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Research Institute for Social Development

Report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Commission for Social Development at its fifty-third session the report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development on the work of the Institute during 2013 and 2014.

* E/CN.5/2015/1.



Report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development on the work of the Institute during 2013 and 2014

Summary

The present report covers the activities of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development in 2013 and 2014. It highlights the programmatic achievements during the reporting period, and the current institutional and financial situation. In 2013, the Institute celebrated its fiftieth anniversary, marking five decades during which the Institute has been at the forefront of research efforts to ensure that social issues remain prominent within the development activities of the United Nations.

The 2013-2014 biennium marks the second half of the Institute's 2010-2014 research agenda on social development in a context of crisis and uncertainty. Research has been carried out under three programme areas: social policy for inclusive development; gender; and social dimensions of sustainable development. Within that framework, the work of the Institute has addressed system-wide concerns related to the post-2015 sustainable development goals, including poverty reduction, inequality, social protection, the empowerment of women and social drivers of sustainability.

Major research during the 2013-2014 reporting period focused on how countries are moving towards universal social policy, including health and social protection; the mobilization of domestic resources for financing social development; the ways in which gender egalitarian policy change occurs; and the potential and limits of social and solidarity economy as a pathway towards inclusive and sustainable development.

The research of the Institute has contributed directly to the work of the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council on the above themes. The body of research already undertaken also provides the knowledge base to inform the 2015-2016 priority theme of the Commission, "Rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world".

The Institute's research findings are also widely used by bodies and organization of the United Nations system, Member States, civil society and academia. Researchers regularly advise or provide briefings or presentations to those groups, sharing knowledge with policymakers and other stakeholders, framing debates and influencing thinking and policy alternatives on development issues.

During the reporting period, the Institute maintained its efforts to strengthen institutional processes related to communications and outreach, results-based management and impact. An evaluation undertaken by the Institute's major donors during that period acknowledged significant achievements in those areas, including higher visibility, excellent value for money and the expanding influence of the Institute's work.

The Institute is funded entirely through voluntary contributions and depends on the support of Member States to ensure the delivery of its core mandate and its support functions to the United Nations system. The conditions for funding remained difficult during the reporting period, with significant uncertainty over the financial stability and viability of the Institute going into the period 2015-2016. The Institute is grateful to all of its funders, particularly to those providing institutional support, namely, Finland, Sweden, Switzerland and (until 2013) the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, without which none of the Institute's activities could have taken place.

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I. Introduction: 50 years of research for social change

1. The present report covers the activities of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development in 2013 and 2014. It is submitted to the Commission for Social Development in accordance with the terms set out in Secretary-General's bulletin [ST/SGB/126](#) of 1 August 1963, in which it is stipulated that the Board of the Institute should, inter alia, submit regularly to the Commission a progress report on the work of the Institute.

2. In 2013, the Institute celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. For five decades the Institute has been at the forefront of efforts to ensure that social issues remain prominent within the development activities of the United Nations. The Institute was established in 1963 as an autonomous space within the United Nations system with the mandate to undertake policy-relevant research on the social dimensions of development. It remains the only institution in the United Nations system dedicated to conducting research on social issues that are widely neglected in development policy and practice.

3. As an organization that functions within the United Nations system and has a reputation for research excellence, the Institute uses its global convening power to leverage an international network of academics, policymakers and practitioners and to bring a diverse knowledge base and plurality of ideas to inform the work of the United Nations system on social issues.

4. The Institute operates according to a five-year research agenda that is determined through a consultative process involving a wide range of stakeholders in the United Nations system, Member States, academia and civil society, and that is approved by the Institute's Board. A work plan is prepared annually, taking into consideration priority concerns and themes of the United Nations system, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission for Social Development.

5. The Institute is funded entirely through voluntary contributions and its work is governed by an independent Board. Such conditions provide it with the autonomy to produce high-quality research, independent of agency or political interests. The Institute also provides a neutral space within the United Nations system for debate on often sensitive or contentious economic and social development issues.

6. The Institute depends on the financial support of Member States to ensure delivery of its core mandate and its support functions to the United Nations system and Member States.

II. Programme of research: social development in an uncertain world

7. The reporting period covers the final two years of the 2010-2014 research agenda on social development in an uncertain world. The agenda was developed at a time of crisis in the global economy and responds to the need to look at the structural causes and social consequences of the crisis; to identify political and institutional arrangements that can foster positive social change and deliver improved welfare outcomes to all; and to generate sustainable, just and inclusive policy alternatives. During the period research was carried out under three

programmes: social policy for inclusive development; gender; and social dimensions of sustainable development.

8. The activities undertaken during 2013 and 2014 related directly to system-wide concerns, including the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, poverty reduction, inequality, social protection, the empowerment of women and social drivers of sustainability. The Institute's research directly informed the work of the Commission for Social Development on recent priority themes and provided a knowledge base for the Commission's current priority theme, "Rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world".

A. Social policy for inclusive development

9. The concerns of the United Nations in respect of ensuring more inclusive development outcomes have been reflected in a number of General Assembly resolutions addressing universal health coverage, in International Labour Organization (ILO) recommendation No. 202 on the social protection floor, and in proposed sustainable development goals. In that regard, during the reporting period, the Institute pursued research on deepening the analysis of policies and institutional arrangements, and on financing mechanisms, with a view to supporting inclusive development in diverse contexts.

10. The Institute's research on social policy is the basis for regular training and capacity-building activities and engagement with policymakers. For example, it underpins the annual training programme on social policy for development planners, organized by the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, for African government officials from ministries involved with planning, economics, social affairs and foreign affairs.

11. The Institute also continued its engagement with the Korea International Cooperation Agency in order to assist the Agency in understanding the reasons why certain social policies did or did not support developmental and inclusive growth processes of the Republic of Korea. The research undertaken informed the work of Agency field staff and served as a key resource for the Fifth Seoul Official Development Assistance International Conference (of which the Institute was an organizing partner), and the preparations of the Government of the Republic of Korea for the Fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, held in Busan. The research results were published in edited volumes in English and Korean in 2014.

1. Towards universal social security in emerging economies

12. In 2012, with funding from Brazil, the Institute began to examine the challenges and innovative policy responses of eight emerging economies striving to provide universal social security, with a particular focus on health coverage and income security.

13. The Institute's research on the situations in Brazil, China, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Thailand and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) has generated empirical evidence on the diverse pathways that can lead to expanding health coverage and social protection in development contexts.

14. Research findings have illustrated the varied political and institutional drivers and impediments involved in moving towards universalism and in overcoming the fragmentation of social transfers and service provision. The project will provide policy lessons for lower income countries aspiring to move towards universal social security while giving attention to local contexts and institutions.

15. In 2014, the Institute conducted country-level research and posted the first outputs online as research papers. An edited volume and a policy brief are planned for 2015.

16. The research also informed the work undertaken by the Institute at the request of other agencies and bodies of the United Nations system and national Governments, including the preparation of a report for the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) on strengthening social protection, which synthesizes experiences of China, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam in respect of innovations in the design and implementation of social protection programmes. The report includes an in-depth analysis of three key challenges to extending coverage in developing countries: access of informal workers and their families to social protection and services; scaling-up of cash transfers as a response to overcoming poverty; and the inclusion of migrant workers in social protection schemes.

17. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) office in China also invited the Institute to contribute to a study on strategies to promote an integrated, coordinated and equitable social welfare system in China, which would be designed to provide recommendations to the Government of China. The Institute's contribution focused on the ways in which some countries of East Asia, such as Japan and the Republic of Korea, had overcome fragmentation in their social welfare systems (social assistance, social services, health, education and basic pensions) and how their experiences might be of assistance to China.

2. New directions in social policy: alternatives from and for the global South

18. Furthering the research described above, a new project was launched in 2014 to examine the emergence, nature and effectiveness of recent innovations in social policy in the global South. Notwithstanding persistent economic uncertainty and social crisis in many parts of the world, significant changes have been taking place, particularly in some emerging and developing economies, in respect of the nature and scope of social and economic policies designed to achieve more inclusive and equitable outcomes.

19. Research in that regard will seek to understand how countries address new risks and challenges, including economic shocks, environmental crises and aging populations. The project will assess whether the new approaches to welfare provision and social security that are emerging are better adapted to the risks facing developing countries in the contemporary world.

20. At a preliminary workshop organized in April 2014, 25 experts were brought together to define the key themes for, and theoretical and methodological approaches to, for the research to be conducted. The short papers prepared for the workshop are available from the Institute's website. Following a global call for expressions of interest in the project, the Institute has identified researchers who will be able to undertake 15 country-level studies in 2015.

3. Politics of domestic resource mobilization for social development

21. Resources are required in order to expand social policies. In a constrained fiscal environment, it is important to inquire about the possibilities for raising revenues and ensure that they will be utilized for development purposes. This is a critical concern in the context of United Nations discussions on financing for development and of the challenges of financing the post-2015 sustainable development agenda. With the support that Sweden has provided since 2012, the Institute has been examining the political and institutional factors that determine both how domestic resources can be mobilized in low-income and lower middle-income countries, and what determines whether these are allocated to developmental purposes.

22. Through research in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Nicaragua, Uganda and Zimbabwe, the project examines the processes and the mechanisms that connect the politics of resource mobilization and the demands for social provision. It examines changes in State-citizen and donor-recipient relations associated with resource mobilization and allocation, and governance reforms that can lead to sustainable revenue yields and the improved provision of services. A number of the research papers issued on the topic have examined different financing instruments and types of resources such as taxes, aid and mineral rents.

23. The project aims to contribute to global debates about how to bridge the funding gaps for meeting key global development targets and social programmes in poor countries; enhance national ownership of development programmes and policy space; improve understanding of the politics of revenue and social expenditure bargains; and enhance effective accountability of governments to citizens.

4. Mobilizing revenues from extractive industries: protecting and promoting the rights and well-being of children in resource-rich contexts

24. Building on earlier research conducted by the Institute on financing social policy in mineral-rich countries, the Regional Office for East Asia and the Pacific of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) approached the Institute to collaborate on a project aimed at examining the rights and well-being of children in countries with large-scale extractive industries.

25. During the reporting period, research was carried out in Mongolia, Papua New Guinea and the Philippines on extractive industries and the financing of child-inclusive social development; and the political economy of mineral resource governance and child rights. In collaboration with UNICEF country offices, the research examined public finance mechanisms, economic and social policies, and political conditions for child-inclusive social development; contributed to knowledge creation and institutional learning within partner organizations; and informed both national and international debates on channelling revenues from mineral extraction towards social policy and investments in children. Research publications in 2015 will include country reports and a synthesis paper.

5. Linking social protection and human rights

26. In late 2013, the Institute launched a project to enhance awareness of, and develop capacities to implement, a human rights approach to social protection. It was initially carried out in collaboration with the former Special Rapporteur on

extreme poverty and human rights, Magdalena Sepúlveda, and is currently being supported by the Government of Finland.

27. The Institute has created a resource platform (www.unrisd.org/sp-hr) that provides practical guidance for policymakers, practitioners and advocates, as well as a space for leading thinkers to explore the complex challenges of implementing social protection from a human rights perspective. The platform comprises four sections containing: a framework that explains the human rights approach to social protection; a depository of case laws where social protection issues have been discussed by regional and domestic courts; expert commentaries on key issues; and external resources that can be accessed easily.

6. Migration and health in China

28. During the reporting period, the Institute concluded its project on migration and health in China. Implemented in partnership with the Center for Migrant Health Policy at Sun Yat-Sen University in Guangzhou, China, and with funding from the China Medical Board, it aimed to provide a comprehensive assessment of the health challenges associated with internal migration in China.

29. Through the project, the Institute brought together empirical analysis from a number of data sets and multidisciplinary work across the fields of health and social science, and public policy. It addressed various issues that had been neglected, such as a gendered analysis of migration and health; a political economy analysis of the actors involved in migration policy; comparative work on international migration and health; and an analysis of return migration.

30. During the reporting period, the Institute and the Center for Migrant Health Policy issued nine English and Chinese language working papers.

7. Health in all policies

31. In the context of its long-standing partnership with, and the financial support provided by, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health of Finland, the Institute was invited to partner with the Ministry to undertake preparations for the eighth Global Conference on Health Promotion, which was hosted by the Government of Finland in June 2013 and focused on health in all policies.

32. The Institute was on the steering committee for and was a co-editor of the publication *Health in All Policies: Seizing Opportunities, Implementing Policies*. It was produced in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, and the National Institute for Health and Welfare, both of Finland, and the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies. Institute researchers contributed a chapter on entitled “Health and development: challenges and pathways to health in all policies in low-income countries”. Together with the Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations in Geneva, the Institute co-organized the launch of the volume during the sixty-sixth World Health Assembly, in May 2013.

B. Gender

33. Gender inequality, discrimination and violence affect all countries around the world and are major obstacles to inclusive and sustainable development. Despite progress, the problems are pervasive and, in many contexts, reversals in previous

gains are occurring. Gender-based violence, women's economic empowerment and political representation, the gendered impacts of crisis and austerity, and the unequal division of labour around care work, are among the issues currently being addressed through the Institute's research.

34. The Institute's reputation for excellence in this field creates multiple opportunities for policy engagement. During the reporting period, Institute staff participated in thematic discussions on gender in respect of the post-2015 development agenda and gave presentations on gender and unpaid work at sessions of the Human Rights Council and at the meetings of other intergovernmental, national and academic bodies. Institute staff provided expert inputs on a wide range of gender-related topics, including to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) (on gender, trade and investment), and in the review processes for the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

1. Understanding gender-egalitarian policy change

35. Previous Institute research on the social and political economy of care has had a major impact in changing the terms of discussion around care in a development context. The issue is now prominent in discussions within the United Nations system and among Member States, and is the subject of ongoing research and advocacy among academics and civil society organizations globally.

36. A key question emerging from earlier Institute research concerned why, despite substantial evidence on both the problem and possible solutions, more was not being done to foster change at the policy level. Other concerns focused on why certain issues get taken up by policymakers, while others do not and exploring the factors determining when and why gender-egalitarian policy change occurs.

37. With support from the Ford Foundation, in 2013 the Institute started to examine how policy change that strengthens women's rights occurred. The research being undertaken aims to identify the conditions under which non-State actors — from the local to transnational levels — can effectively influence policy change, as well as the factors that can support processes of change in social norms around gender relations. The research also is serving to explore how the nature of the issue (violence, care, political participation or inheritance rights, for example) might influence those processes and outcomes.

38. Comparative research has been conducted in China, India and Indonesia, focusing on two issues around which women's rights advocates have mobilized in recent years: violence against women; and migrant domestic worker rights. Attention has also been paid to two sets of issues where advocacy and claims-making have been less visible (care work), or more difficult (family law and inheritance of property).

39. The Institute posted on its website a project brief and a think piece on the role of international non-governmental organizations in influencing policy change for gender justice. Findings from the project will be published in 2015, feeding critical understanding of processes of social change into discussions on the implementation of the post-2015 development goals, women's rights and gender equality.

2. Feminization, agricultural transition and rural employment

40. Employment remains the main route to economic empowerment, but women remain disadvantaged both in access to jobs and in the terms of their employment. Many developing countries have expanded their agricultural export sectors beyond traditional crops, often creating new forms of employment for women. However, the terms under which women are integrated into such agricultural supply chains, and the implications for their well-being and that of their families, is poorly understood.

41. In 2014, the Institute began working with the University of Berne (Switzerland) and partners in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal and Rwanda to undertake research on the feminization of non-traditional agriculture and its impacts on women. The project serves to investigate the gendered implications of the rise of non-traditional agricultural exports and the commercialization of agriculture for export, in those four countries.

42. Funded by the Swiss Programme for Research on Global Issues for Development, the project will be carried out over six years.

3. Gender dimensions of livelihood security in dryland areas: a scoping study

43. In the context of the growing interest in the interlinked social and environmental dimensions of climate change, the Institute was initially asked by the Government of Qatar to develop a proposal for research on food and water security in dryland areas. Recognizing that limited attention is paid to gender in such debates, the Institute suggested to the Beijing office of the Ford Foundation that a preliminary study be conducted on dryland areas in China.

44. Work is in progress to identify existing literature and evidence, undertake initial research and engage a network of scholars, practitioners and non-governmental organizations that are involved in work at the intersection of environmental (water, climate), livelihood and gender issues in China's dryland regions. A workshop will be held in December 2014 on preliminary findings, leading to a final report and a proposal for further research beyond the Chinese context.

C. Social dimensions of sustainable development

1. The post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals

45. The international development community has come to accept that sustainability requires major transformations in patterns of production, consumption and distribution, and major shifts in systems of investment, technology and governance. Within debates on sustainable development, however, social dimensions are either frequently neglected or reduced to issues of poverty, vulnerability and the marginalization of particular groups.

46. A shift to a transformative agenda, as discussed by the Commission for Social Development in 2013 and reflected in the aspirations of the sustainable development agenda, requires a fundamentally different vision of and approach to social development. The Institute's research in this field aims to improve understanding of the factors driving unsustainable outcomes and to identify alternative approaches and policies that are conducive to socially equitable and ecologically sustainable

development paths. It focuses in particular on the intersections, trade-offs and synergies between social, environmental and economic dimensions of development.

47. During the reporting period, the Institute engaged with United Nations processes aimed at developing a transformative approach. In 2013, it partnered with the Division for Social Policy and Development) of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to draft a note by the Secretariat on the social drivers of sustainable development (E/CN.5/2014/8) for the Commission for Social Development at its fifty-second session. The Institute also contributed a section on the emerging issue for the report of the Secretary-General on addressing ongoing and emerging challenges for meeting the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 and for sustaining development gains in the future (E/2014/61) for the 2014 annual ministerial review of the Economic and Social Council.

48. Related activities included participation as a member of the advisory group for the global consultation on addressing inequalities in the post-2015 development agenda; presentations at briefings of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research on the post-2015 development agenda for members of delegations and government officials and at the second Geneva dialogue series convened by UNCTAD on the theme “The post-2015 sustainable development agenda: the road from Bali”; and numerous other public events and academic lectures. The Institute issued a series of Beyond 2015 policy briefs that focused on critical, policy-relevant themes related to the social dimensions of the post-2015 development agenda.

2. Social and solidarity economy

49. A socially sustainable development agenda requires rethinking the relationship between the organization of the economy, and social and sustainability outcomes. Multiple global crises, together with heightened concerns about the social, environmental and developmental consequences of market- and corporate-led development models, have reignited a search for alternative ways of organizing consumption, production and distribution that can fulfil human needs, reduce inequalities, and be environmentally sustainable.

50. Social and solidarity economy refers to forms of production and exchange that aim to satisfy human needs and enhance well-being, build resilience and contribute to sustainability, through organizations and relations based on cooperation, association and solidarity.

51. During the reporting period, the Institute initiated an inquiry to understand the potential and limits of the concept in contributing to sustainable development objectives. An international conference on the potential and limits of social and solidarity economy, which was held in Geneva in May 2013, in partnership with the ILO and the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service, brought together 300 participants including United Nations policymakers, government officials, academics, civil society representatives and social and solidarity economy practitioners and activists.

52. One of the major results of the conference was the establishment of the inter-agency task force on social and solidarity economy, led by the Institute and ILO. The task force has dramatically raised the visibility of and interest in social and solidarity economy across the United Nations system. In 2014, the task force comprised 19 entities of the United Nations system and the Organization for

Economic Cooperation and Development, with four global civil society networks acting as observers. The Institute coordinated the production of a task force position paper on social and solidarity economy and the challenge of sustainable development and developed a related web page (<http://unsse.org/>).

53. In follow-up to the conference, the Institute issued brief No. 5 of its “Beyond 2015” briefs entitled “Social and solidarity economy: a new path to sustainable development”.

54. The growing interest in the issue is illustrated by the creation of an international leading group on social and solidarity economy, involving the following countries and areas: Colombia, Ecuador, France, Luxembourg and Morocco, with Quebec (Canada) acting as an observer. The group held its first meeting in September 2014, on the sidelines of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly. The Institute has also engaged in numerous activities and policy dialogues, including with the European Economic and Social Committee (a consultative body to the European Union); a meeting organized under the Italian presidency of the Council of the European Union; the Global Social Economy Forum in Seoul; the second World Forum of Local Economic Development organized by UNDP in Brazil; and the fifth international meeting of the Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of the Social solidarity economy, held in the Philippines in 2013.

III. Research for social change: ideas to impacts

55. The Institute’s mandate requires that its research be policy relevant and that it engage with pressing issues of concern to the United Nations system and Member States, thereby requiring that the Institute interact with a wide range of stakeholders and make research findings available to multiple audiences in order to inform intergovernmental and national policy processes, civil society advocacy and scholarly debates.

56. During the reporting period, an evaluation of the Institute’s work was undertaken on behalf of the Institute’s major funders. The Institute was recognized in the resulting report for the quality, policy relevance and agenda-setting nature of its research. The report highlighted the Institute’s exceptional convening power, its capacity to engage with multiple stakeholders and the value of its networks, particularly with researchers in the global South.

57. Most notably, the Institute received recognition for its advances in communications and outreach work, with the implementation of a new strategy, including the creative use of social media, the diversification of publication formats and other outreach and engagement activities that have significantly raised the Institute’s visibility and profile.

58. The Institute issued a brochure entitled “Research for social change: ideas to impacts”, for a meeting of key Institute stakeholders held in Geneva in September 2014, in which it summarized and highlighted the long-term impacts of the Institute’s research in an easily accessible format.

A. Communications, outreach and influence

59. During the reporting period, the Institute continued to ensure that its work reached a wide range of actors engaged in and informing policy processes and practice. Substantial achievements in that regard were made through a major renewal of the Institute's communications and outreach strategy. The Institute pursued a range of innovative, as well as traditional, activities to make its research available, accessible and relevant to key stakeholders, to increase its reach and visibility in the global community and to foster engagement and interaction with diverse stakeholders. Those activities included diversifying its publication formats, enhancing the use of social media, organizing events and participating in an advisory capacity.

60. During the reporting period, the Institute:

(a) Continued to produce a high level of outputs, including 33 research papers, 12 policy and other briefs 5 edited volumes and books, 20 journal articles and book chapters and 75 think pieces/commentaries (see annex for list of publications);

(b) Enhanced its use of digital communication tools, launching a modern new website design in 2013, producing 42 videos and 81 podcasts and engaging in a range of online dialogues and discussion forums;

(c) Expanded its interactions with stakeholders through virtual forums, fully integrating the use of Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter as channels for engagement and regularly reaching over 30,000 followers through social media;

(d) Fostered face-to-face engagement among stakeholders through over 35 events organized or co-organized with partners, including large international conferences, side events during intergovernmental processes, research workshops and public seminars, offering diverse forums for critical debate on contemporary social development issues;

(e) Produced nine issues of *e-Bulletin* to share research findings and other information with a wide audience (available from www.unrisd.org).

61. The events organized by the Institute provide a space for presentation of research findings and for dialogue among the entities of the United Nations system, and policy and academic communities on contemporary social development issues. The Institute regularly co-hosts or organizes events with United Nations system partners, civil society, representatives of academia and Member States.

62. During the reporting period, the events organized by the Institute included a research conference and public policy dialogue on the regional governance of migration and sociopolitical rights; an international conference on the potential and limits of social and solidarity economy; a side event at the a session of the Commission for Social Development on new directions in social policy; and seminars on a wide range of topics, such as social policies in Costa Rica, Ethiopia, South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, pension reform, migrant health and green urbanization in China and the human rights-based approach to social protection.

B. Policy engagement and influence

63. An important direct channel of influence for the Institute's research is through the engagement of research staff in United Nations and governmental policymaking processes through advisory and consultative activities. This included providing briefings to government and United Nations officials, participation in expert meetings, task force groups and similar activities, and making other oral or written inputs as required.

64. The Institute's staff carried out over 175 advisory and consultative activities during the reporting period with United Nations, Member States, and academic and civil society constituencies.

65. Examples of those activities included participation in expert group meetings of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat; the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia; the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), ILO, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNCTAD, UNDP, the United Nations Environment Programme, UNICEF and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women).

66. Institute researchers also shared their expertise on a range of topics with national Governments, including Belgium, China, Finland, France, Liberia, Malawi, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

C. Fiftieth anniversary activities

67. In 2013, the Institute celebrated its fiftieth anniversary, organizing a range of events and activities in Geneva, in virtual spaces and with partners around the world. Besides the activities already described in the present report, three additional initiatives are described below.

68. **Institute "Timeline" (available from www.unrisd.org/timeline).** The Institute's "Timeline" provides a useful tool for reviewing five decades of research on social development. Six major themes are covered: social policy and development indicators; social cohesion, conflict and migration; food security, and agrarian and sustainable development; democracy, civil society and participation; gender dimensions of development; and markets, business and society.

69. **Three-volume "classics" series.** A three-volume series of Institute classics comprises select essays from 50 years of research undertaken by the Institute, highlighting some of the Institute's most influential and ground-breaking research, while demonstrating its relevance to today's development debates. The three volumes, will be issued in 2015 on the following topics: social policy and inclusive development; gendered dimensions of development; and socially sustainable development.

70. **"Visions of change" initiative.** The Institute invited creative thinkers from all over the world to submit artwork illustrating key social development values, themes and issues. It received over 150 submissions, with winning entries from the Islamic Republic of Iran, Spain and an Indian artist based in Dubai.

71. In 2014, the Institute launched a think piece series for young scholars working on social development issues at the post-graduate level. The aim of the series is to provide the students with an opportunity to present their research on a global platform. An open call on the theme of extractive industries and mineral-led development generated more than 70 submissions. Winners and runners-up came from the Czech Republic, Germany, Ghana, India, the Netherlands, South Africa, Sweden and Turkey. All the think pieces have been published on the Institute's website.

IV. Institutional issues

A. Management and staffing

72. As at 30 November 2014, a total of 10 staff members were under contract at the Institute in Geneva, including the director, four research coordinators, three communications and outreach staff and two administrative and support staff.

73. During the reporting period, the deputy director and senior research coordinator for the sustainable development programme, Peter Utting, retired after 23 years at the Institute. The senior research coordinator for the gender programme, Shahra Razavi, transferred to UN-Women.

74. Two new research coordinators joined the Institute in 2014: Valeria Esquivel (Argentina) for the gender programme, and Pascal van Griethuysen (Switzerland) for the sustainable development programme. In addition the Institute received support from Switzerland for an expert (Andrea Kaufmann) to work on gender issues and from Germany for a Junior Professional Officer (Dunja Krause) to work on the social dimensions of climate change.

75. Institute projects are supported by junior researchers employed as consultants. During the reporting period, 11 research analysts assisted, and seven consultants supported communications and fundraising activities. The Institute also benefited from the support of 28 interns during the period.

76. During the reporting period, the Institute also hosted eight visiting research fellows. Research fellows typically spend from two to six months pursuing their own research while also contributing to issues of relevance to the Institute's programme of work.

B. Governance and board

77. The Board of the Institute met in Geneva on 14 and 15 March 2013 and on 10 and 11 April 2014.

78. The composition of the Board changed during the reporting period. After six years of serving on the Board, the terms of Peter Brandt Evans, Rosalind Eyben, Annika Sundén and Zenebeworke Tadesse expired on 30 June 2013.

79. The first term of Bina Agarwal, Evelina Dagnino and Julia Szalai expired on 30 June 2013; their renomination was confirmed by the Economic and Social Council for a further period of two years, to 30 June 2015. Yesim Arat-Pamuk, whose term also expired, did not seek renomination.

80. The names of five new Board members were submitted to the Commission for Social Development during its fifty-first session: Jimí O. Adésínà (Nigeria); Asef Bayat (United States of America); David Hulme (United Kingdom); Joakim Palme (Sweden); and Onalenna Doo Selolwane (Botswana). Their nomination by the Commission was subsequently confirmed by the Economic and Social Council at its forty-seventh meeting, on 25 July 2013.

81. One of the major challenges facing the Board during the reporting period concerned the change management process, which aimed to create a unified United Nations “knowledge” entity. The proposed merger would have had profound effects for the governance and mandate of the Institute. Despite lengthy discussions, the proposals for consolidation presented by the change management team were not supported by the Board of the Institute or by the other research institutions, and are not being taken forward at the present time. The heavy cost to the Institute with regard to time and lost funding opportunities remains a significant concern for the Board and the leadership of the Institute.

C. Independent evaluation of the Institute, 2008-2013

82. During the reporting period, an evaluation of the impact of the Institute’s research and work was commissioned by the United Kingdom Department for International Development, in conjunction with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, two of the Institute’s principal donors. The preliminary findings attest to the value attached to the Institute’s research by a wide range of United Nations, academic and civil society stakeholders. Covering the period from 2008 to 2013, the evaluation focused largely on the impact and “value for money” of the Institute’s research. The evaluation team, commissioned through a competitive tender, consulted with numerous Institute research partners, users and other stakeholders. At the time of reporting, the evaluation is being finalized by the United Kingdom Department for International Development for public release. This will be followed by a management response from the Institute.

D. Financial report

83. The Institute receives no money from the United Nations general budget and is funded entirely by voluntary contributions from Governments, research foundations, bodies and organizations of the United Nations system and other institutions.

84. Total income for the Institute (excluding miscellaneous income) for the reporting period is estimated at \$5,678,018. Estimated total expenditure is \$6,300,000.

85. During the reporting period, the Institute received institutional (non-earmarked) funding totalling \$4,007,343, of which \$3,107,400 came from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, \$400,000 from Finland and \$499,943 from Switzerland. A multi-year agreement for funding from the United Kingdom (Department for Internal Development) ended in 2013.

86. The Institute is heavily dependent on the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency — for financing institutional costs and its main activities. The multi-year funding agreement with the Agency expires at the end of 2014, and its extension for two years (2015-2016) is under consideration at the time of reporting.

87. In 2014, the Institute signed a three-year agreement with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation for SwF 750,000 (approximately \$800,000) to support the Institute's programme activities for the period 2014-2016.

88. Requests for renewal of annual contributions from Finland (Ministry of Social Affairs and Health) and Switzerland (Federal Department of Foreign Affairs) have been submitted. Discussions continue with other countries to provide multi-year agreements to ensure the future stability of the Institute.

89. During the reporting period, earmarked (project) funds received totalled \$1,670,675. In addition to funds noted above, Sweden provided \$740,831 for the project, "New directions in social policy". Finland (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) provided additional support for work on human rights and social protection. Other funds were provided by the Korea International Cooperation Agency, the Ministry of Health of Brazil, several bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, foundations and non-governmental organizations (see table below).

90. During the reporting period, the Government of Germany provided a Junior Professional Officer (climate change) to the Institute for the period 2014-2016. The Government of Switzerland seconded a Gender Expert for the same period. The United Nations Office in Geneva provides an in-kind contribution to the Institute through the allocation of office space.

Funding sources, 2013-2014

(United States dollars)

| <i>Donor</i> | <i>Amount</i> |
|--|------------------|
| Countries | |
| Brazil, Ministry of Health/Hospital do Coração | 130 000 |
| Finland, Ministry for Foreign Affairs | 106 400 |
| Finland, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health | 400 000 |
| Republic of Korea, Korea International Cooperation Agency | 73 000 |
| Sweden, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency | 3 848 231 |
| Switzerland, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs | 216 817 |
| Switzerland, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation | 283 126 |
| United Nations system | |
| International Labour Organization | 33 058 |
| United Nations Development Programme | 13 650 |
| Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific | 39 980 |
| United Nations Children's Fund | 65 000 |
| Research foundations and other funders | |
| China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development | 37 851 |
| Ford Foundation | 398 660 |
| HIVOS International | 25 543 |
| Rosa Luxemburg Foundation | 6 702 |
| Total | 5 678 018 |

E. Consultations on the future of the Institute

91. Conditions for mobilizing resources and ensuring the future stability of the Institute continue to be challenging. Many of the Institute's traditional donors have reduced or ended non-earmarked funding. The ongoing decline in funding for research, and in institutional funding in general, poses a continuing challenge for sustaining the core activities of the Institute.

92. As part of ongoing efforts to address the challenges, the Institute held a stakeholder consultation in September 2014. The meeting brought together approximately 30 key stakeholders, including representatives of national donor agencies, national Governments, bodies and organizations of the United Nations system and civil society, as well as members of the Institute's Board.

93. The purpose of the meeting was to engage in consultations about the strategic priorities of the Institute, the directions for its next research agenda and potential sources of funding from 2015 onward, and to strengthen support among actual or potential donors for the Institute's financial security.

94. Suggestions were made to help the Institute to mobilize the support of a broad group of stakeholders and to reinforce its strengths, visibility and relevance. Suggestions included closer engagement with the work of the Commission for Social Development, particularly in relation to the current priority theme, about which the Institute has already initiated a discussion with the Bureau of the Commission; and closer collaboration with Member States in the global South, including emerging economies, in order to strengthen the responsiveness and relevance of the Institute's research to their concerns.

Annex

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