

HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY - A COLLOQUIUM

11-13 JANUARY 2010, GENEVA

AGENDA

DAY ONE

KEY THEME: MACROECONOMIC POLICY AND HUMAN RIGHTS – VALUES AND FIRST PRINCIPLES

1300 – 1430

Welcome Lunch

1430 – 1530

Introductory Session

Welcome: Robert Archer and Mary Robinson

The Colloquium in Perspective: The Current Global Economic Context and the Relevance of a Dialogue between Economists and Human Rights Advocates

Opening Remarks: Roberto Bissio, Sakiko Fukuda-Parr, Jomo Sundaram

1540 – 1900

Session One

Chairs: Aubrey McCutcheon, David Petrasek

“Contemporary macroeconomic policy-making appears oblivious to, or undermines, human rights values.” True? Why? How can this be addressed? What difficulties arise in conversations between economics and human rights? Are macroeconomists simply unaware of, indifferent, or even inimical to human rights? Or is the problem one of translation? To what extent can differences be explained by the normative character of the two discourses?

1540 – 1715

Setting the Stage 1: Towards Integrating Human Rights and Economics – A Review of Work Done and Lessons Learnt

First remarks: Radhika Balakrishnan, Diane Elson, Marta Foresti

Discussion

Second remarks: Margot Salomon, Daniel Seymour

1715 – 1730

Tea

1730 – 1900 Setting the Stage 2: Human Rights and Economics – Assessing the Normative Barriers and Bridges

First Remarks: George Demartino, Stephen Marks

Discussion

Second Remarks: David Kinley, Sally–Anne Way

1930 *Welcome Dinner (Warwick Hotel)*

DAY TWO

KEY THEME: ECONOMIC SYSTEMS, FISCAL AND MONETARY POLICY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

0900 – 1045

Session Two

Chair: Balakrishnan Rajagopal

The Global Economic System: Continuity and Change in Macroeconomic Policies

How does the current crisis differ, if at all, from previous ones? To what extent have previous crises changed macroeconomic management in different parts of the world? What lessons have recent and past financial and economic crises offered for fiscal and monetary policy? What is the impact of crises on the global economic system? Are crises inevitable self–corrections? Is this a crisis of global capitalism or indeed has it been a *good* crisis for capitalism?

First Remarks: Richard Kozul–Wright, Richard Newfarmer, Andong Zhu

Discussion

Second Remarks: Sedat Aybar, Clara Jusidman

1045 – 1100 *Tea*

1100 – 1300

Session Three

Integrating Human Rights and Macroeconomics Policy – Mapping Specific Challenges and Opportunities: Two Roundtables

Expanding trade, enabling investment and capital formation, generating employment, providing social security and eliminating poverty may be viewed as inter–related elements of economic governance. Given recent and past economic crises, how should state obligations with respect to human rights influence economic policy formulation? What can human rights contribute to fiscal and monetary policy–making? How do fiscal expansion or discipline or regulation of financial markets relate to the human rights obligations of states? How can macroeconomic systems and fiscal and monetary policy in particular be (re)directed towards expanding productive employment and reducing socio–economic inequalities?

1100 – 1300 Two Parallel Roundtables will map the problems of integrating human rights and macroeconomics in specific areas/contexts and examine proposals, case studies and policy options

Roundtable One: Redirecting governance and regulation of financial markets and investment regimes to promote economic value and social purpose

Moderator: Arvind Ganesan
Key Discussants: Ghassan Dibeh, Mary Dowell Jones, Shalmali Guttal, Massimiliano La Marca
Rapporteur: Salil Tripathi

Roundtable Two: Reorienting macroeconomic intervention to promote full employment, decent work and ensure social security and address poverty

Moderator: Heather Grady
Key Discussants: Lilian Chenwi, Claire Mahon, Roxana Maurizio, Stephen Pursey, Magdalena Sepúlveda
Rapporteur: David Petrsek

1300 – 1430 *Lunch*

1430 – 1630 Session Three Plenary

Chair: Robert Archer

The plenary will examine questions that cut across human rights obligations and economic policy considerations. Building on lessons and experiences from case studies and policy options raised in the roundtables, the plenary will discuss how to envision (normative considerations and perspectives) and realise (implement, resource and institutionalise) the integration of human rights considerations in macroeconomic policy.

Report back: David Petrsek, Salil Tripathi

Comments: Diane Elson, Miloon Kothari, Manuel Montes, Gita Sen

1630 – 1700 *Tea*

1700 – 1900 Evening Discussion

Chair: Mary Robinson

Towards realising shared responsibility and greater coherence in global economic governance – challenges and possibilities in the UN and Beyond: MDGs, ODA and Debt, Trade and Finance, Climate Justice and Reform of International Institutions

Panel: Virginia Bras-Gomes, Heiner Flassbeck, Richard Newfarmer, Stephen Pursey, Mary Robinson, Jomo K. Sundaram

Moderator: Lyse Doucet

1900 *Reception followed by Dinner (CCV)*

DAY THREE

KEY THEME: POSSIBLE AGENDAS FOR RESEARCH AND POLICY ADVOCACY – TOWARDS COHERENCE AND SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

0900 – 0930

Looking Back over the First Two Days: Some Reflections

Chair: Robert Archer

Remarks: Balakrishnan Rajagopal, TBC

0930 – 1030

Towards Shared Responsibility and Greater Coherence: Human Rights, Trade and Macroeconomic Policy

Introduction: Mary Robinson

Remarks: Pascal Lamy

Discussion

1030 – 1045

Tea

1045 – 1300

Session Four

Chairs: Robert Archer, Mary Robinson

Shaping an Agenda for Research and Policy Advocacy

1045 – 1145

Addressing the Challenges of Human Rights Advocacy and Campaigning on Macroeconomic Policies

Remarks: Yao Graham, Shalmali Guttal, Nicholas Lusiani

1145 – 1300

Research and Policy Agendas – The Way Ahead

Remarks: Radhika Balakrishnan, Shahara Razavi, Ignacio Saiz

Discussion

1300 – 1315

Close followed by Farewell Lunch

NB: In the interests of promoting discussion and exchange, all speakers are requested to keep their remarks to 10 minutes. Similarly, to ensure that there are as many rounds of intervention from the floor as possible we request interveners to be succinct and very brief.

In both the Plenary and Roundtables, the Chairs/Moderators will be requested to ensure that there is space for discussion and intervention between the different speakers.