Development Dialogue on Values and Ethics at the World Bank, World Faiths Development Dialogue and UK Department for International Development

Faith and Development Leaders’ Meeting, Accra, Ghana, 1-2 July 2009

FAITH-INSPIRED NETWORKS AND ORGANIZATIONS: THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND POLICIES

The aims of this meeting were to

- take stock of the extensive and rich experience of faith-inspired networks and organizations in implementing development policies and programmes
- discuss the role of religious leaders as advocates on development issues
- identify ways of expanding analytical work, capacity development and policy dialogue involving faith and development, especially for service delivery.

The meeting was attended by about 80 religious leaders, staff members of faith-based organizations, coordinators of networks, representatives of international organisations (including UNFPA, WHO and UNAIDS) and a couple of directors of research programmes. The majority were from Africa, and the meeting had a focus on health services, so managers of health programmes were strongly represented.

The event was organised by Quentin Wodon (Development Dialogue on Values and Ethics, World Bank) and Katherine Marshall (Executive Director, World Faiths Development Dialogue), with additional support from DFID. It was co-chaired by Graeme Wheeler (Managing Director, Operations, World Bank) and George Carey (previously Archbishop of Canterbury and Chair of the trustees of the World Faiths Development Dialogue). Speakers included

- Archbishop Robert Aboagye-Mensah, Methodist Church of Ghana
- Dr. Agnes Abuom, Executive Committee, World Council of Churches
- Dr. Hany Abdel Gawad El Banna, President, Humanitarian Forum, Co-Founder and President of Islamic Relief Worldwide
- Eugen Brand, Director General, International Movement ATD Fourth World
- Rev. Canon Gideon Byamugisha, Director, ANERELA (Uganda)
- Ishac Diwan, World Bank Country Director for Burkina Faso, Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea
- Moulana Imam Umer Ahmed Ilyasi, Secretary General, All India Imam Organization
- Dr Samuel Mwenda, Africa Christian Health Association Platform Secretariat/CHAK (Kenya)
- Warren Nyamugasira, Managing Director, African Monitor
- Jacquelin Moturi Ogega, Director the Women’s Program at the World Conference of Religions for Peace
- Joy Phumaphi, Vice-President of the Human Development Network, World Bank
- Ingrid Srinath, Secretary General of CIVICUS
- Ruth Turner, Chief Executive of the Tony Blair Faith Foundation

Discussions centred on the dimensions and implications of the current economic crisis and the challenges of achieving the MDGs in this context and the role of faith-inspired
organisations in

- health, education and reaching vulnerable groups
- promoting peace
- advocacy

**Carole Rakodi**, Director of the RaD Research Programme, was invited to participate and to contribute to the session on the role of faith-inspired groups in advocacy. She shared some findings from the current RaD action research in Nigeria and Tanzania, in which local teams are working with Christian and Muslim organisations to strengthen their capacity to participate in policy consultation processes (NEEDS and SEEDS in Nigeria and MKUKUTA in Tanzania).

In the **final session**, Katherine Marshall argued that the potential contribution of the World Faiths Development Dialogue as a bridge between the religious and development worlds is unique. Faith-inspired organisations and service providers, she suggested, need to increase the visibility of their contribution to development, do honest self assessments of the appropriateness of their activities and the quality of the services they provide, and work together to maximise their contribution. She recognised that such partnerships have pitfalls as well as potential, and argued for faith-inspired organisations to engage in advocacy as well as service delivery. Finally, she suggested that there are some puzzles about why faith-inspired organisations are not more involved in certain activities: anti-corruption initiatives, work to reduce domestic violence and progress on acceptable approaches to family planning.

Lastly, Quentin Wodon identified how messages arising from the discussions can inform the work of the DDVE over the next two years and Graeme Wheeler noted that the World Bank will be increasing its focus on low income countries and fragile states, knowledge and partnerships and global public goods (communicable diseases, climate change etc) and will aim to become more decentralised and more open in its operations.

**Further information:**

World Bank, Development Dialogue on Values and Ethics


World Faiths Development Dialogue