



Personal Contribution to the Helsinki Process

Helsinki Process – Taking on a Unique Role

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I would like to see the Helsinki Process on Globalization and Democracy take on a unique role over the next twenty years, to 2025. It could represent a North/South commitment to securing implementation in practice of the many proposals for reform to make globalization fairer and more equitable. The emphasis should be on implementation, implementation, implementation. By having that focus it can seek to be the practical bridge linking North and South which evokes the first Helsinki Process between East and West that helped to end the cold war.

There is a need for a broad “Tent” where existing plans of action from world conferences, independent commission recommendations and other proposals for reform could be gathered in with a view to mapping out and expediting their implementation. Priority could be give to the five inter-connected issues identified in the Millennium Declaration: Peace and Security, Poverty and Development, Human Rights, Governance and the Environment.

The Helsinki process provides a credible framework, led by the foreign Ministers of Finland and Tanzania who have forged a political base of support from a group of countries of the North and of the South. The Helsinki Group represents diverse individuals with links to a wide variety of networks, and the process is backed up by the three parallel “Tracks” focusing on new approaches to global problem-solving, financial development and human security. Wider participation is foreseen through the Citizens’ Global Platform initiated by Finnish and Tanzania non-governmental organizations working with the Helsinki Process, and now broadening to non-governmental organizations and individuals around the world connecting to its website: www.globalplatform.fi.

The Helsinki Process could develop methodologies to encourage alliances for implementation around existing proposals, such as

- Reform of the UN
- Implementation of the MDGs by 2015
- Completion of a Doha Development Round
- Climate change issues

Emphasis should be placed on the need for creative partnerships involving international institutions, willing governments, business, trade unions, faith based groups, academic centres, foundations, women’s groups and other civil society NGOs. Diversity of initiatives should be encouraged.

The Helsinki Process should develop practical tools to monitor and encourage progress.

- A website to monitor and report on processes of reform and progress in implementation.
- A presence annually in the WEF and WSF – focusing on implementation.

- Reporting initiatives at regional levels – linked to regional bodies.
- Linking with popular mobilization efforts such as The Global Call for Action on Poverty, GCAP.
- Host an annual Stocktaking and Ideas Forum for implementation of reforms.
- Provide awards or recognition for innovative measures of implementation.
- Criticize failures to implement – drawing on reliable existing sources.

The Helsinki Conference on Mobilizing Political Will, provides an ideal opportunity to work out plans to operationalize this emphasis on implementation of commitments and recommendations which would lead to fulfillment of the Millennium Declaration promise “...to make globalization work for all the world’s people.”