



Conference:

ARE WE ON THE RIGHT TRACK? PARADIGM REVIEW BY CSOs AS DEVELOPMENT ACTORS

Date: 14th – 16th May 2008

Venue: Prague Hotel Pyramida, Bělohorská 24, 160 00 Praha 6, Czech Republic

www.hotelpyramida.cz

OBJECTIVES of the Conference

- 1) To serve as a forum of civil society actors from the West, East and South: from the 15 old EU member states, from the 12 new EU member states, and from developing countries in the South (Africa, Latin America, Asia) and East (Eastern EU neighbourhood).
- 2) To present an insight into the specific contexts and environments of CSOs in the field of development.
- 3) To challenge current development approaches and paradigms.
- 4) To find the most promising development approaches.

Rationale

- Bringing together civil society actors from developed and developing countries, the conference should serve as a forum where actors from the West, East and South can discuss the current situation and the kind of development they are looking for. What do NGOs from developing countries expect from European NGOs? What are the differences and common positions between the development approaches in the member states of the EU, the world's largest donor?
- The conference aims to present an empirical insight into specific contexts and environments of CSOs in developing countries in the South and East as well as in OMS and NMS, between the NGOs and the European Union policies, or between European NGOs and CSOs in developing countries?
- The conference will challenge current development approaches and paradigms. What are the challenges in development trends? This will be an opportunity to provoke discussion on paradigms of development. Where do we want to go and which route do we want to take towards a better world? How should we deal with the different situations of CSOs in different parts of the world? How successful were our attempts to meet the MDGs? How can we ensure the accountability of CSOs?
- Looking at development approaches and discussing alternatives will provide an opportunity to check the position of development paradigms. Is there a difference between the approaches taken in OMS and NMS, or between European NGOs and CSOs in developing countries? Where are the common areas? Are there alternative visions in Europe and in development countries for sustainable development? Can we agree on promising development paradigms together?

This conference will provide a basis for a second conference during the Czech Presidency of the EU in the first half of 2009, which should focus on practical steps and the resources CSOs need to reach development aims and alternatives. The second conference will also actively engage donors, government officials, multinational agencies and others responsible for shaping actual EU and global development policies.

Conference Programme

14th May

How do CSOs from the South and East see the prevailing paradigms for development and what kind of development are they hoping for?

- 14:00 – 14:15 Opening and welcome by the organizers
Christine Bedoya, Director of TRIALOG
- 14:15– 14:45 Exchange on expectations, identification and understanding of development paradigms
Jiří Silný, Director of Ecumenical Academy Prague
- 14:45 – 15:15 **Introduction**

Justin Kilcullen, President of CONCORD
Šimon Pánek, Chairman of FoRS
- 15:15 - 16:30 **Challenging paradigms from the South and the East**

Chico Whitaker, Brazil – member of the World Social Forum International Council
Rebecca Tanui, Kenya - BEACON
T. Rajamoorthy, Malaysia – Third World Network
Olga Ponizova, Russian Federation – Eco - Accord

Chair: Justin Kilcullen

Questions from plenary
- 16:30 – 17:00 Coffee break
- 17:00 – 18:30 Thematic working groups with the 4 speakers: deepened discussion and reflection on development paradigms
Chico Whitaker, Rebecca Tanui, T. Rajamoorthy, Olga Ponizova
- 18:30 – 19:00 Paradigms, Policies & Partnerships: Where does EU development policy leave NGOs?
James Mackie, The Netherlands - ECDPM
- 20:00 Dinner (hosted by the EU permanent representation in Prague)

15th May

Responses from European NGOs to the challenges pointed out by CSOs from the South and East

9:00 – 10:30	<p>Panel discussion on specific issues based on the 4 group discussions from the previous day – how do Europeans answer the challenges that came up?</p> <p>2 representatives of OMS (EU-15) NGOs: Duncan Green, Great Britain, Oxfam GB Hildegard Hagemann, Germany, VENRO, Justitia et Pax</p> <p>2 representatives of NMS (EU-12) NGOs: Petr Lebeda, Czech Republic, Glopolis Eva Marn, Slovenia, Humanitas</p> <p>Chair: George Ehusani, Nigeria, Misereor</p>
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 13:00	Workshops

Workshop 1 – LOCAL TO GLOBAL APPROACHES

PEOPLE-CENTRED (Approach)	?VERSUS?	POLICY – CENTRED (Approach)
Consumer economy		Ecological Footprint
Fair Trade		Trade Justice
Local Needs		Global Public Goods
Charity		Causes
Speaker	Facilitator	Speaker
Vathsala Aithal – India/DE	Vince Caruana (KOPIN Malta)	Frank van der Linde – Fairfood

Workshop 2 – RIGHTS-BASED DEVELOPMENT

SYMBOLIC POWER	?VERSUS?	PRACTICAL TOOL
Political and Citizen Rights		Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; Local Enforceability
Human Rights		Rights of Non-humans/Nature
Universal Declarations, Working on causes		MDGs, Working on needs, charity
Speaker	Facilitator	Speaker
Salvatore Parata - Terre des Hommes	Andra Tanase (Patrir Romania)	Luis Morago – Oxfam International

Workshop 3 – SELF DETERMINATION

TRADITION	?VERSUS?	MODERNITY
Cultural Rights and Conventions		Universal Human Rights

Culture and diversity		Right to development
Speaker	Facilitator	Speaker
Ximena Gudiño - Pro-Derechos Humanos Ecuador	Liisa Laakso (C. AG)	Marian Čaučík – eRko, Slovak NGDO Platform MVRO

Workshop 4 – SOCIETAL (POLITICAL) MODELS

PRAGMATIC	?VERSUS?	IDEALIST
Poverty eradication		Participatory democracy
Social democracy		Economic democracy
Conflict prevention		Empowerment
Economic liberalism and growth		Quality of Life and Sustainable Human Development
Aid effectiveness		Good governance
Speaker	Facilitator	Speaker
Rocio Lanao – ATINCHIK Peru	Marilena Simitis (C. AG)	Duncan Green – Oxfam Great Britain

Workshop 5 - MIGRATION

DEVELOPMENT HIDRANCE	?VERSUS?	NATURAL RIGHT AND NECESSITY
Prevent brain-drain		Freedom of movement
Political stability - Prevent exploitation and xenophobia in Europe		Economic benefits - Sustain European Pension system through immigration
Fight trafficking		Leverage of remittances
Equal legal status of immigrants (dignity)		Limited rights of immigrants (exploitation)
Speaker	Facilitator	Speaker
Beatrice Achaleke - Black Women Center Austria Petra Kutálková - La Strada Czech Rep.	Lidia Barreiros (C. AG)	Peter Verhaeghe - Caritas Europa

Workshop 6 – EMPOWERMENT AND CHANGE

EVOLUTION	?VERSUS?	CONFLICT
Macro – improvements (statistics)		Micro – setbacks (regional differences, local costs/trade)
Aid and conditionalities		Partnership (Direct Budget Support)
Development Cooperation		Engineering Social and Political change
Poverty eradication		Fighting (power) inequalities
Focus on poverty (MDGs)		Focus on other forms of deprivation
Focus on the South (development projects) and the global system (policy coherence)		Focus on the public in the North (development education, awareness-raising, consumption patterns)
Speaker	Facilitator	Speaker
Jean Reynaert (Belgian NP)	Jochen Oppenheimer (C. AG)	Marc Levy (Concord AG)

13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 – 17:30	Continuation of the workshops (Coffee in the groups)
17:30 – 19:00	Group reports
20:00	Dinner (hosted by Fondation de France)

16th May

9:00 – 10:30	<p>Presentation of key findings from the workshops and discussion: Panel: Hildegard Hagemann, VENRO, German NGDO Platform Chico Whitaker, Brazil – member of World Social Forum International Council Rebecca Tanui, Kenya - BEACON T. Rajamoorthy, Malaysia – Third World Network</p> <p>Chair: Ondřej Kopečný, Czech Rep. - Glopolis</p>
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 13:00	<p>Open the floor to the plenary: New development paradigms? Which way forward? What steps should be taken before the Prague Conference II?</p> <p>Chair: Mike Mathias, Luxemburg, Cercle de Coopération des ONG</p>
13:00	<p>Closing of the conference: Christine Bedoya, Jiří Silný Lunch</p>
Optional:	Tourist programme in the afternoon

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RPP – Regional Partnership Programme



Brot für die Welt

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