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GLOBAL GOVERNANCE DEBATED IN SAO PAULO

A public event hosted by Mayor Marta Suplicy, Member of the Helsinki Group, opened the last meeting of the Track on New Approaches to Global Problem-Solving in Sao Paulo, Brazil (28.- 31.10.2004). The opening event, held 27th October, gathered some hundred civil society, business and state actors to discuss building alliances towards democratic globalisation.

The relationship between the Helsinki Process and other global governance commissions was explored in opening speeches given by the International Secretary of the City of Sao Paulo Mr Kjeld Jakobsen, Finland's Ambassador to Brazil Mr Hannu Uusi-Videnoja, and Helsinki Process Ambassador Mr Ilari Rantakari. On behalf of governmental actors, Councillor Tovar da Silva Nunes from the Brazilian Ministry for Foreign Affairs addressed the global challenges of hunger and poverty. President of the Parliamentary Confederation of Americas, Brazilian MP Mrs Maria Jose Maninha, examined the role of parliamentarians in global governance.

Many speakers at the event addressed the role of civil society in democratic global governance. Brazilian Workers' Central Union representative Mr Joao Vaccari called for stronger participation of southern workers in global trade union networks. The representative of Citizens' Global Platform, Mr Ilkka Sipiläinen (Finland), stressed the need to make the silent voices of the poor and of the environment globally heard. According to Mr Jose Correia of ATTAC Brazil, the World Social Forum is to provide a space for global civil society that is critical of domination, militarisation and neoliberal globalisation.

FINANCING DEVELOPMENT ADDRESSED IN PRETORIA

Building close linkages between the local and global spheres is required when examining financing for critical development issues, stressed the Track on Global Economic Agenda in its third and last meeting in Pretoria, South Africa (16.-18.10.2004).

In compiling its final report, the Track stressed that the sources and impetus for transformative change are multiple. The report stresses that contexts, sources, action, and accountability must all be considered – both at the global and the local level – if sustainable economic development is to be pursued.



Helsinki Process on Globalisation and Democracy is in search of novel and empowering solutions to the dilemmas of global governance. It offers a forum for dialogue between major stakeholders, governments, civil society and business. One of the aims is to promote democracy in North-South relations. Thus, the high-level Helsinki Group is co-chaired by the Foreign Ministers of Finland and Tanzania, Mr. Erkki Tuomioja and Mr. Jakaya Kikwete. Its recommendations will be presented at the next Helsinki Conference in 2005, 7-9 September.

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UPCOMING KEY EVENTS

- **26-30 Jan. 2005:**
Helsinki Process event
at World Social Forum
in Porto Alegre, Brazil
- **26-30 Jan. 2005:**
Helsinki Process event
at World Economic
Forum in Davos,
Switzerland
- **7-9 Feb. 2005:**
Third Helsinki Group
meeting in New Delhi,
India
- **April 2005:** Fourth
Helsinki Group
meeting in New York,
USA

The Track also noted that business is not part of the problem but part of the solution and underlined that there is no sustainable economic development without trade and capital flows. Sustainable economic development requires close co-operation with the private sector and, therefore, standards and best practices of public-private partnerships have to be developed seriously.

HUMAN SECURITY IN THE SOUTH

Physical safety, economic well-being, social inclusion, and the full exercise of human rights are the essential objectives of the human security imperative, emphasized the Human Security Track when concluding its final meeting in Cairo (30.9-2.10.2004).

The need to empower people to secure their own health emerged as a priority in the Track's discussions as it deliberated its final report. The role of women as agents of change emerged as another key issue, especially the need for serious efforts to initiate a new global consensus to prevent violence against women.

According to the Track, what is needed is new and tenacious commitment of political energy and direction, a global rededication to the human security imperative. The Track also emphasized the importance of regional norms and arrangements to complement local and global efforts in ensuring human security for all.

The Final Reports of the three Tracks will be published in January 2005. More information on the Reports and will be available on the Helsinki Process website at the beginning of January.

