



Europe

Strengthening Coalitions for Social Justice in Europe

1st European Social Watch Conference

hosted by
DGB Bildungswerk, terre des hommes, Global Policy Forum Europe and *Eurostep*

Berlin, 20-21 November 2004

Conference Report

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About Social Watch

Social Watch is a global coalition of more than 400 NGOs and citizens groups, focussing on the structural causes of poverty, gender inequality and social disintegration in South and North. Social Watch was established 1995 to give continuity to the engagement and actions taken by civil society organisations around the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth UN Conference on Women. Its motivation is to promote a global citizens movement that holds national governments and international organisations accountable for the commitments that were made in Copenhagen and Beijing, and in other UN conferences. A Social Watch Report is published annually that reports on progress made by governments and the international community in meeting these commitments.

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Summary Report

On 20 and 21 November 2004, Social Watch held the first regional conference at European level in Berlin, Germany. The conference was hosted by DGB Bildungswerk (the training institute of the German Trade Union Federation), terre des hommes Germany, Global Policy Forum Europe and Eurostep.

About 30 representatives of NGOs and citizens groups participated in the conference. They came from the following 18 countries: Belgium, Germany, Italy, Uruguay, Serbia, Malta, Poland, Romania, Latvia, Kosovo, Bulgaria, Netherlands, Switzerland, Spain, Albania, Czech Republic, Hungary, and Ireland.

The conference aimed to bring together existing Social Watch coalitions and NGOs as well as potential new groups, related networks and other partners from Europe in order to share experiences and expectations, assess needs for coordination and support, and to discuss common strategies for poverty eradication and social justice, that could be pursued in Europe as part of the global Social Watch coalition. While Social Watch has a strong base in many regions of the world, representation and co-operation in Europe has been relatively weak in the past, particularly in Eastern Europe. Consequently, at the last General Assembly of Social Watch in Beirut (October 2003) it was agreed that action should be taken to strengthen Social Watch in Europe, and to develop a European regional identity. The Berlin conference was a first step towards these goals.

SOCIAL WATCH: MISSION AND EXPERIENCES

In his opening statement, Roberto Bissio, Director of Social Watch, described the history, mission and perspectives of Social Watch. Social Watch was established 1995 as an outcome of the actions taken by civil society organisations around the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth UN Conference on Women. Its motivation is to promote a global citizens movement that hold national governments and international organisations accountable for the commitments made in Copenhagen and Beijing.

Through Social Watch, national coalitions and other fora have been created in many countries to discuss social development concerns, develop advocacy strategies, work with grassroots organizations, and lobby government officials. The annual Social Watch Report has been used as a principal advocacy tool to voice independent assessments of the relation between economic policies and social development as well as to promote measures that would address the underlying causes of poverty.

The year 2005 will be of particular importance for Social Watch as it will mark the 10th anniversary of the Beijing Women's Conference and the Copenhagen Social Summit. It will also be the half way point between these events and the 2015 target dates. There will be a UN Summit in September 2005 on the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and the MDGs. This event provides an important opportunity for civil society organizations to work for more effective policies towards poverty eradication and social justice in North and South. As a global network of more than 400 NGOs and citizens groups Social Watch will play an important role in this process.

Jason Nardi, Unimondo/Social Watch Italy and Peter Eisenblätter, terre des hommes/Social Watch Germany described in their statements the experiences and problems of national Social Watch coalitions. The Italian Social Watch coalition is one of the oldest. It has published an Italian edition of the Social Watch report (the whole international one plus a more in-depth Italian part) since

1997. The coalition has grown in the last few years with new organisations joining and others about to do so (consumer organisations and unions). There are now mainly development NGOs, but also an ethical bank foundation and the biggest social and cultural member associations in Italy.

The political crisis in Italy under the right-wing Berlusconi Government and the lack of financial resources present severe problems for the Italian Social Watch coalition. Until 2002, the report was paid for through a project with the Foreign Ministry, but since Berlusconi has been in power, there is no support from the government. For 2005, the activities of Social Watch Italy will be focused particularly on: Producing a timely new report and website, securing new funds for Social Watch activities, and including new members in the Italian coalition. This will be done mainly in the context of the MDG campaign, the WTO campaign and the Beijing and Copenhagen + 10 processes.

Social Watch Germany was founded in January 1994, under the name “German NGO Forum World Summit for Social Development”. After the Copenhagen summit (1995) it aimed at monitoring the implementation of the Copenhagen commitments. In 2002 the forum changed its name into “Social Watch Germany”, in order to express its close relationship with the international Social Watch network.

Social Watch Germany is a broad coalition of more than 20 German NGOs, trade unions, social welfare organisations, and political foundations. Social Watch Germany advocates social justice and social development in Germany, as well as on the international level, particularly in the Third World. Through its goals and through its composition Social Watch Germany plays an important role in linking social policy with development co-operation.

The first German language edition of the Social Watch Report was published in 2001. From that time on the report became a core activity of the German network. In the last two years public interest in the report has increased considerably, demonstrated by the growth in visits to the various websites. However it is always difficult to secure the necessary financial resources. To date Social Watch Germany has managed this problem, through contributions from member organisations of Social Watch Germany.

THE POLITICAL FRAMEWORK

In the second part of the conference Mirjam van Reisen, Director of Europe External Policy Advisors (EEPA), outlined the political framework in which the European Social Watch activities are taking place, focussing on Europe's role in eradicating poverty and social exclusion. She pointed out that there are new divides within Europe - just at a time of growing European integration. In the process of the EU's enlargement the Central & Eastern Europe region has been divided into four categories of countries: The new members of the EU, candidates for EU membership, those who might become members in the future, and those who will remain outside. In consequence, Europe is facing growing social and economic disparities – within the EU and between the EU and its new neighbours. Against this background one of the main challenges will be to defend the traditional social and economic model of the EU and to assure its viability.

The internal and external dimensions of the social and economic policy of the EU are more and more interlinked. With countries like Iraq and Iran becoming potential new neighbours of the EU (after the possible accession of Turkey to the EU), the EU's policy towards these countries will become part of its “new neighbourhood” policy. The distinction between “inside” and “outside” the EU is becoming less relevant in the future.

One of the major achievements of the Copenhagen Summit was to regard poverty and social exclusion not as a specific problem of the South, but as a problem of all countries (including European countries). Consequently, the decisions made in Copenhagen contain a clear commitment not only to fight extreme poverty but all forms of poverty and social exclusion. The message of Copenhagen has been that poverty can be eradicated when the respective policies are designed and implemented, and when the necessary “enabling environment” is created at national and international level. Copenhagen made a strong link between social development and macro-economic policies and stressed the need for democratic governance and accountability at the level of international institutions.

Most of these elements have been lost in the follow-up of Copenhagen by concentrating first on the so-called DAC targets and later (after the Millennium Summit) on the MDGs. The 10th anniversary of the World Summit on Social Development 2005 provides the opportunity to revive the Copenhagen commitments and to analyze the problems of poverty, unemployment and social exclusion in North and South from a broader perspective.

Participants emphasized the need for a more integrated approach towards poverty eradication and social development by linking the external and internal dimension of the problems at European level. Many participants reported about continued serious problems of poverty and unemployment in their own countries, particularly in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. One participant concluded:

“You can’t have support for international solidarity, if there is no policy of internal solidarity!”

THE CIVIL SOCIETY FRAMEWORK

There are already a lot of NGO networks and campaigns at European level. In order to assess how Social Watch Europe would fit in, Eva Hanfstaengl, consultant to the Financing for Development Secretariat of the UN, undertook a kind of “guided tour” through the jungle of European NGO Networks and Campaigns in the field of poverty eradication, gender equality and social justice. She described the goals and objectives, membership structure and focal areas of the main European NGO networks, in particular: Concord, Eurostep, Cidse, Aprodev, Caritas Europe, Eurodad, Euphoric, Alliance 2015, the Platform of European Social NGOs, Solidar, the European Anti-Poverty Network, the Churches’ Commission for Migrants in Europe, WIDE, Karat, and the European Social Forum.

While most of the networks are active in the fields of social development and poverty eradication, none of them is working in the follow up to the Copenhagen Summit in a comprehensive manner. Therefore, there seems to be a need for a better coordinated monitoring of European Governments policies in this field. Coalitions for Social Justice in Europe have to be strengthened.

CONCLUSION AND FUTURE STRATEGIES

In general real enthusiasm for Social Watch was expressed by participants, but most of them (particularly those who had not yet been involved) still needed to consult their national networks before making a commitment to be involved.

It was agreed that the Social Watch secretariat should be asked to distribute the **guidelines** for the national contributions to the Social Watch Report 2005. This could be done around December in order to kick-start action (draft reports have to be submitted by March 2005). The

Memorandum of Understanding - the simple one page agreement which NGOs working with Social Watch sign - will also be distributed. Each year the report has a theme, but there is a degree of flexibility in the guidelines.

There are also a lot of **opportunities for networking and lobbying in 2005** (Porto Alegre, UN summit in New York, G8, WTO) and a strategy plan should be distributed in order to help coordinate work around these events.

Coordination of the publication will be difficult because of geography, so it is important that deadlines are respected. Email list can be used to chase up contributors.

Regarding **funding** issues, during the Irish presidency of the EU, Eurostep and Concern lobbied the Irish government to set up an EU fund for capacity building in new member state NGOs. The subsequent Netherlands presidency bought into this, and a proposal on it is now being submitted by Eurostep. This could be a potential funding source for Social Watch work.

Lobbying targets at the European level could include the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. A letter on the conclusions of the report (regarding both internal and external policy) should be sent to the President of the Commission and to the member state governments.

Producing a separate **European Social Watch report** does not seem a good use of resources. However, more space could be devoted to EU issues in the global report.

Social Watch will try to organise a **second European meeting** at some point next year.

Annex 1: Conference Programme

19 November	
20:00	Welcome with buffet supper
20 November	1st conference day
9:00	Registration
9:30	Welcome and Introduction <i>Jens Martens, GPF Europe/Simon Stocker, Eurostep (European Members of the Social Watch Coordinating Committee)</i>
PART 1	SOCIAL WATCH: MISSION AND EXPERIENCES
9:45	Opening statements Social Watch – The Global Network for Social Justice. History, Mission and Perspective. <i>Roberto Bissio, Director, Social Watch Secretariat</i> Building Social Watch from below – Experiences of national Social Watch coalitions <i>Jason Nardi, Unimondo/Social Watch Italy</i> <i>Peter Eisenblätter, terre des hommes/Social Watch Germany</i>
10:45	Break
11:00	Sharing of national experiences Building coalitions for social justice in European countries. 11.00-12.00: Group dialogue in small roundtables 12.00-13.00: Plenary dialogue
13:00	Lunch break
PART 2	THE POLITICAL FRAMEWORK
14:00	The political framework: Europe's social responsibility Introductory remarks (linking the internal and external dimension) <i>Simon Stocker, Eurostep</i>
14:15	<u>Panel: Europe's role in eradicating poverty and social exclusion</u> <i>Mirjam van Reizen, EEPA</i>
16:15	Break
16:30	16.30-17.30: Group dialogue in small roundtables 17.30-18.30: Plenary dialogue
18.30	End of the day
19.30	Dinner

21 November	2nd conference day
PART 3	THE CIVIL SOCIETY FRAMEWORK
9.00	The civil society framework: Social Watch within European Networks and Campaigns
	Presentation of existing European networks and campaigns in the field of poverty eradication, gender equality and social justice. <i>Eva Hanfstaengl, Consultant to the UN FfD-Secretariat on European NGOs</i>
10:00	Break
10:30	The current and potential role of national Social Watch coalitions and Social Watch Europe – needs, expectations and strategies.
	10:30-11:30 Group dialogue in small roundtables 11.30-12.30: Plenary dialogue
12:30	Lunch break
PART 4	CONCLUSION AND FUTURE STRATEGIES
13:30	Building the Network
	Coordination, cooperation and plans for 2005
15:00	Closing statement and end of the conference
Afterwards	Space for bilateral meetings and/or further planning meetings

Annex 2: List of Participants

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Annex 3: Social Watch Strategy 2005

1. 2005 – historic opportunity

The year 2005 offers important opportunities to make progress in our struggle to eradicate poverty and to achieve social justice and democratic governance structures at national and global levels.

Several major events will have these issues on top of their agenda, particularly the G8-Summit in Scotland in July 2005 and the Millennium+5 Summit at the UN General Assembly in September 2005. In addition, the 10th anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development will be in March and of the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in September 2005. Finally, the 6th Ministerial Conference of the WTO will take place in Hong Kong in December 2005 aiming to finalize the so-called “Doha Development Round”.

There are new windows of opportunity, as several Governments seem to play a more pro-active role in the run-up to the 2005 events. New initiatives on financing for development and debt relief are underway. Most recent examples have been the “Hunger Summit” initiated by Presidents Lula and Chirac, which took place in New York on 20 September 2004, and the new debt initiative of the UK Government.

At the same time, the global discourse about poverty eradication and development is more and more eclipsed by the “after 9/11” security discourse. In this discourse, poverty (and sometimes the poor themselves) is seen as one of the major threats (similar to terrorism and war), while development policy is becoming increasingly integrated into (National) Security Strategies, particularly in the US and the EU. The report of the UN High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change (December 2004) reflects this “new thinking”. This “new” approach to development and poverty issues opposes a rights-based approach of interdependence of all human rights (civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights). Security issues dominate the scene, shaping the role of the state, including its budgetary priorities.

Global development (anti-poverty) and security discourses will be brought together, culminating in the UN Summit in September 2005. The Summit will not only influence the development agenda but can also have a major impact on the future of multilateral cooperation and the structures of global governance for coming years.

Civil society organisations have the unique opportunity to use these events to advocate for the key policy changes in the economic and social fields they have been demanding for many years.

2. Social Watch in 2005

For Social Watch, 2005 is an important year not only because of the major events at the intergovernmental level, but also because of the history of the Social Watch network itself: in 2005 we can celebrate the 10th anniversary of Social Watch and the 10th edition of the Social Watch Report.

Social Watch can use these occasions to increase its public visibility at national, regional and global level and thereby increase its political pressure on Governments and international organizations. At the same time, 2005 presents an excellent opportunity to strengthen the Social Watch network itself and its common identity through collaborative actions and events.

One main challenge will be to position Social Watch within the whole setting of actors and campaigns, from the UN, UNDP, the Millennium Project and the Millennium Campaign to the emerging “Global Call to Action Against Poverty” Alliance. We have to demonstrate, that, on the one hand we are part of the global endeavour to fight poverty, but on the other hand Social Watch has its own and unique political profile.

We will do this by clearly emphasizing the strengths and unique characteristics of Social Watch:

- Social Watch is one of the very few global civil society networks that are neither dominated by Northern nor by international NGOs. The work of Social Watch is based on the experience and

analysis of more than 400 national and regional groups and coalitions in more than 60 countries, mainly in the South.

- Social Watch's approach is cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary.
- The focus of Social Watch goes beyond poverty in the South: From the outset our aspirations have been to address the structural causes of poverty, unemployment, gender inequality and social disintegration in South and North, rather than dealing with their symptoms (we are SOCIAL Watch, not POVERTY Watch).
- Social Watch's work is policy-oriented. Social Watch holds governments, the UN system and international organizations accountable for the fulfilment of their national, regional and international commitments and monitors their implementation (we are Social *WATCH*, not the Social *FORUM*).
- The Social Watch Report is the only annual global citizen's report committed to social, economic and gender justice and is highly recognized as a kind of "shadow report" to the official development reports of the UN, the World Bank and others.

3. Principles and General Objectives of the Social Watch Strategy

Ten years ago, in our "**Quality Benchmarks for the Social Summit**", we criticized the tendency to portray "poor" people merely as victims: "We feel it is regrettable that persons living in poverty are viewed as people in need of aid, instead of as citizens universally entitled to development and civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights."

Consequently, Social Watch, from its beginnings, has promoted a rights-based instead of an aid- (or even charity-) based approach.

The reference frameworks for Social Watch are the international commitments that came out of the UN conferences, particularly the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth UN Conference on Women, the Millennium Summit and the Human Rights Conventions, particularly the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Based on our core principles, the general objectives of our work are:

- to promote an equitable distribution of wealth within and between countries;
- to promote social and sustainable development by implementing a comprehensive rights-based approach;
- to strengthen participatory and democratic global governance structures.

At the Social Watch Assembly in Beirut 2003 we identified the following focal themes for 2005:

- To pursue critical engagement with the MDGs, including human rights and gender dimensions, critical assessment of the different strategies for their implementation, and seek to rebalance responsibility (with special attention to goal 8).
- To develop proposals for actions to be taken "beyond the MDGs".
- To fight for democratic global governance and an effective multilateral system.
- To advocate for policy coherence at national and international levels, coherent with social and sustainable development goals.
- to develop alternative indicators on genuine progress for human development, disaggregated for local, ethnic, gender and other factors.

Based on these focal themes Social Watch will formulate specific policy recommendations and undertake a series of concrete measures in order to influence public opinion and to increase the political pressure on Governments at national and international level.

4. Social Watch's Focus and Activities 2005

Political focus

In order to remain consistent with our general objectives and to act complementary to other actors, particularly in the "Global Call for Action Against Poverty" Alliance, Social Watch's political focus in 2005 will be on the following three core themes:

- Evaluation of the effects on distribution and living conditions of the (neoliberal) social, economic and financial policies of the last decade and the need for political and financial instruments to redistribute income and wealth within and between societies. The analysis is based in a human rights perspective, considering States' obligation to adopt all appropriate measures (legislative, technical, economic) towards the full realization of economic, social and cultural rights.
- The allocation of resources, including the budget priorities of governments (income and expenditures) and alternatives. This can be analyzed from a human rights perspective, considering States' obligation to take steps to the maximum of their available resources to achieve progressively the full realization of economic, social and cultural rights.
- Steps toward more participatory and democratic governance structures at national and global level.

These core themes will be reflected in the policy statements of Social Watch as well as in the Guidelines for the Social Watch Report 2005.

Benchmarks

Social Watch will translate these themes into a set of specific policy recommendations, published in January 2005 as the "***Social Watch Benchmarks for the Millennium + 5 Summit***".

Draft Benchmarks prepared by the Social Watch Coordinating Committee by mid-November 2004 and circulated among the Watchers for comment before year end. The final version of the Benchmarks will be presented at the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre in January 2005.

Alliance building

Building alliances with other civil society organisations and social movements is essential, in order to undertake joint action and mobilization so that we can increase media attention and influence policies of Governments effectively. Consequently, Social Watch will use the World Social Forum 2005 in Porto Alegre to present its experiences and policy recommendations (in particular the "***Social Watch Benchmarks***") to other groups and networks, and to discuss (and agree on) joint strategies and positions with regard to the 2005 events.

Social Watch will participate actively in the "Global Call to Action Against Poverty" Alliance and its International Facilitation Group (IFG). There is great diversity among the groups of the Alliance and we don't expect to reach absolute agreement on a detailed global policy platform. But we know that we will be more effective when we work together – as long as the statements and key policy objectives of the Alliance are consistent with Social Watch positions.

Advocacy

There are several key political moments in 2005 we can use to confront Governments with our assessment of the implementation of their Copenhagen and Beijing commitments and the Millennium Declaration, and to present our conclusions and policy recommendations to them. Most important are the two major events in 2005, namely the **G8 Summit in Scotland in July** and the **High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly (Millennium + 5 Summit) in September 2005**. In the preparatory process of the September Summit several other intergovernmental events will be of strategic importance for Social Watch, in particular:

- The meetings of the Commission on Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women (February/March);
- The publication of the Report of the Secretary-General on the Implementation of the Millennium Declaration (March);
- The High-level Meeting of ECOSOC, Bretton-Woods-Institutions and WTO (April);

- The informal interactive Hearings of the General Assembly with civil society on the five-year review of the Millennium Declaration (June);
- The High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development (probably end of June/early July).
- The 61st period of sessions of the UN Human Rights Commission (probably mid March to mid April)
- The 34th session of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (25 April to 13 May)

The ***Social Watch Report*** remains our main instrument of advocacy, awareness-building and monitoring. In order to attract increased public and media attention, we will undertake a simultaneous global launching of the international and the national Social Watch Reports 2005 immediately in advance of the Millennium + 5 Summit in September 2005. In addition, we will prepare policy statements and advocacy papers related to the key political moments mentioned above. These are:

- The ***Social Watch Benchmarks for the Millennium + 5 Summit*** (to be published in January 2005 and used as Social Watch's key policy statement through the year);
- The ***Social Watch Proposal for a Draft Resolution of the Millennium + 5 Summit*** (as a response to the Draft Resolution published in the Report of the Millennium Project, lead by Jeffrey Sachs, in January);
- An ***" + 10 Assessment "*** of the social situation and the implementation of the Copenhagen and Beijing commitments, based on Social Watch statistics (to be presented at the meetings of the Commissions on Social Development and the Status of Women in February).¹
- The ***Social Watch Comment on the Report of the Secretary-General*** on the Implementation of the Millennium Declaration (to be published after the presentation of the SG Report in March, perhaps on the occasion of the High-level meeting of ECOSOC, BWIs and WTO on April 18th, 2004);
- The ***Advance Version of the Social Watch Report 2005***, including the thematic chapters and the statistics, used as Social Watch's main contribution to the preparatory process of the M+5 Summit (to be presented at the Hearings of the GA with NGOs in June, the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development (probably) in late June/early July, and the G8 Summit in July).

The **Strategy Map** in the Annex summarizes the key political events and the related Social Watch Activities 2005.

The outlined activities of Social Watch at the global level are interlinked with activities of Social Watch coalitions at the national and regional level.

Our agenda is highly ambitious. But the year 2005 offers unique opportunities to make progress in our struggle to eradicate poverty and to achieve social justice and democratic governance structures. It lies with us to take these opportunities and to demonstrate that Social Watch can make a difference.

¹ We need to take into account the concerns of many national coalitions regarding the limitations of the "progress" shown in the tables and statistics presented in the ***Social Watch Reports***. It is recommended that these be more thoroughly assessed in the development of our "assessment +10" or via thematic chapters.

Social Watch Strategy Map 2005

Date	Event	Social Watch Activity ^a
2 December 2004	Publication of the Report of the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change	
December 2004-January 2005	Global Call to Action Against Poverty: "Roll out events"	
17 January	Final Millennium Project Recommendations submitted to United Nations Secretary-General	Social Watch Proposal for a Draft Resolution of the Millennium + 5 Summit.
26-31 January	World Social Forum, Porto Alegre	Release of the Social Watch Benchmarks for the Millennium + 5 Summit ; SW workshop, CC meeting
9-18 February	Commission on Social Development – Copenhagen + 10 Assessment, New York	Release of the "Copenhagen +10 Assessment"; SW participation
28 February		Deadline for submission of thematic chapters for SW Report 2005
28 February – 12 March	Commission on the Status of Women – Beijing + 10 Assessment, New York	SW presence; participation in WEDO report
March	(Draft) Report of the International Task Force on Global Public Goods	
12 March	10th anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development	Press release taking into account the "Copenhagen +10 Assessment"
March	Report of the UN Secretary-General on the implementation of the Millennium Declaration	Comments on the Report
mid March to mid April	61 st session of the UN Human Rights Commission	Position paper (related to the assessment C+10 from a HR perspective)

Date	Event	Social Watch Activity ^a
31 March		Deadline for submission of national reports for SW Report 2005
10-16 April	Global Week of Action on Trade	
16-17 April	Spring Meetings of IMF and World Bank, Washington D.C.	
18 April	High-level Dialogue of ECOSOC, Bretton Woods Institutions and WTO, New York	Release of Social Watch Comment on the Report of the Secretary-General on the Implementation of the Millennium Declaration; SW presence.
26-30 April	Global Campaign for Education Week of Action	
25 April - 13 May	34 th session of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)	Position paper (?)
May	Report of the Helsinki Group on "Globalisation and Democracy"	
29 May – 1 June	Global Governance 2005: Global Democracy: Civil Society Visions and Strategies, Montreal International Forum, Montreal.	SW presence
2 June	High-level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, New York	SW presence
June*	2-day informal interactive Hearings of the General Assembly with NGOs on the five-year review of the Millennium Declaration, New York	SW participation; presentation of the Advance Version of the Social Watch Report 2005
27-28 June	High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, New York	SW participation; presentation of the Advance Version of the Social Watch Report 2005
27 June – 22 July	ECOSOC substantive session, New York	
1 July	Global Call to Action Against Poverty: White Band Day	
6-8 July	G8 Summit, Gleneagles, Perthshire, Scotland	SW participation; presentation of the Advance Version of the

Date	Event	Social Watch Activity ^a
		Social Watch Report 2005
7-9 September	Helsinki Conference: "Mobilising Political Will"	SW presence
12-13 September*		Simultaneous Global Launching of the SW Report 2005 (possible dates)
14-16 September	High-level Plenary of the General Assembly (Millennium + 5 Summit) [Global Call to Action Against Poverty: 2 nd White Band Day]*	SW participation
24-25 September	Annual Meetings of IMF and World Bank, Washington D.C.	
24 October	60 th anniversary of the UN	
16-18 November	World Summit on the Information Society, Tunis, Tunisia	SW presence
December	WTO, Sixth Ministerial Conference, Hong Kong, China	SW presence

** date not yet confirmed*

^a not included: Social Watch activities at national and regional level and activities of national SW coalitions

Annex 4: Building Social Watch from below – the case of Social Watch Italy

Jason Nardi, Unimondo/Social Watch Italy

The Italian SW coalition is one of the oldest. It has published an Italian edition of the SW report (the whole international one plus a more in-depth Italian part) since 1997. The coalition has grown in the last few years with new organisations joining and others about to do so (we are targeting consumer organisations and unions). There are now mainly development NGOs, but also ethical bank foundation and the biggest social and cultural member associations in Italy. The latest report has just been published and been launched -- it is distributed in approx. 5000 copies and can be found in book shops. In the next months, a number of presentations will be done in various cities in Italy, by the coalition members.

The situation today in Italy presents various aspects of a deepening crisis, with some positive aspects from civil society movements. The government's policies are - as we documented in the last report - creating more economic and social insecurity and creating instability in the democratic institutions. Funds for international development policies have been cut at large and the whole NGO sector is in crisis - many of the ongoing projects have not received the approved funds in years. Military expenditure has grown and war on terror is diverting aid and development policies, deliberately mixing them with war operations. Under almost every aspect of social development, Italy has a bad performance if not the worst in the EU.

In the last three years, the report has been presented in many occasions together with a campaign called "Sbilanciamoci!" (unbalancing the state budget). The campaign has gained momentum and presents an alternative to the State financial budget every year, suggesting different ways of spending and saving to promote social and development policies. Amendments are proposed in Parliament through open party lobbying. The Social Watch report is then also an analytical support tool to direct advocacy - and the Quality of Life index has also been translated in a localized version called QUARS, which measures and confronts the 20 regions in Italy.

Financial resources are also a problem for the Italian coalition. Up to 2002, the report was paid for by a project with the Foreign Ministry, but since Berlusconi is in power, there is no support from the government. We have applied for an EU project, together with other European SW members, hoping for new funding by end 2005 -- with the idea to contribute to strengthen the enlarged European dimension and networking.

For 2005, activities will be focused on:

- Producing a timely new report and website
- Working on the Call for Action against poverty in Italy
- Securing new funds for activities
- Including new members in the Italian coalition
- Working with the MDG campaign in view of the Millennium Summit
- Working with the WTO campaign in view of Hong Kong round
- Raising awareness on Beijing and Copenhagen + 10 processes

Annex 5: Building Social Watch from below – the case of Social Watch Germany

Peter Eisenblätter, terre des homes/Social Watch Germany

Social Watch Germany was founded in January, 1994, under the name „German NGO Forum World Summit for Social Development“. After the Copenhagen summit (1995) it aimed at monitoring the implementation of the Copenhagen commitments. In 2002 the forum changed its name into “Social Watch Germany”, in order to express its relationship with the international Social Watch network.

Social Watch Germany is a broad coalition of more than 20 German NGOs, trade unions, social welfare organisations, and political foundations. Social Watch Germany advocates social justice and social development in Germany, as well as on the international level, particularly in the Third World. Through its goals and through its composition Social Watch Germany has an important role to bridge over the political areas of social policy and development co-operation.

The first Social Watch Report in German language (“Social Watch Report Deutschland”) was published in 2001. From that time on the report developed to a core activity of the German network. The edition amounts to 4000 copies. The report can also be downloaded from various websites (e.g. www.socialwatch.org; www.tdh.de; www.weed-online.org; www.woek.de).

The German edition of the Social Watch Report is always being prepared after the respective international edition, by a team of editors from Social Watch Germany. It takes over the main topic of the international Report, including a selection of the international thematic articles, the tables, and a summary of all country reports. In addition, several articles are complemented which focus on the specific situation in Germany, particularly regarding the social and the development policies of the German Government.

We launch the report every year at a press conference in Berlin and at several public meetings/ events, including dialogues with members of the German Parliament. Usually it is afterwards mentioned by a number of press media.

In the last two years the public interest in the report increased considerably, particularly regarding visits at the various websites.

Regarding the financing it is always difficult to make the necessary resources available. However, up to date we could manage that, by means of contributions from organisations of Social Watch Germany. We hope that in future we will be able to raise some more funds, and thereby to increase the number of printed copies of the report.

Annex 6: European networks in the field of poverty eradication, gender equality and social justice (compiled by Eva Hanfstaengl)

Development Policy Networks

Organisation	Membership and Structure	Focus of Activities	Activities on Copenhagen, Beijing follow up and MDGs
<p>CONCORD www.concordeurope.org</p> <p>CONCORD is an European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development.</p> <p>The main objective of CONCORD is to enhance the impact of European development NGOs vis-à-vis the European Institutions by combining expertise of its members. It promotes common positions of its members to deal with major issues relating to European development policy, to react to current events as well as to participate in shaping the future agenda of European development co-operation.</p> <p>The Secretariat is responsible for the co-ordination of the activities, sharing the information and the financial and administrative aspects of the Confederation.</p>	<p>Umbrella organisation containing 19 national platforms/associations from the European Member States and 18 international networks, like Eurostep, ActionAid Int, Aprodev, Caritas Europa, CIDSE, Eurodad and Euronaid. With the new accession countries CONCORD represents more than 1500 European NGOs vis-à-vis the European Institutions.</p> <p>The work of the Confederation is carried out by its members, split into specific working groups depending on their experience. These groups feed the political debate and contribute towards improving the formulation of European policies affecting development co-operation and humanitarian aid. The groups work on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Presidency • Development Education Forum • EU Funding for Development and Relief (FDR Group) • Cotonou Agreement • EU Enlargement • Financing for Development; MDGs • Food Security • Trade and 	<p>In 2004 CONCORD and its members were aiming at citizen's mobilisation and institutional dialogue in order to monitor and defend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The achievement of the Millennium Development Goals • The impact of Enlargement • Human Security • Institutional changes of EU • The strategic orientation of the European Union • The reform of the Budget lines • The financial perspectives 2007-2013 • The deconcentration toward the European delegations • The new financial regulation • The review of the Cotonou agreement • The budgetisation of the European Development Fund 	<p>CONCORD groups work mainly on trade issues and specific European themes. Just one working group combines efforts on MDGs, aid, debt and financing for development follow up and on the UK's "International Finance Facility". Members of its steering group are Bond, Eurodad and CIDSE. Until now, there are no specific activities on social development as follow up to Copenhagen and Beijing.</p> <p>The general activities for the next few years are described as follows :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To monitor Member States to ensure that they respect their commitment to spend 0.7% GNP on Development Aid, • To reformulate the role of Northern development NGOs towards their Southern partners to reinforce their capabilities and meet their needs, • To establish a serious partnership with the European Institutions leading to detailed exchanges on

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future of Europe 		<p>different development co-operation issues,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To elaborate a mechanism to improve the legitimacy and representation of development NGOs, • To monitor European responsibility toward the South in the face of EU enlargement reform of governance.
<p>Eurostep www.eurostep.org</p> <p>Eurostep is a network of secular European non-governmental development organisations working towards peace, justice and equality in a world free of poverty. Its membership works together to influence Europe's role in the world, particularly in pursuing the eradication of injustice and poverty. It advocates changes in Europe's policies and practice based on the perspectives drawn from direct experiences of an active involvement of its members and their partners in development in over 100 countries across the world.</p> <p>The Eurostep secretariat co-ordinates activities of its members at the European level.</p>	<p>Eurostep is a network of 15 major NGOs from 12 European countries, like 11.11.11./ Belgium, Deutsche Welthungerhilfe and terre des homes/ Germany, ActionAid and Oxfam/UK, Novib/NL, Manitesse/ Italy, Helinas/ Greece, Swiss Coalition, Concern/Ireland and People in Need/Czech.</p> <p>Collectively they work on development in around 100 countries and have a combined annual budget of over € 650 million.</p>	<p>Eurostep's two principal aims are first to influence official development co-operation policies of multilateral institution, and in particular those of the European Union; and secondly to improve the quality and effectiveness of initiatives taken by NGOs in support of people centred development.</p> <p>Thematic areas of work are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The Cotonou Agreement</u> is a framework for the EU's co-operation with 78 developing countries. <i>Eurostep</i> monitors the implementation of the Agreement. • <u>Civil society participation</u>. The Cotonou Agreement recognises civil society as legitimate partners in the EU' co-operation with ACP countries. <i>Eurostep</i> promotes an effective implementation of these principles. • <u>Trade and investment</u>. <i>Eurostep</i> works particularly on the EU's trade relations with ACP countries. • <u>The Future of Europe</u>. <i>Eurostep</i> works on EU enlargement and its definition of a Common Foreign and Security Policy. 	<p>Eurostep promotes a stronger, more effective development policy within the European Union. For Eurostep this has to be based on a policy that is sustainable and people centred, and in which the principal objective is the eradication of poverty.</p> <p>Thus, Eurostep was active in the UN Summits, especially on the Copenhagen Summit and Beijing and their follow-up processes as well as in Social Watch activities.</p> <p>The main activities today are on Cotonou Agreement, civil society participation, trade and EU development policy and on the EU constitution.</p> <p>It also monitors the implementation of the MDGs.</p>
CIDSE www.cidse.org	Originally the seven founder members	CIDSE's advocacy work focuses	CIDSE's Task Group 2 on Social Justice

<p>CIDSE (International Cooperation for Development and Solidarity) is a coalition of 15 Catholic development organisations in W-Europe and North America. The CIDSE coalition shares a common vision on poverty eradication and social justice and a common strategy on development programmes, development education and advocacy.</p> <p>The secretariat coordinates the common work of the thematic groups and the continental platforms.</p>	<p>of CIDSE (from Germany, Austria, Belgium, United States, France, The Netherlands, Switzerland) were organisations sponsored by their national episcopates who carried out Lenten campaigns and supported development initiatives in Southern countries. Currently, there are 15 CIDSE member organisations, who base themselves on the social teaching of the Catholic church.</p> <p>The work is organised in 3 thematic Task Groups, 3 Continental Platforms, an EU group, a Peace and Conflict Coalition and 2 Fora on Development Education and Fundraising.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on trade and food security, • social justice and human development, • debt and structural adjustment/PRSPs, • EU development policy, • peace and conflict. • development education and • fund raising. <p>With its three Continental Platforms and several country groups, that meet regularly, CIDSE also coordinates programme work of its members in collaboration with their Southern partners in almost all countries of the South.</p>	<p>was deeply involved in the Copenhagen Summit and follow up including Geneva 2000. It was less active on Beijing.</p> <p>Since 2000 the group changed its focus to the Financing for Development PrepComs and was actively involved in the Monterrey Summit and follow up process.</p> <p>Currently, its focus is the MDG review and campaign as well as the G8 Summit in UK in 2005.</p>
<p>Caritas Europa www.caritas-europa.org</p> <p>Caritas Europa is network of Catholic relief organisations in Europe. It focuses its activities on issues relating to poverty and social inequality, and issues of migration and asylum, both within the European Union and in all other European countries.</p> <p>The Secretariat in Brussels co-ordinates the institutional support to its member organisations. The operational work is carried out by thematic commissions and working groups, whose activities are coordinated by desk officers under the leadership of the Secretary General.</p>	<p>Caritas Europa brings together 48 Caritas organisations that are working in 44 European countries. (It is member of Caritas Internationalis in Rome that brings together more than 200 Catholic Relief organisations in all countries of the world).</p> <p>There are thematic commissions and working groups on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European social policy, • European cooperation: enlargement and capacity building, • Migration, • Communication, • International cooperation: development and emergency aid. 	<p>Caritas Europa and its members are committed to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the reduction of inequalities between countries and within countries, fighting poverty and social discrimination; • the peaceful solution of conflicts, seeking reconciliation; • fighting unemployment; • guaranteeing the rights of minorities; • preserving Europe as a place of refuge and protection for those who are persecuted and • eliminating causes of forced migration. 	<p>Caritas combines areas of work on the social situation in Europe, especially in Eastern Europe and migration with development cooperation in the South: Recently, it launched its 2nd "Caritas Europa's Poverty Report". Its members were active on Copenhagen and Beijing.</p> <p>On international cooperation issues, like MDGs and FfD, Caritas has established a partnership with CIDSE and takes part in their advocacy activities.</p> <p>Caritas' International Cooperation Commission focuses on coordinating the Southern development work of its member organisations and strengthening their work by lobbying the EU.</p>
<p>APRODEV www.aprodev.org</p> <p>APRODEV is the association of</p>	<p>Members are 17 protestant development and humanitarian aid organisations in Europe, which work</p>	<p>APRODEV agencies engage in many kinds of activities related to development cooperation: fund raising,</p>	<p>With its gender focus, Aprodev worked closely on Beijing, whereas Copenhagen and FfD follow up are only</p>

<p>European Protestant Development organisations. Its main objectives are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • influence decision-making processes in the European Union institutions related to North-South issues in order to promote fairness and justice and the eradication of poverty; • facilitate access to the European Union institutions for Aprodev organisations and the ecumenical family and to share information and experience related to the EU; and • strengthen cooperation and joint work among Aprodev agencies. <p>APRODEV agencies channel every year around Euro 500 million to project partners in the South.</p>	<p>closely together with the World Council of Churches.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reference groups on Gender, Palestinian and Israeli Issues, and Central & Eastern Europe, advise Aprodev in its work. • The Working Group on EU Trade and Food Security Policies engages in common activities while paying special attention to the gender aspects. • The Co-financing Officers Group engages in common work regarding EU-related co-financing issues. • The Humanitarian Aid Officers meet regularly to discuss issues of concern. • Various informal groups composed of specialized staff of Aprodev members engage in joint work on different issues, themes and geographical regions, such as Africa, the Great Lakes region, Central America, communication, and a rights-based approach to development. 	<p>funding of emergency, relief, rehabilitation and development activities, capacity building, consultancy, awareness raising, education, and advocacy.</p> <p>Main areas of work are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU development policies, • EC funding instruments, • Cotonou and EDF • EU ACP trade relations (EPA), • trade and food security, • Eastern Europe and Central Asia, • Palestine and Israel and • GOOD gender project 	<p>indirectly covered through the World Council of Churches.</p> <p>Besides that Aprodev initiated a dialogue process on “Christianity, Poverty and Wealth.” On the basis of a first report various case studies on countries have been initiated.</p> <p>This project also produced a set of <u>2015 Targets for the Churches</u> and case studies (available on the web) to stand alongside the 2015 Millennium Development Goals.</p>
<p>Eurodad www.eurodad.org</p> <p>Eurodad is the “European Network on Debt and Development”. Eurodad is a network European development NGOs working for national economic and international financing policies that achieve poverty eradication and the empowerment of the poor.</p>	<p>Eurodad’s members are 48 development non-governmental organisations, especially the Jubilee campaigns and debt and development networks of 15, mostly Western European countries.</p>	<p>Eurodad’s key areas are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • debt and finance, • poverty reduction policies and • empowerment of civil society. <p>Specific themes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC), aid financing • Debt arbitration, debt sustainability, • Poverty Reduction Strategies, 	<p>Eurodad with its members monitors closely IMF and World Bank policies as well as poverty reduction strategies in debtor countries of the South.</p> <p>Eurodad was present in Copenhagen, but did not follow the overall process as its focus is on debt and Structural Adjustment Programmes. For the same reason, Eurodad was until now less</p>

<p>The Secretariat monitors existing policies and practices, shares knowledge and experiences and coordinates civil society cooperation.</p>		<p>Structural Adjustment Programmes,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paris Club, • Commodities, • Export credits, foreign direct investment, • private sector development, • Gender and human rights. 	<p>active on Financing for Development and MDGs.</p> <p>Since the UN started a Multistakeholder Dialogue on Debt, which includes IMF and World Bank, Eurodad engages more in FfD follow up, taking the lead for NGOs comments to the official document and joint activities at the final conference in 2005.</p>
<p>Euforic www.euforic.org</p> <p>“Europe's Forum on International Cooperation” is the focal point on the Internet for communities involved in Europe's international cooperation. It is an independent cooperative of organisations, legally established under Netherlands law, committed to sustainable development, social justice, equity, respect for human rights and the participation of populations with whom they work.</p>	<p>Membership is open to any organisation pursuing similar aims to the cooperative and willing to work together. Current members include leading European research organisations, NGO's, advisory groups and NGO networks, like Aprodev, ActionAid, CIDSE, CONCORD, Eurostep, GTZ, EC DG, ICCO, KFW, ODI, North-South Centre, SID, ZED etc.</p>	<p>Development organisations use Euforic as the platform for debating topical issues and highlighting their latest information.</p> <p>Euforic focuses on European development cooperation policies and related issues. The web site contains information of various kinds and in different languages. The main audiences are experts and students in development issues from all over the world.</p>	<p>Euforic could be better used for sharing of information, electronic conferences and networking on Copenhagen, Beijing and Financing for Development follow up processes as well as on activities on MDG implementation.</p> <p>By joining together, members can help build a community where new information and communication technologies are used to serve the goals of social and sustainable development.</p>

<p>Alliance 2015 www.alliance2015.org</p> <p>Is a network of is a “partnership” of six like-minded non-government organizations working in the field of development cooperation.</p> <p>The purpose of the Alliance is to fight poverty more effectively by cooperating in developing countries as well as on campaigns to influence public and political opinion in Europe.</p>	<p>The Alliance members are Cesvi from Italy, Concern from Ireland, Deutsche Welthungerhilfe from Germany, Hivos from the Netherlands, Ibis from Denmark and, since November 2003, People in Need from the Czech Republic.</p> <p>The Alliance’s largest joint project is the AIDS campaign for and in Southern Africa. The communication and marketing departments of its member organizations are putting together an informational campaign in Europe, and a joint project is getting underway in Mozambique.</p>	<p>In 2003, Alliance2015 started a European campaign against child labour.</p> <p>Currently, the Alliance monitors and works on the full achievement of the MDGs, especially Goal 8 on a “Global Partnership”.</p>	<p>As the Alliance2015 is a newly created network of 6 European development organisations, its activities are focussed on a few specific issues, like HIV and child labour. The overall aim is the achievement of the MDGs. Very valuable is their effort to spell out and measure Goal 8 on a “Global Partnership”.</p> <p>The are no activities on social justice, financing for development and gender equality issues yet.</p>
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Social Policy Networks

Organisation	Membership and Structure	Focus of Activities	Activities on Copenhagen Beijing Follow up and MDGs
<p>Platform of European Social NGOs www.socialplatform.org</p> <p>is an alliance of representative European federations and NGOs in the social sector. The Social Platform promotes social justice and participatory democracy by voicing the concerns of its member organizations. It is “working together to build a Europe for all.”</p> <p>The Social Platform channels the concerns of European citizens who have come together in these organisations throughout the Union on issues of common interest. It also</p>	<p>The members of the Social Platform represent thousands of organisations, associations and other voluntary groups at local, regional, national and European level representing the interests of a wide range of civil society. These include organisations of women, older people, people with disabilities, people who are unemployed, people affected by poverty, gays and lesbians, young people, children and families. Members also include those campaigning on issues such as social justice, homelessness, life-long learning, health and reproductive rights and racism.</p>	<p>The Platform organizes joint campaigns on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Europe: proposals for a new social policy agenda 2006 - 2010 and Lisbon Strategy, • Future of Europe: convention and constitution, • Civil dialogue: participatory democracy: bridging the gap between citizens and the EU, • EU enlargement, • Fundamental human rights, • EU Presidencies - Campaigning for a Social Agenda. 	<p>The Social Platform provides an ideal opportunity to work together on social justice issues in Europe. The Platform could be more effective to revitalize the Copenhagen and Beijing implementation process as well as on Geneva 2000 with regard to social development in EU countries.</p> <p>MDGs are not yet promoted explicitly by this Platform.</p>

ensures a wide circulation of information on EU activities and policies to its members at the national level.			
<p>Solidar www.solidar.org</p> <p>SOLIDAR is an independent international alliance of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) who are involved in social service provision, international co-operation, humanitarian aid and life-long learning, and are historically linked to the free and democratic labour and trade union movement.. SOLIDAR was formally set up in Germany in 1951 with the name International Workers Aid. In 1995 it was renamed SOLIDAR and moved to Brussels and registered as an international non-profit association the following year.</p>	<p>SOLIDAR is composed of 28 full members, 6 affiliated members, 1 observer member and 4 honorary members, from 18 countries, 14 of which are in the EU. The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) is an observer member.</p> <p>Member Agencies are involved in over 90 countries worldwide where they collaborate with grass root organisations and trade unions.</p> <p>Member are for example: Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund, Arbeiterwohlfahrt, War on Want, (UK); One World Action etc.</p>	<p>Areas of work on social affairs are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ European Social Model, ▪ Corporate Social Responsibility ▪ Social service provision, ▪ The EU Convention, ▪ Migration, ▪ Fighting Discrimination ▪ Migrant workers RESPECT. <p>Areas of work on international cooperation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Workers' Rights are Global! ▪ Humanitarian Aid, ▪ International Policy. 	<p>Solidar combines social affairs and international cooperation. It is therefore active on Copenhagen follow up and Beijing and works strongly on social justice issue and workers rights.</p> <p>The network is less explicitly involved in the MDG campaign.</p>

<p>European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) www.eapn.org</p> <p>EAPN is an independent network of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and groups involved in the fight against poverty and social exclusion in the Member States of the European Union.</p>	<p>Its membership includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 16 national networks of voluntary organisations and grassroots groups active in the fight against poverty within each member state of the EU. ▪ 25 European organisations whose main activities are related to the fight against poverty and social exclusion. <p>Its strategies are developed in working groups on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ social inclusion, ▪ employment and ▪ structural funds. 	<p>The network lobbies for the integration of the fight against poverty and social exclusion into all Community policies, ranging from Structural Funds and employment policies through to economic and monetary policies.</p> <p>It keeps under close review Community policies and programmes likely to impact on groups facing poverty and social exclusion. The network also develops links with the research sector in order to enhance knowledge of poverty and social exclusion within the EU.</p> <p>It develops proposals to influence the Community institutions. EAPN builds alliances with relevant actors to create a stronger voice in favour of social inclusion.</p>	<p>With its core objectives EAPN is an important network to work on Copenhagen follow up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ to put the fight against poverty and social exclusion on the political agenda of the European Union; ▪ to promote and enhance the effectiveness of actions against poverty and social exclusion; ▪ to lobby for and with people and groups facing poverty and social exclusion. <p>The network includes the objectives of gender equality (Beijing) and anti-racism in all its areas of work. MDGs are not mentioned in their work so far.</p>
<p>Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME) www.cec-kek.org</p> <p>The CCME is an organisation of Protestant churches and ecumenical councils in Europe working on Migration</p> <p>The network promotes the adoption and implementation of international standards such as the European Social Charter, the European Convention on the Protection of the Legal Status of Migrant Workers, and the UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.</p>	<p>CCME member are churches and associated organisations of the World Council of Churches (in Europe) as well as of the Conference of European Churches and other ecumenical bodies. It co-operates with the EU authorities, international organisations, trade unions, employers' associations and associations of migrants, refugees and minority ethnic people.</p> <p>Its member are from Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Switzerland, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom and Ireland. There are contacts, with the Ecumenical</p>	<p>CCME has made specific proposals for the adoption of a European immigration policy and for equal treatment of European citizens and third-country nationals.</p> <p>The Commission also promotes awareness-raising on issues of racism and xenophobia within the churches and in society; it conducts studies of the situation of migrants, refugees and minority ethnic people at local, national and international levels.</p>	<p>CCME has a quite specific focus on migrants and is thus not able to follow more deeply general themes and processes, like Copenhagen, Beijing and MDGs. Nevertheless, social justice and gender equality build a basis in their work.</p>

	Patriarchate (Brussels/Istanbul) and with church partners in Denmark, and Russia.		
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European Feminist Networks

Organisation	Membership and Structure	Focus of Activities	Activities on Copenhagen Beijing Follow up and MDGs
<p>WIDE www.eurosur.org/wide The network "Women in Development Europe" is a European network of development NGOs, gender specialists and human rights activists.</p> <p>WIDE monitors and influences international economic and development policy and practice from a feminist perspective. The network strives for a world based on gender equality and social justice that ensures equal rights for all, as well as equal access to resources and opportunities in all spheres of political, social and economic life.</p>	<p>The WIDE network is composed of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>National Platforms</u>, who form the pillars of WIDE's membership. • Full members: Individuals, organisations and networks, based in Europe, who actively support the WIDE network. • Associate members: Individuals, organisations or networks, who are interested in WIDE's work and wish to be updated on its activities. • International partners are organisations and networks, based outside Europe, that are interested in developing and implementing joint action with WIDE at regional, inter-regional and international level. 	<p>Main areas of work are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender mainstreaming in EU-Trade & Development Policies • Sustainability Impact Assessments • EU-Latin America Trade Negotiations • EU-ACP Development Co-operation • EU-Enlargement • WTO (GATS, DDA) • Liberalisation, privatisation, deregulation • International Financial Institutions • UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) • World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and • World Conference against Racism. 	<p>WIDE's work is grounded on women's rights as the basis for the development of a more just and democratic world order. It thus focuses its overall work on the Beijing Platform of Action and the Commission on Status of Women (CSW) and the implementation processes.</p> <p>The networks also works on the UN Conference on Financing for Development and its follow up process.</p>
<p>KARAT www.karat.org is a regional coalition of organizations and individuals that works to ensure</p>	<p>Members include NGOs from 20 countries:</p>	<p>KARAT pursues its objectives through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lobbying policy and decision-makers 	<p>The network is monitoring closely the implementation of international agreements at national level (e.g.</p>

<p>gender equality in the Central & Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States countries.</p> <p>It monitors the implementation of international agreements and lobbies for the needs and concerns of women in the Region at all levels of decision-making fora.</p>	<p>Armenia, Azerbaijan, Albania, Belarus, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia & Montenegro, Slovakia, Ukraine.</p>	<p>and organise campaigns on aligning national policy with EU accession criteria on gender issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supporting and where non-existent, lobby for creation of national machineries on gender equality. ▪ Strengthening capacity and share resources (thematic, human, financial, information) in specialised areas of expertise in support of engendering policy, decision-making and legislation. 	<p>outcome documents of Beijing+5, CEDAW and others).</p> <p>These international agreements build the basis for their overall work in Europe.</p>
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European branches of Anti-Globalisation Movements and Global Campaigns

Organisation	Membership and Structure	Focus of Activities	Activities on Copenhagen Beijing Follow up and MDGs
<p>European Social Forum www.fse-esf.org</p> <p>The ESF is a giant gathering for everyone opposed to war, racism and corporate power, everyone who wants to see global justice, workers' rights and a sustainable society.</p> <p>The ESF emerged from the spectacular success of the World Social Forum which first opened in Porto Alegre, Brazil in 2001.</p>	<p>The first two gatherings of the ESF in Florence (2002) and Paris (2003) attracted over 50,000 participants from across Europe and beyond. More than 20,000 people from nearly 70 countries came to the European Social Forum in London on 15-17 October 2004.</p> <p>The ESF provides a chance for people from around the world to come together to engage in debate, organise action and build networks to strengthen our movement.</p>	<p>The key themes addressed are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • War and peace, • Democracy and fundamental rights, • Social justice and solidarity: against privatisation (deregulation), • social and women's rights, • Corporate globalisation and global justice, • Against racism, discrimination, • Equality and diversity, • Environmental crisis and • Sustainable society. 	<p>The European Social Forum as an open annual gathering which makes it difficult to work continuously on an issue. Nevertheless, a networking process on the MDGs is underway. In any case, this occasion provides opportunities to inform broad civil society on social justice and gender issues, as there is a specific openness there for such themes.</p> <p>So far, Copenhagen, Beijing and Financing for Development are not discussed in depth, despite several workshops on this issues.</p>

Annex 7: Minutes of the final plenary session and conclusions

Colin Robertson, Eurostep

Participants reported back to the Chair on whether they would be interested in making a national contribution to the Social Watch report, what potential difficulties they anticipated in doing so, and whether it was felt that any special action was needed at the European level (e.g. producing a separate European Social Watch report).

Group 1 (Rapporteur: Sita Dewkalie, NOVIB)

National contributions:

Hungary (Vera Zalka): The value of Social Watch as a tool is clear. Is interested in spreading the information gained in Berlin to NGOs and academics back in Hungary. Producing a national report could entail a great deal of work, and some help may be needed.

Czech Republic (Tomas Tozicka): Is very interested in Social Watch as a lobbying tool. Wants to bring in other Czech stakeholders. There is already some Czech involvement in Social Watch and Thomas will attempt to link up with them. Would be interested in producing a report in the Czech language, which would require funds.

Romania (Carmen Epure): MDGs and Copenhagen Declaration are not often mentioned in context of policy making in Romania. Will evaluate whether they are able to contribute to next years report. Guidelines would be required on the report's format etc.

Malta (William Azzopardi): A Maltese development platform already exists, which could start to work with Social Watch. Other stakeholders should be brought in, but is uncertain whether this should include government bodies. How should the process of producing the report be made transparent?

Spain (David Ortiz): Intermon Oxfam already contributes to the Social Watch report, which has little public exposure in Spain. The Spanish MDG platform could possibly contribute to report although there is a lack of good statistics. Some existing material could be adapted.

Bulgaria (Vladimir Gorbunov): Social Watch is interesting as a lobbying tool and BGRF has already contributed to earlier Social Watch reports. A step forward would be translation of the report into Russian, a language which covers 12 states and 240 million citizens.

European level: European Social Watch actors should try to meet once every one or two years. Email networks or a website could be used to exchange information. The main common target at European level is obviously the EU (both in terms of lobbying and funding). Common EU issues include migration and the common agricultural policy.

Group 2 (Rapporteur: Gunta Berzina, Latvian NGO platform)

Latvian, Hungarian, Polish and Kosovar NGOs were represented in this group. All were interested in becoming involved in Social Watch but would need to go back and consult with other NGOs in their own countries on how to do this. Many of them have similar work underway and there are reports which could be adapted or drawn upon.

Other issues which came out of this group were:

- the difficulty of measuring quality of aid;
- the difficulty of finding high quality social data and the problems of comparing data on a country to country basis;
- the need to bring some French representation into Social Watch.

Group 3 (Rapporteur: Alide Roerink, NCDO)

National contributions:

Albania (Lindita Xhillari): Her organisation (Human Development Promotion Centre) could promote discussion in Albania. There is a 'gap in the market' as little work is currently being done on the MDGs by Albanian NGOs. The question was raised as to if and how an organisation becomes a member of Social Watch?

Serbia (Radmila Radovic): Data collection is very sensitive in Serbia, as the government has little trust in NGOs. Nevertheless civil society is healthy and there are many think tanks which could be involved in Social Watch. Translation and printing would cost money and a question was raised about funding, particularly EU funding. There is also a need to map which NGOs are involved in Social Watch and how different networks are connected.

Summing up (Simon Stocker/Roberto Bissio)

In general there seems to be real enthusiasm for Social Watch amongst delegates, but most understandably have to go back to their national networks to liaise with them before becoming involved.

The Social Watch secretariat should in the meantime distribute the **guidelines** for national 2-page reports. This could be done around December in order to kick-start action (draft reports have to be submitted by March 2005). The Memorandum of Understanding - the simple one page agreement which NGOs working with Social Watch sign - will also be distributed. Each year the report has a theme, but there is a degree of flexibility in the guidelines.

There are also a lot of **opportunities for lobbying in 2005** (Porto Alegre, UN summit in New York, G8, WTO) and a strategy map should be distributed in order to help co-ordinate work around these events.

Co-ordination of the publication will be difficult because of geography, so it is important that deadlines are respected. Email list can be used to chase up contributors.

Regarding **funding** issues, during the Irish presidency of the EU, Eurostep and Concern lobbied the Irish government to set up an EU fund for capacity building in new member state NGOs. The subsequent Netherlands presidency bought into this, and a proposal on it is now being submitted by Eurostep. This could be a potential funding source for Social Watch work.

Lobbying targets at the European level could include the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. A letter on the conclusions of the report (regarding both internal and external policy) should be sent to the President of the Commission and to the member state governments.

Producing a separate **European Social Watch report** does not seem a good use of resources. However, more space could be devoted to EU issues in the global report.

Social Watch will try to organise a **second European meeting** at some point next year.