

**Citizens' Global Platform - Priorities for Action**

**MAKING THE MARGINALISED MATTER**

**Compilation Report of the Finnish Focus Groups**

**2005**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>General background</b>	3
<b>Focus Group 1 – New Approaches to Global Problem Solving</b>	
1 Initiatives by the Citizens’ Global Platform	8
1.1 Inclusion of silent voices	8
1.2 Institutional reform	9
1.3 Corporate Social responsibility	10
1.4 Public-Private Partnerships	11
2 Comments to the proposals made by Helsinki Process’ Track 1	11
<b>Focus Group 2 - Global Economic Agenda</b>	
Introduction	16
Part A - Horizontal Issues	16
1 Policy space	17
2 The inclusion of marginalised voices	17
3 Democracy and multilateral institutions	18
Part B - Concrete Initiatives and Themes	18
1 The currency transaction tax	18
2 Social and Environmental tax reform	19
3 Tax havens	19
4 Trade issues	20
5 Debt issues	20
6 Policy coherence	21
<b>Focus Group 3 - Human Security</b>	
1 The importance of human security	24
2 Health and Security	25
3 Women	28
4 Children in Armed Conflicts	29
5 Conflict Prevention	29
6 Small Arms	30
7 Environment and Security	30

# **The Citizens' Global Platform - strengthening the voice of civil society in the North and South**

## **1. General background**

Citizens' Global Platform (CGP), like its inter-governmental counterpart the Helsinki Process, originates in Finland and Tanzania as a North-South co-operative process. Founded in 2004, it is a network of non-governmental organisations seeking to strengthen the position of civil society in managing globalisation and in influencing related political decision-making. It is open to all, encourages cross-sectoral co-operation between NGOs and social movements, and seeks to deepen and diversify discourse on globalisation in the North and South by bringing in new actors. In particular, we wish to strengthen marginalized voices so far rendered unheeded in globalisation policies.

CGP seeks to highlight alternatives to present neo-liberal economic thinking, promoting more holistic approaches that take into consideration social justice, the environment and the interdependence of all life. For the CGP, key issues for genuine change include the reform of the international organisations, fiscal reforms and securing finance for global common goods as well as gender equality, a holistic approach to human security and more democratic decision-making processes at all levels. For civil society to be heard in political decision-making, mechanisms are needed to enhance democracy in the present system.

In addition to having its own initiatives, CGP co-operates with the Helsinki Process, channelling local civil society inputs into the process. CGP has organised its own civil society meetings in Dar es Salaam and New Delhi simultaneously with the meetings of the Helsinki Group. This has enabled a valuable interchange with the members of the Group, including internationally renowned globalisation experts such as Martin Khor, Ann Pettifor, Susan George and Vijay Pratap. CGP has consistently commented the work of and made recommendations to the Process.

CGP has wide representation among civil society organisations, from human rights organisations to the Lutheran Church, environmental organisations to peace movements. The network is open to all and actively organises and takes part in events in Finland and internationally. It also contributes to political decision-making processes domestically by giving recommendations relating to the globalisation policies of the government. CGP has actively participated at the Finnish, European and World Social Fora and is organising events at the World Village Festival in Helsinki and the Global democracy 2005 conference in Montreal. In order to diversify and strengthen the Southern voice in its work, CGP is presently extending its work to India and Brazil.

CGP is vigorously involved in planning the highlight of the Helsinki Process, the Helsinki Conference, in September 2005. This will be a multi-stakeholder conference, with civil society in a prominent role. One of the key dialogues of the event, that on marginalized voices, is led by CGP.

## **2. Focus Groups**

The CGP has up to now mainly worked under three different Focus Groups, mirroring those of the Helsinki Process. These groups have existed in both Finland and Tanzania, feeding into the respective three Tracks of the Helsinki Process:

- New Approaches to Global Problem Solving
- Global Economic Agenda
- Human Security

CGP has had the opportunity to comment on the draft Track reports and be present at the final meetings of the three Tracks.

This report now combines the work of the three groups in Finland. The groups have been open to all, and the work has been based on consultations, with the view of bringing in a multitude of views from organisations working in different sectors. The groups have met regularly among themselves, supported by a CGP provided secretary, and a joint meeting was organised last summer. In addition, public hearings were held early in 2005, prior to finalisation. The groups have also organised their own seminars in co-operation with the Helsinki Process.

Some sixteen Finnish organisations have actively participated in CGP's work, together with some individuals. Some of these organisations are umbrella bodies, such as the co-founder, the Service Centre for Development Co-operation, with over 200 member societies, and the co-ordinating Finnish UN Association, with over 60 member organisations. The Siemenpuu Foundation, with whom CGP has had fruitful co-operation, has 16 founding member organisations.

CGP has actively sought new partners, and is thankful to all those who have participated in and contributed to its work:

### **Focus Group 1, New Approaches to Global Problem Solving:**

- The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland (Convenors), with contributions from, among others, from:
  - The Finnish UNA
  - Finnish Nation-wide Cooperation Organisation for the Unemployed
  - Service Centre for Development Co-operation
  - Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam – an Alliance for Global Democracy
  - Global Discourse
  - Trade Union Solidarity Centre of Finland
  - Association for Promoting Fairtrade in Finland
  - Responsible Importers' Network
  - Friends of the Earth, Finland

## **Focus Group 2, Global Economic Agenda**

- Service Centre for Development Co-operation and Service Union United (Convenors) with contributions, among others, from
- The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation
- The Finnish UNA
- The Tax Justice Network Finland
- Nkuruma Kalaluka.

## **Focus Group 3, Human Security**

The National Council of Women of Finland and the Finnish Youth Cooperation Allianssi (Convenors), with contributions from, among others,

- The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation
- The Green Women's Association
- The Family Federation of Finland
- Peace Union of Finland – Association for UN
- Civil Society Conflict Prevention Network
- The Martha Organization
- Plan Finland
- The National Union of Finnish Polytechnic Students

This report, the result of over a year's work, now forms the agenda of the CGP, and is shared with our networks in Tanzania, Brazil and India. With the publication of the report, the focus groups cease to exist, and CGP, headed by its multi-organisational steering committee, will focus its efforts on furthering the goals identified in the report.

Helsinki, April 9, 2005

CGP Secretariat:

Sari Varpama, Co-ordinator  
Tiina Ruohonen, Secretary for Focus Groups 1 and 3  
Mikko Sauli, Secretary for Focus Group 2

Citizens' Global Platform  
c/o Finnish UNA  
Töölöntorinkatu 2 B  
00260 Helsinki  
Finland  
Tel. +358 9 505 00  
[cgp@ykliitto.fi](mailto:cgp@ykliitto.fi)  
[www.globalplatform.fi](http://www.globalplatform.fi)

CGP Steering Committee organisations:

The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation  
The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland  
The Finnish UNA  
Service Centre for Development Co-operation  
Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam – an Alliance for Global Democracy  
Responsible Importers' Network  
The National Council of Women of Finland  
Finnish Youth Cooperation Allianssi

# **Citizens' Global Platform**

## **Focus group 1 New Approaches to Global Problem Solving**

## Introduction

Helsinki Process Track on “New Approaches to Global Problem Solving” acknowledges that it is obvious that there is an urgent need for new, more democratic global problem-solving approaches. Citizens’ Global Platform (CGP), working in cooperation with the Helsinki Process, agrees that it is important to involve all major stakeholders and to make sure that the voices not adequately heard as yet are brought in; especially the voices of the marginalised majority.

The Focus Group agrees with Helsinki Process and the Track that there is a need for meaningful participation of civil society in decision-making, so that the rights and interests of all who will be affected by the decisions be equally taken into account in the preparation of the decisions. Decisions reached ought to reflect equally the diversity of views of all who are affected. The Focus Group also supports the view of the Helsinki Process Track 1 that participation of the marginalised majority, including southern civil society, needs to be ensured. This requires the creation of adequately resourced channels. The Focus Group welcomes these initiatives, but also calls for institutional reforms in the longer term. The UN organisation should be strengthened and democratised, and it should have authority over other international organisations, such as the WTO, which itself calls for reforms. These actions are necessary so that trade could serve human development while paying due attention to environmental protection, rather than be an aim in itself.

CGP welcomes the approach of the Helsinki Process that the current mechanisms and organisations should be reformed by democratising them and by measures which ensure that they do not weaken equality, human rights or sustainable development. These measures shall allow for the affected majority equal opportunities to formulate the mandates and agenda of the global institutions. At the present there are plenty of groups and organisations tackling the world’s problems and the question is how to find synergy between them to optimise their work.

## 1 Initiatives by the Citizens’ Global Platform

Citizens’ Global Platform has arrived to the following initiatives on the topics of *inclusion of silent voices, institutional reform, corporate social responsibility and public-private partnerships*.

### 1.1 *Inclusion of silent voices*

- The poor and marginalised people – as well as environment – cannot make their voices heard, although international decision-making often influences them most. They are lacking pressure groups that would promote their interest at the international level.
- Silent voices need more analysis – they could be marginalized or indifferent people, small enterprises (especially in the South), other species or interests such as environmental protection

or spiritual values that are not taken into account in decision-making. Administrative structures and reigning ideological paradigms (for example, techno-scientific orientation) could be misleadingly defining what are considered legitimate grievances.

- Adequately resourced mechanisms at national and international level need to be developed and introduced to ensure the hearing of silent voices (in the widest possible sense) in decision-making.
- Silent voices in the South and North alike should be empowered through appropriate means such as education, and resources and channels need to be provided for genuine consultation. There is a need for coherence: for example, endeavours to promote economic growth must not undermine other interests. Whatever interests are affected by a decision should be taken into account on their own merits and judged according to appropriate criteria (for example, environmental impacts should be determined based on environmental criteria, by an appropriate body of environmental governance).
- Special attention should be paid to ensure that the Southern vulnerable majority has access to equal opportunities and resources in order to participate and influence in global decision-making.
- All proposals for more sustainable and democratic global governance must be considered equally in the global decision-making process and be implemented according to the UN criteria.
- Subsidiarity (decisions to be made as close to those affected as possible) and stakeholder approaches should be applied in decision-making - stakeholders should always be consulted and their views reflected in decisions made.
- New frameworks for standard-setting for planning and decision-making processes, such as that produced by the World Commission on Dams, should be implemented as regards major projects
- Reasons for decisions should always be made transparent and justified

## **1.2 Institutional reform**

- The UN, which should be strengthened and democratised, should be the highest authority internationally, supervising and setting the remit of work of specialist agencies like international financial institutions or trade organisations such as the WTO
- The UN is to formalise civil society participation in political agenda-setting and fully take into account its issues
- The role of the ILO (International Labour Organisation) should be strengthened
- There should be an accountable and democratic body promoting and supervising the implementation of national legislation globally in accordance with international conventions, as well as encouraging corporate social responsibility in general.
- People should be capable of choosing their representatives to control the direction of the global legislation.
- We welcome the report by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights setting out the scope and legal status of existing initiatives and standards concerning the responsibility of transnational corporations and related business enterprises with regard to human rights, inter alia the draft norms contained in document E/CN.4/Sub.2/2003/12/Rev.2. All relevant stakeholders whose human rights might be affected by the activities of the corporations should be treated equally in any consultations.

- The WTO needs to be reformed and democratised. The developing countries should be guaranteed equal opportunities to participate and to influence its decisions. Measures for civil society participation, similar to those at the UN, are to be adopted. The WTO is to provide more flexibility according to member countries' developmental needs (i.e. policy space), and respect international agreements on human rights and the environment. Trade is a tool for development, not an end in itself.
- There is a need for an international, strong environmental institution: proposals have included a strengthened UNEP and/or a new World Environmental Organisation. These should have higher or at least the same level of authority as the WTO, and trade should be placed back in its role as a facilitator of wider development goals, rather than being an aim in itself
- The role of the International Court of Justice needs to be strengthened and its remit of work widened – bodies such as UNEP, ILO or UN human rights organisations or any affected stakeholders should be able to bring cases
- National parliaments should take a more active role in introducing, implementing and enforcing legislation on the basis of international agreements, such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
- The World Commission on Dams is a good example of a mechanism for participation and mutual consultation, and could be used as a model for civil society participation at international institutions.

### ***1.3 Corporate Social responsibility***

- The role of ILO should be strengthened.
- There is a need for an international, strong environmental institution: proposals have included a strengthened UNEP and/or a new World Environmental Organisation.
- We welcome the report by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights setting out the scope and legal status of existing initiatives and standards concerning the responsibility of transnational corporations and related business enterprises with regard to human rights, inter alia the draft norms contained in document E/CN.4/Sub.2/2003/12/Rev.2. All relevant stakeholders whose human rights might be affected by the activities of the corporations should be treated equally in any consultations.
- Efforts should be made to get all core international agreements/conventions ratified in all countries, with national legislation implemented and effectively enforced as a result. It is, in particular, important to be able to extend these to subsidiaries and throughout the supply chain. Otherwise assurances that multinational companies comply with national legislation are meaningless.
- The role of the International Court of Justice needs to be strengthened and its remit of work widened – bodies such as UNEP and ILO, or any affected stakeholders including the civil society, should be able to bring cases if international standards are breached
- Companies are to be transparent in their social relations (including social and environmental impacts of their operations) and accountable – company accountability could be coupled with independent auditing.
- National governments should take a more active role in introducing, implementing and enforcing legislation on the basis of international agreements, such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

- Good company practice should be rewarded, bad practice sanctioned. To prevent company flight to cheaper operating environments with laxer regulation, efforts should be made to introduce the same standards of corporate social responsibility globally. Social and environmental costs of production and transport should be internalised and local/regional production (especially of food) where appropriate should be encouraged for environmental and social reasons.

#### **1.4 *Public-Private Partnerships***

- The definition of partnerships and the role of companies as international players should become clear and transparent. Partnerships need to be genuine and egalitarian
- Internationally, successful partnerships with the private sector require commitment by national governments, and support by the UN specialist agencies.
- The European Multi-Stakeholder Forum on CSR is an example of the mechanism for participation and mutual consultation, and could be used as a model for civil society participation at international institutions.

## **2 Comments to the proposals made by Helsinki Process' Track 1**

### **2.1 *A representative summit for economic stewardship***

CGP agrees with the Helsinki Process on the topic that the current G-7/8 system should give the developing countries a stronger voice in agendas that discuss matters affecting them gravely. How this modification could be carried out to reach the best result is another question. There is a danger that the new G-20 proposed by the Helsinki Process Track 1 would become a parallel group to the current G-7/8 instead of its replacement. Keeping that in mind, the new G-20's legitimacy should be guaranteed and find a way to motivate the member countries to commit to its work. **We feel that instead of creating new groupings, the primary aim should be to strengthen the status of the UN and its General Assembly.**

On the question of how to choose the members to the proposed G-20, one option could be a regional approach, e.g. have the EU, African Union and ASEM as members instead of individual countries. Another option worth exploring is to add members, such as the EU and Canada to the G-77.

### **2.2 *Improving the coherence, parliamentary oversight and accountability of the IMF, the World Bank and the WTO***

We support the recommendation of the Track 1 of the Helsinki Process to implement the proposal of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of the Globalisation (WCSDG), which "calls for the integrated parliamentary oversight of the multilateral system at the global level and for the creation of a Global Parliamentary Group concerned with coherence and consistency between global economic, social and environmental policies of the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organisation". (Track 1, recommendation 10)

We propose that the mandates and agenda of the global economic institutions should be actively defined and controlled by the co-operation of the elected parliaments and UN authorities dealing with human rights and sustainable development.

We support the proposal of the Track (Track 1, recommendation 5) that “the President of the World Bank, Managing Director of the IMF and Director General of the WTO would be asked to issue a joint report on the state of the world economy”. However, instead of a yearly report, which we feel would not serve the purpose of long-term planning and commitment, **we propose that all reporting of these global economic institutions would be linked to the UN’s five-year time span of follow-up or the follow-up on the MDGs.**

To advance this, also “UNCTAD, working in collaboration with relevant UN entities as well as civil society and business organizations, should be mandated to prepare an assessment of the social and environmental impact of trade rules and trade policies” and “Development oriented processes in the UN system (e.g. Development Committee, ECOSOC, UNCTAD) be given a formal role of submitting their recommendations to the WTO when the mandate for trade negotiations is under consideration (as defined in Track 1, recommendations 20-23).

ILO, UNEP, UNDP, WHO, UNESCO and FAO should participate in the process of reporting to make the mandates and decisions of economic policy coherent with fundamental rights and sustainable development.

Further, since severe methodological errors in the poverty and hunger estimations that the UN and the Bretton Woods institutions refer to have been indicated, the methods and measurements used in the follow-up on the MDG's have to be revised and corrected.

### **2.3 *Engaging parliaments in the oversight of global economic management***

We welcome the idea that national parliaments should devote more time to discussing global problems, especially on the basis of the above mentioned reporting processes. We propose that for instance before major international meetings, the parliaments would go through the respective agendas and discuss the themes.

To ensure the participation of civil society organizations in global decision making, **we propose that a civil society representation of the affected majority be included alongside the state representation.** This could be funded by a Global Civil Society Fund, where states could donate money on a voluntary basis. This fund could also enable a wider participation of NGOs from the developing countries at international civil society fora, such as the World Social Forum.

Above all, we feel that it is crucial for the civil society of the affected majority, who is now often marginalised in the decision-making, to define itself and take responsibility of action. No one else, not the UN nor the states, can define global civil society from the outside.

## 2.4 *Improving representation and participation in decision-making in the IMF, the World Bank and the WTO*

We agree with the Helsinki Process on the matter that “the countries most affected by these institutions are the least-represented within them” and this imbalance should be resolved. **In this respect the voting system could be based on a regionally equal share of votes.** We feel that the core problem lies in the fact that the secretariats of the Bretton Woods organisations have a very narrow mandate which leads to the situation where a commercial agenda undermines a wide variety of other interest.

## 2.5 *Strengthening the UN system in international labour and environmental governance*

We support the view of the Helsinki Process that the **role of the ILO and UNEP should be strengthened.** These organisations should be provided with effective ways of ensuring compliance with the numerous agreements already ratified. One solution could be **creating a sanctioning mechanism for breaching the agreements.** These sanctions should not only apply to states but also to multinational companies who have enormous financial powers to make bending of the rules possible.

The international organisations should co-operate in such a way that, for instance, the WTO should take into account human rights and environmental sustainability without allowing commercial powers to undermine them. All economic rights should be deduced from and determined by basic economic, social and cultural human rights and their sustainable realisation.

## 2.6 *Amplifying and diversifying voices*

**We strongly support the attempt to include the voices of the marginalised in global governance.** Global decision making affects the marginalised majority, but they are very poorly represented in the global political arena. In addition to women, youth and the indigenous people we would like to add to the list the people who have been economically marginalised as well as other species or interest such as the environmental protection or spiritual and cultural values.

We strongly support the attempt to include the voices of the marginalised in the global governance. The global decision making affects the poor marginalised majority but they or their interests are very poorly represented in the global political arena. In addition to women, youth and the indigenous people we would like to add to the list the people who have been economically marginalised and the nature and environmental values.

We would like to bring forward the idea of ***anticipatory participative process.*** People whose lives and livelihoods are affected by development projects, e.g. public or private infrastructure or industrial constructions, should be consulted in the early phases of the planning. What are their needs for development and for sustaining their communities and way of living? Only after then should the public authorities make their decision on continuation of the detailed planning process, with still need for necessary impact assessments and hearings.

For these purposes we support the realisation of the following ideas and recommendations of the Helsinki Process Track reports for “improving sensitivity to the reality of poverty and marginalisation” and “greater representation of the voices of the marginalised in global governance: women, youth and indigenous people”:

- “The creation of global coalitions of the poor, marginalised and indigenous peoples to amplify their voices and to inform global policy-making on poor people’s means of life” and to be “meaningfully consulted” in “decision-making by institutions of global governance”. (Track on “New Approaches to Global Problem Solving”)
- “Inclusion of marginalised voices in the discussion of global economic agenda is not only a practical necessity, it is fundamental to the achievement of a just and democratic global order.” (Track on Global Economic Agenda)
- "To spread the voices of the poor and marginalised" there is also needed an "expansion of community and non-commercial media", "international network of indigenous-language media focused on a news agency and radio outlets" and "ICT empowerment of poor communities (development of ways to make poor people’s voices influence global decisions)".
- “The establishment of channels by which information on local priorities and needs can flow up while technical assistance and resources flow down”. (Helsinki Process Track report on "New Approaches to Global Problem Solving")
- “Empowering people at risk ... by directing corrective policy and action to those whose security is most severely threatened.” (Helsinki Process Track report on Human Security)

Unheard voices should be taken into account so that “legal frameworks should acknowledge and recognise” the “wide variety of ways in which land and other assets are held in traditional systems, many of them communal, collective or cooperative.” (WCSDG, paragraph 267)

## ***2.7 Evolving new forms of hybrid governance: the case of transnational corruption***

We support the battle against corruption as it is one of the major obstacles hindering development. Governments in developing countries are part of the problem, but we would like to emphasise the role of companies. Overall, companies have a huge power to influence the sustainable development of the world as there are companies that are financially stronger than many states. They have the power to dictate under what kind of terms the world trade is conducted. There are already agreements and monitoring mechanisms for responsible trading e.g. ILO agreements, codes of conduct and the World Watch. Ensuring compliance of the agreements is another problem. **We would like to see a similar system as the dispute settlement process in the WTO also for companies, where the companies could sue each other for breaking the agreements.**

# **Citizens' Global Platform**

## **Focus Group 2 Global Economic Agenda**

## Introduction

Citizens' Global Platform's Focus Group II: Global Economic Agenda (CGP II) has considered a number of initiatives emerging from global civil society. Although this paper summarises our work especially in terms of the Helsinki Process (HP), the group would also like to point out its own broader priorities.

The group has chosen a democratisation-oriented approach to its field of work. A lot of emphasis has been put on financial dependency structures and participation of marginalised groups. Both of these are found in the ethical guideline section of the Track II final report, but some more action proposals are desperately needed. CGP II also feels it's more important to put forward a political agenda rather than a technocratic one.

There are a few rather specific reforms CGP II would like the Helsinki Group to focus on in its final work:

First of all, **taxation issues and especially the currency transactions tax (CTT)** have not been adequately dealt with so far. The huge momentum given to international taxation issues by the New York Declaration Against Poverty and Hunger did not come in time to have a real impact on the work of the HP Track II. Therefore it is up to the Helsinki Group to correct this imbalance in the HP agenda. **The eradication of tax havens and action against tax evasion** would play a vital role in mobilising resources for participation and development. Also an **environmental tax reform** must be a key priority on the global political agenda. It is a vital step towards a sustainable world. This proposal is also put forward in the track II report.

Secondly, **all countries must have the right to food sovereignty**. The WTO agricultural framework must be revised accordingly. One of the key reforms needed is separating agriculture as an entity of its own either within or outside of the WTO, as opposed to the current negotiation system, where trade-offs are sought between different negotiation segments. Also other WTO agreements need to be reformulated. The agreements most acutely in need of revision include the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), the agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) and Non-Agricultural Market Access (NAMA). The decision-making processes in the WTO must also be reformed in order to ensure the participation of developing countries. The group sees a **fundamental WTO reform** highly important for democratising the international sphere.

Thirdly, in agreement with the HP Track II recommendations, **an independent debt arbitration mechanism** is needed as a first step towards democratisation of international relations.

Below the group will present some of its broader views in order to give more background to the demands presented here.

## **Part A: Horizontal Issues**

### **1. Policy Space**

When reforming the global economic agenda, a special emphasis should be put on the creation of the policy space needed to implement sound sectoral policies in the developing countries. Their current policy space is narrowed by loan conditions, structural adjustment programmes, trade rules and the overall financial dependency of developing countries of the developed world. We feel there is an urgent need to create finance for development, independent from donors and debtors, that would thus ease the financial dependence and increase policy space for poor countries.

The poorest countries must be able to plan and develop conditions suitable for the growth of local industrial and agricultural sectors. The liberalisation of trade and privatisation of resources formerly owned by states or communities have been more of an end in itself rather than genuine vehicles for development. These measures have been consistently fostered by the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and bilateral donors. However, in many cases they have led to the closure of local industries as they have been unable to compete against foreign companies, or forcing the living standards of farm workers below subsistence level, as local producers have failed to compete against foreign companies.

These conditions have limited the ability of developing country governments to protect infant industries and subsidise local industries, although similar subsidies are handed out by northern governments. It is necessary to intensify efforts to shift policy control from multilateral financial institutions to developing country governments.

### **2. The Inclusion of Marginalised Voices**

The current economic agenda is undermining several ecological and cultural concerns as well as the livelihoods and means of subsistence of many groups. Little is being done to include these groups and concerns in decision-making processes. The problem exists at all levels of decision-making and needs to be addressed urgently.

The call for the inclusion of marginalised voices in decision-making processes does not and cannot mean a leap towards marginal social policies (for example 'targeting the poorest of the poor' kind of thinking put forward by the World Bank). This would be similar to saying that it is enough to protect endangered species and not take eco-systems into account. It means the right of people to participate in decisions shaping their everyday lives. It also means setting and implementing universal basic standards and accepting the intrinsic value of biodiversity as such.

Civil society and concerned groups need to have access to agenda setting processes formulating policies at all levels of governance and the participation of the affected groups needs to be enhanced at the local level.

### **3. Democracy and Multilateral Institutions**

Efforts to shift policy control to developing countries should be accompanied by democratisation of multilateral financial institutions. These institutions are largely controlled by developed country governments. Their programs are mainly tailored for the benefit of developed country interest groups. For instance multinational corporations often reap the benefits from their implementation instead of the local people.

It is necessary to hasten efforts to democratise all multilateral institutions. The highest positions within these organisations should not be the preserve of Northern government nationals as is currently the case. The role of United Nations as a whole, and the UN's Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) should be strengthened in connection with a broader reformation of the governance of international institutions. This would increase poor country influence in global economic deliberations. In addition, the corporate influence on the policy of international institutions would be reduced and be kept better under control. Both democracy and efficiency are impossible to achieve in a multilateral organisation such as the WTO, and only democracy legitimises its existence.

#### **Part B: Concrete Initiatives and Themes**

##### **1. The Currency Transaction Tax**

There is an urgent need to relieve the human and economic costs of the turbulent world financial market and for independent finance for development and for the UN. For global democratisation, the financial dependency that undermines developing countries' ability to pursue their interests needs to be reduced. A global currency transaction tax (CTT) would help achieve these goals and stabilise the world market by making short-term non-sustainable investment less profitable.

There are a few different models on how such a tax could be put in place. One of the most sophisticated and innovative proposals is the one advocated by Network Institute for Global Democratization (NIGD). At the moment the proposal is at the stage of a draft treaty. It uses a two-tier system and will thus limit speculations more efficiently than a fixed rate tax. The treaty would come to force when 30 states representing 20 % of the world currency market would have signed and ratified it.

It must be recognized that the potential of the CTT is immense. It is estimated that it would raise up to 200 billion dollars a year, even more, at a rate as low as 0,1 %. This is four times as much as the yearly ODA flow and up to twice as much as the developing world pays the North for its debts.

It is important to note that if the benefits the currency transaction tax has to offer in terms of democratisation are to be fully exploited, the resources it generates must not be channelled only to increase the ODA budgets of donors. Democratic allocation of the funds raised has to be seen as a way to influence the structural power imbalances between the North and the South. The tax collected would be shared between the collecting countries and a new international institution, the Currency Transaction Tax Organisation (CTTO). The CTTO would allocate the funds to global common goods. Part of the resources would go to a fund based to limit speculation on the world financial market.

## **2. Social and Environmental Tax Reform**

The current fiscal system is gradually leading to a social and environmental impasse as it places an emphasis on labour and services, while the use of natural resources is largely exempt from taxes. As a result, many industrialised countries today consume natural resources at a pace which by far exceeds the resource limits of the globe.

The latest transfer of industrial activities from North to South has led to increased demands from the private sector to boost competitiveness by reducing social costs, cutting public expenditure and increasing flexibility in low wages. Without a major revision of the fiscal system, the basic pillars of the welfare state may be at stake.

CGP II underlines the importance of the following measures:

# Political decision-makers world-wide should reconsider their fiscal approaches and to gradually shift the emphasis of their tax regimes from labour and services to the use of natural resources.

# Part of the fiscal revenue in the North should be used to support education and health services in the South in order to achieve universal primary education, reduce child mortality and improve reproductive health, as stated in the Millennium Development Goals.

The new fiscal policy should be introduced together with several other measures, which would boost the overall global revision of policies, such as increased direct transfers to the South (ie. ODA), the reduction of trade barriers and the abolition of export subsidies.

## **3. Tax Havens**

One of the most obvious structural flaws of economic globalisation is the existence of tax havens. High net worth individuals hold US\$ 11,5 trillion in assets offshore. These assets cause tax losses over \$ 250 billion worldwide each year. These are, however, only minor numbers compared to lost tax revenues of developing countries caused by corporate tax avoidance and evasion. The Financial Times estimated the number of total developing countries' tax revenue losses caused by tax havens would be as high as US\$ 500 billion annually, corresponding ten times the Western annual ODA.

Offshore economy is a severe threat to democratisation. Poor countries have lost their tax collection capabilities while having no political power whatsoever over the process started by national practices such as Swiss bank secrecy or British trust legislation. By using tax havens in, for example, thin capitalisation or transfer mis-pricing, MNCs may ensure that their profits made are not taxable in countries in which they operate. Poor countries are desperately trying to attract foreign investments, but their tax competition measures are usually narrowing their tax base so that the taxation on consumption and production must eventually be increased thus making economic growth even more difficult.

Tax authorities' monitoring capabilities are mostly not as good as legislation providing the possibilities. For example in Kenya, where several tax avoidance schemes have been noticed and over \$ 1 billion of tax revenues cannot be collected due to scarce resources and lack of will to co-operate on behalf of tax havens and western banks. The whole of Kenya only has two tax inspectors.

This is why tax havens have harmful effects on financial empowerment of developing countries. Some solutions concerning this have been proposed. These include creating new international accounting

standards including reporting turnover by location combined with taxation by location. Also narrowing of bank secrecy in general should be reflected, as well as revising the OECD transfer pricing rules into direction of giving up arms-length principles and defining global rules for tax competition.

#### **4. Trade issues**

Trade should not be overemphasised at the cost of development. The benefits from trade are best captured by societies with the required basic infrastructure in place. This type of infrastructure is generally lacking or deteriorated by short-term foreign investment in the poorest countries. Consequently, they should focus on developing a resource base that would one day enable them to gain from international trade. In this respect, the policies of the IFIs must not undermine developing countries' ability to establish these structures in a manner they see appropriate.

Due to the crucial role of agriculture in shaping the lives of the poorest, it is important to separate the agricultural trade as an entity of its own in the international trade negotiations. This can be carried out either under the WTO or a separate organisation.

In this context it is also essential to guarantee the right to protect local production of core agricultural products, both in terms of food security and its beneficial spillover effects to the livelihoods of rural communities as a whole. Much of the international commodity trade was developed during colonial times, when structures of trade were formed to tie producing countries within specified unprofitable segments of global value chains.

The proposed schemes of compensating developing countries for low commodity prices do not do anything to shift developing countries away from these unfavourable trade arrangements. In fact, they entrench the reliance of developing countries on commodity trade. One recommendable policy is the pooling of producers in the South to create mechanisms to retain a higher share of the value chain at the origin of basic goods, and to soften fluctuations of their international market prices.

If trade is to be utilised as a vehicle for development, it is necessary for developing country governments to regain control and have a sense of ownership over their national policies. The smaller nations are in the most difficult situation, as they have little bargaining power in the international fora, having to choose between sub-optimal solutions. The current decision making procedures in WTO are neither transparent nor democratic; the negotiation rounds are frequently experienced as exclusive and oppressive by the small developing countries. Similarly, negotiations are rendered undemocratic because of knowledge asymmetries among negotiating parties.

#### **5. Debt issues**

As stated by Mr. El-Hadji Guissé in his report to the UN Commission on Human Rights, debt has adverse effects on human rights and it is by nature inequitable, even illegal. It contributes to extreme poverty and constitutes an obstacle to human development and undermines poor countries ability to respond to the needs of their peoples. One must also recognise that after colonialism liabilities were passed on to the new states. Europeans contracted loans on behalf of the peoples they ruled. In this respect, all debts originating from the colonial era are to be judged illegal, cancelled immediately and the interests paid for these debts to be returned.

In arbitration processes debts are to be judged illegitimate when they have been contracted by dictators, repressive regimes or corrupt governments to strengthen hold of these regimes or stolen and channelled to personal use of leaders and government officials. Debts used for improperly designed projects and programs are illegitimate and creditor responsibility, especially of the Bretton Woods Institutions, needs to be taken into account. Usurious debts are illegitimate, as the original debts are paid back many times over. Debt servicing cannot be delivered at the cost of the needs of a country's people

A fair and transparent arbitration process has many aspects that speak on its behalf compared to other initiatives in the discussion. It is the most efficient way proposed to address the power imbalance between debtors and creditors. The IMF proposal for a 'Sovereign Debt Restructuring Mechanism' would indeed lead to a conflict of interest and an undesirable increase of the IMF's power. Furthermore it would be likely to intimidate debtors who are already suffering from IMF's inappropriate policy advice and conditions.

Overall, the solution to the debt problem should not have lists of included countries as, by consequence, others would be excluded. Debt relief needs to be accessible through arbitration processes to all when commonly agreed terms are fulfilled. In this, the definition of sustainability has a key role to play. It matters little whether poor countries get 100 percent - opposite to 97 or 98 percent, of their debts cancelled. The inclusion of both debtors and creditors in the process is more important than the actual percentage cancelled. Unilateral actions by creditors are not desirable.

## **6. Policy Coherence**

Policy coherence is definitely a key issue. However, the term inherently carries the possibility of unwanted consequences. It must always be kept in mind that policy coherence can only work if the 'coherent' policies are good. Thus there is a risk of the term dragging attention away from the content of the policies more towards formal aspects, like centralising development aid to countries that have little trading relations with the donor.

Policy coherence needs to have a rights-based approach to it. Coherence cannot work unless it is based on respect for human rights and the environment in all policy sectors and at all levels of policy making. It must consist of both the adoption of this starting point from external policies of the industrialised countries as well as the coordination of action and policies of international institutions such as the WTO, the World Bank and the IMF from a rights based perspective.



# **Citizens' Global Platform**

## **Focus group 3 Human security**

## 1 The importance of human security

The security and living conditions of the marginalised will not be improved by separate, small-scale initiatives and piece-meal approaches. Promotion of human security needs a holistic and concrete strategy, which is supported by the majority of international actors.

Excellent foundations for human security have already been established by a variety of international conventions. What is now needed is the *mobilisation of political will and fairer distribution of economical resources*, which are essential for the implementation of these conventions. It is an important challenge, in which several other international projects have not yet managed to achieve the desired results. For example, many of the goals of the UN International Conference on Population and Development of Cairo (1994) are lagging behind and the UN Millennium Development Goals (2000) will be difficult to reach in the human security sector if the present defects in the international system are not addressed properly. The Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979) are considered as landmarks in the promotion of the rights of women and children. Nevertheless, child labour and violence against women are persisting problems of today.

Human security is a challenge for all societies all over the world, for developed and developing countries. Shortcomings at the national level often contribute to those at the international one.

Citizens' Global Platform (CGP) would like to emphasize the *interdependence* of the themes in the Track report. Weapons help to create conflicts, conflicts bring about violence, health problems and harm the environment. The issues cannot be dealt with in a vacuum, but instead the consequences and causality should be taken into account

CGP calls action on the following themes:

- Health and Security
  - Preventive sexual and reproductive care
  - HIV/AIDS
  - Youth
- Women
- Conflict Prevention
- Small Arms
- Environment and Security

## 2 Health and Security

We agree with the Helsinki Process that the spreading of HIV/AIDS is one of the pressing problems that the international community has to solve. However, we would like to emphasise more the preventive action to stop HIV/AIDS and other diseases, such as malaria, from spreading. *Investing in preventive health care is more cost-efficient than treatment of illnesses.* Good health of individuals is essential to achieving broader development objectives, such as higher level of education, social equity, economic growth and productivity.

### *Suggested points of action:*

- All people should have equal access to primary health care. This is included in the Global Health Plan of Action, but we would like to emphasise its primary importance as regards the other, rather medical stances. Attention should not be focused only on HIV/AIDS, but also on malaria, tuberculosis and other more cheaply and easily treatable diseases. In Sub-Saharan Africa malaria is still the most common cause of death.
- Sexual and health education should be made an integral part of primary health care and should be within everyone's reach. People in developing countries are lacking means and information on how to protect themselves from HIV/AIDS. The key factors contributing to the spread of the pandemic are poverty, low level of education, poor social status of women and girls and the lack of knowledge of sexual and reproductive health and services. The right to have information and sexual education as well as access to sexual and reproductive health services is a pre-requisite to HIV/AIDS prevention as well as to the reduction of maternal mortality.
- All women should have the assistance of a skilled health worker during pregnancy and delivery and access to emergency medical care when complications arise. While many other health indicators have improved over the last two decades, maternal mortality rates have shown little improvement. Of the estimated 529,000 maternal deaths in 2000, 95 per cent occurred in Africa and Asia, while only 4 per cent occurred in Latin America and the Caribbean, and less than one per cent in the more developed regions of the world. Such statistics add up to intolerable inequities.
- We would like to emphasize the crucial role of preventive actions, while not forgetting the huge challenges related to care and treatment of already widespread pandemic. Education, information and involvement of the people is in a key role in a comprehensive HIV/AIDS response.
- We would like to remind that in The Cairo Program of Action, adopted in 1994 in the International Conference on Population and Development, 179 countries agreed to ensure universal access by 2015 to reproductive health care, including family planning, assisted child birth and prevention of sexually transmitted infections including HIV/AIDS.

## **2.1 Preventive Sexual and Reproductive Health Care**

The full value of investing in sexual and reproductive health services has been underestimated, as its wide range of benefits has been largely unrecognised. The direct medical benefits of preventing unintended pregnancies, improving maternal health and preventing, diagnosing and treating sexually transmitted infections (STI) including HIV/AIDS are well-known. However, beyond a medical perspective the social and economic implications are often overlooked, even though they are no less real. Women, who can successfully delay a first birth and plan the subsequent timing and spacing of their children are more likely than others to enter or stay in school and to have more opportunities for employment and for full social or political participation in their community. Improved maternal health means fewer orphans and more time for and greater ability of mothers to care for and nurture their children. Fewer STI's means reduced infertility and the stigma associated with it and with HIV/AIDS. Moreover, at a societal level, the services to support these goals contribute significantly to a range of broader development goals, such as improving the status of women, contributing to economic growth and reducing poverty and inequality. The global community cannot afford not to fully fund these services to achieve global development goals.

## **2.2 HIV/AIDS**

HIV/AIDS is one of the greatest challenges facing the world today in terms of health, development, and human security. The response required to meet this challenge is both complex and broad based. The needs are great and resources are limited.

Each day 14,000 people - half of them aged 15 to 24 - are newly infected, and add to the epidemic's staggering impact on health and on the social and economic stability of nations. Today, more than 20 years into the epidemic, women account for nearly half the 40 million people living with HIV worldwide. In some parts of sub-Saharan Africa, young women are now up to six times more likely than young men to be infected with HIV. Women's vulnerability is primarily due to their poor social status, inadequate knowledge of AIDS, insufficient access to HIV prevention services, inability to negotiate safer sex, lack of female-controlled HIV prevention methods. The need for prevention strategies that reach girls and women and address their specific needs and realities is urgent. Effective prevention is composed of many facets—including education, health services, media campaigns, behaviour change, life skills-building and job training. All these components must address the critical role that gender plays in sexual and reproductive life, and how it affects HIV prevention.

Sexuality education including education on safer sex behaviour, provision of condoms, treatment of other STI's and provision of anti-retrovirals are proven methods of prevention and treatment of AIDS. Yet these two issues are still treated separately. Integration of sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS services is essential in order to reach the millions of women who are now at the centre of the global pandemic, but fall through gaps in preventive efforts. This has been emphasised by the UNAIDS in its report on "The role of reproductive health providers in preventing HIV/AIDS.

Without leadership and political will, without the necessary funding, the situation for women and girls will continue to deteriorate and the hope of achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015—particularly reducing extreme poverty—will not be fulfilled. Strategies to reverse the AIDS epidemic cannot succeed unless women and girls are empowered to claim and promote their rights.

*Suggested points of action:*

- Current programmes should be scaled up, using a multisectoral approach
- HIV/AIDS interventions should be linked more effectively to reproductive health care as part of a multisectoral response to the epidemic
- Support for family planning and reproductive health programmes should be expanded as these are important entry points for HIV prevention, treatment and care
- Efforts to integrate HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment into comprehensive reproductive health and other health and social services should be strengthened
- Socio-economic factors facilitating prevention and care of HIV/AIDS should be addressed, including gender relations, through culturally appropriate behaviour change and other programmes.
- Support to people affected by HIV/AIDS, particularly orphans, should be intensified at the community level.

## **2.3 Youth**

Ensuring the health and well-being of the world's adolescents and young people, equipping them with life skills, and creating educational and employment opportunities for them is a fundamental necessity in meeting the development challenges of the 21st century.

We perceive the growing youth unemployment as an acute global threat. According to ILO estimates, in the next 10 years the figure of young adults who are unemployed or very badly paid will reach over 1 billion. This global concern of Human Security affects both developing and developed countries, rich and poor, in the North and South. We support the work of the Youth Employment Network, a joint project of the UN, World Bank and ILO, to ensure youth representation and participation in the development of youth employment.

Nearly half of the world's population is under the age of 25, the largest youth generation in history. Half are poor, and one fourth live on less than \$1 per day. Many are sexually active, often without the power, knowledge or means to protect themselves, or the opportunity to direct their energies to more productive areas of their lives.

Young people (15-24 years old) account for half of all new HIV infections, 2.5 million each year, with girls and young women especially at risk. Despite a trend towards later marriage in much of the world, millions of girls are still expected to marry and begin child-bearing in their teens, often before their bodies are ready.

Enabling youth to delay pregnancy is not only a health and human rights imperative; it is also a key to slowing the continuing momentum of population growth and allowing developing countries to reap the economic benefits that lower fertility can bring, and should be given priority in the global effort to eradicate poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Investing in young people's health, education and skills development, and allowing girls to stay in school and marry later, are also essential to meeting the MDGs related to gender equality, child mortality, maternal health and HIV/AIDS.

Investing in young people will yield large returns for generations to come. Failing to act, on the other hand, will incur tremendous costs to individuals, societies and the world at large.

***Suggested points of action:***

- Efforts to reach all adolescents in need, including married adolescents and those not in school should be intensified
- Youth participation in programme design, implementation and monitoring, and in policy processes should be increased
- The comprehensive approach to youth programming and development should be expanded

### **3 Women**

- Women should be considered as active subjects and not only as passive objects of action. They should be guaranteed equal access to education and political decision-making. This together with the realisation of sexual and reproductive rights of women would be of crucial importance to developing countries, having many positive impacts in the long term.
- It should be noted that violence is the biggest threat to women's health. Majority of the violence endured by women takes place at homes and stays thus hidden. It was only in 1993 at the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, that women's rights were seriously taken into account.
- One issue CGP would like to bring out to discussion is rapes within marriages. Several EU countries, such as Finland, criminalised this form of a rape only in the 1990's.
- One of the major reasons why the cases of violence against women stay secret is the distrust women in developing countries feel towards the police. In some countries the threat of becoming a victim of a sexual assault is bigger at police stations than in the streets.
- Refugee camps are a severe health risk. In addition to the difficulties of mere daily survival, women often become victims of violence and sexual assaults. Their sexual and reproductive health is at danger because refugee camps rarely have sufficient health services. This is also a threat to the health of pregnant women.
- We would like to emphasise that any kind of intervention to stop violence is preventive action

## 4 Children in Armed Conflicts

- Promotion of children's rights is a top priority. ILO Convention no. 182 (1999) defines children's acting as child soldiers as one of the worst forms of child labour. Actors should promote the ILO Recommendation 190 related to this convention.
- In addition to the problem of children in armed conflict we would like to emphasise the importance of the whole challenge of child labour. According to an estimation presented in ILO's report "Investing in Every Child" (2003) 211 million children between the age of 5-14 are working in harmful conditions. Elimination of harmful forms of child labour requires systematic multisectoral action by all stakeholders, e.g. in the field of legislation and law enforcement as well as poverty reduction addressing especially the needs of vulnerable groups.

## 5 Conflict Prevention

- Promoting peace and human security in the twenty-first century requires a fundamental shift in how we respond to the challenge of conflict. Instead of focusing efforts on reacting to crises when it is often too late to act effectively without the use of force, we must focus on addressing the root causes of conflict and the factors that enable them to escalate.
- Efforts to prevent armed conflict call for strengthened systems for peacefully managing competing interests and values and making concerted efforts to fulfil basic human needs. A 'culture of prevention' is underpinned by raised public awareness of the causes of conflict and by common willingness to promote human security.
- New partnerships are crucial for effective prevention. An effective multilateral conflict prevention partnership involves governments, intergovernmental organisations, and civil society actors – who are better placed to undertake some initiatives and are well placed to mobilise community support for prevention. This requires official acknowledgement of the legitimacy of CSOs in peace and security matters, recognition of their role in the conflict prevention partnership, and mechanisms and resources to enable them to engage operationally.
- The involvement of CSOs in conflict prevention partnerships should be built into each institutional setting.
- We welcome the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (2003) that involves the worldwide conflict prevention community. This process will culminate in an International Conference at UN Headquarters, from July 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, 2005. The aim is to create an action plan that will improve capacity in the field, and to complement the plan by strengthening CSOs networking at many levels including with the UN, governments and regional organisations.

## 6 Small Arms and light weapons (SALW)

The issue of **small arms and light weapons as a threat to human security** should be considered more carefully. This issue influences all the other themes in this report. The proliferation of SALW not only affects the conflict areas in the developing countries but also the developed countries in form of for instance organized crime and gang violence.

The availability of small arms and light weapons poses a threat to human security because they:

- Create general insecurity and an unstable environment which prevents societies from developing their political, economic and social institutions;
- Are often used in human rights abuses;
- Enable the non-state actors i.e. rebel and organised crime groups to use large scale violence;
- Enable the use of child soldiers since the weapons are light to carry and easy to use;
- Endanger a sustainable peace building process in the post-conflict societies.

### *Suggested points of action*

- In order to control the supply of SALW states should negotiate a legally binding international treaty including rules for marking and tracing weapons and export and brokering regulations;
- More attention should be paid to disarmament and rehabilitation of ex-combatants. This should be considered an essential part of peace-building.

## 7 Environment and Security

The on-going environmental degradation is a major threat to human security. Climate change, loss of biodiversity, air and water pollution and decline of natural resources are affecting all humanity, but for the most vulnerable it is not only a question of future threats, but of insecurities occurring already today. Environmental degradation and hazards hit the poor hardest, as they depend on surrounding natural resources and ecosystem services for survival. For them environmental conditions have direct impacts to health, food security, safety and availability of adequate shelter.

Adequate food, access to water and equal and ecologically sustainable use of natural resources are all central for human security. *Empowering people to secure these rights is a necessity.*

Right to adequate food and water are contained in the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Participatory rights, public access to information, public participation to decision-making and access to justice are highlighted in the Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and further developed in the UNECE Århus Convention. Global environmental threats have been addressed by global multilateral commitments (like Agenda 21, Convention on Biological Diversity, Kyoto Protocol and Johannesburg Plan of Implementation). What we are lacking is implementation and compliance.

Further policy and action, both in global and national level, is also needed. Several international processes promote new tools for fulfilling these global commitments and suggestions of new legally binding instruments are made. From multitude of recommendable actions here are highlighted a selection of four opportunities for further strengthened policy and multistakeholder actions

***Suggested points of action:***

- All stakeholders should encourage governments in the ratification of global environmental agreements and human rights treaties and ensure their compliance with obligations under these treaties, including the obligation to ensure that the right to water, to food and participatory rights are respected and promoted in all national legislation and policies.
- A special rapporteur on human rights and the environment should be nominated to the Commission on Human Rights to further strengthen the on going work of the Commission on the area of the environment, food security and right to water.
- Public-Private partnerships are promoted in the water and sanitation sector as one of the solution for delivery problems. Inclusion of rights based approach and participation and promotion of the interests of the most vulnerables should be a requisite for the partnerships. Global Water Scoping Process or a developed model of a multistakeholder review of issues concerning private sector participation in water and sanitation should be promoted. Proposal on GWS was made by the Working Group of stakeholders formed following the Freshwater Conference in Bonn, 2001. The multistakeholder review could serve as a basis for making necessary clarifications and enhancing common understanding.
- Governments must implement the FAO voluntary guidelines on right to food. Recently (Nov 2004) adopted guidelines provide practical guidance in implementing the obligations relating to the right to food. All stakeholders should support the International Assessment of Agricultural Science & Technology for Development (IAASTD), which seeks to answer fundamental question on “How can we reduce hunger and poverty, improve rural livelihoods, and facilitate equitable, environmentally, socially and economically sustainable development through the generation, access to, and use of agricultural knowledge, science and technology?”