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TRADE-AFRICA: Safeguards for Small Farmers Straw That Broke Doha

Analysis by Aileen Kwa

GENEVA (IPS) - Safeguards to protect small farmers' livelihoods in African and other developing states, as opposed to subsidies for commercial agricultural interests in rich countries, remained an insurmountable obstacle in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) talks, leading the Doha Round to collapse last week.

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POLITICS-KENYA: Writing For Peace Najum Mushtaq

NAIROBI (IPS) - Since January, a group of politically-conscious poets, writers and storytellers in Kenya has been writing an alternative account of the violence that shook Kenya during the first two months of the year. Their work is now part of the evidence before the Waki Commission inquiring into post-election violence in Kenya.

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Koffigan E. Adigbli DAKAR (IPS) - Dakar's suburban communities still deal with irregular access to water. The problem is especially pressing for neighborhoods such as Yeumbeul, Diamaguene et Cambérène.

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A Civilisation Predicated On Dialogue by Daisaku Ikeda

Dialogue is an adventure, an adventure in which anyone can participate. And sometimes it's an adventure whose outcome can change history. More than 2,000 years ago, an Indian Buddhist named Nagasena was summoned to engage in a dialogue with King Milinda, the Hellenic monarch of a kingdom in Northwest India. At the outset, Nagasena faced the king and asked: Highness, when you conduct dialogue, do you speak as a wise man or do you speak as a monarch? Page 10



'Many Would Prefer To Die Than Endure This' Interview with Tursunbek Akun, Kyrgyzstan's Ombudsman

Since death penalty abolition, the threat of execution has been removed but inmates are living on the borderline of existence. Kyrgyzstan's Ombudsman *T. Akun*, in an interview with IPS Central Asia correspondent Kuban Abdyman, tells of his immediate reform goals - including bringing fresh air and paid employment to the former death row inmates. Page 26



Paradigmenwechsel der "illegalen Nebenaußenpolitik"

"Wenn Organisationen und Institutionen beginnen, sich für ihre eigene Geschichte zu interessieren, ist dies ein deutliches Zeichen dafür, dass sie nicht mehr jung sind", schreibt *Patrik von zur Mühlen*, der in seinem Buch *Die internationale Arbeit der Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung - Von den Anfängen bis zum Ende des Ost-West-Konflikts* eine schwierige Aufgabe glänzend meistert. Seite 34



Deutsche Redaktion



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'Where No Countries Will Depend On Aid'



Imagine the dawn of a day when development aid departments and ministries in Europe are closed down and also the German ministry of economic cooperation and development (BMZ) ceases to exist, not because much to the chagrin of development NGOs it has been merged with the External Affairs Ministry but because there are no countries left that depend on aid!

I admit that's hard to imagine and sounds rather utopian. But the good news is that government ministers of developing and 'donor' countries responsible for promoting development and heads of multilateral and bilateral development institutions look like taking the collective ownership of that utopia when they gather in Accra on Sep. 2 for the Third High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness.

An eminently important paper they will find in the bunch of conference documents is titled Accra Agenda for Action. And if all goes well, they will adopt this document unanimously on Sep. 4. The last Para of this 31-point, six-page document says: *"Today, more than ever, we resolve to work together to help countries across the world build the successful future all of us want to see - a future based on a shared commitment to overcome poverty, a future where no countries will depend on aid."*

We hope that this pledge will be part of the package that the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will transmit to the MDG Summit in New York on Sep. 25 and the Financing for Development Review meeting in Doha Nov. 29-Dec. 2, accompanied by a message stressing the need to translate the "aid-free" world utopia into reality.

There are miles and miles to go before such a world ushers in. But the potential signatories of the Accra Agenda for Action know the roads they need to take to reach the goal. The draft document (parts of which you will find on pages 24-25) presents an impressive road map in complete awareness of the fact that the agenda for action *"will require continued high-level political support, peer pressure and coordinated action at global, regional and country levels"*.

The Accra Agenda will not substitute the Millennium Development Goals that the international community pledged to achieve by 2015. But, if taken seriously, it can provide fresh impulses for those goals to be achieved.

Developing and industrialised countries' commitment to implementing the Accra road map will also be judged by their resolve to take the following actions to further improve predictability of aid:

- a) Developing countries will strengthen budget planning processes for managing domestic and external resources and will improve the linkages between expenditures and results over the medium term.
- b) Donors will provide full and timely information on annual commitments and actual disbursements so that developing countries are in a position to accurately record all aid flows in their budget estimates and their accounting systems.
- c) Donors will provide each year, at country level, comprehensive estimates of aid flows they plan to provide over a 3-5 year period.
- d) Developing countries and donors will work together at the international level to review ways of further improving medium-term predictability of aid, including developing tools to measure it.

Let us keep our fingers crossed.

Ramesh Jaura
Chief Editor

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Fortschritte bei Trinkwasserversorgung

New York - Die Zahl der Erdenbürger, die ihr Wasser aus Flüssen oder anderen unsicheren Quellen beziehen, ist erstmals unter eine Milliarde gerutscht. Demnach kommen inzwischen 87 Prozent aller Menschen in den Genuss von sauberem Leitungs- oder Kranwasser. Auch beim Zugang der Weltbevölkerung zu Sanitäreinrichtungen stellen sich Fortschritte ein, wenn auch nicht in dem Maße wie in den Millenniumsentwicklungszielen (MDGs) zur Armutsbekämpfung vorgesehen. Dies ist das Ergebnis einer Studie, die die Weltgesundheitsorganisation (WHO) und das Welkindehilfswerk UNICEF im Rahmen ihres Gemeinsamen Monitoring-Programms für Wasser- und Sanitärversorgung (JMP) auf der Grundlage globaler, regionaler und nationaler Zahlen erstellt haben.

Wie Clarissa Brocklehurst von UNICEF betonte, können etliche nordafrikanische Staaten bei der sanitären Grundversorgung erhebliche Erfolge vorweisen. Andere Länder hingegen lägen in dieser Frage noch weit zurück. Der Anteil der Menschen, die sich unter freiem Himmel erleichtern, sei zwischen 1990 und 2006 von 24 auf 18 Prozent zurückgegangen. Auch innerhalb der einzelnen Länder gibt es gravie-

rende Unterschiede zwischen denjenigen, die eine Toilette haben und denen, die ihre Notdurft im Freien verrichten. So ist der Anteil der Menschen ohne Zugang zu sanitären Anlagen in den Dörfern um das Vierfache höher als in den Städten.

Die UNICEF-Exekutivdirektorin Ann M. Veneman schätzt, dass die internationale Gemeinschaft ihr Millenniums-Sanitär-Ziel um mehr als 700.000 Menschen verfehlen wird. Denn noch immer schlagen sich 18 Prozent der Weltbevölkerung beziehungsweise 1,2 Milliarden Menschen in die Büsche, um sich zu entleeren. Allein in Südasien trifft dies auf etwa 778 Millionen Menschen zu. Die Weltgemeinschaft hatte sich auf ihrem Millenniumsgipfel im Jahr 2000 auf acht übergeordnete Ziele verständigt: die Zahl der Hungernden bis 2015 zu halbieren, für eine Grundschulbildung für alle zu sorgen, die Rolle der Frau zu stärken, die Kindersterblichkeit zu senken, die Gesundheitsversorgung von Müttern zu verbessern, schwere Krankheiten wie HIV/Aids und Malaria zu bekämpfen, die ökologische Nachhaltigkeit zu sichern und eine globale Entwicklungspartnerschaft zwischen den Ländern des Nordens und Südens aufzubauen. ■

Kenias NGOs feiern Sieg über Korruption

Nairobi - Der kenianische Finanzminister Amos Kimunya hat dem Druck von Zivilgesellschaft und Generalstaatsanwaltschaft nachgegeben und seinen Rücktritt eingereicht. Im Hintergrund steht ein Korruptionsskandal um den Verkauf des Fünf-Sterne-Hotels 'Grand Regency' in der Hauptstadt Nairobi. Vorangegangen war dem Rücktrittsgesuch vom 8. Juli ein Misstrauensantrag im Parlament, der erste in der kenianischen Geschichte. Er folgte dem Bericht eines Untersuchungsausschusses unter der Leitung von Generalstaatsanwalt Amos Wako, der nicht nur dem Finanzminister, sondern auch dem kenianischen Zentralbankchef Njuguna Ndung'u und dem Leiter des Geheimdienstes NSIS, Michael Gichangi, die Aufgabe ihre Ämter nahe legte, um eine unabhängige Untersuchung des Hotelskandals zu gewährleisten.

Das Hotel, im April vom Staat erneut übernommen, wurde nach Angaben von Kimunya für 45 Millionen US-Dollar an ein libysches Investmentunternehmen verkauft. Nach Dokumenten, die der Minister für Land, James Orengo - ein Mitglied des 'Orange Democratic Movement' (ODM) - den Medien zuspielte, lag der Kaufpreis allerdings bei nur 28 Millionen Dollar und damit weit unter dem, was Kimunya angegeben hatte. Orengo berichtet ferner, dass das Hotel nicht an libysche Investoren, sondern an ein kenianisches Unternehmen verkauft worden sei, dessen Eigner im Kaufvertrag nicht genannt sind. Kimunya beschuldigt Orengo und Regierungschef Raila Odinga von der ODM, die Staatspräsident Mwai Kibaki nach dem Wahldebakel vom letzten Dezember mit ins Boot einer großen Koalition nehmen musste, die Krise und seinen Rücktritt bewusst provoziert zu haben. Kimunya selbst ist ein enger Gefolgsmann von Kibaki und gehört wie das Staatsoberhaupt zur Ge-



meinschaft der Kikuyu. Bei einer Pressekonferenz erklärte Kimunya, er habe ein reines Gewissen. Sein Rücktrittsgesuch solle lediglich der weiteren Untersuchung die Steine aus dem Weg räumen. Er habe seinen Entschluss nach Beratungen mit Kibaki und seiner Familie gefällt. Zuvor hatte sich auch die libysche Botschaft von dem umstrittenen Deal distanziiert, und etliche Minister waren von Kimunya abgefallen. Organisationen wie das Rechtszentrum 'Kitua Cha Sheria' feiern Kimunyas Entscheidung als großen Sieg. Das Zentrum unter der Leitung von Eкуру Aukot gehört zu rund 300 zivilgesellschaftlichen Organisationen, die eine groß angelegte Kampagne führten, um den Hotelskandal und die Korruption in höchsten Regierungskreisen publik zu machen. ■

Der kenianische Finanzminister Amos Kimunya legte sein Amt nieder | Photo: www.iisd.ca

NGOs im Visier des Antiterrorkrieges der USA

New York - Die USA missbrauchen den von ihnen ausgerufenen globalen Krieg gegen den Terrorismus gegen Nichtregierungsorganisationen (NGOs) und beschneiden dabei unter anderem das Recht auf freie Meinungsäußerung. Mit dieser Kritik wartet ein neuer Bericht der beiden NGOs 'OMB Watch' und 'Grantmakers Without Borders' auf. Grantmakers beobachtet international die Praxis und Qualität der Hilfsmittelvergabe, OMB Watch das 'Office of Management and Budget' (OMB), eine der größten US-amerikanischen Behörden, die dem Weißen Haus über die Aktivitäten aller anderen Bundesbehörden berichtet. Der neue Report wirft der US-Regierung eine *"kurzsichtige und undemokratische Politik"* vor, die die kritischen Stimmen der NGOs verstummen lässt, die Meinungsfreiheit beschränkt und letztendlich den Kampf gegen den wirklichen Terrorismus behindert. Die aktuelle Politik gehe von der Grundannahme aus, dass NGOs eine der entscheidenden Finanzierungsquellen für Terrorgruppen und eine Brutstätte für aggressive Dissidenten seien. Längst arbeiteten viele der unter Dauerverdacht stehenden Organisationen in der ständigen Sorge darum, verboten zu werden.

Die Antiterrorpolitik der USA beschreibt der unter dem Titel 'Kollateralschaden' erschienene Bericht als vorurteilsbehaftet, von vagen Definitionen ausgehend, leicht zu missbrauchen und als Gefahr für die verfassungsmäßigen Rechte. Kritisch sehen die Auto-

ren vor allem das Amt für die Kontrolle internationaler Finanztransaktionen im US-Finanzministerium, das 'Office of Foreign Assets Control' (OFAC), das unter anderem für die US-amerikanische Embargo- und Sanktionspolitik verantwortlich ist und diverse rote Listen erstellt. Auch die Tatsache, dass der US-Kongress der Regierung nach den Terroranschlägen vom 11. September auf New York und Washington quasi eine Blankovollmacht für die Verfolgung von Verdachtsfällen ausstellte, stellt der Report an den Pranger. Seit den Anschlägen wurden in den USA Organisationen im Dutzend verboten. Nur drei von ihnen haben sich als mutmaßliche Förderer des Terrorismus bislang einem Verfahren stellen müssen, zu einer Verurteilung aber kam es in keinem der Fälle. Als äußerst problematisch gilt ferner die in den USA reichlich eingesetzte Praxis, Konten auf praktisch unbegrenzte Zeit einzufrieren. Nach einem Bericht des US-amerikanischen Finanzministeriums von 2006 wurden seit 9/11 fast 16,5 Millionen US-Dollar auf diese Weise blockiert. Freigegeben wurde bislang kein einziger Dollar. Die Leidtragenden sind unter anderem Stiftungen und Wohltätigkeitsorganisationen und die Menschen, die auf ihre Hilfe angewiesen sind. Ins Fadenkreuz geraten den US-amerikanischen Antiterrorkreuzrittern nach dem neuen Report dabei nicht zuletzt NGOs, die für eine kritische Haltung zur US-Administration stehen. ■

Haupteinkaufsstraße in Shanghai
Photo: www.ilankelman.org



China soll US-Wirtschaft bis 2035 überrunden

Washington - Nach einem neuem Bericht der US-Denkfabrik 'Carnegie Endowment for International Peace' (CEIP) in Washington wird die chinesische Wirtschaft noch zwei weitere Jahrzehnte um die zehn Prozent wachsen. Erst dann wird sich das Tempo verlangsamen und etwa 2070 bei drei Prozent liegen - das Wachstum, das die US-Wirtschaft in dem gesamten Zeitraum nicht übersteigen wird. Für 2035 sagte die Untersuchung aus der Feder des früheren Weltbankökonom Albert Keidel China die Überrundung der USA voraus, für 2050 eine Verdopplung der aktuellen wirtschaftlichen Größe. 2070 wird China nach Keidels Schätzung in Werten von 2005 ein Bruttoinlandsprodukt (BIP) von fast 180 Billionen US-Dollar erwirtschaften. Die USA werden es demnach auf ein BIP von höchstens 80 Billionen Dollar bringen. Während das chinesische BIP

2035 das der USA überrunden soll, wird das chinesische BIP pro Kopf noch 80 Jahre brauchen, um mit den USA gleichzuziehen. 2005 lag das BIP pro Kopf in China bei unter 2.000 Dollar, in den USA jedoch bei 41.000 Dollar. Für 2035 prognostiziert Keidel China ein BIP pro Kopf von etwa einem Drittel des dann in den USA erreichten Wertes, aber eine im Vergleich dazu deutlich höhere Kaufkraft. Mögliche Probleme erkennt der China-Experte in sozialen Unruhen, makroökonomischen Fehlentscheidungen und in Korruption innerhalb der kommunistischen Partei. Letztere bezeichnet er als *"Achillesferse"*. Aber er geht auch davon aus, dass keines dieser Probleme das chinesische Wachstum stoppen kann. Die Korruption habe den Weg des Wachstumsriesen schon in der Vergangenheit nicht behindert und werde dies auch in Zukunft nicht tun.

Für die USA und auch für Europa bedeutet das von Keidel gezeichnete Bild eine Degradierung auf noch immer wichtige, aber nachgeordnete Plätze und die Notwendigkeit, sich in Kompromissen zu üben. Damit schwinden auch die Möglichkeiten, unilaterale Entscheidungen durchzuboxen. Als großes Plus wertet Keidel die wenig exportabhängige chinesische Wirtschaft. Wie unabhängig sie ist, zeigt sich für den Experten daran, dass ein Slowdown auf dem US-amerikanischen Markt - dem größten chinesischen Abnehmer - das chinesische Wachstum bislang nicht beeinträchtigen konnte. Das Gegenteil gilt für Exportnationen wie Japan, Südkorea oder auch Deutschland. ■

USA und Spanien Vorreiter in Sonnenwärmekraftwerken

Washington - Hohe Energiekosten, die Sorge um den Klimawandel und wirtschaftliche Anreize haben Sonnenwärmekraftwerken neuen Auftrieb gegeben. 2007 wurden nach einigen Jahren der Vernachlässigung neue Kapazitäten in einer Größenordnung von 100 Megawatt erschlossen - vor allem in den USA und in Spanien. Die Kraftwerke, die anders als Photovoltaikanlagen die Wärme der Sonne nutzen, haben ein enormes Potenzial. Die Energie, die das Sonnenlicht in nur 70 Minuten auf die Erde einstrahlen lässt, würde zur Deckung des globalen Einjahresbedarfs reichen. Vor allem den solarthermischen Anlagen mit Bündelung der Direktstrahlung (CSP) scheint die Zukunft zu gehören. Experten gehen davon aus, dass sich ihre Kapazität in den nächsten fünf Jahren alle 16 Monate verdoppeln wird. 2012 soll die installierte CSP-Kapazität bei 6.400 Megawatt liegen - dem 14-Fachen des heutigen Wertes. Ihre großen Vorteile liegen in der sauberen und CO₂-freien Energieproduktion, der im vergleichsweise unproblematischen Energiespeicherung und in der Tatsache, dass gerade unwirtliche Gegenden wie Wüsten ideale Standorte sind. Die USA und Spanien zusammen werden bis 2012 neue Kapazitäten von 5.600 Megawatt einrichten, so über 1,7 Millionen Haushalte versorgen können und dann für 90 Prozent der neuen Kapazitäten verantwortlich sein. Der derzeit größte CSP-Komplex, eine 354-Megawatt-Anlage, findet sich in der kalifornischen Mojave-Wüste und versorgt seit fast zwei Jahrzehnten 100.000 Haushalte. Allein in den USA liegen Pläne für den Bau von über einem Dutzend weiterer Sonnenwärmekraft-

werke vor, bis 2012 sollen sie rund 3.100 Megawatt liefern. Besonders beeindruckende US-amerikanische Vorhaben sind der Mojave-Solarpark in Kalifornien mit 553 Megawatt, das Projekt 'Solar One' in Nevada mit 500 Megawatt und das Projekt 'Solar Two' in Kalifornien mit 300 Megawatt, eine weitere 300-Megawatt-Anlage in Florida und ein 280-Megawatt-Werk in Arizona. In Spanien arbeitet seit 2007 der Elf-Megawatt-Solarturm PS10. Er ist Teil der 300-Megawatt-Plattform 'Solúcar'. Sie soll 2013 fertiggestellt sein und zehn CSP-Kraftwerke miteinander verbinden. Versorgen können wird der Komplex 153.000 Haushalte, einsparen soll er 185.000 Tonnen CO₂ im Jahr. Alles in allem sind in Spanien 60 Anlagen in der Pipeline mit einer Kapazität von 2.570 Megawatt bis 2012. Außerhalb der USA und Spaniens machen sich Frankreich, Griechenland, Italien und Portugal für CSP-Anlagen stark und arbeiten an einer installierten Kapazität von 3.200 Megawatt bis 2020. China will bis dahin 1.000 Megawatt liefern können. Andere Staaten, die auf den Zug aufspringen, sind Ägypten, Algerien, Australien, der Iran, Israel, Jordanien, Marokko, Mexiko, Südafrika und die Vereinigten Arabischen Emirate (VAE). ■



Sonnenwärmekraftwerk von einem griechischen Hersteller
Photo: www.aegiselectric.com

Bevölkerungsnotstand in Uruguay

Montevideo - Nirgendwo sonst in Lateinamerika altert die Bevölkerung schneller als in Uruguay. Die Geburtenrate stagniert, und das ehemalige Einwanderungsland verliert einen beträchtlichen Teil seiner Fachkräfte ans Ausland. Einer neuen Studie zufolge könnten in 30 Jahren die Alten die Jungen zahlenmäßig überrunden. Die Statistiken sprechen für sich. So werden in Uruguay mit seinen derzeit 3,2 Millionen Einwohnern jährlich 47.000 Kinder geboren. Demgegenüber sterben 32.000 Menschen und weitere 12.500 emigrieren. "Wir befinden uns in einer Situation des demografischen Notstands, denn die Bevölkerungszahlen können nicht gehalten werden", warnte der Leiter des staatlichen Planungsbüros Enrique Rubio bei der Präsentation der Untersuchung Mitte Juli.

Der Bericht 'Demografie einer Übergangsgesellschaft. Uruguays Bevölkerung zu Anfang des 21. Jahrhunderts' wurde von der Fakultät für Sozialwissenschaften der staatlichen Universität der Republik (UDELAR) in Zusammenarbeit mit dem UN-Bevölkerungsfonds (UNFPA) erstellt und basiert auf Daten einer Haushaltsbefragung von 2006. Ihre Auswertung lässt keinen Zweifel daran, dass sich die uruguayische Gesellschaft auf immer weniger Kinder und immer mehr ältere Menschen gefasst machen muss. Derzeit sind 17,5 Prozent der Landesbevölkerung über 60 Jahre alt. 2040 werden Senioren über 64

Jahren den unter 15-jährigen zahlenmäßig überlegen sein. Dieser Trend stellt für das soziale Sicherungssystem eine erhebliche Belastung dar. "Die Alterung der Bevölkerung ist eine Realität, mit deren wirtschaftlichen, politischen, sozialen und kulturellen Auswirkungen wir uns dringend auseinandersetzen müssen", heißt es in der Untersuchung. "In drei Jahrzehnten wird es in unserem Land mehr Alte als Junge geben- Diese Realität macht besondere soziale Strategien erforderlich." Der Bericht warnt ferner davor, dass die Bevölkerungszahlen bei anhaltendem Trend nicht mehr wachsen, wenn nicht gar schrumpfen werden. Hauptursache ist die niedrige Geburtenrate. Uruguays Frauen bringen statistisch gesehen im Schnitt 2,04 Kinder zur Welt. 1975 kamen noch drei Kinder auf jede Frau. Mindestens 2,1 Kinder pro Frau sind jedoch nötig, um den Bevölkerungsbestand zu halten. Uruguay zeichnet sich im Vergleich zu den anderen Ländern Lateinamerikas durch eine historisch niedrige Geburtenrate aus. Während sich hier der Rückgang erstmals Ende des 19. Jahrhunderts und Anfang des 20. Jahrhunderts bemerkbar machte, stellte er sich im Rest der Region vor etwa 60 Jahren ein. Der Untersuchung zufolge liegt das uruguayische Durchschnittsalter bei 31 Jahren und somit über dem regionalen und dem europäischen Schnitt von 26 Jahren respektive 39 Jahren. In Afrika bewegt sich das Durchschnittsalter bei um die 19. ■

The Food Crisis and the Wrong Solutions

By Jacques Diouf

At the opening of the High-level Conference on World Food Security held in Rome on 3 June 2008, I indicated that *"the structural solution to the problem of world food security is an increase in productivity and production in the low-income food-deficit countries. This would require, in addition to official development assistance, innovative new solutions. To this effect, it is necessary to develop partnership or joint-venture agreements between, on the one hand, those countries that have the financial resources and on the other, those that possess land, water and human resources. Only in this way will it be possible to ensure sustainable agricultural development in the context of more equal international relations."*

It is worth mentioning here the many initiatives taken recently in Latin America, in Africa, in Asia and in Eastern Europe, the implementation of which in certain cases give reason for considerable concern and require the rapid adoption of corrective measures. In effect, some negotiations have led to unequal international relations and short-term mercantilist agriculture. The objective should be to create mixed societies in which each side contributes on the basis of its own comparative advantage. One would provide financing, administrative skills and the guarantee of product markets. The other contributes on the basis of land, water and manpower. Complementarity in technical, economic, financial, fiscal and legal expertise, together with knowledge of the ecological, social and cultural environment would constitute a solid basis on which to share both the risks and the benefits of long-term cooperation.

In reality, what is happening is a propensity for one of the two parties to take over the role of the other. Land acquisition and long-term farming leases appear to be favoured by foreign investors. Even in certain countries where land is an asset like any other exchange commodity and is

used as a refuge against currency devaluation, protests from farm workers and indigenous populations are frequent. In other cases, the appropriation and distribution of land have become a source of latent conflict. If one adds to this the emotional, or sometimes, mystical value of what constitutes one of the bases of national sovereignty, you can easily imagine the risk of a social outcry when such land falls into foreign hands.

A source of latent conflict

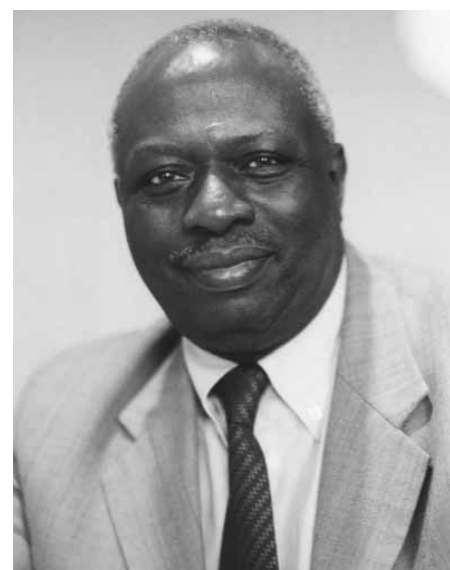
The problem is a very real one and in global terms, taking into account the role of speculation and increasing prices for land in a world where, between now and 2050, production will have to double in order to meet, inter alia, world population growth and the needs of the emerging countries. The exploitation of natural resources for the sole purpose of achieving financial profitability is hardly favourable to the kind of production that preserves the soil's mineral and organic reserves and prevents such practices as burning and deforestation. It does not allow for the correct use of fertilizers and pesticides which would otherwise provoke pollution. It does not encourage the coexistence of crop and grazing lands, nor crop rotation that would be needed to restore the soil's biological and nutritional properties that are taken up by plants. The risk is of creating a neocolonial pact for the provision of non-value added raw materials in the producing countries and unacceptable work conditions for agricultural workers.

It is therefore necessary to avoid any misinterpretation of what otherwise would be good idea. These direct foreign investments in agriculture should allow the creation of jobs, income and food, enabling at the same time friendship among nations. For this reason, FAO believes that the time has come to give deep thought to creating the conditions to ensure the success of international

'joint-ventures' for food production. But what would be the guarantees for the two sides concerned; the necessary incentives; the legal status; the most appropriate conditions for production, processing and trade; the most appropriate type of contracts for workers as well as the economic benefits for the State, for small farmers and for the private sector?

In order to answer to these questions, an inter-disciplinary internal brainstorming is needed as well as expert consultations among centres of excellence, with a view to organizing an inter-governmental discussion in a neutral forum such as FAO. The adoption, by consensus, of an international reference framework would allow us to avoid the problems that are gathering on the horizon of global food security and would help us take advantage albeit with a sense of proportion of the opportunities resulting from expanding agricultural demand. *"To govern is to foresee"* on both the national and international levels.

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Jacques Diouf, Director-General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Photo: UN

Towards Modern 'Biocivilisations'

By Ignacy Sachs

Photos www.pixelio.de

The long co-evolution of humankind and the biosphere was marked by two great historical transitions. The first, from hunting and gathering to agriculture and animal husbandry, occurred thousands of years ago. The second, to the age of abundant and cheap fossil fuels (coal, oil and gas), took place just a few centuries ago. We are now at the threshold of the third great transition: out of the oil and, hopefully, the fossil energy age. This transition will take decades, but by many signs it has already begun, prompted by the recent spectacular rise in the cost of oil and the recovery of food prices. Future historians of our time will thus look at the fossil energy age as a brief yet extremely eventful interlude, which brought about a massive increase in world population, now 6.7 billion and likely to reach 9 billion by the middle of this century, with the majority living in urban areas. Since the start of the industrial revolution in the 18th century, unprecedented scientific, technological, and industrial breakthroughs have brought human activity to a level hundreds of times more advanced. Yet, two major challenges are looming: potentially catastrophic climate change, and extreme social inequality, which goes hand in hand with a severe deficit of opportunities for decent work.

In order to avoid the continued warming of the atmosphere, which is caused by excessive emissions of greenhouse gases, we must drastically modify our patterns of energy use. This requires a three-fold approach:

- restraining energy demand by altering lifestyles and patterns of consumption;
- improving energy efficiency;
- and substituting fossil fuels with renewable energy - solar, wind, hydraulic, marine, or biomass fuels.

At the same time, we ought to reopen discussions on a new cycle of rural development to avoid the blind alley of excessive and premature urbanisation, as exposed in Mike Davis's *Planet of Slums*. Opportunities for decent work must be created for billions of rural poor. The two objectives could be

reconciled by promoting modern 'biocivilisations', which rest on solar energy harnessed through photosynthesis and explore the multiple uses of biomass - food for humans, fodder for animals, green fertilisers, bio-energies, building materials, fibres, plastics and other products of green chemistry (chemistry) turned out by biorefineries, pharmaceuticals, and cosmetics. Biofuels are only a component of a larger whole. All the great ancient civilisations were *"vegetal civilisations"*, in the words of French geographer Pierre Gourou. The great civilisations to come will differ from them as mankind finds itself at a new and far superior level of knowledge. Modern biocivilisations should by no means be viewed as a regression but rather as a leapfrogging into the future.

To involve the masses of small rural holders in the sustainable production and processing of biomass, we will need technologies that are knowledge and labour intensive, and, at the same time, resource-saving. Solutions will come from agro-ecological, integrated food-energy production systems adapted to different biomes and informed by the principles of the *"evergreen revolution"*, in M. S. Swaminathan's words, also known as the doubly green revolution. This is a tall order: it aspires to transform the looming energy and food crisis into an opportunity to move towards new, more equitable and sustainable civilisations. In the longer perspective, expensive oil and the recovery of food prices will prove welcome if they help us free ourselves from oil addiction and to improve the lot of small farmers instead of benefiting the transnational corporations active in the food business. Of course, in the immediate future, urgent measures are called for to assist the urban poor victimised by the hike in food prices.

Thus, a major struggle unfolds to show that another world is possible. The stakes are high but the outcome is far from certain. Venture capitalists are quick to seize the occasion to make money off of new energy technologies coming of age thanks to expensive oil and to promote them without any serious transformation of the social and

economic fabric. However, the beginning of the third great transition coincides with the exhaustion of the major development paradigms, which dominated the world scene since the end of the Second World War. Real socialism collapsed with the fall of the Berlin Wall. Reformed post-war capitalism gave way to neoliberalism. To some observers, the recent financial crisis marks the beginning of the end for the latter. Social democracy is locked in the contradiction of saying *"Yes"* to market economy but *"No"* to market society. That is why, condemned to invent new paradigms, the next generation will be moving into uncharted and exciting territories.

One thing is certain: the emergence of biocivilisations will change world geopolitics, favouring tropical countries, which Gourou once dubbed the Lands of Good Hope. They will prove him right if they manage to enhance their natural climate advantage with research, an appropriate social organisation of production, and effective development of South-South cooperation.

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A Civilisation Predicated On Dialogue

By Dr. Daisaku Ikeda

Dialogue is an adventure, an adventure in which anyone can participate. And sometimes it's an adventure whose outcome can change history. More than 2,000 years ago, an Indian Buddhist named Nagasena was summoned to engage in a dialogue with King Milinda, the Hellenic monarch of a kingdom in Northwest India. At the outset, Nagasena faced the king and asked: Highness, when you conduct dialogue, do you speak as a wise man, or do you speak as a monarch?

Nagasena's words cut to the heart of the king's dogmatic arrogance as a supreme ruler. His question was a way of insisting that they explore the truth together on an equal basis, as two human beings who would learn from each other in a dialogue of the wise. This encounter opened King Milinda's eyes, prompting him to set aside his pride and dedicate himself instead to the development of human wisdom. The frank exchange of ideas between these two resulted in a meeting of East and West, a merging of the finest points of classical Hellenic thought and Indian philosophy, with an enduring impact on the spiritual history of humankind. This dramatic example of dialogue contains lessons that should be heeded by the leaders of the world today. There has never been a time when it was more important for us to inspire each other by learning from our differences, or when we have had such need for a creative dialogue of the wise.

The G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit held in Japan this July saw a record number of participating countries - twenty-two. The heads of government of the eight original nations were joined at the negotiating table for expanded meetings on climate change and development issues by the heads of government of some of the other countries on the front lines of these issues. Setting aside the concrete outcome of these meetings, I feel this expansion of the summit process is of great significance.

Indeed, I have long called for wider participation in these summits as I believe this is a crucial element in the creation of a civilisation predicated on dialogue. The surest way to benefit humanity - and the entire planet - is to expand a network of dialogue grounded in a wider sense of community and a shared responsibility for the future.

The mark of wisdom lies, more than anything else, in the ability to listen. Specifically, faced as we are with a multitude of pressing global issues, it is essential to make every effort to listen to the opinions of people whose position is different from our own, especially the more vulnerable, the so-called voiceless: to corral the wisdom of all people. At the same time, it is the mark of the wise to exercise great perseverance. Where progress is not smooth, we need the wisdom to seek out realistic common ground and the determination to continue dialogue, come what may.

I am reminded of the Reykjavik Summit between Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan in 1986. Effectively, their negotiations ended in stalemate. But at the press conference following the summit, Gorbachev refused to concede that the talks had broken down, stating they had been a first step toward further negotiations. This influenced the Americans to adopt a similar stance, prompting a reappraisal and a more positive, forward-looking approach. History shows that this strong determination to engage in dialogue contributed, in a quiet yet profound way, to the process that ultimately brought the Cold War to an end.

When, some years later, I met with Gorbachev, there were many who questioned whether a meeting between a Buddhist and the leader of a communist superpower could generate any meaningful outcome. During our meeting, we discussed the memories we both shared of the misery and cruelty of war that we had experienced when young, agreeing that our generation could be defined as the children of war. Having located this common

Dr. Daisaku Ikeda

is a Japanese Buddhist philosopher and peace-builder and president of the Soka Gakkai International (SGI) grassroots Buddhist movement (www.sgi.org). The nongovernmental organization (NGO) SGI has more than 12 million members in 192 countries and territories. Ikeda is also founder of many institutions, including the Boston Research Centre for the 21st Century, the Toda Institute for Global Peace and Policy Research and the comprehensive Soka education system.

Born in Tokyo in 1928, Ikeda experienced firsthand the human loss, anguish and turmoil of a nation at war. In the chaos of post-war Japan, he came to embrace Buddhism through his encounter with educator and ardent pacifist Josei Toda, head of the Buddhist lay organization Soka Gakkai, who had been imprisoned for his beliefs during World War II. These experiences shaped Ikeda's deep commitment to peace and underlie his efforts toward the creation of a global culture of peace.

Over the years, Ikeda has engaged many of the world's leading thinkers in dialogue, addressed audiences in over fifty countries, inspired the SGI's support of United Nations activities and written extensively on a range of issues related to peace and the human condition. A central theme in the author's works is his probing into the transformative means by which human dignity and peace can be at once accessible and extended to all humanity. His annual proposals for peace issued each year on the anniversary of the founding of the SGI -- January 26, 1975 -- review the state of the world and offer suggestions of practical initiatives as viable responses grounded in Buddhist philosophy.

SGI ■

A civilisation predicated on dialogue is a civilisation predicated on learning, on growth.

Photo: www.pixello.de

SGI's Philosophy

The core philosophy of the SGI can be summed up by the concept of "Human revolution." This is the idea that the self-motivated inner change of a single individual positively affects the larger web of life and results in the rejuvenation of human society. The SGI movement has its roots in the life-affirming philosophy of Nichiren, a Buddhist monk who lived in 13th-century Japan.

Nichiren felt passionately that Buddhism should enable people living in the real world and facing real problems to become empowered and change their lives for the better. Nichiren Buddhism stresses the profound connection between one's own happiness and the happiness of others.

The greatest personal satisfaction and fulfillment in life is realized by working for the happiness of others. Nichiren's teachings assert that each individual, regardless of gender, ethnicity, capacity or social standing, has the power to overcome life's inevitable challenges, to develop a life of great value and creativity and to positively influence their community, society and the world.

Nichiren's philosophy originates in the teaching of Shakyamuni, the historical founder of Buddhism who lived in India some 2,500 years ago. Nichiren discovered that the Lotus Sutra contains the heart of Buddhist teachings and the truth to which Shakyamuni was awakened. This sutra reveals that a universal principle, the Buddha nature, is inherent in all life. It affirms that all people are capable of manifesting the state of enlightenment.

Soka Gakkai International Website:
<http://www.sgi.org>

SGI ■

ground, we talked about our shared determination to extract meaningful lessons for the future.

Whatever our ethnicity, whatever our religion, we all have families we love, and there is a future we all want to protect. And no human being can escape the eternal rhythms of life: birth, aging, sickness, death. When we are grounded in this most fundamental perspective of the commonality of our lives, we can rise above any differences and without fail achieve empathy and dialogue. Common to all of the thinkers and leaders from various fields and nationalities with whom I have engaged in dialogue over the years is an earnest prayer and deep determination to see the 21st century become a century of peace and dialogue, in contrast to the century of war and violence that was the 20th. Dialogue is not a simplistic assertion of one's own position, nor is it necessarily about bringing others to one's point of view. Dialogue succeeds when it is grounded in respect for the other's life, when it's propelled by a determination to learn when confronted with differences in personality and perspective.

In the Buddhist scriptures there is a beautiful passage that reads: When we bow to a mirror, the figure in the mirror bows back to us in reverence. Whether it is between individuals or between civilisations, if one is too proud and begrudges the act of dialogue, if one ceases to learn, there can be no growth, no progress. A civilisation predicated on dialogue is a civilisation predicated on learning, on growth. In stark contrast, the failure of dialogue promises only the division of humanity by egoism and mistrust, and an ever-deepening cycle of hatred and violence.

The British historian Arnold Toynbee was convinced that dialogue was the key to finding human responses to the challenges of history. He once declared: Of all human phenomena, the one for which no set pattern in fact exists is the field of encounter

and contact between one personality and another. It is from such encounter and contact that truly new creativity arises. There is absolutely no reason why we cannot rise above the divisive crises that confront our contemporary world. Dialogue is the surest path to peace. And it is a path open to all of us, starting from wherever we are, starting now.

Dialogue is an adventure, a means of discovering the uniqueness, mystery, and familiarity of humanity. It is the wellspring of ceaseless and unimpeded value creation.

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Dr. Daisaku Ikeda | Photo: Seikyo Shimbun

Norway's Sovereign Wealth Fund Finds Ethical Success

By Tarjei Kidd Olsen in Oslo

Photo: Tarjei Kidd Olsen | IPS

Norway's 'oil fund' has risen to become the second largest fund in the world despite housing an ethical investments council which has kicked out major companies such as Wal-Mart, Lockheed Martin and Boeing. The 'oil fund', properly called the Government Pension Fund - Global, and worth an estimated 390 billion dollars, has become the world's second largest sovereign wealth fund, now only trailing the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority after overtaking the Dutch fund for public employees. The fund invests some of the huge profits from Norway's oil and gas sector in companies worldwide to raise money in anticipation of increased pension costs and a future without oil exports.

Business is booming, perhaps partly explaining why the ethics councils of 20 non-Norwegian funds are said to be copying its ethical guidelines and recommendations, and in the process broadening its impact considerably, according to Norway's finance ministry. The unprecedented level of investment transparency practised by the oil fund may be another contributor to its success. The fund has been clear that its goals relate to financial sustainability as opposed to any secretive political agendas, and it scored no less than 100 percent for governance, accountability and transparency in a 2007 study by the U.S.-based Peterson Institute for International Economics (Abu Dhabi Investment Authority scored 2 percent).

The fund invests earnings from Norway's oil and gas sector in companies outside of Norway in accordance with guidelines from the finance ministry. Some of

these guidelines relate to ethics and are meant to ensure that the fund does not invest in companies that contribute to any of a series of specified abuses that finance minister Kristin Halvorsen has summarised as *"serious, systematic or gross violations of ethical norms."* A total of 27 companies have been kicked out of the fund following the creation of the ethics council in 2004. Most of these were excluded for producing weapons that *"may violate fundamental humanitarian principles."* Among these were Lockheed Martin or EADS for producing components for cluster bombs, and Boeing for producing central components for nuclear weapons. Wal-Mart got the boot for workers right abuses (including child labour, gender discrimination, and the blocking of unionisation attempts). The oil fund has also pulled out of companies that have engaged in abuses such as the forced displacement of tribal peoples or serious environmental destruction.

However, most of the time the fund engages in less dramatic action which, its proponents argue, may be more effective in the long run. This approach focuses on using the oil fund's position as an investor to influence the ethical practices of offending companies, and is managed by Norway's central bank instead of the finance ministry. The central bank's Anne Kvam, head of the corporate governance department, has an in-house team of 11 people working to influence the 7,000 stock market-listed companies in the oil fund's investment portfolio. The team works with 'traditional' corporate governance issues, for instance shareholder voting rights, as well as social concerns - currently child

Sovereign Wealth Fund

A sovereign wealth fund (SWF) is a state-owned investment fund composed of financial assets such as stocks, bonds, property, precious metals or other financial instruments. Sovereign wealth funds have gained world-wide exposure by investing in several Wall Street financial firms including Citigroup, Morgan Stanley, and Merrill Lynch. These firms needed a cash infusion due to losses resulting from the credit crunch.

Some sovereign wealth funds are held solely by central banks, which accumulate the funds in the course of their fiscal management of a nation's banking system; this type of fund is usually of major economic and fiscal importance. Other sovereign wealth funds are simply the state savings which are invested by various entities for the purposes of investment return, and which may not have significant role in fiscal management.

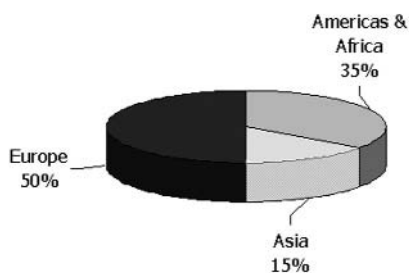
The accumulated funds may have their origin in, or may represent foreign currency deposits, gold, SDRs and IMF reserve positions held by central banks and monetary authorities, along with other national assets such as pension investments, oil funds, or other industrial and financial holdings. These are assets of the sovereign nations which are typically held in domestic and different reserve currencies such as the dollar, euro and yen. Such investment management entities may be set up as

A total of 27 companies have been kicked out of the fund. Most of these were excluded for producing weapons that "may violate fundamental humanitarian principles."

official investment companies, state pension funds, or sovereign oil funds, among others.

There have been attempts to distinguish funds held by sovereign entities from foreign exchange reserves held by central banks. The former can be characterized as maximizing long term return, with the latter serving short term currency stabilization and liquidity

Equity Investment by Region



management. Many central banks in recent years possess reserves massively in excess of needs for liquidity or foreign exchange management.

Moreover it is widely believed most have diversified hugely into assets other than short term, highly liquid monetary ones, though almost no data is available to back up this assertion. Some central banks even have begun buying equities, or derivatives of differing ilk (even if fairly safe ones, like Overnight Interest rate swaps).

WIKIPEDIA ■

labour and the environment. "With 7,000 companies and a fairly broad set of international principles to take account of, there are quite a lot of different themes and areas that could be focused upon. Obviously we don't have the resources or possibility to do that, so instead we focus on a few specific areas for each strategic period which we can delve into more deeply," Kvam told IPS. "We take a sector-wise approach to investigating abuses by the companies we invest in, and for child labour in Brazil that means the mining sector, in India it means the cotton industry, and so on."

Against investigating abuse

The effort involves voting at shareholder meetings, discussions and ongoing processes of engagement with the companies, networking with other investors, and government dialogue. Even though the oil fund usually owns no more than one percent of stocks and bonds in any given company, Kvam feels that her team is being listened to. "Social issues such as child labour are structural problems connected to poverty and many other themes that we don't expect to solve in six months - it's a long-term effort, and my team only began working with this in 2006. But we do feel that the companies are interested in talking to us, in that we are given the opportunity to engage in dialogue with receptive CEOs and boards," she said. Kvam's team has already helped convince some companies to sign up to the United Nations Global Compact, a corporate responsibility initiative. "It naturally helps

that we are one of the largest funds in the world. They listen to us, and now it remains to be seen how our work will affect policy." The finance ministry's exclusion of companies and the central bank's investor approach are meant to complement each other. While the exclusion of companies garners attention and roots out the worst of the worst, the less dramatic central bank approach serves to influence a larger number of companies. "The process that takes place with the finance ministry's council of ethics is very thorough and very transparent. It makes people take notice; something which stock market-listed companies hardly enjoy. But this approach has a limited capacity - they have excluded 27 companies out of the total 7,000 - so it can never become the main instrument as it simply can't investigate everyone," Kvam pointed out.

Finance minister Kristin Halvorsen agrees that it is usually better to influence companies from the inside, rather than by kicking them out. "If the finance ministry excludes a company it will garner attention, but we lose the ability to influence the company's behaviour, and those that buy the stocks we sell may have a completely different agenda than we do when it comes to ethics," she said in a press statement. "Because of this it is important that the exclusion of companies should only be on the table in exceptional circumstances, although in certain cases the ministry has to forcefully demonstrate that we cannot contribute to the financing of gravely unethical activities."

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Transition Brings AIDS

By Claudia Ciobanu in Bucharest

Poverty in Romania | Photo: www.pixelio.de

Poverty and social displacement, increased availability of drugs, and chaos in the healthcare systems that accompanied transition from state socialism to the market economy have contributed to the spread of HIV in Eastern Europe. Russia and the Central Asian countries that were once a part of the Soviet Union are today the worst hit by large numbers of new HIV infections. According to UNAIDS (the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS), between 2001-2007 the number of people living with HIV in Eastern Europe and Central Asia increased by 150 percent, from 630,000 to 1.6 million. More than half of the new cases were diagnosed in Russia, and over 20 percent in Ukraine.

In most other countries in Eastern Europe, the HIV epidemic peaked in 2000-2001. Since then, efforts to stabilise the epidemic have achieved partial success. *"Transition has led to economic and social dislocation, creating an environment that allows illicit drug markets, drug injecting, and related HIV risk to thrive,"* wrote Tim Rhodes, a researcher in public health sociology at the Imperial College London, in a 2005 study on the HIV epidemic in Eastern Europe. According to Rhodes, heightened availability of injectable drugs like heroin, and the globalisation of western drug cultures coincided with the weakening of public health infrastructures, erosion of local communities, migration and mixing of populations, and increased economic hardship. All this contributed to the rapid spread of HIV.

The Baltic states (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania) reported eruptions of HIV epidemics around 2001. Most of the cases were discovered among drug users, usually young men from urban areas. While the number of new HIV cases has decreased since, the epidemic has spread to wider

sections of society, with women increasingly at risk. Of the three Baltic states, Estonia has been worst hit. By the end of 2007, 6,364 HIV cases had been registered in Estonia, which has a population of 1.3 million. UNAIDS estimates that the real number of HIV positive Estonians could be twice as much. With 1 percent of the population infected with HIV, the country has the one of the highest proportionate incidence of the virus in Europe. According to the 2004 study 'HIV and AIDS in Estonia' by Jury Kalikov and Arnaud Wasson-Simon, the exceptionally violent spread of the epidemic in Estonia came because of the late introduction of needle exchange programmes (10 months after the HIV epidemic was declared), lack of continuous treatment for uninsured HIV positive patients, and because government structures left too much of the responsibility with NGOs.

"An exceptional case"

Similar problems in the management of the epidemic can be found in other countries in Eastern Europe, like Bulgaria and Romania. While Bulgaria has not faced a massive outbreak of HIV, the incidence of new cases has risen from 49 new cases in 2000 (in a population of eight million) to 91 in 2006. Bulgarian NGOs have called for more needle exchange points and for centres offering opiate replacement treatment for heroin users. Romanian NGOs have made similar demands. *"Needle exchange programmes are not sufficient as they are conducted only by NGOs with few financial resources,"* says Nicoleta Dascalu, programme manager at ARAS, the Romanian Association against AIDS. *"More methadone substitution treatments for heroin users are available lately, but they still do not cover all the needs."*

Romania is an exceptional case in Eastern Europe because the first HIV epide-

mic was discovered there in the early 1990s, forcing authorities and NGOs to mobilise sooner than in other countries. At the time, thousands of children were found to have been infected with HIV in hospitals and orphanages in the period 1987-1991 because of untested drug transfusions and the use of non-sterile syringes. Many of them had been simultaneously transmitted the viruses of hepatitis B or C. According to the 2008 national report of the HIV/AIDS Monitoring and Evaluation Department in Romania, at the beginning of 2007 health authorities were monitoring 7,000 HIV positive adolescents, considered to be long time survivors after being infected in the period 1987-1991. In all, 16,877 cases of HIV infections had been recorded by 2007, in a population of 23 million. Since 2004, says the report, the epidemic has stabilised, with the incidence of new cases decreasing slightly, and among children, significantly.

But national health institutions still have a long way to go. Nicoleta Dascalu from ARAS told IPS that most of the funds for HIV prevention programmes are currently coming from the Global Fund to Fight HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria. NGOs remain the most important actors in charge of HIV prevention, and in offering psychological and social assistance. Many of the country reports on HIV submitted to UNAIDS in 2008 emphasise the need to better coordinate the various state and civil society actors involved in fighting the HIV epidemic. Since a large part of the funds and guidance for HIV prevention and care are now coming from United Nations' agencies and the Global Fund, there is concern about the ability of national bodies to fully take charge of these programmes.

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No Consensus on Saving the Soil

By David Cronin in Brussels

Photos: www.pixelio.de

Soil is one of the few major areas of environmental policy to remain largely outside the purview of European Union law. Humanity's survival might hinge on whether crops can continue to be grown in soil, yet just nine of the EU's 27 countries have deemed soil protection a pressing enough issue to have introduced legislation on the subject at national level. In 2006, the European Commission, the executive arm of the EU, stated that it wished to remedy this situation by proposing a legal directive that would apply across the Union. Among its objectives were to identify all areas at risk of such problems as erosion, landslides and salinity (the build-up of salt within the soil) over a five-year period and to compile an inventory of all contaminated sites over 25 years.

Sensible and uncontroversial

To the casual observer, such aims probably appear sensible and uncontroversial. But when the Union's environment ministers discussed them in December last, the proposal was struck down by five governments - France, Germany, Britain, the Netherlands and Austria. The five cited either the likely cost of implementing the initiative or a belief that soil protection is a topic better left to national legislation than to the Brussels bureaucracy. Despite its opposition then, France has agreed to revive discussions on the dossier during its six months of holding the EU's presidency, which began just over three weeks ago. While green campaigners have welcomed the apparent French U-turn, they are perturbed by indications that the proposal could be diluted.

Among the suggested compromises that have emerged during recent discussions among EU diplomats are that compi-

ling the inventories would no longer be compulsory and that they would not have to be made public. *"France is going in the wrong direction,"* said John Hontolez, secretary-general of the European Environmental Bureau (EEB), an alliance of 143 organisations. *"It is seriously weakening the text."*

Hontolez suggested that the political debate that has arisen as a result of the recent spike in global food prices underscored the necessity of effective legislation on soil. *"What we hear from most politicians in response to the food crisis is that we have to go back to the old policy of increasing the productivity of Europe's soils,"* he said. *"This ignores the fact that productivity levels have come*



at a price. If you now focus productivity on loosening the use of agro-chemicals, increasing the use of fertilisers and ploughing up grasslands, I'm afraid you will be destroying the agricultural resource base in Europe even faster."

According to the Commission, soil degradation could be depriving the EU economy of some 38 billion euros (60 billion dollars) a year. Shielding soil from further damage is considered vital if the worst possible consequences of climate change are to be averted. EU soil is esti-

mated to contain some 70 billion tonnes of organic carbon. That is roughly equivalent to one-tenth of all carbon that has become accumulated in the atmosphere. Peatlands, in particular, could hold up to 60 percent of all the carbon stocked in European soils, and many ecologists regard it as essential that the carbon is kept in the ground rather than released.

Soil acts as what scientists call a 'carbon sink' - it can absorb about 20 percent of all emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂), the main gas triggering global warming that are attributed to human activity. Whereas organic agriculture can help ensure that soil continues playing a major role in diverting carbon from the atmosphere, degradation of the soil leads to large-scale releases of CO₂. Each year British soil loses about 0.6 percent of its organic matter, and the resulting increase in CO₂ emissions has been compared to putting an extra five million cars on the road. *"While science tells us how soil originated, the production process takes millions of years,"* said Ladislav Miko, a senior environment official in the European Commission. *"It is effectively a non-renewable resource. We cannot afford to wait for new soil to be created as it simply takes too long."*

Miko added: *"We have seen quite scary figures (on the extent of soil degradation), and yet this is still not enough to get an overall agreement. The existing legal framework is clearly not sufficient."* Ronan Uhel from the European Environmental Agency, an EU body based in Copenhagen, said there is a need for greater research on the extent of soil degradation in Europe. *"The knowledge we have at hand on a European scale is still very limited."*

IPS | GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ■



Gegenseitige Schuldzuweisungen nach

Von Klaus Boldt

Nach dem Abbruch der WTO-Verhandlungsrunde in Genf haben sich Industriestaaten und Entwicklungsländer gegenseitig die Schuld für das Scheitern eines von WTO Direktor Pascal Lamy vorgelegten Kompromisses zugewiesen. In den Mainstream Medien wird allgemein ein eskalierender Streit zwischen den USA einerseits und China und Indien andererseits über einen 'Speziellen Schutzmechanismus' (SSM) als Ursache des Scheiterns hervorgehoben. Der SSM soll es ärmeren Ländern erlauben, Zölle zeitweise anzuhoben, wenn die Importmengen für bestimmte Agrargüter stark ansteigen bzw. die Preise stark fallen. Medien des Südens zeichnen teilweise ein anderes Bild.

Die FAZ schrieb dazu: "Vor dem Abbruch der Gespräche waren die Auseinandersetzungen zwischen den Vereinigten Staaten auf der einen und China sowie Indien auf der anderen Seite offen ausgebrochen. Ausgangspunkt war die Weigerung von China und Indien, ihre Agrarmärkte entsprechend dem am vergangenen Wochenende in Genf erzielten Grundsatzkompromiss zu öffnen. Dahinter stand das Bemühen, ihre Kleinbauern vor hohen und billigen Agrarimporten zu schützen."

Spiegel Online beruft sich auf Agenturberichte: "Nach Informationen der Nachrichtenagentur AP war der Grund dafür ein Streit zwischen den USA, Indien und China über den Import von landwirtschaftlichen Gütern. Zu viele Fragen - etwa hohe Baumwollsubventionen der USA, ein Bananenregime oder Schutzmechanismen für Agrarimporte in ärmeren Ländern - blieben ungelöst."

"Die Unterhändler von rund 30 führenden WTO-Ländern hatten neun Tage über Kompromisse in der Doha-Runde gestritten", heißt es bei n-tv. "Die Doha-Runde

hat vor allem zum Ziel, die Entwicklungsländer stärker in den Welthandel einzubinden. Die USA, die EU und andere reiche Staaten boten Kürzungen von Subventionen und Zöllen im Agrarsektor an und verlangten im Gegenzug den Abbau von Handelsbarrieren für Industriegüter und Dienstleistungen."

Allen Berichten ist gemeinsam, dass sie nicht ins Detail gehen, obwohl offenbar nur in einem Streitpunkt bis zuletzt Dissens bestand. In einem WTO Statement wird Pascal Lamy nämlich folgendermaßen zitiert: "The difference boiled down to some wanting a high 'trigger' (a large import surge needed to trigger the tariff increase) in order to avoid the safeguard being triggered by normal trade growth, while others wanted a lower trigger so that the safeguard could be easier to use and more useful. After more than 36 hours trying to find bridges between these two positions, today it became clear that the differences were irreconcilable. The remaining issues, including cotton, were not even negotiated."

Im Unterschied zu herrschender Meinung in den Industrieländern sagte Entwicklungsministerin Heidemarie Wiecek-Zeul: "Angesichts der bestehenden Ungerechtigkeiten im internationalen Handelssystem ist es nachvollziehbar, dass Entwicklungsländer ihre bäuerliche Landwirtschaft weiter schützen wollen." Sie erklärte: "Die Industrieländer müssen mit dazu beitragen, dass in den Entwicklungsländern eine funktionierende Landwirtschaft erhalten bleibt bzw. neu entsteht. 850 Millionen Menschen leiden weltweit unter Hunger. Die Nahrungsmittelpreise sind massiv gestiegen. Gerade vor diesem Hintergrund kann auf einen besonderen Schutzmechanismus für die Entwicklungsländer nicht verzichtet werden." Das Entwicklungsministerium mach-

te deutlich, dass die EU ihre finanziellen Zusagen im Bereich 'Aid for Trade' erfüllen werde. Diese Mittel sollen bis 2010 auf jährlich zwei Milliarden Euro anwachsen. Mit ihnen erhalten die Entwicklungsländer Unterstützung beim Ausbau ihrer Verhandlungsfähigkeit und ihrer Handelskapazitäten.

Der Kölner Stadtanzeiger lässt "Stimmen zum Scheitern" zu Wort kommen - allerdings ausschließlich Experten aus dem Norden.

Die BBC bringt ein Statement des Direktors von Oxfam International, Jeremy Hobbs: "The world's poorest people are increasingly vulnerable. A decent trade deal could have given them a chance to prevent worsening poverty. This is another missed opportunity for trade reform that poor countries badly need and have been long promised. It was brought about by rich countries' failure to keep their word."

Vicky Cann vom World Development Movement erklärte, ebenfalls gegenüber BBC: "This is a better outcome for the world's poorest people than the bad deal on the table. The EU and the US were aggressive and greedy and the development needs of poor countries have been completely sidelined, not just in the last nine days, but in the last seven years of discussions. It is absolutely right that developing countries stood up to that. The EU and US have failed to grasp that while developing countries may have their differences, there is strong solidarity. If trade is to work for the poor, the EU needs a wholesale change of approach, one that places poverty eradication at its heart."

Der CNN-Ableger in Indien, IBN, sieht die Ursache des Scheiterns dagegen in einem Trick der US-Delegation, den SSM als Vorwand dafür zu nehmen, Agrarsubventionen etwa im Bereich Baumwolle zu



dem Abbruch der WTO-Verhandlungen

erhalten: *"The US wants developing countries to open up their economies for agricultural imports and along with EU, agreed to cut its farm subsidies, as quid pro quo. But India and China, argued that this measure is useless, unless imports increase by 40 per cent and that would prove devastating for their domestic farmers. This was not an India versus US issue, India had the backing of 100 countries including China. The exclusive focus on special safeguards was also seen by developing countries as a US ploy as it had little to offer on the issue of cotton subsidies."*

Chinas staatliche Nachrichtenagentur Xinhua zitiert Handelsminister Chen Deming, der erklärte, die USA und Indien hätten ihre Gegensätze in der SSM-Frage nicht überbrücken können. Chen Deming nannte die beiden Länder jedoch nicht namentlich. Die Rolle Chinas spielt der Minister kräftig herunter. Xinhua: *"The United States also refused to talk about cotton subsidies, one major concern for poor cotton farmers in African countries. 'China has fully demonstrated flexibilities and constructiveness, and sincerely hoped to reach a successful Doha Round through working together with other members,' Chen said. He said China had made major compromises and concessions on issues such as OTDS (overall trade-distorting domestic support) reduction for developed members, sensitive products, SSG (Special Safeguard) and ACC (anti-concentration clause). At the Signaling Conference for Services, China also expressed willingness to further open its market in some key sectors. 'However, just as we were approaching the final point, some minor coefficients failed all our efforts,' Chen said. (...) Chen said (...) failure was a tragic one, and it was also a 'serious setback.' He urged WTO members to get fully prepared for the consequences. 'Particularly in face of world econo-*

mic downturn, serious inflation and imminent financial risks, the failure will have a major impact on the fragile multilateral trading system,' he said."

IPS-Korrespondent Gustavo Capdevila berichtete aus Genf: *"The Doha Round of multilateral trade talks was brought crashing down late Tuesday by the same discrepancies between rich and poor countries that have marked the nearly seven years of negotiations from the start. An insurmountable rift between the United States on one hand and China and India on the other ended the emergency conference of ministers called by the World Trade Organisation (WTO), which had stretched into its ninth day of sessions. Argentine Foreign Minister Jorge Taiana interpreted the collapse of the talks as the failure of an attempt by industrialised countries to give very little and ask for a lot, which was simply not accepted, in general terms, by the developing countries,"* sagte er IPS.

Unter dem Titel *Death Knell for Doha* berichtete *The Nation Newspaper* aus Barbados: *"It may now be impossible to save the Doha round of trade negotiations. Amidst the constant bickering, the talks have now reached a stage where a tough choice must be made: either finally close the deal or open the door for something different. (...) Developing countries believe the present WTO trade rules are skewed to reflect the interests of developed countries. And there are no rules to discipline the anti-competitive behaviour of the most powerful commercial actors in developed countries. With these kinds of difficulties, every country is looking out for itself and, in the circumstances, unless a way is found for the benefits of globalisation to be spread evenly, Doha is technically dead and buried."*

Der indischen Nachrichtenagentur PTI zufolge bezeichnete der Commonwealth-Generalsekretär Kamalesh Sharma das Scheitern der WTO-Gespräche als eine *"große Enttäuschung und plädierte für eine "baldmöglichste Wiederaufnahme" der Verhandlungen: "Describing the collapse of the Doha Round of talks as a great disappointment, Commonwealth Secretary General Kamalesh Sharma has sought resumption of the round as early as possible so that advances already made over seven years are not lost. We want to see an early harvest of progress already made...Meeting the deadline for the end of EU agricultural subsidies...The US honour its commitment to end cotton export subsidies...Least developed countries having improved access in exporting into the markets of developed countries,"* he said in a statement last night. He added, the stalling of the negotiations also has implications on the prospects of poorer countries to achieve the millennium development goals by 2015. *Developed economies have to remember that they have committed to help poorer developing countries meet the MDGs."*

MEDIAWATCH BLOG |
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The Bumpy Road to Accra

By Ramesh Jaura

Photo: www.worldriders2.com



There is a global consensus on the need to help developing countries and marginalized people in their fight against poverty. Industrialised and developing nations have committed themselves to undertake an array of steps. But the burgeoning number of international agreements has not led to steady action. In view of this, great importance is being attached to three upcoming important international meetings: the Accra High Level Forum (HLF3) on Aid Effectiveness (Sep. 2-4); the UN's high-level meeting on the Millennium Development Goals in New York (Sep. 25); and the Doha Review Conference on Financing for Development (Nov. 29-Dec. 2). These conferences are expected to provide fresh impulses to move forward on the implementation of internationally agreed development goals (IADGs).

HLF3 will be taking place against the backdrop of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness endorsed by more than 100 industrialised and developing countries and donor organisations in March 2005. They struck a bargain to change the way they deliver and manage aid. Their common goal in doing so was to make these resources more effective in helping developing countries to meet the crucial development goals they have set for themselves. If the pledge is to become reality and more than 100 billion dollars worth official development assistance (ODA) that the 22 member countries of the OECD Development Assistance Committee, the world's major donors provide each year, is to achieve maximum results it possibly can, aid must be used as effectively as possible.

But expectedly better aid means very different things depending on which side of the development fence one is on. For countries that receive aid, it means allocating resources to their policy priorities and plans to promote justice, stimulate economic growth and improve social welfare for their citizens. For countries and organisations that provide aid, it means allocating funds to countries that need it most and are more likely to make best use of it or that need special help to weather crises.

Baffling number of aid actors

A layperson observing today's aid industry will be understandably baffled by the sheer number of aid actors, funds and programmes. The last time the OECD counted, there were more than 200 bilateral and multilateral organisations channelling ODA. Many developing countries may have more than 40 donors financing more than 600 active projects, and may

still not be on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Translated into simple terms, the Paris Declaration pledged to palpably improve the lives of the world's most underprivileged people. This goal is at the forefront of discussions as donors and developing countries work together to refine the commitments that will be endorsed in the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) at HLF3. This action plan, developed through a broad-based process of dialogue among the key actors - and led by developing countries - is expected to step up progress toward reaching agreed development targets.

The AAA will draw on the results of several key studies that are charting progress since the Paris Declaration was signed. The HLF3 organisers OECD / DAC hope that by identifying critical bottlenecks and means of overcoming them, AAA will take the implementation of the Paris Declaration forward at a much faster rate.

At Accra, developing and donor country partners will have several key concerns at the top of their list as they look at how they will work together to step up progress toward the 2015 MDGs:

- Developing countries need to take the lead on their own development policies, actively involving their parliaments and citizens, with a focus on developing the necessary capacity to make country systems stronger and more reliable. This goes hand in hand with increasing the predictability of aid to allow governments to plan properly.
- Developing and donor countries alike must be accountable to each other and to their parliaments and citizens, demonstrating how their policies and programmes translate into real impact on people's lives.
- The existing development partnerships must be made more open and inclusive to ensure that all actors are brought into the process, pooling their strengths so that collective efforts will have greater impact.

The Paris Declaration is about building better partnerships and shifting the balance to make aid more of a two-way street. It is founded on a shared conviction that aid is more likely to promote development when:

- Developing countries exercise leadership ('ownership') over their development policies and plans.
- Donors practice 'alignment' in that they base their support on countries' development strategies and systems.



- Donors practice 'harmonisation' in that they coordinate their activities and minimise the cost of delivering aid.
- Developing countries and donors orient their activities to achieve the desired results (managing for results).
- Donors and developing countries are accountable to each other for progress in managing aid better and in achieving development results (mutual accountability).

The basic tenet of the Paris Declaration is that aid is most effective when countries fully own development policies and programmes that enable them to achieve their own economic, social and environmental goals, and sustain these achievements over time. This conviction solidly grounded in decades of development experience, calls for substantive and comprehensive change in the way donors and developing countries do business.

No easy task

But it is not an easy task. Changing practices in international aid means reshaping deep-seated behaviours, rechanneling complex processes and building capacity where it is weak or even lacking. New incentive structures will have to be put in place for donors and partner countries alike. And this process - the process of development - requires time, focused attention and unyielding political will. This is why the Paris compact includes a commitment to closely monitor progress through periodic surveys. The first one, done in 2006, created a baseline against which to measure progress. The 2008 survey, which has just been completed, will underscore what needs to be done to reach the Paris Declaration targets for 2010.

Fifty-four aid-recipient countries participated in the 2008 monitoring round. Their input shows significant advances in some countries and areas, confirming that real change is possible when resolute, joint efforts are made. What is more, the workshops and seminars organised in connection with the 2006 and 2008 surveys around the world have widened the circle of countries and stakeholders taking an active interest in improving aid effectiveness. One indication of the impact of these efforts is the large increase in the number of countries that agreed to participate in the 2008 survey - 54 countries in 2008, as compared to 34 in 2006 - and the energy and seriousness with which they have contributed to it.

Yet the results from the survey show that progress is not uniform across countries and donors, and many still register no change against the base-

line established in 2005. The message is clear: greater efforts and more consistency in turning principles into actions are essential. More of the same will not deliver the transformation to which the Paris Declaration signatories have committed themselves. The information from the monitoring survey will be critical in ensuring that donors and developing countries agree - when they meet in Accra - on the actions that are most likely to help them hit the mark.

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ■

High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Accra, Ghana, 2. bis 4. September 2008



Vom 2. bis 4. September 2008 findet das 3. High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF 3) des OECD / DAC zur Wirksamkeit der Entwicklungszusammenarbeit in Accra, Ghana, statt.

Nach dem ersten HLF in Rom (2002) erzeugte das zweite HLF in Paris (2003) mit der Verabschiedung der Pariser Erklärung eine hohe Reformdynamik in der internationalen Entwicklungszusammenarbeit. Die in der Erklärung enthaltenen Fortschrittsindikatoren sind verbindliche, quantifizierbare Ziele, die es bis 2010 zu erreichen gilt.

Ziel des 3. High Level Forums ist es, über die Umsetzung der Paris-Erklärung Bilanz zu ziehen und dabei besonders den Dialog mit den Regierungen und der Zivilgesellschaft in den Partnerländern zu vertiefen. Zudem sollen noch zu bewältigende Herausforderungen und notwendige zusätzliche Maßnahmen zur Zielerreichung identifiziert werden. Mit einer Abschlusserklärung Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) soll das politische Fundament für den weiteren Umsetzungsprozess geschaffen werden.

Das HLF in Accra wird neben der MDG-Konferenz in New York und der Doha-Konferenz zur Entwicklungsfinanzierung eine der herausragenden entwicklungspolitischen Veranstaltungen in 2008 sein.

BMZ ■

UN Development Forum Pleads For Measurable Targets

Photo: UN



The UN Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) that met in New York June 30-July 1 has provided some critical inputs in the run-up to Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF3) in Accra and the following international gatherings at the UN and in Doha. Launched in Geneva in July 2007, the Forum is mandated to enhance the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, and promote dialogue to find effective ways to support it, the DCF will be held every other year within the framework of the High-level Segment of the ECOSOC. Participants in the New York Forum included representatives from developing and developed countries, bilateral development agencies, UN system organizations, World Bank, IMF, OECD, regional development banks as well as civil society and the private sector. It was agreed that mutually supportive policies on trade, debt, investment, technology, climate change, food security and systemic issues are critical if development cooperation is to have a meaningful impact. This includes policy coherence across the core areas of the Monterrey Consensus, which constitutes the international framework for cooperation for development.

Chief Executive of Action Aid International, Ramesh Singh, emphasized that the DCF provides the most legitimate international platform for governments and other stakeholders to review the effectiveness of the present aid architecture. Accordingly, the Fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in 2011 should be organized under the auspices of the DCF. The DCF is also well positioned to foster high-level dialogue on issues such as "aid justice", particularly gender equity in development cooperation, which is presently not high on the agenda of many donors. The aid effectiveness debate should also be situated within the broader context of financing for development.

Quality matters as much as quantity

It is particularly important that the Accra HLF address the "scandal of conditionality" and the issue of capital flight from developing countries as a result of multinational corporations evading taxes and/or local business regulations. Furthermore, it is critical that the HLF3 makes significant progress in several areas of importance to developing countries such as reform of technical assistance, curbing of conditionality, untying of all types of aid, particularly in the context of the present food crisis and improvements in policy coherence across the Monterrey Consensus in order to enhance aid effectiveness.

Trevor Manuel stressed that regularly monitoring

progress in achieving the desired development results should take centre rather than exclusively focusing on increases in aid since the last international meeting. What development dollars buy is ultimately more important than the quantity of aid being disbursed. This also implies favouring trust building and partnerships between donors and programme countries instead of excessive checks and balances instigated by donors. Curbing the transaction costs associated with micro-management would ideally mean that a dollar raised in donor countries would equal a dollar spent in a programme country.

Manuel noted that the HLF3 would have to address country-owned development, inclusive partnership and facilitation of policy formulation in programme countries. Accra should result in concrete measures to help programme countries strengthen national capacity for policy formulation and implementation in order to enhance the quantity, quality and effectiveness of development aid.

There was consensus among participants that meeting aid commitments is indispensable to the realization of the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs. In particular budget targets for annual increases through to 2015 need to be set for effective delivery of aid commitments. This is particularly important because aid allocation is not adequately balanced across countries and sectors and does not maximize progress towards the realization of the internationally agreed development goals. Regular review is required to ensure that aid allocation is predictable, responsive to the needs of programme countries and oriented to maximize development results, ECOSOC president Léo Méorès of Haiti said in his official summary.

The forum participants further pointed out that more transparent criteria is needed for aid allocation across programme countries, based on multidimensional poverty indicators, structural vulnerability to exogenous shocks and progress towards the realization of the IADGs. In terms of sectors, increases in aid should particularly support agriculture and food security, economic infrastructure and energy, and trade; all sectors crucial to sustained development and for which many programme countries have designed sector specific strategies. In terms of modalities, budget support should be increasingly used as a preferred modality for delivering development aid due to its positive effects on national ownership, disbursement speed and use of national systems.

Referring to the Accra forum, the ECOSOC president's summary said that the aid effectiveness agenda should move towards broader agreement by setting measurable targets for untying aid, transforming technical assistance, reducing condi-

tionality, maximizing concessionality, increasing multi-year predictability and improving flexibility to combat exogenous shocks.

Accountability and transparency

Mutual accountability processes at the country-level should be strengthened through defining good practice standards and reinforcing national capacity and leadership, he added. Besides, the implementation of the Accra Agenda for Action will need to demonstrate that it is able to go beyond commitments in principle and procedural changes by producing real change in the behaviour of development actors with the objective of achieving sustainable development results. Greater transparency on aid must be a key outcome of further strengthening the aid effectiveness agenda, by making all aid agreements, policies and data publicly available to facilitate scrutiny by parliamentarians and other stakeholders, ECOSOC president Méorès said in his summary.

The DCF participants also stressed the need for country-level capacities for coordinating and managing aid. Programme countries should develop effective aid policies, with donors supporting these efforts by intensifying capacity-building on aid analysis, policy, negotiation and evaluation of results, they pointed out. Concerns about absorptive capacities need to be resolved by joint comprehensive assessments of bottlenecks, including donor and programme country procedures. Besides, capacity development on aid policy should be further extended to a multitude of stakeholders, particularly parliamentarians, civil society and local governments.

Country-driven national development strategies are indispensable too. Against this backdrop, effective frameworks for guiding national development need to be developed through inclusive processes, involving all relevant stakeholders at the country-level. National development strategies, while entirely country-driven, also need to be responsive to the internationally agreed development goals, including gender, the environment and human rights, with programme country strategies containing clear goals and action plans. The participants, particularly those from developing countries pointed out that conditionality remains a key concern because of their impact on policy space and country leadership of development, as well as negative effect on aid predictability. Targets should be set for sharp reduction in such practices.

The Development Cooperation Forum further pointed out that:

- The internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, will not be achieved without

strong involvement (including financing) by civil society, businesses, foundations and global funds.

- The comparative advantage of these actors is clear in terms of reach and efficiency, yet at the same time their efforts need to be fully supportive of national priorities.
- Development cooperation channelled through civil society organizations, global funds and the private sector needs to be integrated into an enlarged aid quality framework, which takes account of the particularities of these actors, while demonstrating clear effectiveness in achieving results. The engagement of these actors should be in conformity with the priorities of programme countries.

South-South & Triangular Cooperation

The Forum also emphasised the need for South-South and triangular development cooperation: A process is needed to facilitate the exchange of information and enhanced analysis, through which other development actors can learn the positive lessons from South-South and triangular development cooperation, especially in technical assistance/capacity development, infrastructure, regional programmes and rapid delivery of development results. Recognizing that South-South cooperation is a complement to North-South cooperation, these lessons could be used to arrive at more widely agreed development cooperation practices and objectives, to help programme countries access and use the best available assistance through a nationally-owned framework.

Paul Collier, Professor and Director, Oxford University, echoed the sentiments of several participants when he argued that the fundamental objective of aid was to lift ordinary people in poor and slow-growing countries out of poverty. The creation of wage jobs and enhanced provision of basic social services are critical in that respect. The poorest and slowest growing countries are desperately short of proper wage jobs, he said. Aid should, therefore, be increasingly addressing employment creation in the private sector. With regard to basic social services, the European model, anchored in public servants motivated by the public interest, does not fit the context of the poorest countries. As a result, donors tend to rely more on incentives and close monitoring of resource use in these instances, that is, non-public provision through civil society and other similar channels, according to Collier.

RAMESH JAURA | GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ■

Whose 'Agenda For Action'?

By David Cronin

Senegalese children - Photo: UNICEF



As the world's largest provider of development assistance to poor countries, the European Union is bound to play a prominent role at a Sep. 2-4 international conference on boosting the effectiveness of aid in Accra, Ghana. It is not clear, however, that European taxpayers will be given firm assurances at the event that their money - a total of 46 billion Euros - will be better used to fight poverty. An 'agenda for action' drafted for the Accra High-Level Forum appears at first glance to take on board many of the criticisms that have been directed at development aid for many years. It states that there should be greater consultation with parliaments and such bodies as trade unions and organisations working on social policy about the use of aid and that donors should not attach such conditions to their aid as requiring that recipients carry out free market reforms.

Despite the laudability of such goals, the draft agenda is not flanked with robust mechanisms to make donors keep their word. *"We are very worried that the meeting in Accra is not going to deliver anything to hold donors to account for,"* says Lucy Hayes, an aid policy specialist with the European Network on Debt and Development (Eurodad). *"The meeting is supposed to result in the 'Accra agenda for action'. But to be called the 'Accra agenda for action', you need some concrete time-bound commitments. What we fear is that something bland and vague is going to be launched."*

Administrative headaches

In public statements ahead of the event, Louis Michel, the European commissioner for development aid, has highlighted the need to avoid the duplication that can occur as a result of the EU effectively having 28 different aid policies. Each of its 27 governments manages its own foreign assistance activities, while also contributing to a budget managed by the European Commission in Brussels.

Michel has cited Tanzania as an example of the administrative headaches that can ensue when a recipient country has to deal with a plethora of uncoordinated aid programmes. Each year, he said recently, the Dar Es Salaam authorities have to *"produce some 2,400 reports for the different donors and - listen to me carefully - more than 8,000 audit reports for the multilateral banks dealing with development."* *"We should admit that that leaves them flabbergasted and that it is a real problem,"* he added. Development aid has been one of many policy areas subject to a dispute between the Com-

mission and some EU governments. Michel's plea that there should be an improved division of labour in this area was initially regarded by diplomats from a number of EU states as an attempt to make them cede power to Brussels. However, all EU governments signed up to a 'code of conduct' in May 2007, under which they promised to liaise more between each other on their aid activities.

Joakim Stymne, Sweden's state secretary for international development has suggested that the lack of coordination can undermine the EU's credibility. *"The EU is the world's largest donor but it doesn't always feel that way,"* he says. *"We don't always understand we are part of the world's largest donor community and we don't always act that way."*

Guidelines drawn up for EU participants in the Accra conference, meanwhile, state that the Union should not make the disbursement of aid conditional on poor countries undertaking particular reforms. This follows decades of criticism directed particularly at the World Bank and the IMF that it has been using aid to foist privatisation and other policies deemed favourable to large corporations on countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The EU has also been accused more recently of insisting that some countries sign free trade agreements with it if they are to receive the full amount of aid available to them. Although the guidelines say that the practice of making aid conditional on economic reforms should end, they do not propose a deadline for when that should happen.

David Booth from the Overseas Development Institute in London says that the issue of conditionality was already addressed to a certain extent by a previous international declaration on aid effectiveness - agreed in Paris in March 2005. That declaration stated that conditions for aid that are not in accordance with those set by a recipient itself require a *"sound justification"*.

"In international development folklore, IMF and the World Bank are the big bad wolves in the conditionality forest," says Booth. *"However, our research in Ghana and Tanzania suggests that the Bank and the Fund have made important headway in reforming their approaches to conditionality. In contrast, bilateral donors including the European Commission continue to require monitoring of agreements with elaborate matrices of policy actions and outcomes. In this respect, they are still inclined to try to 'buy' reforms by attaching specific preconditions to disbursement."*

IPS | GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ■

Capacity Development: Accra and Beyond

The Bonn Workshop Consensus May 15-16, 2008

The OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) and the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) co-sponsored on May 15-16 last a capacity development (CD) workshop as a forum for representatives from both South and North to vet their opinions openly on the importance of capacity development as a priority theme for the Third Accra High Level Forum (HLF3). The workshop was organised in Bonn, and co-chaired by Dr. Talaat Abdel-Malek (core member of the Accra Contact Group) and Richard Manning (former chair of the DAC and co-chair of the Accra Round Table 9 on aid architecture). To assist in workshop meeting management, a steering group was created, composed of a small number of activists in the CD field who played an active role in conceiving and managing the event. The objectives of the workshop were twofold:

For Accra: To derive a series of key capacity development messages for the relevant Accra Round Tables and for the Accra Agenda for Action

Beyond Accra: To reflect on post Accra capacity development action through 2011 as well as a longer term vision and direction to help address governance, institutional and policy constraints to capacity.

Workshop presenters, chairs, facilitators and rapporteurs focussed on two sets of questions:

1. Which concrete and actionable propositions (what, why and how) should inform the Round Table processes and shape the AAA?
2. What are the strategic priorities and steps to be taken during the triennium following Accra?

The following consensus was recorded:

We recognize that capacity development is critical for sustainable development and national ownership. It is primarily a developing country responsibility.

Capacity development is a fundamental change process requiring that:

- a) Developing countries commit to the capacity development of their human resources, systems and institutions at all levels, and
- b) External partners commit to strengthen their own capacity and adapt their approaches to deliver responsive support for capacity development.

Six areas of action:

- Developing countries agree to integrate capacity development as a core element of national, sector and thematic development efforts.
- Developing countries will take the lead in addressing key systemic issues that undermine capacity development, with support from external partners as required.

To enable developing countries to exercise ownership of capacity development through technical cooperation, external partners agree to (a) the joint selection and management of technical cooperation to support local priorities and (b) expand the choice of technical cooperation providers to ensure access to sources of

local and South-South expertise.

Developing countries and external partners also jointly commit to enable the capacity development of civil society and the private sector to play their development roles more fully.

In situations of fragility, notably in post conflict, external partners will provide tailored and coordinated capacity development support for core state functions earlier and for a longer period. Interim measures should be appropriately sequenced and lead to sustainable capacities and local institutions.

Beyond Accra, developing countries and external partners jointly agree to a strengthened and consolidated international effort to expand capacity development knowledge and apply resulting good practice

The bottom line from both workshop and post-workshop discussion suggested considerable room for broad based forward motion Beyond Accra for capacity development. Potential ideas for consideration will need to be reassessed in September following the issuance of the final Accra Agenda for Action.

These include:

- A future action focus for capacity development on the medium term between Accra and the 2011 HLF event, appropriately informed by a longer term vision for capacity development that provides perspective and a sense of operational priorities.
- A dialogue on capacity development that includes both Southern and Northern actors, with leadership provided by the developing countries to the extent feasible.
- An initial capacity development agenda for a more joined up international effort that reflects the priorities contained in the Bonn Workshop Consensus (sector focus, systemic issues, technical cooperation, enabling civil society and the private sector, fragile contexts).
- A major emphasis on learning about capacity development which takes place primarily at the country level and makes use of South-South knowledge exchange. Good practices should be identified and incentives be put in place to encourage their greater operational use.
- A lightly structured and operationally focused international effort to support common vision and common effort in capacity development. Networks and institutions from both South and North could join forces with the DAC to form an informal secretariat which can assist the capacity development community better frame its common understanding and effort in this area.

BMZ ■

Complete workshop documentation, including one-page summaries prepared for individual break out groups are available at www.oecd.org/dac/governance/capacitydevelopment/bonn-workshop.

Accra Agenda for Action

(Final Draft: July 25, 2008)

Photo: www.flickr.com



Ministers of developing and donor countries responsible for promoting development and Heads of multilateral and bilateral development institutions adopted the following (31-point, 6-page) statement in Accra, Ghana, on 4 September 2008:

This is a moment of opportunity

1. We are committed to eradicating poverty, and promoting peace and prosperity, by building stronger, more effective partnerships that enable developing countries to realise their development goals.

2. Progress has been made. Fifteen years ago, one in every three people lived on less than one dollar a day; today, that figure has been reduced to one in five. Yet over one billion people still live in extreme poverty - the majority of whom are women. Just as many still lack access to safe drinking water. Nearly six thousand people die of AIDS each day. And new global challenges - rising food and fuel prices and climate change - threaten the advances against poverty already made by many countries.

3. We need to achieve much more if all countries are to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. Aid is only one part of the development picture. Democracy, economic growth, social progress and care for the environment are the prime engines of development in all countries. Addressing inequalities of income and wealth within countries and between states is essential to global progress. Gender equality, respect for human rights, and environmental sustainability are cornerstones for achieving enduring impact on the lives and potential of poor women, men and children. It is vital that all our policies address these issues in a more systematic and coherent way.

4. In 2008, three international conferences will help us accelerate the pace of change: the Accra High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, the United Nations MDG Summit in New York and the Financing for Development follow-up meeting in Doha. Today at Accra, we are leading the way, united in a common objective: to unlock the full potential of aid in achieving lasting development results.

We are making progress, but not enough

5. Learning from our past successes and failures in development co-operation, we adopted in March 2005 an ambitious set of reforms: the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. In Paris, we agreed to develop a genuine partnership that puts developing countries clearly in the lead. We also agreed to hold each other accountable for achieving concrete development results. Three-and-a-half years later, we are reconvening in Accra to review progress and address the challenges that now face us.

6. Evidence shows we are making progress, but not enough. A recent evaluation shows that the Paris Declaration has created powerful momentum to change the way developing countries and donors work together on the ground. According to the 2008

Monitoring Survey, a large number of developing countries have improved their management of public funds. Donors in turn, are increasingly improving their coordination at country level. Yet the pace of progress is too slow. Without further reform and faster action we will not meet our 2010 commitments and targets for improving the quality of aid.

We will take action to accelerate progress

7. Meeting three major challenges will be critical to accelerate progress:

8. Country ownership is key. Developing country governments will take stronger leadership of their own development policies, and engage with their parliaments and citizens in shaping them. Donors will support them by respecting country priorities, investing in their human resources and institutions, making greater use of their systems to deliver aid, and increasing the predictability of aid flows.

9. Building more effective and inclusive partnerships. In recent years, more development actors - middle-income countries, global funds, the private sector, civil society organisations - are increasing their contributions and are bringing valuable experience to the table. They are also creating management and coordination challenges. Together, all development actors will work in more inclusive partnerships so that all our efforts have greater impact on reducing poverty.

10. Achieving development results - and openly accounting for them - must be at the heart of all we do. More than ever, citizens and taxpayers of all countries expect to see the tangible results of development efforts. We will demonstrate that our actions translate into positive impacts on people's lives. We will be accountable to each other and to our respective parliaments and governing bodies for these outcomes.

11. We resolve to accelerate progress on these three challenges by i) Strengthening Country Ownership over Development, ii) Building More Effective and Inclusive Partnerships and, iii) Delivering and Accounting for Development Results.

Strengthening Country Ownership over Development

12. Developing countries determine and implement their development policies to achieve their own economic, social and environmental goals. We agreed in the Paris Declaration that this would be our first priority. Today, we are taking additional steps to turn this resolution into a reality.

We will broaden country-level policy dialogue on development

13. We will engage in open and inclusive dialogue on development policies. We acknowledge the critical role and responsibility of parliaments in ensuring country ownership of development processes. In order to further this objective we will take the following actions:

a) Developing country governments will work more

closely with parliaments and local authorities in the preparation, implementation and monitoring of national development policies and plans. In doing so, governments will engage with civil society organisations (CSOs).

b) Donors will support efforts to increase the capacity of all development actors - parliaments, central and local governments, CSOs, research institutes and the private sector - to take an active role in dialogue on development policy and the role of aid in contributing to countries' development objectives.

c) Together, developing countries and donors will ensure that development policies and programmes are designed and implemented in ways consistent with agreed international commitments on gender equality, human rights, disability and environmental sustainability.

Developing countries will strengthen their capacity to lead and manage development

14. Without robust capacity - strong institutions, systems and local expertise - developing countries cannot fully own and manage their development processes. We agreed in Paris that capacity development is the responsibility of developing countries, with donors playing a supportive role. Together, developing countries and donors will take the following actions to strengthen capacity development:

a) Developing countries will systematically identify areas where there is a need to strengthen the capacity to perform and deliver services at all levels - national, sub-national, sectoral and thematic - and design strategies to address them. Donors will strengthen their own capacity and skills to be more responsive to developing countries' needs.

b) Donors' support for capacity development will be demand-driven and designed to support country ownership. To this end, developing countries and donors will i) jointly select and manage technical co-operation, and ii) open the provision of technical cooperation to local and regional resources including South-South co-operation.

c) Developing countries and donors will work together at all levels to promote operational changes that make capacity development support more effective.

We will strengthen and use partner country systems to the maximum extent possible

15. Successful development depends to a large extent on a government's capacity to implement its policies and manage public resources through its own institutions and systems. In the Paris Declaration, developing countries agreed to strengthen their systems¹ and donors agreed to use them to the maximum extent possible. Evidence shows, however, that developing countries and donors are not on track to meet their respective commitments. While progress has been made in improving the qua-

lity of country systems, this varies considerably between countries. At the same time, even when there are quality country systems, donors often do not use them. To strengthen and increase the use of country systems we will take the following actions:

a) Donors agree to consider use of country systems as the first option for aid programmes in support of activities managed by the public sector.

b) Developing countries and donors will jointly assess the quality of country systems in a country-led process using mutually agreed diagnostic tools.

c) Where there are quality systems, donors will use them. When donors continue to rely on aid delivery mechanisms outside country systems (including parallel project implementation units), donors will state transparently the rationale for this and will review their positions at regular intervals.

d) Where country systems require further strengthening, countries will lead in defining reform programmes and priorities. Donors will support these reforms and provide capacity development assistance.

e) Donors further agree to set out in a transparent manner their plans for undertaking their Paris commitments on using country systems; to provide staff guidance on how these systems can be used; and to ensure that internal incentives encourage their use. **Building More Effective and Inclusive Partnerships for Development**

16. Aid is about building partnerships for development. These partnerships are all the more effective when they fully harness the energy, skills and experience of all development actors - bilateral and multilateral donors, global funds, civil society organisations and the private sector. We resolve to work in concert with all these actors in a more effective way to support developing countries' efforts to build for the future.

We will reduce costly fragmentation of aid

17. The effectiveness of aid is reduced when there are too many duplicating initiatives, especially at country and sector level. We will reduce fragmentation of aid, and extend its reach, by improving the complementarity of donors' efforts and the division of labour among donors. To this end:

a) Developing countries will lead in determining the optimal roles of donors in supporting their development efforts at national, regional and sectoral levels. Donors will respect developing countries' priorities. In doing so, donors will ensure that new arrangements on the division of labour will not result in developing countries receiving less aid.

b) We call upon the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness to continue to work on the division of labour with a view to: i) developing good practice principles on in-country division of labour ii) designing a methodology to measure progress, and iii) promoting dialogue on international division of labour across countries. (...)

'Many Would Prefer To Die Than Endure This'

Interview by Kuban Abdyman with Tursunbek Akun, Kyrgyzstan's Ombudsman

Photo: Human Rights Watch

In the dungeons of Bishkek the summer temperatures are soaring. The air is thick and stagnant. Since death penalty abolition, the threat of execution has been removed but inmates are living on the borderline of existence. Kyrgyzstan's Ombudsman T. Akun, in an interview with IPS Central Asia correspondent Kuban Abdyman, tells of his immediate reform goals - including bringing fresh air and paid employment to the former death row inmates.

IPS: It's almost two years since Kyrgyzstan became the second Central Asian nation to abolish capital punishment. Your critics argued then that you were giving up a deterrent to crime. Is it possible to assess now whether abolition has had any effect on the serious crime rate?

Tursunbek Akun: That's a very difficult question to answer. There's been no research on this since the passing of new constitution excluding any mention of the death penalty. But we do know that the majority of the Kyrgyz population have supported death penalty abolition. They consider this as a step towards the democratisation of the country. It's quite another matter, though, whether those sentenced to death have welcomed abolition.

IPS: When the criminal code was amended last year to bring it in line with the constitutional ban on executions, it was set out that all the past death penalty verdicts should be revised. How are the courts progressing with this?

Tursunbek Akun: In some cases the Kyrgyz courts have begun to revise of the old death penalty decisions to bring them into line with the constitution. However, the criminal code, as well as many other laws, is only now being coordinated with the constitution. As a consequence, not all past death penalties

have yet been sent back for revision. The Kyrgyz Ombudsman institution is working on this issue because we are receiving a lot of applications. These are not just coming from inmates but also their relatives.

IPS: Did you have an opportunity to meet with death row prisoners before Kyrgyzstan abolished the death penalty?

T. Akun: Unfortunately, I didn't have this opportunity before I became Ombudsman. I was appointed to this position by parliament only this year. Before that, I headed the commission on protection of human rights under the president of Kyrgyzstan. But I hope now to meet these inmates and play a useful role on their behalf.

IPS: Where are the former death row prisoners now being held?

Tursunbek Akun: As far as I know, there have been no essential changes to where they were held before abolition. There are 136 prisoners in just one prison named SIZO-1, near Bishkek. It's a prison meant for just 32 inmates. In a second prison, SIZO-5, there are another 28. This has special two-man cells, though they hold three. In other cells there are even eight prisoners.

IPS: You hinted that there's been a mixed reaction to abolition from these inmates. What have you heard?

Tursunbek Akun: Two years ago, the Ombudsman institution canvassed the views on death row. It found 125 prisoners were against the death penalty. But seven thought otherwise; they said it was inhumane to replace the death penalty with life imprisonment. They preferred execution to a life there in prison.

At the moment, though, conditions do not meet "minimum international prison living standards".

IPS: Did you question the death row inmates about anything else?

Tursunbek Akun: We questioned them about their conditions in prison. In SIZO-1 they said they had access to a doctor after making a written application to the chief of a special unit. But sometimes they did not receive the appropriate treatment because of a lack of necessary medicines. They had no first-aid kits in their cells. But all had access to first-aid from a medical unit staffed with nurses. These also provided first-aid training. In the case of serious illness, inmates could be transferred to a medical unit or a separate cell. Those suffering from tuberculosis received a balanced diet, including sour milk products, oil and meat. We checked up on their diet. The prison administration does monitor the preparation and consumption of food. But because of lack of funding, the food is poor and monotonous; breakfast, liquid porridge from wheat; lunch, stewed cabbage, macaroni or borsch; dinner, a soup with ingredients defying the inmates' powers of description.

All these problems can be put down to the lack of state money. But one can expect that in the near future work will begin on a separate prison meeting international prison standards. At least, the minister of justice, Marat Kayipov, has spoken repeatedly of the necessity of building one. At the moment, though, conditions do not meet "minimum international prison living standards". I have mentioned the reason for this. Our country is in the gradual process of democratising. But I do hope there will be an appreciable improvement.

IPS: Has there been any improvement in conditions since abolition?

Tursunbek Akun: It's really impossible to say. As I have said, the conditions are minimal. Many inmates would prefer to die rather than go on enduring what they do. Their cells are approximately 16 square metres. The temperature in practically all cells is over 20 degrees. They are in the basement. There's no airing, installed ventilation or natural light. There is piped water and a toilet. It's possible to boil water and use electric stoves and radios; they can receive newspapers and books. But the prisoners have to pay for these facilities themselves or with the help of relatives.

IPS: Does the prison system have trained staff to prepare "lifers" for return to society?

Tursunbek Akun: There's a need for professional training for wardens working with "lifers". But, unfortunately, in the absence of necessary financing Kyrgyzstan still has no specially trained prison staff.

IPS: There are a total of six articles in the revised criminal code providing for a life sentence. Isn't this extremely harsh?

Tursunbek Akun: This really is too much. But Kyrgyzstan is moving forward and as it does, the public will see the need to reduce this number. You have to recognize that the death penalty, now replaced with life imprisonment, was not used for many years. The first steps towards the humanisation of criminal prosecution have already been made. I do think that in due course, Kyrgyzstan will have humane penal conditions for its prisoners. The Ombudsman institution will do everything to achieve this.

IPS: Have the families of those executed in the past now been informed where they are buried?

Tursunbek Akun: State killings, even of the most hardened criminal, provoke different reactions. But it is inhumane towards the relatives of those executed to withhold information on where they have been buried. Up till now, I know of no case where the relatives have been informed on the location of the graves. All they have been told is that the execution has been carried out and issued with a death certificate.

IPS: Where are you intending to focus your efforts for reforms for the "lifers"?

Tursunbek Akun: Prison conditions must be brought up to international standards. This means improving the sanitary conditions in the cells and the ventilation. As I said, there's no compulsory ventilation system to compensate for the lack of natural airing. This is intensifying the inmates' punishment, particularly in summertime. As Ombudsman, I am going to press the government to introduce a system of paid employment for the prisoners. This would benefit the prisoners, the state and the society as a whole. The experience abroad has shown it can help with the maintenance of the prisons. It also helps realise the goals of the criminal justice.



Tursunbek Akun is a prominent human rights defender and was leader of the NGO Human Rights Movement of Kyrgyzstan, before he was elected as Kyrgyzstan's Ombudsman.

Mehrwert für Exporte

Von Sarah McGregor in Dodoma | Deutsche Bearbeitung: Ann-Kathrin Sost

Der 'Common Fund for Commodities' (CFC), eine im UN-Rahmen operierende Organisation mit Sitz in Amsterdam, will in den kommenden fünf Jahren über 100 Millionen US-Dollar zur Unterstützung armer Kleinbauern ausgeben. Sie sollen ihre Produkte weiterverarbeiten und vom Mehrwert beim Export profitieren. Das Geld soll Millionen Bauern in Afrika, Südamerika und Asien zugute kommen, die im Moment keine andere Wahl haben, als ihre Erträge für einen Hungerlohn an Mittelsmänner zu verkaufen, die gute Verbindungen zu den internationalen Märkten haben.

"Um Ernährungssicherheit in armen Ländern zu erreichen, ist es nicht genug, die Felder zu bestellen", erklärt CFC-Chef Ali Mchumo in einem IPS-Interview aus Tansanias Hauptstadt Dodoma. Eine der so simplen wie effektiven Ideen ist, die Versorgungskette zu kürzen, indem die Mittelsmänner herausgenommen werden. Arme Erzeuger sollen direkt und zu besseren Preisen an Supermärkte und Einzelhändler verkaufen können.

Sisal zu Ethanol

Eine weitere Initiative soll es tansanischen und ugandischen Kaffeebauern ermöglichen, ihr Einkommen aufzubessern, indem sie auch Früchte anbauen, die für in den Ländern hergestellte Säfte genutzt werden können. In Mali, Burkina Faso und Tansania sollen mithilfe eines anderen Projekts Laboratorien auf Weltklasseniveau gebaut werden, um die Qualität afrikanischer Baumwolle zu testen. Ein weiteres Vorhaben wurde in der tansanischen Region Tanga bereits in Angriff genommen: Dort wird die weltweit erste Fabrik gebaut, die Sisal-Reste in Biotreibstoff umwandelt. Tansania ist der zweitgrößte Sisalproduzent der Welt nach Brasilien.

Wegen der drastisch gestiegenen Lebensmittelpreise bekommt das Schicksal der 450 Millionen Kleinbauern und 850 Millionen Hungernden in Entwicklungsländern wieder öffentliche Aufmerksamkeit. Die Preissteigerungen hätten die ärmsten Länder am härtesten getroffen, sagt CFC-Geschäftsführer Guy Sneyers. Die Weltbank warnte, dass durch die Preiserhöhungen weitere 100 Millionen Menschen Hungersnot zu geraten drohen. Immerhin konzentrierten sich internationale Geber angesichts der Krise wieder auf die Förderung der Landwirtschaft, einen jahrzehntelang vernachlässigten Sektor, so Sneyers. Im Idealfall sollten ärmere Nationen in die Lage versetzt werden, genügend Nahrungsmittel für den Eigenbedarf anzubauen und gleichzeitig am internationalen Exportmarkt teilhaben. *"Kleinbauern müssen mit Mehrwert verkaufen, um Geld zu verdienen",* sagt der Experte. *"Cassava zum Beispiel ist ein Nahrungsmittel, aber man kann auch Chips daraus machen, Ethanol oder Tierfutter."*

Geröstete Nüsse gefragt

Produzenten in Tansania kennen das Problem: Sie hätten gerne größere Profite, verkaufen aber nur unverarbeitete Produkte. Cashewbauern etwa wollten auch geröstete Nüsse verkaufen und ebenso Nussbutter und Chutneys, sagt Peter Masawe, Leiter eines Netzwerks von Cashewbauern in Ost- und Südafrika. *"Wenn wir nicht weiterverarbeiten, wird sich die Cashewindustrie hier nie verändern."* Genauso geht es Tansanias Baumwollbauern, unterstreicht Elizabeth Kimambo vom tansanischen Büro des CFC in Dar es Salaam. *"Die meisten Bauern wollen eigene Entkernungsanlagen und auch Waren wie Öl herstellen",* sagt sie.

Insbesondere für die Produzenten von sogenannten 'cash crops' wie Kaffee und

Tabak böten sich hervorragende Möglichkeiten, meint Caleb Dengu, Projektleiter beim CFC. *"Kaffeebauern sollten sich vor allem im Kaffeebereich spezialisieren und nicht auf andere Produkte ausweichen",* rät er. *"Einige werden angesichts der Lebensmittelknappheit in Versuchung geraten. Aber sie sollten sich darauf konzentrieren, Geld mit Kaffee zu machen, sodass sie in der Lage sind, sich vernünftig zu ernähren."*

IPS | KOMMUNIKATION GLOBAL ■

CFC's Organisational Profile

Common Fund for Commodities is a partnership of 107 Member States. The European Community (EC), the African Union (AU), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) are institutional members. The latest institutional members are: Andean Community, Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), and the East African Community. Membership is also open to Member States of the United Nations, its specialised agencies; and the International Atomic Energy Agency, in addition to intergovernmental and regional economic integration organisations, which exercise competence within the purview of activities overseen by the Fund.

The Agreement Establishing the Common Fund for Commodities [CFC] was adopted on 27 June 1980 in Geneva, by the United Nations Negotiating Conference on a Common Fund under the Integrated Programme for Commodities. The Agreement entered into force on 19 June 1989.

A copy of the Agreement is available in PDF at www.common-fund.org/download/content/CFCag08.pdf

Abschied vom großen Regen

Von Nasseem Ackbarally in Port-Louis | Deutsche Bearbeitung: Grit Moskau-Porsch

Mauritius - Regen über dem Meer | Photo: www.flickr.com

Noch sprudelt in Mauritius reichlich Trinkwasser aus der Leitung. Damit aber die Versorgung der kleinen Inselrepublik im Indischen Ozean trotz Klimawandel und steigendem Bedarf auch in Zukunft gesichert ist, soll der tägliche Pro-Kopf-Verbrauch der 1,2 Millionen Einwohner von derzeit bis zu 220 Litern auf maximal 50 Liter gedrosselt werden. Doch die Appelle der Regierung finden bislang kaum Gehör. Fünf große Wasserreservoirs und fünf unterirdische Grundwasserspeicher, deren Vorräte fast erschöpft sind, decken derzeit den jährlichen Wasserverbrauch der 920 Millionen Kubikmeter großen Insel. Davon werden 46 Prozent für landwirtschaftliche Bewässerungsanlagen gebraucht und 32 Prozent für die Stromversorgung. Das restliche Viertel teilen sich Privathaushalte, Hotels und Industrie.

Schätzungen zufolge versickern 46 Prozent der 500.000 Kubikmeter Wasser, die täglich von der Zentralen Wasserwirtschaftsbehörde (CWA) geliefert werden, weil das Leitungsnetz alt und marode ist. Versorgungsminister Abu Kasenally macht aber auch den Klimawandel für die Defizite in der Wasserversorgung verantwortlich. *"Wir können uns bislang kaum vorstellen, wie sehr er uns zu schaffen macht. Schon jetzt gibt es in der Region immer weniger Regen"*, sagte er im Gespräch mit IPS. Das UN-Entwicklungsprogramm (UNDP) zählte Mauritius in seinem Bericht über die menschliche Entwicklung 2006 zu den Ländern mit knapper Wasserversorgung. Doch die Bevölkerung nimmt alle Warnungen vor einer bis 2020 drohenden Wasserknappheit nicht ernst und geht mit der kostbaren Ressource äußerst verschwenderisch um.

Er mache sich keine Sorgen, erklärte Adil Latarrah aus der Hauptstadt Port-Louis gleichmütig, während er sein Auto mit dem Wasserschlauch abspritzte. *"Ich glaube nicht, dass wir jemals Probleme mit der*

Wasserversorgung haben werden. Wasser ist doch eine Gottesgabe, es gibt genug Regen." Mit einem Preis von umgerechnet weniger als 0,2 US-Cent pro 1.000 Liter ist Wasser in Mauritius so billig, dass niemand ans Sparen denkt. Für die Bürger sind Auto waschen und Rasensprengen selbstverständlich. Immerhin haben die Behörden damit begonnen, das alte, marode Wasserleitungsnetz zu überprüfen und auszubessern. In der besonders dicht besiedelten Landesmitte werden nach Angaben von CWA-Generaldirektor Harry Booluck teilweise auch neue Rohre verlegt. Die Arbeiten werden durch einen Kredit der Europäischen Investitionsbank finanziert.

Im Gespräch mit IPS verwies Booluck auf den im Februar dieses Jahres vorgestellten Aktionsplan für eine nachhaltige Wasserversorgung. Mit ihrer Vorgabe will die Regierung durch den sparsamen Umgang mit Wasser die Versorgung aller Wirtschaftsbereiche bis 2040 gewährleisten, ohne die Entwicklung neuer Hotelanlagen und Industrieparks einzuschränken. Das Programm schließt neue, kostspielige Technologien wie künstlichen Regen und die Entsalzung von Meerwasser mit ein. *"Wir müssen uns rechtzeitig darauf einstellen, dass Wasser knapp wird"*, betonte der Chef der Wasserbehörde.

Recyceln und Entsalzen

Erstmals seit seiner Unabhängigkeit im März 1968 arbeitet Mauritius derzeit am Konzept einer nationalen Wasserpolitik. Darin sind der Bau neuer Wasserspeicher, die Nutzung von Abwasser für die Bewässerung der Plantagen sowie Entsalzungsanlagen für die Wasserversorgung von Hotels vorgesehen. Mit einigen Projekten hat man bereits begonnen. So wird in Bagatelle in Zentralmauritius ein Wasserreservoir mit einer Kapazität von neun Millionen Kubik-

meter gebaut, das die Hauptstadt Port-Louis versorgen soll. Weitere neue Staubecken sind im Süden und Norden des Landes geplant. Seit März 2006 werden die Abwässer der Insel nicht länger in die Lagune gepumpt, sondern gesäubert und mit Frischwasser vermischt für die Bewässerung in der Landwirtschaft genutzt. Schon jetzt ist es möglich, täglich 600 Hektar Zuckerrohrplantagen und Gemüsefelder im westlichen La Ferme mit 40.000 Kubikmeter Mischwasser zu bewässern. Demnächst soll die Bewässerungskapazität auf 70.000 Kubikmeter gesteigert werden.

Seit einigen Jahren haben Hotels damit begonnen, zur Deckung ihres Wasserbedarfs eigene Entsalzungsanlagen zu installieren. Die Beachcomber-Hotelkette investierte 2007 drei Millionen Dollar in die Entsalzung von Meerwasser und produziert inzwischen täglich für ihre beiden Hotelanlagen 800 Kubikmeter Frischwasser. Bis Ende des Jahres sollen auch die Luxushotels der Naiade-Gruppe mit Wasser aus Entsalzungsanlagen versorgt werden. Im Gegensatz zu anderen Experten rechnet der Direktor der Wasserbehörde (WRU), Dhaneshwar Deepchand, nicht damit, dass auf Mauritius Wasser knapp werden könnte, auch wenn auf der Insel nur rund 29 Prozent der Niederschläge gespeichert werden. *"Es gibt genug Regen, doch viel davon fließt bislang ungenutzt ins Meer."* Ihm zufolge fehlen Sammelbecken, um die Niederschläge aufzufangen. In den vergangenen 40 Jahren wurde in Mauritius ein neues Wasserreservoir mit einer Kapazität von 27 Millionen Kubikmeter gebaut. Es werde aber noch etliche Jahre dauern, bis weitere fertig gestellt sind, berichtete Deepchand *"Deshalb müssen wir die Bevölkerung aufklären und dazu anhalten, mit der kostbaren Ressource Wasser weniger großzügig umzugehen"*, betonte er.

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Hoher Limokonsum im regionalen Armenhaus Nicaragua

Von José Adán Silva in Managua | Deutsche Bearbeitung: Karina Böckmann

Nicaraguanische Kinder
Photo: www.flickr.com

In Nicaragua sind Hunger und Unterernährung endemisch, dennoch trinkt die Bevölkerung mehr Limonade als Milch. So werden in dem lateinamerikanischen Armenhaus täglich eine Million Liter Limonade aber nur 80.000 Liter Milch konsumiert. Nach Angaben von Landwirtschaftsminister Ariel Bucardo hätte sowohl die Bevölkerung als auch die Wirtschaft mehr davon, würden Coca Cola, Fanta und Konsorten nicht der einheimischen Milch den Rang ablaufen. Der Minister führt das Phänomen auf den Mangel an finanziellen Mitteln zurück, die nötig wären, um die Milch industriell weiterzuverarbeiten.

Das ist auch der Grund dafür, warum die Milchproduzenten dem Exportgeschäft den Vorzug geben. So wurden im vergangenen Jahr 70 Prozent der 624,5 Millionen Liter Milch exportiert. Angesichts der chronischen Unterernährung wären die Nicaraguaner gut beraten, mehr Milch zu trinken. Die Weltgesundheitsorganisation (WHO) empfiehlt einen jährlichen Pro-Kopf-Verbrauch von 170 Liter. Doch tatsächlich trinkt die Bevölkerung nach Angaben der lokalen Milchproduzenten höchstens 50 bis 70 Liter im Jahr. Damit gehört Nicaragua zu den Staaten der Region mit dem niedrigsten Milchkonsum.

Dabei könnte Milch im Kampf gegen die verbreitete Unterernährung in Nicaragua eine Menge leisten, denn Milch enthält Inhaltsstoffe wie Milcheiweiß, Milchezucker, Fett, Mineralien und Vitamine, die der menschliche Körper braucht. Nach Angaben des Weltkinderhilfswerks UNICEF ist jedes dritte nicaraguanische Kind unter fünf Jahren in irgendeiner Form chronisch unterernährt. In neun Prozent der Fälle ist die Unterernährung bedrohlich. Im Mai

letzten Jahres hatte William Hart vom Welternährungsprogramm (WFP) darauf hingewiesen, dass mehr als die Hälfte der unter 14-Jährigen unterernährt ist. Im Oktober warnte der Leiter der Amerikazentrale der UN-Landwirtschaftsorganisation (FAO) Merillo Morel, dass 27 Prozent der 5,4 Millionen Nicaraguaner ihren täglichen Kalorienbedarf nicht decken könnten.

Die hohe Limonadennachfrage in dem kleinen Land am Isthmus, nach Haiti das ärmste Land der Region, erklärt sich auch aus dem hohen Etat, den die transnationalen Konzerne für Vertrieb und Marketing ihrer Erzeugnisse reservierten. Mit den Multis könnten einheimische Firmen nicht konkurrieren, so Cirilo Otero vom Zentrum für umweltpolitische Forschungen (CIPA). *"Bei den Milchproduzenten handelt es sich um Bauern und kleine Produzenten, denen die Mittel fehlen, um technisch aufzurüsten und ihre Produkte weiterzuarbeiten"*, so Otero. *"Die großen transnationalen Limonadenhersteller hingegen schaffen nicht nur Anreize für den Konsum ihrer Produkte, sondern bringen sie in alle Winkel unseres Landes."*

Keine Milch für Schulkinder

Dem Ernährungsexperten zufolge trägt die Regierung eine Mitschuld an dem Dilemma. Anstatt dafür zu sorgen, dass ein lang diskutiertes Gesetz das Parlament passieren, das die kostenlose Versorgung von Schulkindern mit einem Glas Milch pro Tag vorsieht, werde das Vorhaben unnötig verzögert, weil sich Abgeordnete von einflussreichen Konzernen unter Druck setzen ließen, so Otero. Wie Eduardo Vallecillo von der Interessengruppe für Ernährungssouveränität und -sicherheit betonte, der an

dem Gesetz mitgearbeitet hat, verhindern vor allem bürokratische Hürden die Verabschiedung der Vorlage.

"Nachdem das Projekt seit einem Jahr einem parlamentarischen Sonderausschuss vorliegt, der nicht zusammentritt, ist uns der Kern des Problems klar geworden. Der Ausschuss wurde nie vom Parlamentspräsidenten zugelassen und verfügt somit auch nicht über die Instrumentarien, um überhaupt arbeiten zu können." Minister Bucardo verweist auf ein geplantes Gesetz, das die Bereitstellung von Anreizen und finanziellen Mittel für die Nahrungsmittelproduzenten vorsieht. Darüber hinaus werde ein Projekt gegen den Hunger ('Plan Hambre Cero') vorangetrieben, das vorsieht, arme Familien mit Milchkühen auszustatten. Diese sollen die Haushalte mit Milch versorgen. Mit der überschüssigen Milch sollen die Haushalte ein Zubrot verdienen.

Der Milchbauer Wilmer Fernández beklagt in diesem Zusammenhang die Schwierigkeit beim Zugang zu Krediten. Die derzeitigen Gesetze begünstigten die großen transnationalen Konzerne. Die Kleinbauern seien dringend auf Finanzierungshilfen angewiesen, nicht zuletzt um die dringend notwendigen Reparaturen an den Zugangswegen zu den Melkstationen zu verbessern. Fernández zufolge verdienen die Milchbauern mehr am Exportgeschäft als am Inlandsverbrauch. Nach Angaben der Nicaraguanischen Milkammer erzielten sie mit dem Absatz der Milch im Ausland im vergangenen Jahr 98 Millionen US-Dollar. In den beiden vorangegangenen Jahren waren 60 Millionen respektive fast 70 Millionen Dollar.

Nachfahren schwarzer Sklaven entdecken Tourismus

Von Mario Osava in Ivaporunduva | Deutsche Bearbeitung: Oliver Scheel

Quilombolas in Rio de Janeiro
Photo: www.agenciabrasil.gov.br

Es war einst eine selbst gewählte Isolation, in die sich die Quilombolas, die Nachfahren geflohener afrikanischer Sklaven in Brasilien, begeben haben. Heute ist genau diese Abgeschlossenheit ein großes Problem für die Entwicklung ihrer Dörfer. Doch in den Küstenwäldern Südbrahiliens tut sich was, seit die Bewohner der 'Quilombos' ihr Schicksal in die eigene Hand nehmen. Quilombos heißen die kleinen Enklaven, in denen entlaufene afrikanische Sklaven Schutz vor ihren Verfolgern fanden. Die ersten dieser versteckten Zufluchtstätten entstanden im 16. Jahrhundert. Sie boten nicht nur Sklaven Unterschlupf, die ihren 'Herren' aus den Goldminen und von den Plantagen davongelaufen waren, sondern auch den für den Paraguay-Krieg von 1865 bis 1870 zwangsrekrutierten schwarzen Soldaten.

Die Afrobrasilianer, die sich im Tal des Rio Ribeira zwischen den beiden Industriemetropolen São Paulo und Curitiba niedergelassen haben, kämpfen mit starken Strukturproblemen. Das Gebiet, umgeben von dichten Wäldern und vielen Hügeln, ist nur schwer zugänglich. Die Häuser stehen weit verstreut, und die Verbindung der Quilombos mit der Außenwelt nicht immer gegeben. Einigen Siedlungen jedoch ist der Weg aus der Abgeschlossenheit gelungen. Ein Beispiel ist, Ivaporunduva. Dort hat sich eine Fähre als Schlüssel zum Glück erwiesen. Dadurch hätten sich die Transportmöglichkeiten verbessert, so der Dorfbewohner Vandir Rodrigues da Silva.

Noch vor 20 Jahren mussten die jungen Leute das Dorf auf der Suche nach Arbeit verlassen. Habe man früher kaum

eine Chance gehabt, die Bananen zu den Märkten zu bringen, so könne man nun problemlos liefern, berichtet der 57-Jährige. Die Fähre bringt die kaum mehr als 100 Familien näher an die Städte Eldorado und Iporanga sowie die Millionenmetropole São Paulo heran. Rund 30 Mal am Tag überquert die Fähre den Fluss und setzt Menschen und sogar Lkws und Busse über. Doch die Tage dieses Vehikels sind gezählt, denn bald wird es eine Brücke über den Ribeira-Fluss geben. Dann bleibt das Dorf auch während der Tage erreichbar, in denen das Wasser so hoch ist, dass die Fähre nicht fahren kann.

Dschungelhotel für 60 Gäste

Ivaporunduva ist eines von mindestens 59 Quilombos im 28.306 Quadratkilometer großen Urwaldgebiet im Ribeira-Tal. Mit Hilfe des Sozioökonomischen Instituts ISA ist die Ortschaft zum regionalen Vorreiter für Entwicklung geworden. Die meisten Einwohner der Siedlung bauen Bananen an. Sie arbeiten organisch und versuchen dadurch höhere Preise zu erzielen. Die Menschen im Ribeira-Tal engagieren sich auch für das Überleben der Jucara-Palmen. Anstatt sie zu fällen, um die begehrten Palmherzen zu extrahieren, sind sie dazu übergegangen, die Jucara-Wälder wieder aufzuforsten und ein Getränk aus den violetten Beeren herzustellen, das inzwischen höhere Gewinne erzielt als der Verkauf der Palmherzen.

Auch haben die Quilombolas den Tourismus als viel versprechende Einnahmequelle für sich entdeckt. In Ivaporunduva gibt es ein Dschungelhotel, das 60 Gästen Platz bietet. Dort können sich die Gäste über die bewegte Geschichte

der Nachfahren der schwarzen Sklaven informieren und handgemachte Souvenirs kaufen. *"Wenn alle Zimmer belegt sind, kann ich an wenigen Tagen mehr als 60 US-Dollar verdienen"*, berichtet Cacilda da Silva Maria, die aus den Fasern des Bananenbaums Taschen, Schmuck und Spielzeug herstellt. Die 60-Jährige arbeitet mit 15 anderen Frauen in einer Art Kooperative zusammen, die ihre Produkte im örtlichen Kunsthandwerkshaus ausstellt. Drei Prozent ihrer Einkünfte legen die Frauen in eine gemeinsame Kasse, aus der sie zum Beispiel gelegentliche ihre Reisen zu Messen bezahlen. Zwei Prozent der Einnahmen fließen der Gemeinde von Ivaporunduva zu.

Patricia Cursi, die das ISA-Programm im Tal des Ribeira leitet, ist hochzufrieden mit der Entwicklung vor Ort. Ihre Organisation betreut nicht nur Ivaporunduva, sondern auch noch 13 weitere Quilombos. Besonders erfreut ist sie über die Entwicklungsmöglichkeiten für Frauen. *"Es ist gut für sie, etwas Eigenes zu haben. Dass verschafft ihnen Autonomie und Geld, vom dem auch die Kinder profitieren."*

Doch trotz aller Erfolge sind die Quilombolas weiterhin auf staatliche Hilfe angewiesen. Das wird sich nach ihrer Ansicht erst ändern, wenn sie, wie in der Verfassung vorgesehen, Titel für das Land erhalten, das von ihren Vorfahren besiedelt wurde. Bisher sind erst sechs Quilombos im Besitz solcher Urkunden. Zu ihnen gehört Invaporunduva, das ein Areal von 2.710 Hektar sein eigen nennt. Drei Viertel des Gebiets ist von Wald bedeckt, der den Menschen das geben kann, was sie zum Leben brauchen.



Eskalierende Gewalt in Afghanistan

Von Anand Gopal in Kabul | Deutsche Bearbeitung: Ann-Kathrin Sost

Photo: www.alertnet.org

In Afghanistan zieht sich die Spirale der Gewalt immer enger: Zivilisten werden immer wieder getötet. Teilweise sind Taliban, teilweise internationale Truppen für die wachsende Zahl an Opfern verantwortlich. Doch Forderungen aus dem Westen nach mehr Soldaten sind nach Ansicht vieler Afghanen keine Lösung. Am 20. Juli töteten internationale Truppen während eines Feuergefechts vier afghanische Polizisten und fünf Zivilisten in der westlichen Provinz Farah. In derselben Nacht kamen in der östlichen Provinz Paktika durch Mörsergranaten vier Zivilisten um - ebenfalls von internationalen Truppen abgefeuert. 21. Juli starben sechs Menschen in der ebenfalls im Osten gelegenen Provinz Laghman, als Taliban eine Rakete in einen mit Treibstoff gefüllten Lastwagen jagten.

Die USA kämpfen derweil mit Kritik von der afghanischen Regierung, nach der die Koalitionstruppen mit exzessiver und unangemessener Gewalt vorgehen. In der dritten Juliwoche gaben afghanische Parlamentarier bekannt, dass ein US-Luftangriff in der östlichen Provinz Nangarhar eine Hochzeitsgesellschaft getroffen habe. 47 Gäste kamen um. Etwas früher hatte ein Luftangriff den Behörden zufolge 15 Zivilisten in der nördlich gelegenen Provinz Nuristan in den Tod gerissen. Der afghanische Präsident Hamid Karzai solle die Mörder ausliefern, *"damit wir sie hängen können, oder anderenfalls zurücktreten"*, sagte ein aufgebrachter Bewohner der betroffenen Gemeinde in Nangarhar dem Institut für Kriegs- und Friedensberichtserstattung (IWPR). *"Sonst nehmen wir die Sache selbst in die Hand."*

Nach UN-Angaben verloren in Afghanistan in diesem Jahr mehr als 700 Menschen ihr Leben, fast zwei Drittel mehr als im gleichen Vorjahreszeitraum. In der ersten Jahreshälfte ließen die Koalitionstruppen 1.853 Bomben und Raketen los, 40 Prozent

mehr als von Januar bis Ende Juni 2007. Analysten zufolge ist dies eine Antwort auf die zunehmenden Angriffe der Rebellen. Taliban-Kämpfer hatten für dieses Frühjahr eine neue Offensive angekündigt. Überall im Land wurden Ziele angegriffen, Karzai selbst wäre Ende April fast einem Anschlag zum Opfer gefallen. Im Juni befreiten Taliban rund 1.000 Gefangene aus dem Hauptgefängnis in Kandahar. In der zweiten Juliwoche zerstörte eine Autobombe die indische Botschaft in Kabul, es gab mehr als 40 Tote und fast 100 Verwundete. Insbesondere in der Region um Kabul haben die Taliban überdies ihre Präsenz verstärkt. Aus der zentralen Provinz Ghazni heißt es, dass sie nach Anbruch der Dunkelheit die meisten Distrikte in ihrer Hand haben. In Kunar im Nordosten und Nuristan gibt es keine Sicherheits-Checkpoints der Polizei mehr, so dass die Taliban sich frei bewegen können. Der kanadischen Zeitung 'Globe and Mail' liegt ein US-Dokument vor, nach dem die Taliban in Kandahar mehr Gebiete kontrollieren als die afghanische Regierung. Die bevölkerungsreichsten Regionen sind allerdings noch unter dem Kommando Kabuls. Die Rebellen nutzen ihren wachsenden Einfluss für weitere Attacken gegen die US-geführten Truppen.

Armut als zentrales Problem

In der dritten Juliwoche erstürmten knapp 200 Taliban einen US-Außenposten und töteten neun US-amerikanische Soldaten. So viele Tote auf einmal gab es auf US-Seite seit drei Jahren nicht zu verzeichnen. Insgesamt wurden bisher in diesem Jahr 138 US-Soldaten getötet. In den USA wird darüber nachgedacht, die Truppen aufzustocken. US-Kommandeure fordern insgesamt mehr als 10.000 Soldaten, um die Gewalt einzudämmen. Der demokratische Präsidentschaftskandidat Barack Obama hat für den Fall seines Wahlsiegs die Entsendung von

zwei Brigaden versprochen - mehr als 7.000 Soldaten. Zugleich sollen Truppen aus dem Irak abgezogen werden. Sein republikanischer Rivale John McCain plant eine ähnliche Strategie, nur ohne den Irak-Truppenabzug. Ob mehr Truppen automatisch zu weniger Gewalt führen, ist zweifelhaft. Im vergangenen Jahr nahmen die Angriffe deutlich zu, obwohl die NATO-geführten Truppen von 37.500 auf heute 53.000 aufgestockt wurden. Viele Afghanen sind der Meinung, dass ohne einen Kampf gegen die tiefer liegenden Probleme wie Armut und fehlende Infrastruktur weitere Soldaten wenig ausrichten können. Von den seit 2002 zugesagten rund 25 Milliarden US-Dollar internationaler Geber wurden bisher nur 15 Milliarden bereit gestellt. Davon seien ganze 40 Prozent in Form von Profiten und Gehältern und Löhnen an die Geberländer zurückgeflossen, sagt die Kabuler Dachorganisation 'Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief'.

Nach Schätzungen der afghanischen Regierung sind 4,5 Millionen Afghanen - fast 17 Prozent der Bevölkerung - durch die steigenden Nahrungsmittelpreise akut von Hunger bedroht. Berichten zufolge treibt die Verzweiflung immer mehr Frauen in die Prostitution. Eine dramatische Dürre hat mindestens 19 der 34 Provinzen des Landes heimgesucht. Neben der weltweit höchsten Geburtenrate weist Afghanistan die zweitöchste Muttersterblichkeit der Welt vor. Offiziell ist die Hälfte aller Afghanen ohne Arbeit. Nach Einschätzung von Analysten hat das Ansehen der Regierung einen Tiefpunkt erreicht. Damit läuft die Gesellschaft Gefahr, weiter zu zersplittern und von Warlords kontrolliert zu werden. Nach US-Geheimdienstinformationen kontrolliert die Regierung von Karzai rund 30 Prozent des Landes. Den Rest haben die Taliban und Kriegsherren übernommen.

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Kinder im Gazastreifen suchen
im Müll nach etwas Essbarem
Photo: www.stolenchildhood.net

Armut im Gaza-Streifen auf historischem Höchststand

Von Omid Memarian in New York | Deutsche Bearbeitung: Oliver Scheel

Die Menschen im Gaza-Streifen sind so arm wie nie zuvor. Über die Hälfte aller Haushalte dort lebt unterhalb der Armutsgrenze. Dies geht aus dem neusten Bericht des UN-Hilfswerks für Palästina-Flüchtlinge im Nahen Osten (UNRWA) hervor. Die Zahlen sind erschreckend. Laut UNRWA sind in Gaza 51,8 Prozent aller Haushalte arm. *"Das beispiellose Armutsniveau in Gaza ist eine ganz schlechte Nachricht"*, sagte UNRWA-Sprecher Christopher Gunness in einem Telefoninterview mit IPS. *"Einer ganzen Generation die Hoffnung auf eine gute Zukunft zu rauben, ist für niemanden von Interesse. Es ist weder im Sinne der Flüchtlinge, die wir betreuen, noch im Sinne eines jeden, der an Frieden und Stabilität in der Region glaubt."*

Der Anteil der unterhalb der Armutsgrenze liegenden Haushalte sei im Vergleich zu 2006 weiter gestiegen, *"und das trotz umfangreicher humanitärer Hilfe"*, heißt es in dem Report. Im Gegensatz dazu sei der Anteil der armen Haushalte im Westjordanland von 24 Prozent im Jahr 2006 auf 19 Prozent (2007) zurückgegangen. Das liege höchst wahrscheinlich *"an der Aufhebung des internationalen Embargos gegen die Palästinensische Autonomiebehörde"*.

Der Report, der sich auf Daten des palästinensischen Statistikbüros PCBS beruft, berichtet von einer durchschnittlichen Arbeitslosenquote von 29,5 Prozent - eine der höchsten der Welt. Die Situation sieht noch schlimmer aus, wenn man die Zahlen bereinigt. Beziehe man die hohe Zahl der abge-

wanderten Arbeitskräfte im zweiten Halbjahr von 2007 in die Rechnung mit ein, erhalte man eine Arbeitslosenquote in Gaza von 45,3 Prozent, so der Bericht. Im Westjordanland liegt die Quote bei 25,5 Prozent und ist damit etwa doppelt so hoch wie im restlichen Nahen Osten und den nordafrikanischen Ländern. Das Brutto-sozialprodukt ist im Jahr 2006 um 7,8 Prozent gesunken. Der Report des UNRWA macht die israelische Regierung, den Geberboykott gegen die Hamas-Regierung in Gaza, rückläufige Steuereinnahmen und den Streik im öffentlichen Dienst im letzten Viertel des Jahres 2006 für den Einbruch verantwortlich.

Arbeitslosigkeit auf dem Höchststand

"Es besteht kein Zweifel daran, dass die Krise in Gaza eng mit der Blockade der Israelis zusammenhängt", sagte Sarah Leah Whitson, Direktorin der Abteilung Nahost und Nordafrika bei der internationalen Menschenrechtsorganisation 'Human Rights Watch' (HRW). *"Die wenige Nahrung, die in den Gaza-Streifen gelangt, die Beschränkungen für Benzin und Strom, die Unmöglichkeit, das Gebiet zu verlassen, um zur Schule oder zur Arbeit zu gehen, und die Schwierigkeiten bei Importen und Exporten zwingen die Menschen im Gaza-Streifen in die Armut"*, sagte sie.

UNRWA-Sprecher Gunness sagte zu IPS, er hoffe weiterhin auf eine Besserung der Situation. *"Wir müssen den Teilen der Bevölkerung, die wir betreuen, einen*

angemessenen Lebensstandard ermöglichen. Der jüngste Report zeigt, dass bisher nicht in ausreichendem Maß erreicht wurde. Das wichtigste Ziel der Vereinten Nationen muss sein, den Gaza-Streifen sowohl für Importe und Exporte als auch für humanitäre Hilfe zu öffnen", so Gunness. Whitson wählte drastischere Worte als Gunness: *"Israels Blockadepolitik ist eine illegale Kollektivstrafe unter Missachtung des internationalen Rechts. Es ist keinesfalls bewiesen, dass diese Politik Raketenangriffe auf israelisches Gebiet verhindert. Ägypten trägt mit seiner Ablehnung, die Grenze in Rafah wieder zu öffnen, seinen Teil zu der Krise bei"*, sagte sie.

Laut HRW verweigerte Israel im letzten Jahr 670 Studenten aus Gaza die Ausreise, um im Ausland zu studieren. Beworben hatten sie sich in Ägypten, Jordanien, Großbritannien, Deutschland und den USA. Die Studenten gehören zu den insgesamt 6.400 Menschen, die im Gaza-Streifen festsitzen, obwohl sie schon vor der Machtübernahme der Hamas im Juni 2007 eine Ausreisegenehmigung erworben hatten. Israel übt nahezu die komplette Kontrolle über die Grenzen des Gaza-Streifens aus. Seit Juni 2007 lassen die Israelis nur Menschen, die besondere medizinische Behandlung benötigen, einige Journalisten und wenige Mitarbeiter internationaler Organisation aus dem Gaza-Streifen heraus.



Paradigmenwechsel der "illegalen Nebenaußenpolitik"

Eine Rezension

Tagungszentrum der Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Berlin
Photo © Muhs/Elsen

Wenn Organisationen und Institutionen beginnen, sich für ihre eigene Geschichte zu interessieren, ist dies ein deutliches Zeichen dafür, dass sie nicht mehr jung sind", schreibt Patrik von zur Mühlen, der in seinem Buch *Die internationale Arbeit der Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung - Von den Anfängen bis zum Ende des Ost-West-Konflikts* eine schwierige Aufgabe glänzend meistert. Dabei geht es nicht um eine Gesamtdarstellung der Aktivitäten einer eminent wichtigen Institution, die 1925 nach dem Tode des ersten Kanzlers der Weimarer Republik gegründet, acht Jahre später durch das NS-Regime aufgelöst, nach dem Ende des Dritten Reiches durch die wieder aktive Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands von neuem ins Leben gerufen und 1954 in eine eigene Rechtsperson in Form eines eingetragenen Vereins umgewandelt wurde. Erst in dieser Gestalt konnte die Stiftung eigenständige Aktivitäten entfalten und ihr unverwechselbares Profil gewinnen.

Die Herausforderung für den Autor war, dass es aus der Anfangszeit der Stiftung keine Zeitzeugen mehr gibt. Die Zeugen und Akteure des neuen Anfangs sind, "soweit sie noch leben, nicht mehr im aktiven Dienst, und für die heutigen Mitarbeiter liegen die ersten Jahrzehnte so weit zurück, dass weder eigene noch weitergegebene Erinnerungen und Erfahrungen ihnen diese Anfänge vermitteln könnten". Hier setzt die Aufgabe des Historikers von zur Mühlen ein. Er wertet schriftliche, vor allem publizierte Materialien in Verbindung mit den mündlichen Aussagen von ehemaligen Mitarbeitern der Stiftung aus und stellt die Geschichte der Stiftung dar, um diese "vor dem Vergessen zu bewahren".

Der besondere Reiz dieser Studie, die erste in einer Reihe, liegt darin, dass sie den Paradigmenwechsel der internationalen Arbeit der Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) vor dem Hintergrund sich verändernder Rahmenbedingungen beschreibt und die Nachhaltigkeit ihres

weltweiten Wirkens resümiert. So erfahren wir, dass der Ost-West-Konflikt und der damit verbundene Wettlauf der Systeme bis 1989/90 den Rahmen der Arbeit der Stiftung bildeten.

Die FES begann ihr entwicklungspolitisches Engagement in der 'Dritten Welt' Ende der 1950er Jahre. In den 1970er Jahren wandte sie sich auch den Industrieländern in Europa und Übersee zu. Sie unterstützte demokratische Kräfte in diktatorisch regierten Ländern wie Chile und Südafrika, unterstützte Portugal und Spanien beim Übergang zur Demokratie. Sie förderte den Dialog zwischen Ost und West und trug dazu bei, die politische Teilung in Europa zu überwinden. Die FES hatte Modellcharakter für die anderen nach dem Zweiten Weltkrieg gegründeten parteinahen deutschen politischen Stiftungen, zunächst die Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung und die Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung, später dann in dieser Reihenfolge die Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung, die Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung und nach der Wiedervereinigung die Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung.

Neugier und Respekt

Es ist ein bedeutendes Buch. Denn die internationale Tätigkeit der Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung sowie anderer deutscher politischer Stiftungen ist zu einem Teil deutscher Außenpolitik geworden. Diese Arbeit hat sich gleichzeitig zu einem genuine deutschen Beitrag zur Kultur der internationalen Beziehungen entwickelt. "Anfangs von einigen Mitarbeitern des Auswärtigen Amtes und gelegentlich auch von Journalisten als 'illegale Nebenaußenpolitik' oder gar als 'heimdienstliches Kontrollverfahren der politischen Parteien' verdächtigt, hat sie sich schnell als Möglichkeit und Instrument zur Etablierung zusätzlicher gesellschaftspolitischer Außenbeziehungen erwiesen - eine Entwicklung, die bald Neugier auf sich zog und Respekt erzeugte", schreiben die Herausgeber Ernst Kerbusch, Pia Bungarten, Dieter Dowe und Uwe Optenhögel in ihrem Vorwort.

Die Herausgeber sind überzeugt, dass mit der Reihe, die mit dem vorliegenden Buch beginnt, nicht nur die internationale Arbeit der FES selbst dokumentiert wird, sondern auch ein Einblick in die gesamte Tätigkeit der deutschen politischen Stiftungen im Ausland möglich wird, wie er bislang noch nicht existiert. "Wir hoffen, dass damit auch für die Öffentlichkeit erkennbar wird, dass diese Arbeit sich nicht darauf beschränkt hat, Projekte und Programme erfolgreich (in Einzelfällen wohl auch weniger erfolgreich) umzusetzen, sondern integraler Bestandteil der Entwicklung deutscher Außen-, Sicherheits- und Entwicklungspolitik gewesen ist und bleibt - von der Wiedergewinnung der Souveränität der Bundesrepublik Deutschland bis heute und in Zukunft."

KOMMUNIKATION GLOBAL ■



Patrik von zur Mühlen: 'Die internationale Arbeit der Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung - Von den Anfängen bis zum Ende des Ost-West-Konflikts. Band 1. Verlag J. H. W. Dietz, Bonn 2007.



25 Years North-South Dialogue 1983-2008



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Update 30.01.2008

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advocates dialogue for international understanding and interaction for change in the interest of a genuine worldwide cooperation. It was founded under the name "Nord-Süd-Forum" on February 25, 1983. The newly emerging world calls for a departure from the entrenched patterns of thinking. Instead of clinging on to enforcing military security, for example, there is need to help usher in global human security.

Precisely this is what GCC Forum endeavours. While serving as a platform for dialogue, it facilitates within the framework of HumAN Development Services - HANDS - an exchange of practical experiences. Thereby we are supported by several institutions and organisations as well as committed individuals, on whom we could always rely since the inception of the North-South-Forum, the precursor of the GCC Forum.

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KOMMUNIKATION GLOBAL · GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES
MAGAZIN ZUR INTERNATIONALEN ZUSAMMENARBEIT
MAGAZINE FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
www.komglobal.info · www.global-perspectives.info
ISSN 1617-5352 (PRINT EDITION) · ISSN 1617-5735 (INTERNET EDITION)

Herausgeber | Publisher: IPS-INTER PRESS SERVICE EUROPA
Marienstr. 19/20 · 10117 Berlin | Tel.: (030)28482360 · Fax: 01212-505619927

Chefredakteur | Chief Editor: Ramesh Jaura · E-Mail: rjaura@ipsonline.eu
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Karina Böckmann · Grit Moskau-Porsch · Dr. Heike Nasdala
Online-Redaktionsmitarbeiter | Webmaster: Jörg-Werner Busse
Graphik, Layout & Bildredaktion: Birgit Weisenburger

I M P R I N T

Erscheinungsweise | Periodicity: 12 Ausgaben pro Jahr · 12 Issues A Year
Druck | Print Edition: Mail Boxes Etc. | Reinhardstr. 27B | 10117 Berlin

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