:

- Peter Utting, 2002, “The global compact and civil society: Averting a collision course”, **Development in Practice**, Vol. 12, Number 5, 2002, pp. 644–647;
 - Jem Bendell and Désirée Abrahams, “World review”, **The Journal of Corporate Citizenship**, Issue 8, 2002, pp. 4–15.
158. Two other articles were written and accepted by journals for publication in 2003:
- Peter Utting, “The global compact: Why all the fuss?”, **UN Chronicle**, forthcoming;
 - Peter Utting, “Corporate responsibility and labour relations in China: Reflections on a Beijing conference”, **The Journal of Corporate Citizenship**, forthcoming.
159. Some of the preliminary findings of the project were presented at the following international conferences and workshops:
- “Regulating Global Institutions”, co-hosted by UNRISD and the Brazilian research and advocacy NGO, IBASE, at the World Social Forum in February 2002;
 - “The Private Sector and Civil Society”, workshop held at the World Civil Society Forum, Geneva, July 2002;
 - “The Political Economy of Sustainable Development”, co-hosted by UNRISD and the University of the Witwatersrand during the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, August 2002;
 - “Labour Relations and Corporate Social Responsibility under Globalization”, organized by the Ford Foundation and Renmin University, Beijing, November 2002.

Future research

160. As the project on corporate responsibility and voluntary initiatives enters its final year, the Institute is beginning to reflect on future research in the field of business and development. Preliminary ideas centre on the following issues:

- (i) **Public-private partnerships (PPPs):** Given the growing attention to “partnerships” in international policy-making circles, the debates surrounding their role and effectiveness, and the lack of systematic and critical research on these issues, this might be a useful area for ongoing research. While some work has been done on corporate influence in international policy making and governance structures of PPPs, there has been little research on the impacts of PPPs in developing countries.
- (ii) **Transnational corporations and social development:** During the 1980s and 1990s the analysis of the relationship between foreign direct investment (FDI), TNCs and development tended to focus somewhat narrowly on economic impacts or very specific CSER initiatives such as codes of conduct, corporate social investment and environmental reporting. This is partly because many national governments in developing countries appear to accept almost anything that is on offer and have not tried to ensure that FDI and CSER are integrated with national development strategies. Similarly, international organizations and some civil society organizations often assume that any FDI or CSER intervention is good for development. There is a need to rethink the criteria by which FDI and TNC involvement in developing countries are judged, and for democratically elected governments to ensure that TNCs are contributing to a coherent social project that has been drawn up by the state and national social forces. UNRISD is well placed to initiate an international research project on the developmental implications of FDI and CSER, particularly as they relate to social and sustainable development, and the role and capacity of the state and civil society actors in developing countries to shape the FDI and CSER agendas.

Information Technologies and Social Development

161. This reporting period has seen significant changes in UNRISD's work on this topic. Its originator and co-ordinator, Cynthia Hewitt de Alcántara retired. The Senegal research project came to an end, although the work of translating, publishing and disseminating its output continues. The preparation of a series of briefing papers for the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in December 2003 proceeds apace.

162. Mike Powell joined UNRISD in autumn 2002, on a part-time basis, to act as the Geneva-based external co-ordinator of UNRISD's research in this area, and to assist with thinking on where and how it should move forward. Discussions thus far have recognized the high quality of the work to date—its selection of key, but neglected, issues and its ability to attract the best people to study them. Some of these details are also discussed in a brief being prepared by Powell on the lessons of the Senegal project.

163. There is an abundance of research and policy work on information and communications technologies (ICT) and development issues, but there are also some very important gaps where little is being said and less heard. As discussed elsewhere, UNRISD has developed a critical analysis of the subject area. It believes this can usefully be pursued through:

- continuing country-level research in developing countries on social, organizational and technological changes resulting in and from new information flows;
- occasional commissioned papers on global issues, particularly on those where the potential implications of certain processes on power relationships are obscured; and
- encouragement of the identification and debate of choices in this field through engagement with networks of policy makers and practitioners in this field, especially at a country level, but also in academic, UN and donor circles.

164. Exploration of funding opportunities in this area continues. Despite the current prominence of this subject, neither past or current experience suggests that securing funding for this work is easy. In addition to the limited number of donors interested in funding social development research in general, the difficulties of obtaining funds for this area in particular may stem from its high profile and the related interest of organizations in maintaining control of the debate. Most donors are heavily involved in global forums on the digital divide and in funding large ICT-based development programmes themselves. They will be paying for background research to support these activities. It is possible that funding an independent third party to develop a potentially critical view is seen as an unnecessary complication.

Global IT governance

165. The book **Global Media Governance: A Beginners' Guide**, by Seán Ó Siochrú and Bruce Girard with Amy Mahan, was co-published in 2002 with Rowman and Littlefield. Initial reviews have been very positive. Its translation into Spanish has nearly been completed and discussions are under way with Mexico-based FLACSO about the publication of a Spanish edition.

166. The papers, commissioned by UNRISD for WSIS, referred to in that section above, will develop UNRISD's profile as a source of research and analysis on the global aspects of ICT and development. Bruce Girard and Seán Ó Siochrú are the external co-ordinators of the Institute's work in contribution to WSIS.

Senegal country study

167. The process of finalizing, publishing and translating the studies prepared under this project continued during this reporting period, along the lines indicated in the 2001 Progress Report.

168. A book, provisionally titled **Technologies, pouvoirs et société au Sénégal**, is currently in press (Paris: Karthala, 2003). It contains 10 of the Senegal case studies, a substantive introduction by Momar-Coumba Diop, and a foreword by Thandika Mkandawire.

169. In 2003, UNRISD plans to publish two more papers: **Enjeux et rôle des nouvelles technologies de l'information et de la communication dans les mutations urbaines: Le cas de Touba**, by Cheikh Gueye; **Les émigrés sénégalais et les nouvelles technologies de l'information**, by Serigne Mansour Tall; and the introduction to the book written by Momar-Coumba Diop, as Programme Papers in French.

170. Nine of the Senegal papers have been translated from French into English; and the two remaining ones are currently with translators. It is not clear if a simple publication of the book in English is either affordable or the most effective strategy for drawing people's attention to them, and this is under discussion. Subject to the outcome of the discussion, the papers and the introduction will be available in English on the UNRISD Web site.

PROGRAMME ON CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

171. The UNRISD research programme on civil society and social movements has been designed to generate a more detailed and realistic understanding of what civil society is (from global to national to local civil society), and how it is being constructed in various political contexts (for example, under transitional, authoritarian and democratic regimes). The programme investigates new challenges emerging in the triangular relationship between donor institutions, national governments and civil society groups. It also seeks to analyse contemporary social movements in rural and urban contexts, in which alliances are increasingly forged across groups and continents. And it aims to improve understanding of various forms of local self-organization oriented toward defending or improving access to resources, income and services.

172. Two projects are under way in this programme area: *Civil Society Strategies and Movements for Rural Asset Redistribution and Improved Livelihoods* and *Evolving Agricultural Structures and Civil Society in Transitional Countries: The Case of Central Asia*. Other activities being carried out under this project include two book projects, *Education and Social Movements*, and *From Unsustainable to Inclusive Cities*.

Civil Society Strategies and Movements for Rural Asset Redistribution and Improved Livelihoods

Background

173. This project seeks to examine how civil society organizations in diverse contexts are able to assist peasant communities and the rural poor to strengthen their productive asset base through influencing market mechanisms to acquire land, improving labour conditions and attaining more political power. It emphasizes the need to recognize and analyse the ambiguities and complexities inherent in the composition and action of civil society organizations in rural areas.

174. In order to develop a more comprehensive understanding of the type, social base, scale of operation, alliances created, range of activities and rates of success or failure of various civil society organizations that are working in the field of asset building for the benefit of the rural poor, a set of studies were commissioned. These studies dealt with complex conceptual issues and comparative processes in civil society strategies and actions across a range of countries. They also sought to encourage a wider debate.

Progress

175. During the reporting period, the following reports prepared under the project were finalized:

- Stephan Suhner, **Resistiendo al olvido: Tendencias recientes del movimiento social y de las organizaciones campesinas en Colombia** (co-published with Taurus, Bogota, 2002);
- Leonilde Servolo de Medeiros, **Movimentos Sociais, Disputas Políticas e Reforma Agrária de Mercado no Brasil** (co-published with Editora Universidade Rural, Rio de Janeiro, 2002);

- Olle Törnquist, **Popular Development and Democracy: Case Studies with Rural Dimensions in the Philippines, Indonesia and Kerala** (co-published with the Centre for Development and the Environment at the University of Oslo, Oslo, 2002);
- Archie Mafeje, **The Agrarian Question, Access to Land and Peasant Responses in Sub-Saharan Africa**, PP CSSM 6, forthcoming;
- Krishna Ghimire, "Changing rural power structures through land tenure reforms: The current dismal role of international organizations", **Canadian Journal of Development Studies**, Vol. XXIII, No. 2, 2002;
- Krishna Ghimire, "Social movements and marginalized rural youth in Brazil, Egypt and Nepal", **The Journal of Peasant Studies**, Vol. 30, No. 1, October 2002.

A volume on Civil Society and the Market Question

Background

176. Civil society mobilization at recent meetings of the international financial institutions and other bodies, illustrate the extent of reservations about the likelihood that market-mechanisms can solve problems of rural poverty and social inequalities, and bring about positive changes in the quality of life in rural areas. Civil society groups are vocal in their condemnation of structural adjustment programmes, policies to privatize vital public services and liberalize the agricultural sector, and the hegemonic role of TNCs and lending institutions. They also call for the cancellation of the external debt of developing countries and more regulation of financial markets. These issues remain at the core of exchanges of opinion through various networks, as well as for meetings and popular rallies at national and international levels.

177. But, for the most part, the ability of civil society organizations and initiatives to influence the debate on the role of the market in economic development and social progress has remained limited. Markets have existed in all societies in one form or another, but when and how they become undesirable are complex questions. The regulation of markets remains a central issue, and if civil society proposals are to be considered seriously they must become more explicit about how and who should do this. Should it be "reformed from within", or "transformed" altogether? What are the alternatives to the market?

178. Many of these vital questions call for critical assessment and research. This volume will highlight some of the problems, indicate research gaps and encourage public debate.

Chapter structure

General introduction and synthesis

- Krishna Ghimire, UNRISD, Geneva;

Latin America

- Leonilde Servolo de Medeiros, the Universidade F.R. do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, **"Market-Friendly" Agrarian Reforms and Changing Patterns of Rural Social Movements in Brazil**;
- Stephan Suhner, Federal Refugee Agency, Bern, **Colombian Countryside between the Privileges of *Latifundistas*, Modernizing Authoritarianism and Peasant Repression**;
- Henry Veltmeyer, Saint Mary's University, Halifax, **Dynamics of Rural Struggle, Cross-Sectoral Alliances and the Market Question in Mexico, Ecuador and Bolivia**;

Africa

- Nyangabyki Bazaara, Centre for Basic Research, Kampala, **The Ability of Civil Society Groups to Influence the Debate on the Role of the Market in Rural Asset Building and Redistribution in East Africa**;

- Ray Bush, University of Leeds, Leeds, **Crisis of Rural Livelihoods, Economic Reforms and Civil Society in Egypt**;
- Nora McKeon, FAO, Rome, **The Market Issue in Farmers' Movements in Senegal**;

Asia

- Saturnino M. Borras, Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, **Markets, Land Redistribution and Rural Social Movements in the Philippines**;
- Manzurul Mannan, Independent University, Dhaka, **Rural Power Structures and Evolving Market Forces in Bangladesh**;
- Neil Webster, Centre for Development Research, Copenhagen, **Diversities and Originalities in Rural Social Movements in the Age of Market Globalization: The Case of India**.

Present status

179. Preparatory work for the volume began in the second half of 2002. By the end of the year, all draft chapters (with the exception of the synthesis chapter) were completed. The authors are currently revising their chapters; the preparation of the introduction/synthesis chapter is also in progress. A complete and final document is planned for the first half of 2003, and will be submitted to an interested commercial publisher.

Evolving Agricultural Structures and Civil Society in Transitional Countries: The Case of Central Asia

Background

180. While there is some information available on the nature and extent of reforms, and general agricultural performance, in some countries of Central Asia, little systematic cross-country data and analysis exists on many vital underlying issues, related livelihood consequences and emerging agrarian relations at the local level. The vast majority of the rural poor, consisting of small cultivators, workers and crafts people, find it very hard to cope with the new situation. At the same time, a handful of privileged groups and families have swiftly moved into dominant positions of power, thereby also monopolizing economic resources.

181. Current discussions of institutional change in Central Asia are primarily concerned with the role of governments and donor agencies in promoting agricultural and rural development within the framework of market-oriented policy measures. Only sketchy information is available on how civil society outside the state and market forces has emerged and moved toward helping the poorer and weaker groups in rural poverty reduction programmes. What actually constitutes civil society in Central Asia? What has been the role of the voluntary sector, professional NGOs, socio-political associations, farmers' unions, co-operatives and so forth? How are they trying to promote policy changes and institutional reforms conducive to improved rural livelihoods? How are they seeking to protect past resource gains and monitor variations in rural working and living conditions? And how are they helping the rural poor to defend themselves against new forms of exploitation and manipulation, manage internal conflicts and widen their political participation?

Progress

182. A series of thematic studies have been commissioned on key cross-cutting themes on the scale and outcome of civil society work in the field of agrarian reforms and rural development, as well as policy intervention and influence of the state, donor agencies and private sector investment. These studies cover three areas.

1. Agricultural restructuring and trends in rural inequalities

183. Two documents are being prepared under this theme.

184. First, an annotated bibliography has been prepared looking at the type and quality of published documents in Central Asia, and identifying gaps in the literature. It reviews material in three areas: rural poverty and inequality; women and agriculture; and civil society and NGOs. The report has been prepared by Lucy Earle, International NGO Training and Research Centre (INTRAC), Oxford, and is being supplemented by a review of grey literature in Russian and other national languages in the region by Behzod Mingboev, a researcher from Tajikistan. Earle and Mingboev both spent time at UNRISD as Research Assistants in 2002.

185. Second, Max Spoor of ISS in The Hague is writing a paper examining trends in rural inequalities. This paper is based on analysis of available data on the agricultural sector of five Central Asian countries, and includes a discussion of the methodological problems associated with the reliability of such data. The income distribution data available from official sources have been supplemented by case study material from fieldwork undertaken by the author in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan in September 1997, and in Uzbekistan in September 2002.

2. Structure and actions of civil society

186. Four studies have been undertaken under this broad theme.

187. A paper by Deniz Kandiyoti of the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London, looks at the role of professional organizations in Central Asia as rights and entitlements in rural Central Asia are mediated by a complex, stratified institutional framework that is the product of modified Soviet institutions, new semi-governmental structures and civil society initiatives that bear the imprint of a variety of foreign donor agencies and NGOs. The first section of the paper examines the effects of agrarian reform on rural institutions, while the second section illustrates the interactions of new institutional players (donor agencies and local NGOs) by means of a case study: the Kashkadarya Micro Credit programme in Uzbekistan, which has been implemented since 1998 under the Sustainable Income Generation Programme of UNDP.

188. The UNRISD Research Co-ordinator, Krishna Ghimire, is preparing a paper on labour conditions and rural unionization in Central Asia. Based on a field study of the Ferghona Valley (shared by Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan), discussions with trade-union representatives and a review of the literature, he aims to examine the traditional functions and effectiveness of agricultural trade unions in the distribution of pensions, paid sick leave, access to sanatoriums, convalescent homes and holiday camps for children. In the second part, he assesses the ability of trade unions to adapt to a changing situation by resolving land conflicts, negotiating wages and prices, and mobilizing the rural labour force. In the concluding section, he evokes policy options for supporting trade-union activism in transitional countries.

189. A third report by Malcolm Childress, Land Tenure Center, Madison, looks at the research, training and monitoring role of agrarian research institutes and universities. In particular, how relevant are these institutions to farmers' needs? How are they evolving in their teaching, research and extension activities? Can they be seen as "civil society" organizations in their ability to extend critical knowledge and mobilize peasants and rural workers? The paper is partly based on a survey of agricultural research institutes in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

190. The fourth study, which looks at the role of the voluntary sector and NGOs in strengthening self-help networks and internal solidarity in agrarian communities, is being

carried out by Simon Heap (INTRAC), Oxford. The study seeks to map out the role and nature of NGOs in Central Asia: their work, coverage and effectiveness. It goes on to analyse the nature and relevance of NGOs for people in rural areas, particularly the extent to which farmers and agricultural workers can turn to NGOs for information, knowledge and resources to improve their productive capacity and income or to help them with problems of indebtedness and exploitation. The last section underlines relevant conclusions on policy issues.

3. Dominant groups and politics in rural areas

191. One specific theme that is being explored by Olivier Roy of the Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS), Paris, relates to the question of political representation of rural interests. The study examines how rural politics has been evolving in recent years. The crucial question investigated is the extent to which peasants, agricultural workers and other poorer and politically marginalized groups in rural areas use the available political space to influence local decision-making processes. Is “democracy” bringing any new resources and power? More specifically, how has it helped them to articulate their interests relating to access to productive resources, inputs and improved wages, prices and working conditions? What is the political force they can count on in confronting existing forms of exploitation, as well as emerging forms of social inequalities? Is there any hope for grassroots political mobilization against land speculators, traders, moneylenders, transnational agro-business groups and corrupt officials?

192. The second study by Habiba Fathi, Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales (INALO), Paris, is concerned with the topic of rural poverty and the emerging role of religious fundamentalism. Fathi describes how Islam functions as a religion as well as an authority in the selected local areas. Is there any obvious link between rural poverty and religious fundamentalism? What function is Islam (or other prevalent religions in the locality) able to fulfill in poverty reduction, self-help initiatives and building solidarity? Can farmers, rural workers and other groups count on useful advice and support from their religious authorities to improve their livelihoods, or at least cope with emergencies? Is religion a potent force for social change, or does it legitimize emerging socioeconomic inequalities in the course of market liberalization?

193. Finally, Alisher Ilkhamov, Centre for Social Studies, Tashkent, considers the recent evolution of agricultural investment and the role of the private sector. This study provides a critical assessment of the impact of neoliberal agricultural policies, and foreign investment in general, in the region. Besides the question of how farmers’ production needs are met by foreign investment, the study examines whether it is helping to improve livelihoods in a sustainable manner (through the creation of new employment and income and opportunities for social mobility). In particular, is it leading to new forms of social differentiation and inequalities? The study concludes by looking at centre-periphery relations, the impact of globalization and the winners and losers of the post-Soviet follow-up.

Future plans

194. Following completion of these papers, it would be useful for UNRISD to organize a seminar that brings together the researchers, outside specialists and representatives of FAO (which is partially funding the project) and other agencies with an interest in transitional countries. The seminar would highlight major research findings and policy conclusions on the complexities of the current pattern of agricultural transformation in Central Asia, and strengthen the network of scholars, research institutions, civil society organizations and donor agencies in the region.

195. Following the seminar, authors would be expected to revise their papers for publication. Selected papers could be issued as joint working papers by UNRISD and FAO, and an edited volume prepared for publication.

Other activities

Book project on Education and Social Movements

Background and progress

196. Education plays a very important role in breaking the cycle of poverty and in increasing opportunity. Education also helps to shape an ethnic and/or national identity. Civil society has become involved in education in some cases providing welfare assistance to poor households and, in others, developing education initiatives as alternatives to government provision. This edited volume, which is being co-ordinated and edited by Ashok Swain of Uppsala University, critically reviews social action for education in various regions of the world. Contributors are evaluating the relevance of the dominant theoretical discourse in understanding the origin and outcome of social action for education in diverse contexts. With support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the editor and contributors met in November 2002 at Uppsala University, Sweden, to discuss the theoretical focus of the book, concluding policy ideas, as well as publication details and a possible publisher. The book contains the following chapters:

- Ashok Swain, Uppsala University, **Education as an Agenda of Social Action**;
- Larry Swatuk, University of Botswana, **Social Movement and the “Education Revolution” in Post-Apartheid South Africa**;
- Kamarulzaman Askandar, Universiti Sains Malaysia, **Movements among Ethnic Groups for Universal Education in Malaysia**;
- Sudha Pai, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, **Universal Elementary Education in India**;
- Yoginder Sikand, Institute for the Study of Islam in the Modern World, Leiden, Holland, **Muslim Madrasas in Contemporary South Asia**;
- Donn C. Worgs, Towson University, USA, **Social Action to Provide Education for the African-American Community in the United States**;
- Consuelo Uribe, Universidad Javeriana, Bogota, Colombia, **Education among Indigenous Peoples from Colombia and Peru**;
- Roland Kostic, Uppsala University, **Social Movements and Education in Bosnia and Herzegovina**.

From Unsustainable to Inclusive Cities

Background and progress

197. This volume brings together the results of UNRISD research in 2000–2001 on governance aspects of urban sustainable development in developing countries. It draws on several activities, including the N–AERUS 2000 Workshop in Geneva, Cities of the South: Sustainable for Whom?; Geneva 2000 (the Five-year review of the World Summit for Social Development); and Istanbul+5 (the Five-year review of Habitat II).

198. Five chapters of the volume are country/city case studies written from the perspective of urban development practitioners assisting in efforts to achieve dignified living and working conditions for some of the most vulnerable groups in large cities of the South. The authors were asked to reflect on actual content of sustainable development as practised in their cities, and on how they personally would envision sustainable development for their city. What efforts, official and unofficial, are being made in the name of achieving sustainable development? What are the shortcomings of the actors and institutions that are expected to take part in realizing this goal? What steps are required to move forward? The remaining

chapters are by researchers who have worked closely with, or studied efforts by, the international community to influence urban development in developing countries. The book contains eight chapters, plus the introduction.

- David Westendorff, **Introduction: Sustainable Cities: Views of Southern Practitioners**;
- Adrian Atkinson, **Promoting Environmentalism, Participation and Sustainable Human Development in Cities of Southeast Asia**;
- Darshini Mahadevia, **Sustainable Urban Development in India: An Inclusive Perspective**;
- Sebastian Wust, Jean-Claude Bolay and Thai Thi Ngoc Du, **Metropolization and the Ecological Crisis: Precarious Settlements in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam**;
- Batilda Burian and Alphonse T. Kyariga, **Sustainable Development in an Urban Tanzanian Context**;
- Karina Constantino-David, **Unsustainable Development: The Philippine Experience**;
- Jaime Joseph, **Sustainable Development and Democracy in the Megacities**;
- Isabelle Milbert, **Alliances in International Co-operation: A Change of Paradigm in Urban Governance?**;
- David Westendorff, **Sustainable Development for the Urban Poor: Applying a Human Rights Approach to the Problem**.

199. This volume is currently being reviewed prior to planned in-house publication by UNRISD, in collaboration with the Swiss Development Co-operation, Bern. UN-HABITAT has shown interest in disseminating the book.

Future orientation of the programme on Civil Society and Social Movements

200. The Institute believes the area of civil society merits a great deal more reflection, research and debate than is currently being undertaken. Its research also needs to be adapted in order to detect rapidly evolving trends and ensuing results so that they may be analysed in a way that is useful for policy makers and other user groups. UNRISD plans to focus future research on civil society activism and policy influence at the international level, and on national- and local-level impacts.

201. Whether because of sheer numbers of people, passionate arguments or street confrontations, some of the recent advocacy campaigns by civil society movements and networks have attracted considerable attention from the media, policy makers and the general public. By frequently rallying diverse groups, individuals and organizations, some of these civil society campaigns have been able to keep alive some crucial global socioeconomic and political problems. Research on this topic is timely, not only because there is increasing visibility of civil society activism at the international level, but also because civil society movements and networks are increasingly combining their protestation and advocacy campaigns with alternative proposals and initiatives. For example, the Porto Alegre World Social Forum, which is now organized as an annual event and brings together several thousand civil society advocates and groups to discuss many of the negative impacts of globalization processes, has slowly moved toward putting forward concrete propositions to deal with the consequences of neoliberal economic policies, with sustainable communities, dignified work and a healthy environment.

202. But how are global civil society movements, and their events such as the World Social Forum, faring in reality? What are the strengths and weaknesses of their attempts to

popularize global issues of concern and implement specific initiatives at national and local levels? Are these movements capable of having any significant impact on the policies adopted by governments and promoted by international bodies? How do national and local groups articulate their concerns and propose concrete suggestions? New UNRISD research on these issues would aim to draw out policy recommendations for the promotion of constructive dialogue and co-operation among diverse groups and institutions at various levels.

203. Research is proposed in the following two areas.

1. Translating International Debates and Proposals into National and Local Contexts: The Role and Internal Functioning of Key Civil Society Movements

204. This project will critically assess the resourcefulness, capacity and potential of key global civil society movements and networks to take up the broad themes of social justice and people-centred development, with radical demands for reforms in world economic and financial systems. In particular, it will investigate, document and analyse five contemporary civil society movements: campaigns for debt relief; movement to change international trade rules and barriers; global taxation initiatives; international anti-corruption movements; and movements in support of fair trade and a solidarity economy. The main reason for selecting these movements is that their responses extend beyond protests and advocacy to include concrete alternative proposals and initiatives.

205. But there may be significant differences in the coverage and achievements of these global movements. Hence the interest in the project is not merely to illustrate how the global movements in question are successful or unsuccessful, but rather to seek to explain why different trajectories lead to different results in spite of the considerable popular legitimacy enjoyed by many of these movements. The research intends to shed light on the following questions:

- Why are some movements and networks more dynamic in terms of their ability to achieve growth in individual membership, affiliated organizations or geographical areas covered?
- What successfully appeals to a wider public and what explains the ability to mobilize diverse social and ideological groupings?
- Are there any noteworthy variations in work patterns and outcomes between old-new, North-South, established-event-oriented and reformist-radical networks and movements?
- Are movements and networks open to negotiation, and does working with governments and donor agencies lead to more success than rejection of the system and the use of mass mobilization with increasing militancy (including violence)?

206. In-depth country and thematic studies, organization of stakeholder meetings, publication of newsletters in selected countries to share useful information, and promotion of dialogue and networking constitute the main activities of the project.

2. UN World Summits and Civil Society Dynamics

207. During the past decade, the United Nations summits and conferences have provided important global forums for citizens and civil society organizations (CSOs). But there has been little systematic study of the actual impact of the various summits on civil society activism from the global to the national and local levels. The central issue of interest would be how these global summits have fostered concerted actions by the social forces hitherto excluded? Above all, have they played a significant role in improving the terms of participation and in enhancing livelihoods at the grassroots level? How are CSOs using their global activism to influence international and national policies, and with what results? How are they trying to implement new approaches and policies ensuing from the summits? Have the summits increased the resourcefulness and capacity for action of participating CSOs, or

have they instead given rise to CSO co-option and use for channelling dominant thoughts and approaches?

208. Collecting and analysing information on the impact of UN summits on civil society promises to be a complex undertaking, as the topics covered by the summits vary, with differing implications for civil society participation. Since some of the summits were held quite recently, their effectiveness is still not fully clear. Similarly, CSOs show vast diversity in their composition, capacity and interest to collaborate with the United Nations system. Nevertheless, there are a number of key cross-cutting issues that are valid for nearly all summits and need to be thoroughly considered when seeking to examine the possible impacts on civil society. These include:

- the creation of political space for increased civil society density and activism;
- the range and quality of civil society activities subsequent to the world summits;
- influence on government and donor policies;
- civic awareness and grassroots representation; and
- civil society alliances and activism.

209. Three sets of activities are proposed under this project:

- (i) studies on national and local CSO dynamics in countries holding UN summits;
- (ii) a survey on the impact of UN summits on international civil society activism; and
- (iii) interviews with UN officials responsible for organizing summits.

210. Full research outlines have been drawn up for both projects and are available for consultation.

PROGRAMME ON DEMOCRACY, GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

211. The programme area on Democracy, Governance and Human Rights currently focuses two main issues: democratization of economic policy making, which tends to assume technocratic features; and public sector reform and crisis states. Institutional reforms are at the heart of efforts by governments and multilateral agencies to promote development. Research in this area can help policy makers and the wider public to better understand the institutional constraints on development, inconsistencies between specific policy initiatives, and the social effects of institutional reforms.

212. Work is being concluded on the project on *Technocratic Policy Making and Democratization*, which examined the complex ways institutions of new democracies cope with increased pressure to integrate into the world economy. The main findings of the reports on Argentina, Benin, Chile, Czech Republic, Hungary, India, Korea and Malawi were presented to the Board in 2000 and 2001. These reports, which are available on the UNRISD Web site, are being prepared for publication as UNRISD monographs. New work has been initiated on *Ethnic Structure, Inequality and Governance of the Public Sector*, which is taking up in detail one of the main areas of public sector reform. A second group of reform initiatives, involving the introduction of market reforms in the public sectors of poor and adjusting countries, such as downsizing, decentralized management, pay and employment reform, and use of output indicators to assess staff performance and service delivery were studied in the project on *Public Sector Reform and Crisis-Ridden States*, on which the Board received full reports in 2000 and 2001.

Ethnic Structure, Inequality and Governance of the Public Sector

Background

213. Effective states are important for defining and implementing development policies as well as for managing conflicts that emerge from democratization processes. However, many states have experienced massive crises of capacity since the 1980s. Revenues cannot meet expenditure needs; public sector wages and employment have declined; and in some countries state contraction has been made worse by conflict. This project is studying public sector reform initiatives to deal with issues of diversity, representation and cohesion in the constitution and management of the public sector.

214. It examines the complex ways ethnic cleavages and inequalities influence behaviour and constrain institutions that have emerged under democratization for governing the public sectors of multi-ethnic societies. Research focuses on issues of diversity, representation and cohesion in the constitution and management of the public sector. The first part of the project involves data collection and analysis of ethnic cleavages and inequalities in four main institutions: cabinet, civil service, parliament and party system. The second part examines the effectiveness of institutions for managing diversity, inequality and competition. The project commenced in January 2002 and is scheduled for completion in December 2003.

Progress

215. Between January and April 2002 the project co-ordinator and research assistant discussed the project with a large number of researchers and institutions working on public sector governance. This culminated in the selection of 11 principal researchers from Bosnia,

Botswana, Fiji, Ghana, India, Kenya, Latvia, Lithuania, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea and Tanzania to prepare research proposals on their respective countries that will advance the goals of the project (the researchers are listed at the end of this section). A bibliographic database on the project was also initiated during this period. It lists important articles, documents and books that have been published on the subject of ethnic cleavages, inequalities and governance of the public sector. A separate list focuses on institutions that are working on related subjects.

Methodology workshop

216. A methodology workshop was organized on 27 and 28 May 2002 in Geneva. The 11 principal researchers, UNRISD staff and the current UNDP Resident Representative in Latvia participated in the meeting. The workshop discussed the 11 country proposals and methodologies for studying cleavages, inequalities and governance.

217. Three assumptions, guiding the research, provided a backdrop for the workshop discussions. First, contrary to what many analysts believe, ethnic fragmentation does not necessarily lead to pathological outcomes. Ethnic cleavages are configured differently in different social structures and are less conflictual in some countries than in others. Second, even in cases where ethnicity is a problem, institutions can be designed to help contain instability and promote cohesion or accommodation. Third, an inclusive public sector can be developed under democratic governance.

218. Discussions were organized around a typology that distinguishes countries according to their levels of ethnic polarization. Five types of structures were highlighted. The first, referred to as *unipolar*, represents cases in which one ethnicity is overwhelmingly dominant. Botswana and Lithuania were discussed as examples. In Botswana, the Tswana constitute, by some estimates, about 70 per cent of the population. A multi-ethnic elite pact at independence granted the Tswana language official status (along with English) in exchange for equal distribution of resources among all groups. Sustained economic growth helped to consolidate the pact and depoliticize ethnicity. In Lithuania, the indigenous group constitutes about 80 per cent of the population. Governments there have been able to dispense with the strict citizenship laws in more deeply divided Latvia and Estonia that define participation in state institutions.

219. One hypothesis that received attention at the workshop is that competition for representation in the public sector is likely to be less ethnically polarized in unipolar settings. Electoral politics may open up conflicts within the dominant ethnicity, allowing individuals from minority groups to play active roles in parties formed by individuals from the dominant ethnic group. Even though most Tswana vote for the ruling party, for example, a sizeable percentage also supports opposition parties. Minorities have not formed separate parties from those led by Tswana, preferring to exert influence from within. The ethnic Lithuanian vote is also fragmented into multiple parties. Although some minorities have formed their own parties, fragmentation has allowed them to form coalitions with Lithuanian parties.

220. Fiji and Latvia were discussed as examples of the second type of structure, referred to as *bipolar*, which represents cases in which there are only two ethnic groups, or where two roughly equal groups predominate in multi-ethnic settings. In Fiji, ethnic Fijians constitute about half the population and Indians about 45 per cent. Issues of indigeneity and land rights constrain the institutions that have been developed to manage bipolarity. In Latvia, where policies of Russification disadvantaged ethnic Latvians, this group currently constitutes about 58 per cent of the population and Russians 30 per cent. However, because of citizenship rules introduced at independence, which seek to transform Latvia into a "nation-state", Latvians are more than 76 per cent and Russians only 17 per cent of that country's citizens.

221. The third type, referred to as *tripolar*, deals with cases in which there are only three groups, or three large groups in a multi-ethnic setting. Bosnia and Nigeria were discussed as examples. In Bosnia, Muslims, Serbs and Croats are 44, 31, and 17 per cent, respectively, of the population. War and foreign intervention have produced a complex set of governance institutions: international administration, a loose confederation, two distinct political entities, and canton and commune rule. Nigeria is a federation of 36 states, comprised of more than 370 ethnic groups. Despite this diversity, three groups, which account for about 55 per cent of the population, have historically had strong influence on politics. Complex governance institutions at federal, state and local levels have been devised to manage diversity and tripolarity.

222. A major hypothesis guiding research on bipolar and tripolar cases is that if ethnicity is politicized, elites are likely to pursue policies of hegemony, leading to high levels of instability and disproportionality in state institutions. This may be related to the limited scope for bargaining, and the construction of multiple and shifting alliances. Governance institutions that are ethnicity-blind and are based on majority rule may be unsustainable in such contexts.

223. The last two types of structures address cases of ethnic fragmentation: those of high levels of fragmentation, or *fragmented multipolarity*; and *concentrated multipolarity*, or fragmentation that may allow few large groups to organize selective coalitions. India, Papua New Guinea and Tanzania were discussed under the first type and Ghana and Kenya under the second. Tanzania has more than 130 ethnic groups, with the three largest groups constituting only about 23 per cent of the population. Polarization (bipolarity) has occurred only in the small island of Zanzibar. Papua New Guinea comprises more than 800 language groups and numerous clans, with the largest group accounting for only about 4 per cent of the population. India's fragmentation takes the form of language, religious and caste differentiation, even though religious conflicts threaten to transform it into a bipolar or tripolar polity.

224. Ethnicity is more salient in Ghana and Kenya than in Tanzania and Papua New Guinea, and less virulent in Ghana than in Kenya. Five ethnic groups account for about 70 per cent of Kenya's population. Four of the groups are relatively equal in size (11 to 14 per cent) and the largest group accounts for only 21 per cent of the population. This suggests that ethnicity may assume potent forms in countries with fairly large, relatively equal groups. In Kenya, for example, politicians from each of the five major groups may believe they stand an equal chance of governing by constructing selective ethnic coalitions. In Ghana, the Akan comprise 44 per cent of the population, but the internal fragmentation of the group seems to mitigate its domination: ethnic conflict is more pronounced between a sub-set of the Akan—the Asante—and the second largest group, the Ewe. Finally, ethnic-based political behaviour is likely to be less prevalent in fragmented multipolar cases. Where political parties have to appeal to a large cross-section of ethnic groups in order to win elections, national ethnic coalition parties are likely to develop.

225. Participants also discussed the two approaches that will guide research within the project. The first will focus on data collection and analysis of ethnic cleavages and inequalities. Researchers will map out ethnic cleavages, including variations within each group; they will also address, to the extent possible, how other types of divisions, such as class and gender, affect ethnic cleavages; and they will seek to identify patterns or structures to the cleavages, and the extent to which they have changed over time. They will also study the rules that determine selection to public institutions and their outcomes by focusing on four main institutions: civil service, party system, cabinet and parliament. They will analyse whether the distribution of offices is ethnically representative or uneven, as well as perceptions on the distribution and rules governing it. They will also examine the extent to which socioeconomic inequalities are reflected in patterns of inequalities in the public sector.

Since the rules for representation in cabinet, parliament and party systems depend, in part, on citizens' choices, they will study voter preferences in constituting these institutions.

226. The second area deals with institutions for managing diversity, inequality and competition. Institutions to be examined range from electoral rules to governance arrangements for power sharing, decentralization, federalism, and protection of minority rights. Affirmative action policies and rules that seek to correct disproportionality will also be examined. Researchers will adopt a historical perspective in seeking answers to the following questions: How effective are existing institutions in managing cleavages and inequalities? Do these institutions promote majoritarian or consensual outcomes? Are minority ethnic groups necessarily excluded under majoritarian institutions? If institutions seek to promote majoritarian outcomes, do they also contain safeguards that can yield consensual outcomes? What alternatives can be suggested on the basis of evidence derived from the study of ethnic structures, inequalities and electoral behaviour?

Other research

227. Progress reports on the 11 countries (which summarize basic data on cleavages, public and private sector inequalities, and electoral behaviour) were received in November 2002. Draft manuscripts should be submitted by May 2003 and final reports by September 2003.

228. During the period August–September 2002, the project's new research assistant analysed existing databases on ethnic cleavages covering most countries of the world. There are many inconsistencies, gaps and methodological problems in the databases. The research assistant is using information gleaned from these databases to identify countries that will add to the variety of case studies in each of the project's five types of ethnic structures. Secondary data and information on cleavages, inequality and governance arrangements in these countries will be collected and analysed. This will enrich the comparative focus of the study and help in preparing the synthesis volume.

229. In addition, work is being considered on three multi-ethnic Western democracies—Switzerland, Belgium and Spain—as well as on Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, and the Solomon Islands. The first three countries will provide lessons on how relatively older democracies have managed ethnic cleavages and inequalities in their public sectors. The other countries will deepen the comparative work on the project's typology. Trinidad and Guyana are bipolar states with “winner-takes-all” institutions. Suriname is a tripolar state with majoritarian institutions. And the Solomon Islands is a fragmented multipolar state with bipolar impulses.

230. It is envisaged that an international conference will be organized in December 2003 to discuss the project's research findings and policy implications.

231. The project is being funded by the Ford Foundation, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) and UNRISD core funds.

Researchers:

Bosnia	Florian Bieber, European Centre for Minority Issues, Belgrade
Botswana	Onalenna Selolwane, Department of Sociology, University of Botswana, Gaborone; and Patrick Molutsi, Institute of Democracy and Electoral Assistance, Stockholm
Fiji	Jonathan Fraenkel, School of Social and Economic Development, University of South Pacific, Suva
Ghana	Emmanuel Gyimah-Boadi and Richard Asante, Ghana Center for Democratic Development, Accra
India	Niraja Gopa Jayal, Centre for the Study of Law and Governance,

Kenya	Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi Karuti Kanyinga and Kaendi Munguti, Institute for Development Studies, University of Nairobi
Latvia	Artis Pabriks, Vidzema University College, and Latvian Centre for Human Rights and Ethnic Studies, Riga
Lithuania	Natalija Kasatkina, Institute for Social Research, Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas; and Vida Beresneviciute, Institute for Social Research, Vilnius
Nigeria	Abdul Raufu Mustapha, St. Antony's College, University of Oxford
Papua New Guinea	Ray Anere, Senior Lecturer in Political Science, University of Papua New Guinea, Port Moresby
Tanzania	Julius Nyangoro, Department of African and Afro-American Studies, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Future research

The political economy of poverty reduction strategies

232. Findings from the project on *Technocratic Policy Making and Democratization* indicate that countries have been under great pressure both to democratize and improve the performance of their democratic institutions, as well as to pursue standard macroeconomic policies that will help them attract international finance. Policy making has tended to be confined to a small circle of experts or technocrats, whose actions are insulated from fledgling democratic institutions. Such styles of policy making may narrow the choices of decision makers and make it difficult to tackle issues of poverty and social protection. Accountability to financial markets and donor agencies may assume more importance than accountability to citizens and parliaments.

233. The Institute continues to study the subject of democratization of policy making in its new work on *Democratization and Social Policy*, one of the components of the *Social Policy in a Development Context* project. New democracies face hard choices in globalizing economies. For democratic institutions to be credible in the eyes of the public they should not only facilitate participation in decision making; they should also address the social concerns of citizens. One disturbing trend is that many of the new democracies seem not to be doing well on key social indicators and have been quick to accept the orthodox policies of stabilization that severely restrict options in social policies. This component examines the extent to which new democracies have succeeded in socially embedding their democracies, including the ways in which their institutions facilitate or constrain pursuit of effective social policies.

234. Given the growing emphasis on poverty, ownership and participation in policy making by the international financial institutions, the Institute is also thinking of launching a two-year study on the political economy of poverty reduction strategies. Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) have replaced the IMF's country framework papers on adjustment. At the heart of this policy shift is the need to promote ownership of adjustment programmes and participation in economic policy making.

235. It is important to study this process systematically, as it has implications for the growth of democracy and adoption of equity-based social policies in developing countries. Most studies on PRSPs are based on casual observation, deductive argumentation or desk research. It is important to establish a framework and methodology that can lead to sound empirical study of the effects of PRSPs on democratic decision making and social equity in selected countries.

Employee responses to public sector reform and service delivery

236. Earlier work under the project *Public Sector Reform in Crisis-Ridden States* will be deepened by examining the complex ways public sector employees have responded to the changes in incentives brought about by the reforms, as well as their overall effects on service delivery. An effective public sector requires well-trained and well-paid public employees, secure terms of employment, clearly defined rules and regulations, and stable industrial relations. We want to understand how issues of downsizing, decentralized management, pay and employment reform, and privatization have impacted on employees, and whether these reforms and workers' responses to them facilitate or undermine the delivery of services.

237. The fiscal crisis and triumph of neoliberal policies in the 1980s placed new public management (NPM) reforms on the public sector agendas of developing countries. NPM questions state-centric approaches to economic development and service provisioning. It has three main features. The first is downsizing: reducing the size of the state through expenditure controls, retrenchment, subsidy withdrawal and privatization. The second deals with sub-contracting of government services to the private and voluntary sectors. And the third focuses on managerial efficiency: using business management methods to change the administrative culture of the state. This includes the break up of bureaucracies into autonomous agencies, with relatively flat and decentralized systems of administration; introduction of fixed-term contracts for top managers, with independent budgets and powers to hire and fire; and use of performance or output indicators in staff development and tenure, as well as in regulating service providers.

238. Public sector management reforms have implications for the well being of public sector employees. Modern bureaucracies are founded on the premise that individuals who work in them will serve the public good, as opposed to catering to personal or sectional interests. This presupposes a guaranteed income that will allow public servants to carry out their duties without succumbing to extraneous pressures. However, real incomes of public servants in crisis societies have sharply contracted over the years. Retrenchment has created uncertainties in the public sector. Public servants have responded to the crisis by diverting time and resources to private use; and by competing for postings in departments that can guarantee access to donor funds and contacts with groups in the private sector. They have also floated "side-line" activities in the informal economy. In some cases, collective action methods, such as strikes, have been used to protect gains or press claims. While unions in general have lost capacity to influence the macroeconomic policies of governments, many still retain some capacity to undermine government reforms.

239. One aspect of public management reforms calls for a considerable shredding of bureaucracies. This is to enable governments to motivate a small number of staff, particularly those on top salary scales, with higher remuneration or performance-related pay. Recent evaluations of such reforms by the UNDP, the World Bank and the official development assistance (ODA) show at best mixed results: most countries have retrenched staff, and in a few cases retrenchment has been very large; retrenchment is often, however, offset by new forms of recruitment, sometimes to meet the demands of new donor projects; average real public sector salaries have risen in a few cases; in the majority of cases, however, salaries have changed very little; and there has been a general compression of salaries between the top and bottom pay scales. An additional problem is how to balance the wage bill of public sector employees with the costs of other recurrent inputs needed for employees to deliver good public service. Positive changes in remuneration and performance have been recorded in agencies dealing with financial issues, such as tax administration offices.

240. Policy reforms on remuneration in general run up against problems of paying competitive salaries in a context of diminishing revenues; political pressures on governments seeking to carry out drastic staff reductions; and radical changes in the attitudes of staff, which currently question policies seeking to restrict earnings to only one source. Public sector

analysts have not systematically studied the implications—for state capacity and collective action in industrial relations—of having a public service in which employees straddle several jobs. The implications of the changes in incentives associated with downsizing and managerial reforms and the responses of public sector employees for service delivery are enormous.

241. The planned UNRISD project has three objectives. First, it will map out the different types of public sector management reforms in selected countries, and their effects on the fiscal position of the state. Which sectors of the bureaucracy have been affected by downsizing and managerial reform? In what ways has NPM changed the incentive structures in public bureaucracies? What changes have occurred, for instance, in public sector employment outlays, incomes and expenditures? And to what extent has NPM succeeded in improving the revenue side of the fiscal equation? Second, it will examine the effects of NPM on the well-being of staff, including the different ways the reforms have impacted on public sector employees; as well as employee responses, such as livelihood coping strategies and collective action. And third, it will study the impact of these changes on the capacity of the state to deliver social and infrastructure services. At least one revenue generating—electricity or water—and one social expenditure department or ministry—education or health—will be studied in each country. It may also be necessary to study the tax office, which in many countries has been detached from the central civil service and given attractive employment and pay schemes.

UNRISD INITIATIVE ON HIV/AIDS

242. For some time now, UNRISD has been seeking to launch a major research initiative on *HIV/AIDS and Development*. The Institute could play a highly useful role in this field. Although there is a vast amount of research on HIV/AIDS, findings often reach a relatively narrow public. They generally are not published in accessible form. Moreover, opportunities to use much of this material for comparative purposes are not exploited. And in many cases, the fact that studies are prepared by outside consultants limits the extent to which the local public health community participates in, and learns from, research.

243. The purpose of the UNRISD initiative is to encourage research and dialogue on HIV/AIDS as a problem of development. Work will focus on the epidemic in Third World countries and will explore the social, economic and political factors that favour or impede the spread of HIV/AIDS in particular national and local contexts. Such an approach supplements a great deal of work already undertaken by analysts who concentrate on biomedical and behavioural aspects of the epidemic. It adds much needed historical and social depth to the debate on causes of HIV/AIDS. And it provides new perspectives on AIDS prevention and mitigation, through highlighting effective social and political responses to the spread of disease at both community and national levels.

Background and progress

Book project on development policies and vulnerability to HIV/AIDS

244. In early 2001, the preparation began of a book of essays illustrating the links between development policies and vulnerability to HIV/AIDS in specific Third World settings. The essays provide examples of how grassroots organizations, communities and local governments have attempted to improve the socioeconomic and political context for AIDS prevention and treatment, while mitigating the devastating effects of the pandemic on local societies. The collection includes studies on links between tourism policy and HIV/AIDS in Cuba; sex trafficking and vulnerability to disease in South Asia; and links between the drug trade, the prison population and HIV/AIDS in Myanmar and Malaysia. Final drafts of papers were received in January 2002 and are being edited. Six of the studies are available in draft form on the UNRISD Web site, and those by Foster, Shah et al., and Im-em and Suwannarat will be published as UNRISD Programme Papers.

245. The volume contains the following papers:

- Geoff Foster, **Understanding Community Responses to the Situation of Children Affected by AIDS**;
- Weddy Silomba, **HIV/AIDS and Development: The Chikankata Experience**;
- Vidya Shah, Beverly Brar and Sonam Yangchen Rana, **Layers of Silence: An Analysis of Structural Issues that Link Women's Vulnerability to Trafficking and HIV/AIDS in Three Countries of South Asia**;
- Wassana Im-em and Gary Suwannarat, **Response to AIDS at Individual, Household and Community Levels in Thailand**;
- Alister C. Munthali, **Adaptive Strategies and Coping Mechanisms for Families and Communities Affected by HIV/AIDS in Malawi**;
- Josef Decosas, **The Social Ecology of AIDS in Africa**;
- Ditch Townsend, **Social Exclusion in Southeast Asia**;

- Jafari Sinclair Allen, Llane Alexis Dominguez Estrada and Joseph Simon Mutti, **Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea: Development and HIV in Cuba Today.**

Transnational corporations and HIV/AIDS

246. UNRISD work on HIV/AIDS and corporate social responsibility has come together in a new study supported by UNAIDS on *The Response of Transnational Corporations to HIV/AIDS*.

247. Most social science research that examines the responsibilities of different actors in the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS has looked at the role of governments, international agencies, civil society organizations and local communities. Business in general, and large corporations in particular, has received little attention in this inquiry. This is a curious omission given the impact of the pandemic on labour productivity and human resources, the increasing involvement of big business in issues of corporate social responsibility, and the considerable resources and reach of large corporations. It is also unusual given the historic role that some corporations, such as those in the mining industry, have played in shaping production systems and migrant labour economies that facilitate the spread of HIV/AIDS.

248. The research conducted under this study has two objectives. First, it is gathering strategic information requested by the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS on the response of large corporations. Second, case studies of companies in three countries are examining the nature and impact of corporate responses—in particular the extent to which company statements and policies with regard to HIV/AIDS are translated into action, and whether the types of approaches adopted are effective in dealing with the problem.

249. In relation to the first objective, surveys are being carried out of the world's 100 largest TNCs ranked by foreign assets, the 10 largest mining companies and the largest 25 companies in Brazil, the Philippines and South Africa. The company case studies are also being conducted in these countries. The global survey and preparation of the final project report is being co-ordinated by Jem Bendell (based at UNRISD). The country-level surveys and case studies are being co-ordinated by Cristina Pimenta (Brazil), Mely Silverio and Eric Batalla (Philippines) and Duncan Innes (South Africa).

250. The data and analysis generated by the surveys and case studies will be synthesized in a report that is expected to be completed during the first half of 2003.

Future work

251. Three major themes have been identified for future UNRISD work: *The Politics of HIV/AIDS Policy*; *Community Responses to the HIV/AIDS Pandemic*; and *Social Policy and HIV/AIDS*.

The Politics of HIV/AIDS Policy

252. Of the many social, economic and political factors that drive the HIV/AIDS pandemic, structures of national and international political economy are among the most significant. Expected gains or losses in confronting the pandemic are assessed by various actors and influence their responses. One remarkable aspect of the AIDS pandemic are the sharp differences in policy initiatives and outcomes between countries. Some governments have been proactive, while others have been reactive. Some have been very public about the seriousness of the epidemic, while others have been in denial. Still others have sought solutions based on equity, while others have targeted their policies to specific, often privileged, groups. While there are a lot of journalistic accounts of these differences, there are

few detailed studies on the politics behind such differences and the political fallouts of different policy stances.

253. As a part of its ongoing research, publications and dissemination on the development aspects of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, UNRISD will commission a series of country studies to shed light on the political economy forces that shape responses to the pandemic. The goal is to move beyond the current simplistic analyses of “national success stories” to a better understanding of the combination of forces—political, corporate, religious, bureaucratic and public advocacy—that influence prevention, care and treatment, and mitigation decisions and responses. The research will analyse why effective community-based responses have not gained national and international support. In Zimbabwe, for example, there is solid evidence that community responses to HIV/AIDS are effective, but these have not become a model for the national strategy nor have they gained strong international backing. Among the reasons are that the elite groups that control the direction of Zimbabwe’s national response are, on one hand, closely tied to international funding sources that distrust community control and, on the other, reflective of the attitude of the political hierarchy that is threatened by community action and activism.

254. UNRISD has requested that Bill Rau (independent researcher, Maryland) and Joseph Collins (Food First Institute, Santa Cruz) prepare a project proposal for consideration, and identify possible collaborators and countries of study.

Community Responses to HIV/AIDS

255. Communities matter for AIDS not only because they are the site within which the human tragedy is played out, but also because they shape perceptions of AIDS, the context within which the burden of disease is shared and the receptivity to remedial action from within and without. How are communities coping with AIDS, what social adjustments are they making, and how do these impact on different social groups of the community—the elderly, men and women, youth and children? The purpose of such research would be to map out what local initiatives and responses should be supported by outsiders.

256. A second set of issues relates to the lessons that might be drawn from other development areas—on the epidemiology of disease and patterns of development, and on participation and mobilization of communities. There is vast literature on the lessons learned from other “campaigns” in the developing world, including campaigns against disease through both preventive and curative measures. Little of this knowledge has an impact on the AIDS debate. The novelty of the disease seems to have induced the view that one was beginning. One aspect of the research programme will seek to bring this rich experience on the study of AIDS and local communities.

257. UNRISD has asked Rene Loewenson of Zimbabwe Training and Research Support Centre (TARSC), Harare, to prepare a project proposal for UNRISD and to identify possible collaborators and countries of study.

Social Policy and HIV/AIDS

258. A third research area will seek to tie AIDS-prevention projects to the larger social policy project, through poverty, which is most often cited by those who do comment on the socioeconomic context of the spread of HIV. Poverty is seen as a key factor leading to behaviour that exposes people to the risk of HIV infection. Medical anthropologist Paul Farmer, who has worked extensively in Haiti, argues that poverty cannot be considered as just another co-factor alongside biological considerations, gender inequality and cultural considerations. In his opinion: “All of the biological factors predisposing girls and women to increased risk of infection—from chronic anaemia to genital mutilation and early first coitus—are aggravated by poverty”. Similarly, UNDP argues that poverty aggravates other

factors that heighten the susceptibility of women. For example, “a lack of control by poor women over the circumstances in which intercourse occurs may increase the frequency of intercourse and lower the age at which sexual activity begins. A lack of access to acceptable health services may leave infections and lesions untreated. Malnutrition not only inhibits the production of mucus but also slows the healing process and depresses the immune system”.

259. The relationship, of course, is not a simple one. While most people with HIV/AIDS are poor, there are many cases where the incidence of HIV/AIDS is quite high among the non-poor. There is some evidence that the correlation between income and poverty may assume a curvilinear form—high in the initial phases but declining over time. This is an area that needs research, especially since the World Bank and others think that this correlation might decrease over time; those with higher incomes, it is thought, have significantly fewer constraints to ceasing to engage in risk behaviours.

Funding

260. UNRISD has obtained funding from the government of Norway to begin research. Further fundraising efforts will be undertaken to ensure adequate international co-ordination and dissemination of results.

ADVISORY WORK (JANUARY–DECEMBER 2002)

261. UNRISD staff members are frequently called upon to act in a range of advisory roles for United Nations agencies, multilateral and bilateral organizations, governments, NGOs, research institutes and universities. This provides UNRISD with opportunities to make substantive contributions to the thinking and programmes of other institutions and groups, while staff members benefit from the exchange of ideas and are also able to network, identify potential researchers and explore funding opportunities. During the reporting period, UNRISD staff members carried out advisory and consultancy activities on over 50 occasions.

Yusuf Bangura

- Discussant and roundtable panelist, conference on “Post-Conflict Transition in Sierra Leone”, organized by the Nordiska Africa Institute (Uppsala), Freetown, Sierra Leone, 16–17 December 2002.
- Discussant at 10th General Assembly of the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), Kampala, Uganda, 8–13 December 2002.
- Reviewed paper titled “Quality of institutions, poverty alleviation and development in Africa” for **International Studies Quarterly**, December 2002.
- Reviewed paper titled “Sierra Leone’s post-conflict elections” for **Journal of Modern African Studies**, October 2002.
- Briefed staff of the High Commissioner for Human Rights about research collaborators for project on minorities, discrimination and governance, October 2002.
- Reviewed book manuscript titled **The Political Economy of Corruption in Sierra Leone** for an Associate Professor at the Department of Economics, University of Colorado, USA, May 2002.
- Reviewed book manuscript titled **Political Economy of a Monetary Union: Evolution of the African Franc Zone 1945–2000** for Cambridge University Press, February 2002.

Nicolas Bovay

- Briefed University of Michigan, Columbia University, Geneva University and Graduate Institute of International Studies (Geneva) representatives about UNRISD and discussed dissemination at those universities, November/December 2002.
- Presented a paper on “International human rights law and tourism” at a seminar on “International Sustainable Development Policy and Tourism”, Geneva, 25 November 2002.
- Briefed journalists on UNRISD’s current research and publications, and participated in several meetings with UN information officers from UNOG and other UN agencies during 2002.
- Made presentations on UNRISD to several visiting groups of students at the request of the United Nations Department of Public Information as well as at the request of the universities and students themselves during 2002.
- Provided advice to **Air France Magazine** for a forthcoming issue devoted to the subject of sustainable development.
- Provided advice and materials to the **InfoSud** news agency (Switzerland) in connection with their pilot project on local language radio stations in West Africa.

Krishna Ghimire

- Reviewed a manuscript for publication by Civil Society Initiative, WHO, Geneva, December 2002.
- Reviewed an article for **Society and Natural Resources**, December 2002.

- Moderated a seminar on “International Sustainable Development Policy and Tourism”, Palais des Nations, Geneva, 25 November 2002.
- Reviewed two papers for **Development and Change**, May and November 2002.
- Acted as a member of the jury of a graduate dissertation at the Faculté des sciences économiques et sociales, University of Geneva, October 2002.
- Nominated as member of the international advisory board, **The Geographical Journal** (Royal Geographical Society), UK, September 2002.
- Speaker at international conference on Responsible Tourism, Cape Town, 21–23 August 2002.
- Speaker, Roundtable on Sustainable Tourism, UNEP, Geneva, 5 June 2002.
- Reviewed an article for **Modern Sociology**, March 2002.
- Gave an interview to the BBC World Service on “Can Tourism Be Made to Work for Economies of Developing Countries?”, 27 February 2002.

Cynthia Hewitt de Alcántara (through 31 July 2002)

- Speaker at the annual UNCTAD seminar on international development issues, Geneva, 19 July 2002.
- Keynote speaker at the Third European Congress of Latinamericanists, Amsterdam, 4 July 2002.
- Attended the annual meeting of the International Advisory Board of the International Institute for Communications and Development (IICD), The Hague, 21 May 2002.
- Opening speaker in a round-table discussion, sponsored by the Swedish Foreign Ministry, on the future role of social policy in Swedish development assistance, Stockholm, 18 March 2002.

Huck-ju Kwon

- Presented a paper titled “Transforming the welfare state in Korea”, at the ESCWA Policy Makers Meeting on Social Policy in the ESCWA Region, Cairo, Egypt, 10–12 December 2002.
- Presented a paper titled, “Welfare reform and future challenges in Korea: Beyond the developmental welfare state”, at the Asian Development Bank Institute conference on “Social Protection for the Poor in Asia and Latin America: Concepts and Experiences”, Manila, Philippines, 21–25 October 2002.
- Presented a paper titled, “Advocacy coalitions and the politics of welfare reform in Korea after the economic crisis”, at the International Sociological Association World Congress, Brisbane, Australia, 7–13 July 2002.
- Chaired the Asia session at a UNDP conference on “Social Protection in an Insecure Area: A South-South Exchange on Alternative Social Policy Responses to Globalization” and presented a paper titled “Asia: Social protection after the economic crisis”, Santiago, Chile, 14–16 May 2002.
- Discussant at IDS conference on “Surviving the Present, and Securing the Future: Social Policies for the Poor in Poor Countries”, Brighton, UK, 25–26, March 2002.

Thandika Mkandawire

- Discussant at the 10th General Assembly of the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), Kampala, Uganda, 8–13 December 2002.
- Participant at an IDEAs conference on “International Money and the Macroeconomic Policies of Development Countries”, India, December 2002.
- Speaker at Ford Foundation’s Joint Worldwide meeting, San Francisco, USA, October 2002.
- Expert in a panel discussion at the forty-ninth session of the Trade and Development Board, Geneva, October 2002.

- Speaker at the ISS 50th Anniversary Conference, The Hague, Netherlands, October 2002.
- Presenter in a panel discussion at a Symposium on Sustainable Development and Governance in Africa organized by the Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA) within the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, September 2002.
- Participant at the United Nations Foundation's Partnerships for Development roundtable, Aylesbury, UK, July 2002.
- Keynote speaker at a seminar on "People and Development" organized by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland, Helsinki, April 2002.
- Participant/speaker at a seminar on "The Langano Encounter", organized by Oxfam Canada, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, March 2002.
- Participant/board member, CARE International Board Meeting, Brussels, Belgium, March 2002.
- Attended meeting of International Forum for Social Development, New York, USA, February 2002.
- Consultancy to write a chapter for an Open University course.

Shahra Razavi

- Speaker, UNU Workshop on Gender and Poverty Alleviation, Tokyo, 28–29 November 2002.
- Resource person, Chr. Michelsen Institute/UNDP, Workshop on Responsiveness and Accountability for Poverty Reduction: Democratic Governance and the Millennium Development Goals, Bergen, Norway, 18–19 November 2002.
- Speaker, Institut universitaire d'études du développement (IUED), Les colloques genre: Economie mondialisée et identités de genre, 25–26 January 2002.
- Reviewed several papers for **Development and Change**, **Development in Practice**, and **Global Social Policy**.

Peter Utting

- Interviewed by Swiss-German newspaper on the subject of public-private partnerships, December 2002.
- Made a presentation at the conference on "Labour Relations and Corporate Social Responsibility under Globalization", organized by the Ford Foundation and Renmin University, Beijing, China, November 2002.
- Interviewed by Hong Kong television on corporate social responsibility, November 2002.
- Provided comments to the Sessional Working Group on Transnational Corporations of the United Nations Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, August 2002.
- Made a presentation on corporate social responsibility at the workshop on "The Private Sector and Civil Society" held at the World Civil Society Forum, Geneva, 18 July 2002.
- Provided comments on a report on "Public-Private Partnerships" for the NGO, Business for Social Responsibility (BSR), March 2002.
- Reviewed journal articles for **Development and Change** and **Transnational Corporations**, and provided detailed comments on a forthcoming journal article on corporate accountability.
- Provided advice to UNAIDS, WHO and ILO, China; UNDP, Latvia; and UNDP, Nicaragua.
- Provided advice to several students on their post-graduate theses, and to NGO activists and researchers working on CSR and development issues.

OUTREACH: PUBLICATIONS AND DISSEMINATION

262. In order to fulfil its mandate, UNRISD must not only conduct rigorous comparative research on a range of questions and challenges of social development. The Institute must also endeavour to publish and disseminate its research findings so that they contribute to policy dialogues and debates.

263. Through its outreach activities, UNRISD seeks to communicate the results of its research to the academic community; policy makers at international, regional, national and local levels; civil society and the non-governmental sector; and the general and specialized media. The Institute's publication and dissemination strategy makes use of a range of outputs relevant for and accessible to an ever-expanding audience. In-house publications, co-publications with internationally renowned publishers, and the UNRISD Web site comprise the main outputs.

264. The Institute's six-point outreach strategy continued to provide the framework for the work of the Publications and Dissemination Unit during 2002.¹ An associate editor joined UNRISD in September and has reinforced the unit's in-house publications capacity, contributing to work under points (3) and (4) of the strategy in particular. Under point (2), the major Web site project initiated in 2001 was completed in 2002, with the launch of a fully redesigned and redeveloped site. The information officer pursued initiatives under points (5) and (6) of the strategy, promoting increased visibility of UNRISD's research results at a number of international and national conferences, and continuing work on the UNRISD mailing and contacts databases in support of targeted dissemination. Dissemination of the Russian and Arabic editions of **Visible Hands: Taking Responsibility for Social Development** was carried out, as was that of the Portuguese version of the report's Executive Summary.

265. During this reporting period a steady stream of manuscripts flowed to the Publications and Dissemination Unit for processing (including peer review, editing, layout and printing for in-house publications, and contractual negotiations for co-publications). In 2002, UNRISD issued an average of two publications per month.

UNRISD Web site

266. The Web site redesign and redevelopment project that commenced in October 2001 was completed in June 2002. The project entailed a comprehensive overhaul of the "front-end" look and feel of the UNRISD site, as well as its "back-end" structure and maintenance. It was a collaborative effort between Blue Sky Communications (London) and all interested UNRISD staff members. The project was managed by Jenifer Freedman (UNRISD editor) and Tony Formoso (then UNRISD IT consultant).

¹ (1) Promoting a professionally designed visual identity to support the Institute as a whole as well as individual programme areas; (2) Expanding the use of the UNRISD Web site, both as a means of providing information and as a means for networking and gathering information related to the Institute's work, and exploring new means of electronic dissemination; (3) Providing support for traditional audiences worldwide—especially those based in developing countries—through the publication and distribution of books and working papers; (4) Distilling research results into user-friendly formats to make them more suitable to the needs of a range of audiences; (5) Contributing to policy debates in other organizations and UN agencies; (6) Cultivating new audiences through partnerships and dissemination via targeted mailing lists.

267. The redevelopment project had the following objectives:

- Improved service—Provide accurate, reliable and up-to-date information that can be accessed quickly and intuitively. Reduce the amount of time spent by users to locate information, and illustrate the interlinkages between the different areas of the Institute's work.
- Raised profile—The UNRISD Web site should be seen as the “showcase for UNRISD's intellectual output, activities and publications”. The site should develop and be recognized as a portal site for research in social development.
- Improved usability—Dramatically improve usability—for site visitors as well as for content contributors, and site managers and administrators—by designing an overarching architecture supported by a professional front-end design and fully functional back-end database systems.
- Greater efficiency—Provide an integrated content management system and training that will empower all UNRISD staff to contribute site content with ease.
- High reliability—Provide a system that requires minimal ongoing intervention by the software developers.

268. The new site provides accurate, up-to-date information about UNRISD projects, events, publications and news. UNRISD aimed to create a site that would reduce the amount of time visitors spend looking for the information that interests them, while encouraging them to browse the site and discover unknown aspects of UNRISD's work. All of the information on the new site is cross-referenced, which expands research possibilities by offering numerous interlinkages among related areas of the Institute's work, both past and present. A robust multilingual mechanism allows francophone and hispanophone users to navigate and consult all available content in their language of choice. While UNRISD does not have the resources to translate all site content, the new site's database system allows for a fully multilingual site should such resources become available.

269. The primary sections of the new site are:

- About UNRISD
- Research
- Publications
- News & Views
- Events
- Links

270. In order to ensure timely dissemination of UNRISD research results, numerous unpublished (or yet-to-be published) papers are posted on the site. These can be accessed via the relevant project, in the Research section of the site.

271. In addition to these main areas of content, the following facilities are available:

- Site Search
- Email Alerts
- Feedback and Discussion Forum
- Help and FAQs
- English/Français/Español (language selector)

272. An important aspect of usability is the accessibility of content—especially on a site containing a wealth of full-text documents and targeting users around the world. The new UNRISD site offers three options for accessing most of the full-text documents, whether formal publications issued by the Institute or draft research documents. Users may choose the option that is most convenient for them: viewing a document on screen, downloading and opening a PDF version, or receiving a PDF as an email attachment. There are over 250 full-text documents available on the site, and more are being added regularly.

273. Nicolas Bovay, Caroline Danloy, Veronique Martinez and Jenifer Freedman carry out site administrative responsibilities, including the review and approval of content that is submitted by all UNRISD staff members via an integrated content management system. Nicolas Bovay also has taken a lead role in posting Institute news on a regular basis, including, the release of new books and related public launch events; reports from conferences and seminars; the initiation of new projects; and the participation of the Institute in global and local forums.

274. Members of UNRISD research networks and Board members are invited to submit information that is relevant to UNRISD's research programme and that would be appropriate for posting in the News & Views section. This section aims to be informative and lively, and has the potential to open up UNRISD work to audiences beyond the Institute's traditional constituencies.

275. The second half of 2002 was a period of settling in, becoming familiar with content management, adding information to the site, and sorting out the inevitable "bugs" in the system. Plans are already taking shape for further development and use of the site, relating in particular to improving the presentation of information in some of the sections, initiating exchanges via the Discussion Forum facility, and setting up a designated section to highlight forthcoming UNRISD outputs targeted to policy makers. A detailed site statistics and reporting package will also be implemented in early 2003. Tracking of usage since the new site was launched will provide additional indications of where further improvement and development are required. UNRISD will be happy to provide the site usage reports to interested Board members on request, once they become available.

Dissemination Activities

276. During the reporting period, UNRISD research results were disseminated via the Institute's publications; in targeted mailings to a wide range of constituencies; through conferences, seminars and workshops organized by UNRISD and other organizations and institutions; in articles and interviews in specialized journals and general media outlets; and via the UNRISD Web site. UNRISD researchers and the information officer attend events sponsored by other organizations, which provide additional dissemination opportunities.

277. At the end of 2002, the number of UNRISD depository libraries stood at 226. Under this scheme, libraries in developing and transitional countries receive all UNRISD in-house publications for free.

Targeting dissemination

278. The information officer defined dissemination to governments, parliaments, UN policy makers and information centres, and to the media and universities, as priority areas during the reporting period. The last two received particular attention. "Contacts databases" continued to be re-categorized and targeted toward these constituencies, and increased efforts were made not only to "get the message out and into the right hands", but also to track use of and encourage feedback on UNRISD's outputs. The "Media Hound" database, for example, has been used for several years as a tool to monitor the dissemination of publications to the media worldwide. Of particular note in 2002 was the creation of the "Owl Track" database, which will be used to track the dissemination and use of publications in academic institutions and universities. Implementation of this system began in late 2002, and it will contain several hundred contact details as it expands in the coming months.

279. Media Hound facilitates targeted dissemination to anglophone, francophone and hispanophone media. A total of 1,234 press releases were sent by UNRISD during the reporting period to some 835² carefully selected recipients in the media. (Press releases and UNRISD publications are also sent to diplomatic missions, high-ranking and other officials within the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations, parliaments, academic institutions and non-governmental organizations.) New contacts are being identified in the media in regions where the Institute's contacts have been limited in the past. Maintenance of the Media Hound database is an ongoing process, which involves: (i) systematically identifying and personally contacting interested persons (in particular, editorialists and columnists, and economic journalists) in various media outlets (that is, the written press, radio, television, electronic media and news agencies), through Internet searches and traditional research methods; (ii) deleting from the databases media that have not reported on UNRISD or its publications over the past four years; (iii) proposing UNRISD papers for publication in the press by contacting editors of newspapers; and (iv) sending press releases *only* (and not published materials) at the outset, so as to prompt journalists to request papers and generate feedback and more personal contacts.

280. With Owl Track, the approach used to target the academic world involves: (i) systematically identifying and contacting individual professors and lecturers (in particular departments of development studies and others clearly relevant to UNRISD's areas of work) in various universities, through Internet searches and other traditional methods; (ii) proposing UNRISD papers for use in courses by contacting professors and lecturers; and (iii) sending press releases and published materials to professors and lecturers to generate feedback and personal contacts.

281. Media Hound and Owl Track exist alongside the main mailing database, which now comprises some 11,831 addresses.³ They allow dissemination to become a more focused and proactive task, and encourage interactivity between the Institute, on one hand, and the media and academic institutions, on the other. These two contacts databases are used by dissemination staff to register what publications were sent, to whom, and when.

282. Media Hound is also used to register citations by the media of UNRISD and its publications, which are tracked through searching the media and via the Internet. During the reporting period, UNRISD dissemination staff recorded 146 media citations in this way. Citations, monitored on a regular basis, include articles, abstracts, bibliographic citations, book reviews and media interviews. Although it has not been possible to collect a comprehensive listing of all UNRISD citations in the media, dissemination staff have noted an increase in the number of requests from the general media concerning UNRISD and its publications. Such feedback provides useful information regarding whom UNRISD should target, and subjects of particular interest to the general media. In turn, this helps to maintain relevant and accurate contact databases.

283. In the case of Owl Track, the database is used to register permissions requests received by UNRISD regarding the use of the Institute's publications in coursework on, for example, development, gender, corporate responsibility, globalization and human rights. The information based on permissions requests is supplemented by details gleaned through

² Including 310 which regularly receive UNRISD press releases in English. The 107 French and 89 Spanish language recipients receive press releases in their respective languages and on a less regular basis.

³ Including (on 31 December 2002): 2,679 NGOs; 157 foundations; 1,238 public libraries; 153 diplomatic missions; 571 governmental and parliamentary representatives; 2,052 academic and research institutions; 2,458 universities; 137 UNDP resident representatives; 61 UN information centres, and 2,325 miscellaneous smaller categories.

Internet searches. Permission is regularly granted by UNRISD to universities for the reproduction and use of its publications in the framework of their courses.

Dissemination to conferences and events

284. During the reporting period, a total of 7,285 copies of publications were disseminated to 19 international conferences in 13 countries.⁴ In the case of the Johannesburg 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, alone, some 1,500 copies of the special UNRISD report titled **People, Power and the Environment: 15 Years of UNRISD Research** were distributed. In most cases, publications are sent unaccompanied to a conference. In some cases, UNRISD dissemination staff also travel to conferences in order to promote and distribute the publications there.

285. The promotion and distribution of **Visible Hands** continued in 2002.⁵ The Russian and Arabic editions were launched, and the Portuguese version of the report's Executive

⁴ Venues included: European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, "Public Sector Information in Social Welfare: Challenges & Solutions", 21–22 February 2002, Vienna, Austria (participants from governmental bodies attended); the Ministry of Informatics and Communications of Cuba and UNESCO, "Latin American and Caribbean Symposium on Education, Science and Culture in the Information Society", 18–21 February 2002, Havana, Cuba; the International Institute of Infonomics, "Global E-Quality—Rethinking ICTs in Africa, Asia and Latin America", 25–27 March 2002, Maastricht, The Netherlands; University of Sheffield, Political Economy Research Centre, "Towards a New Political Economy of Development", 4–6 July 2002, University of Sheffield, UK; the Greening of Industry Network, "10th International Conference", 23–26 June 2002, Goteborg, Sweden; The Australian Sociological Association (TASA) Inc., "XV World Congress of Sociology", 7–13 July 2002, Brisbane, Australia; World Summit for Sustainable Development/Johannesburg, "The Political Economy of Sustainable Development/UNRISD Contribution to WSSD", 30 August 2002, Johannesburg, South Africa; EADI (10th General Conference), "EU Enlargement in a Changing World", 19–21 September 2002, Ljubljana, Slovenia; Globalism and Social Policy Programme/University of Sheffield, UK, the 5th Globalism and Social Policy Programme (GASPP) Seminar, "The Emerging Global Markets in Social Protection and Health: Implications for Socio-Economic Security", 26–28 September 2002, Dubrovnik, Croatia; the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID), "The 9th International AWID Forum", 3–6 October 2002, Guadalajara, Mexico; SwissMedia Association, "The 3rd World Summit on Internet and Multimedia—Bridging the Digital Divide", 8–11 October 2002, Montreux, Switzerland; Asian Development Bank Institute, "Seminar on Social Protection for the Poor in Asia and Latin America", 21–25 October, 2002, Manila, Philippines; the United Nations and Swiss Business, "Global Compact: Making Global Responsibility Work for Business and Development", 29 October 2002, Palais des Nations, Geneva; IBEX Investment Group, The Bellagio Forum, "Sustainable Development in the Knowledge Era: Turning Agenda 21 into Action", 30–31 October, 2002, World Meteorological Organization, Geneva; Wilton Park Conference, UK, "Corporate Citizenship: Building Best Practice and Engagement", 20–22 November 2002, Wilton Park Conference Centre, UK; University of Geneva, "Geneva International Career Fair", 14 November 2002, Uni-Dufour, Geneva; State of the World Forum, The Second Annual Meeting of the "Commission on Globalisation", 4–7 December 2002, Mexico City; ESCWA regional meeting, Policy Makers Meeting on "Social Policies in the ESCWA Region", 10–12 December 2002, Cairo, Egypt; ISSC and UNESCO, "International Conference on Social Science and Social Policy and the 21st Century", 9–11 December 2002, Vienna, Austria.

NB: In 2002, the number of recipient venues was down from the exceptionally high figure reached in 2001, as the Institute's "Geneva 2000" stock of publications reached very low levels after having been widely disseminated around the world.

⁵ **Visible Hands** was initially launched during Geneva 2000 and distributed to UNRISD Board members; high-ranking United Nations officials; selected individual academics and universities; selected NGOs and foundations; all UNRISD depository libraries; donor country permanent missions, and other selected governments. Earthscan and the Department of Public Information of the United Nations currently distribute **Visible Hands** in English. Distribution in French and Spanish is performed by UNRISD and the Department of Public Information of the United Nations. The Russian edition is distributed by the Institute of Ethnology of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, in co-ordination with UNRISD, and the Arabic version is distributed by ESCWA, in co-ordination with

Summary was produced in time for the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre at the end of January 2002. The Farsi and Chinese editions are still expected. UNRISD continues to investigate the production of a low-cost English edition for the Asian sub-continent. Discussions have taken place with potential co-publishers in the region.

Launch of Visible Hands in Russian

286. This edition of the UNRISD flagship report was launched at the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, on 22 January 2002. The event, which took the form of panel presentations followed by an animated discussion, was organized by Nicolas Bovay, in collaboration with former UNRISD Board member Valery Tishkov and Natalja Kulakova, translator of the report. UNRISD was represented at the launch by the information officer and Krishna Ghimire. The Russian Federal Minister of Labour and Social Development, Alexander Pochinok, the Russian Federal Minister of Health, Yuriy Shevchenko, and the Deputy-Head of the Committee on Nationalities of the State Duma gave thought-provoking presentations on the issues covered in the report. There were about 90 participants, including heads of parliamentary committees of the Russian State Duma and other governmental representatives, non-governmental organizations, academics, and representatives of universities, civil society and the media. UNRISD placed particular emphasis, in its presentation, on the role of civil society movements which, in the Russian context, are a nascent but vibrant phenomenon.

Launch of Visible Hands in Arabic

287. By November 2002, **Visible Hands** had also been translated into Arabic. The launch of this edition took place at the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in Beirut on 2 December 2002. A representative of the Lebanese Ministry of Information, Mona Sukkaria; Lebanese and Moroccan media representatives, university professors and students, foreign diplomats, and representatives of the business community, United Nations agencies, NGOs and CBOs attended. Yusuf Bangura and Nicolas Bovay represented UNRISD. There were around 80 participants. The session was chaired by Mervat Tellawy, ESCWA Executive Secretary, who warned of the dangers of unchecked globalization and encouraged governments to restore the relevance of the social dimension. A lively debate ensued, in which **Visible Hands** was praised as a valuable report for Lebanon and the Middle East. Evidently, all the participants had taken the time to read the report and made relevant comments on the region's context. In its presentations, UNRISD placed emphasis on the fact that democratization of economic policy making is required for the promotion of equitable social development, and on the growing need to bridge the gap between researchers and research findings, on one hand, and policy makers, on the other. The report has received attention in the print media, and three TV channels covered the launch event. UNRISD is expecting a dissemination report in 2003. UNRISD is grateful to ESCWA for having contributed to the cost of printing the report.

Other Publications

288. In 2002, UNRISD published eight Programme Papers, three issues of **Conference News**, and one issue of **UNRISD News** (No. 25, Autumn/Winter 2002). In addition to the publication of **Visible Hands** in Arabic, and of that report's Executive Summary in

UNRISD. The UNRISD information officer has repeatedly attempted to obtain detailed dissemination reports from Earthscan regarding the sale of **Visible Hands** in English, and concerning dissemination of the Russian and Arabic versions—to no avail. Regarding the latter two versions, however, it has been reported that **Visible Hands** had been distributed quite massively to the media, academics, governmental agencies and personalities, members of parliament, NGOs and CBOs.

Portuguese, 10 books were produced in collaboration with co-publishing partners during the reporting period. Bibliographic details of these publications are listed below.

289. The processing of the numerous manuscripts from the Institute's research projects—referred to throughout this report—picked up in late 2002 as the editor was able to turn her attentions back to this area of work following the launch of the new Web site, and as a result of the strengthening of the publications staff with the hiring of a new associate editor. Although the output of in-house publications was low in 2002 relative to the previous year, by the end of the reporting period over 10 manuscripts had been processed and were in the final production stages or in press.

290. UNRISD undertakes both commercial arrangements for and internal production of publications. Every effort is made to translate UNRISD work into as many languages as is financially possible, and to use a geographically diverse range of publishers, in order to make the work accessible to a wide and varied audience and, in particular, to readers in the countries where research has been carried out.

291. In-house publications provide flexibility in determining format, pricing and distribution policies, as well as the ability to publish and disseminate research results in ways that respond directly to the Institute's outreach goals.

292. Co-publishing arrangements with commercial and academic publishing houses allow the Institute to benefit from the expertise and distribution networks of experienced and internationally renowned companies. Such arrangements also ensure enhanced visibility, as the books appear not only in UNRISD's promotional materials and on its Web site, but also those of the partner co-publishing institutions, with their own distribution networks and retail agents that complement the Institute's dissemination networks.

293. UNRISD aims to diversify its contacts and partnerships with reputed academic and commercial publishers in the North and South. During the reporting period, agreements were negotiated with publishing houses in Brazil, Colombia, France, Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States. In negotiating such agreements, UNRISD aims to keep the price affordable, yet commercially published books are usually expensive for people and institutions in the developing and transition countries. This limits dissemination in the very countries that host much of the Institute's research. The Publications and Dissemination Unit thus seeks to ensure funding for buybacks, some of which are disseminated for free to the developing world via the Institute's depository library system. UNRISD relies entirely on donors to provide financial support to enable the purchase of as many copies as possible of a publication for distribution to countries where the public is unable to buy such books at commercial prices. In negotiating co-publication agreements, the information officer endeavours to keep prices as affordable as possible by stipulating the printing of paperback, rather than hardback, volumes. The agreement negotiated with the UN Department of Public Information in July 2001 should ultimately contribute to lowering the market price of such publications, as it would increase the total number of buybacks jointly purchased for any given title.

Co-publications

294. Twelve co-publications came out in 2002:

- **One Step Further—Responses to HIV/AIDS**, by Mark Heywood et al., Sida Studies No. 7, co-published with Sida, Stockholm, 2002.
- **Ghana's Adjustment Experience: The Paradox of Reform**, by Eboe Hutchful, co-published with James Currey/Woeli/Heinemann, Oxford and Westport, 2002.
- **Shifting Burdens: Gender and Agrarian Change under Neoliberalism**, edited by Shahra Razavi, co-published with Kumarian Press, Bloomfield, 2002.

- **The Greening of Business in Developing Countries: Rhetoric, Reality and Prospects**, edited by Peter Utting, co-published with Zed Books, London, 2002.
- **Global Media Governance: A Beginner's Guide**, by Seán Ó Siochrú and Bruce Girard with Amy Mahan, co-published with Rowman and Littlefield, Lanham, 2002.
- **Resistiendo al olvido: Tendencias recientes del movimiento social y de las organizaciones campesinas en Colombia**, by Stephan Suhner, co-published with Taurus, Bogota, 2002.
- **Gender Justice, Development and Rights**, edited by Maxine Molyneux and Shahra Razavi, co-published with Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2002.
- **Popular Development and Democracy: Case Studies with Rural Dimensions in the Philippines, Indonesia and Kerala**, by Olle Tornquist, co-published with the Centre for Development and the Environment at the University of Oslo, Oslo, 2002.
- **Movimentos Sociais, Disputas Políticas e Reforma Agrária de Mercado no Brasil**, by Leonilde Servolo de Medeiros, co-published with Editora Universidade Rural, Rio de Janeiro, 2002.
- **Voluntary Approaches to Corporate Responsibility: Readings and a Resource Guide**, by NGLS and UNRISD, co-published with the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service, Geneva, 2002.
- **Vidimye Ruki: Otvetstvennost za sotsialnoye razvitiye** (Russian translation of **Visible Hands: Taking Responsibility for Social Development**), by UNRISD, co-published with the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, 2002;
- **Ayad Mare'eya: Tahamul Al Masu'liat min ajl Al Tanmia Al Ejtema'eya** (Arabic translation of **Visible Hands: Taking Responsibility for Social Development**), by UNRISD, co-published with ECSWA, Beirut, 2002.

Programme Papers

Programme Paper on Civil Society and Social Movements

PP CSSM 5, **Women's Movements in Egypt with Selected References to Turkey**, Nadjé S. Al-Ali, April 2002.

Programme Papers on Democracy, Governance and Human Rights

PP DGHR 8, **African Decentralization: Local Actors, Powers and Accountability**, Jesse C. Ribot, December 2002.

PP DGHR 9, **A Declining Technocratic Regime: Bureaucracy, Political Parties and Interest Groups in Japan, 1950–2000**, Toshihiro Nakamura, December 2002.

Programme Papers on Social Policy and Development

PP SPD 9, **Gender and Education: A Review of Issues for Social Policy**, Ramya Subrahmanian, April 2002.

PP SPD 10, **Agrarian Change, Gender and Land Reform: A South African Case Study**, Cherryl Walker, April 2002.

PP SPD 11, **Agrarian Reform, Gender and Land Rights in Uzbekistan**, Deniz Kandiyoti, June 2002.

PP SPD 12, **Women's Employment and Welfare Regimes: Globalization, Export Orientation and Social Policy in Europe and North America**, Ann Shola Orloff, June 2002.

PPSPD 13, **Reworking Apartheid Legacies: Global Competition, Gender and Social Wages in South Africa, 1980–2000**, Gillian Hart, November 2002.

UNRISD Monograph

Women's Employment in the Textile Manufacturing Sectors of Bangladesh and Morocco, edited by Carol Miller and Jessica Vivian, co-published with the United Nations Development Programme, Geneva, 2002.

Newsletters

Conference News: Promoting Socially Responsible Business in Developing Countries: The Potential and Limits of Voluntary Initiatives, Report of the UNRISD Workshop (23–24 October 2000, Geneva), 2002.

Conference News: Racism and Public Policy, Report of the UNRISD International Conference (3–5 September 2001, Durban), 2002.

Conférence infos: Les technologies de l'information et de la communication et le développement social au Sénégal, Rapport de la réunion organisée par l'UNRISD (16–17 juillet 2001, Dakar), 2002.

UNRISD News, No. 25, Autumn/Winter 2002.

Special Report

People, Power and the Environment: 15 Years of UNRISD Research, A synthesis and annotated bibliography prepared for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, 2002.

UNRISD Staff “Professional Outreach”: Contributions to Outside Publications

- Krishna Ghimire, “Changing rural power structures through land tenure reforms: The current dismal role of international organizations”, **Canadian Journal of Development Studies**, Volume XXIII, No. 2, 2002.
- Krishna Ghimire, “Social movements and marginalized rural youth in Brazil, Egypt and Nepal”, **The Journal of Peasant Studies**, Vol. 30, No. 1, October 2002.
- Huck-ju Kwon, “Welfare reform and future challenges in Korea: Beyond the developmental welfare state”, **International Social Security Review**, ILO, Vol. 55, No. 4, 2002.
- Huck-ju Kwon, “Advocacy coalitions and the politics of welfare reform in Korea after the economic crisis”, **Policy and Politics**, Vol. 31, 2002.
- Huck-ju Kwon, “The East Asian welfare states in transition: Challenges and opportunities”, in M. Blecher and Sarah Cook (eds.), **Asian Politics and Development**, Frank Cass Publishers, 2002.
- Thandika Mkandawire, “The terrible toll of post-colonial rebel movements in Africa: Towards an explanation of the violence against the peasantry”, **Journal of Modern African Studies**, 2002.
- Thandika Mkandawire, “Incentives, governance, and capacity development in Africa”, **African Issues**, Volume XXX/1, 2002.
- Shahra Razavi, “Globalization, employment and women’s rights”, in F. Reysoo (ed.), **Economie mondialisée et identités de genre**, IUED/DDC/UNESCO, Geneva, 2002.
- Peter Utting, “The global compact and civil society: Averting a collision course”, **Development in Practice**, Vol. 12, Number 5, 2002.

UNRISD Reference Centre

295. In December 2002, the UNRISD Reference Centre was reorganized. The operation was designed to ameliorate and maximize its usability as an UNRISD-specific dissemination and archival centre. The second phase of the operation, which is ongoing, entails building the Centre’s cataloguing database. A comprehensive inventory was also carried out during the reorganization. The Reference Centre, which now also functions as a space for small meetings and reading room, displays all UNRISD documents, including materials of historical

significance; periodicals (journals, magazines, etc.); resources obtained through exchange agreements and regular subscriptions; grey material (working papers from a host of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations); and flagship publications produced by the UN and its specialized agencies as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental institutions.

296. The Reference Centre maintains a small collection of journals, books and monographs, and specialized publications for use by the Institute's staff. UNRISD's location in the Palais des Nations facilitates use of the collection of the United Nations Library. UNRISD thus holds only eight paid subscriptions to key, specialized journals dealing with its research programme (and which are not available in the United Nations Library). UNRISD has some 50 exchange agreements with other publishers from developing and developed countries, and the Reference Centre also collects newsletters, progress reports and other general information on institutions and organizations around the world.

RESEARCH ASSISTANTS AND GRADUATE STUDENT PROGRAMME

297. Young scholars participate in the UNRISD programme of research via two mechanisms: as research assistants, and through the Institute's Graduate Student Programme. A limited number of outstanding students and scholars from around the world are thus offered the opportunity to gain experience in an international research setting. Young scholars are selected on the basis of their academic experience and interests, and spend a minimum of two months at UNRISD assisting project co-ordinators in developing project proposals, compiling annotated bibliographies and data, and helping to organize research seminars. In the past year, they also co-authored papers, reported on conferences, participated in field research, and played a central role in the Web site redevelopment project. During the reporting period, research assistants and participants in the Graduate Student Programme came from Belgium, Peru, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Research Assistants and Participants in the Graduate Student Programme (2002)

- Désirée **Abrahams**, United Kingdom
- Catherine **Agg**, United Kingdom
- Renato **Alva**, Peru
- Francesca **Bossano**, Switzerland
- Christopher **Brading**, United Kingdom/United States
- Caroline **Danloy**, Belgium
- Lucy **Earle**, United Kingdom
- Anna **Hemmingson**, Sweden
- Justin **MacDermott**, Sweden
- Behzod **Mingboev**, Tajikistan
- Virginia **Rodriguez**, Spain
- Michele **Tan**, Singapore

STAFF LIST (2002)

Director

- Thandika **Mkandawire**

Deputy Director

- Cynthia **Hewitt de Alcántara** (through 31 July 2002)

Administrative and Support Staff

- Tony **Formoso*** (through 30 June 2002)
- Josephine **Grin-Yates**
- Mensur **Ismail***
- Angela **Meijer**
- Katrien **De Moor** (as of 18 November 2002)
- Amir **Naimi*** (as of 22 July 2002)
- Irene **Ruiz de Budavári** (through 31 January 2002)
- Wendy **Salvo**
- Anita **Tombez**

Publications, Dissemination and Reference Centre

- Suroor **Alikhan** (as of 1 September 2002)
- Nicolas **Bovay**
- Sylvie **Brenninkmeijer-Liu**
- Jenifer **Freedman**
- Véronique **Martinez**
- Pamela **Smaridge**

Project Staff

Special events and activities

• UNRISD's Contribution to the United Nations Second World Assembly on Ageing	Peter Lloyd-Sherlock** Shahra Razavi
• Improving Research and Knowledge on Social Development in International Organizations II	Cynthia Hewitt de Alcántara (through 31 July 2002) Huck-ju Kwon (as of 25 May 2002)
• UNRISD and the World Summit on Sustainable Development	Peter Utting
• UNRISD's 40 th Anniversary	Peter Utting
• UNRISD Contribution to the World Summit on the Information Society	Bruce Girard** Seán Ó Siochrú** Mike Powell* (as of 1 October 2002)
• Policy Report on Gender and Development	Shahra Razavi

Ongoing research

• Social Policy in a Development Context	Yusuf Bangura Huck-ju Kwon Thandika Mkandawire Shahra Razavi As of January 2002: Jimi Adesina** Andrea Giovanni Cornia** Olli Kangas** Massoud Karshenas** Maureen Mackintosh** Joakim Palme** Laurence Whitehead**
• Business Responsibility for Sustainable Development	Peter Utting
• Information Technologies and Social Development	Cynthia Hewitt de Alcántara (through 31 July 2002) Mike Powell* (as of 1 October 2002)
• Civil Society Strategies and Movements for Rural Asset Redistribution and Improved Livelihoods	Krishna Ghimire
• Evolving Agricultural Structures and Civil Society in Transitional Countries: The Case of Central Asia	Krishna Ghimire
• Ethnic Structure, Inequality and Governance of the Public Sector	Yusuf Bangura
• UNRISD Initiative on HIV/AIDS	Jem Bendell* (as of 2 September 2002) Joseph Collins** Cynthia Hewitt de Alcántara (through 31 July 2002) Thandika Mkandawire Bill Rau**

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