

# Contribution to the End of Decade Report on the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non- Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010)

## **The International Social Science Council (ISCC)**

**Disclaimer:** In resolution 64/80, the General Assembly requested UNESCO to prepare a summary report on the activities carried out over the past ten years of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010) by UNESCO, other United Nations entities, Member States and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to promote and implement the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace. This report will be presented to the United Nations General Assembly at its 65<sup>th</sup> session in 2010. This contribution towards this report was received from the International Social Science Council (ISCC) a NGO with consultative status with UNESCO. The contents of this document are those of the author(s) and the opinions expressed therein are not necessarily those of UNESCO and do not commit the Organization.

**Contribution of the International Social Science Council (ISSC) to the  
Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace under the  
International Decade for a Culture of Peace and  
Non-violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010)**

The ISSC is an international non-governmental organization, which has formal associate relations with UNESCO. It is a membership-based organization, constituted of international professional disciplinary associations, as well as national and regional research councils, academies of sciences and other social scientific organisations. The ISSC's key activities include:

- The regular convening of a World Social Science Forum to discuss the most pressing global challenges and identify related priorities for the future of international social science
- The regular production of a World Social Science Report, which reviews the state of the art of social sciences on a specific topic and takes stock of the status of social science knowledge production systems across the world
- The development of a World Social Science Fellows programme, aimed at building future generations of global social science leaders
- The(co-)sponsorship of international scientific programmes and knowledge networks, including programmes focusing on critical poverty studies (CROP); gender, globalization and democratization (GGD); ethnic conflict and approaches to peace (RECAP); international global social change (IGSC), the human dimensions of global environmental change (IHDP); and integrated research on disaster risk (IRDR)
- The award of international prizes for comparative social science research, as well as for excellence in inter-disciplinary social science
- The support of international social science policy development, particularly in the field of global environmental change research

The eight action areas of the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace are the focus of much of the policy relevant, inter-disciplinary, comparative social science research and dissemination that ISSC members are engaged in, and that the ISSC itself supports and promotes through the key activities outlined above. In this regard, and with reference to the reporting period being covered by this input, it is worth highlighting the following:

- ISSC members – professional associations, as well as national or regional councils and academies – are engaged in the conduct and promotion of social science research relevant to the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace in a myriad of ways, including the dissemination of the results of such research to policy-makers and to the general public through publications, workshops, conferences, networking and capacity building activities.
- The Council's RECAP Programme has been developing a website to take stock of existing research on the origins of ethnic conflict and on the range of approaches that are available to eliminate it and has organized workshops on this theme.
- Recent research and publications of the ISSC's CROP programme have focused on the state of the art in international poverty research; poverty eradication strategies; poverty production; poverty work and education; elite perceptions of poverty and the poor; poverty and war; poverty, social justice and human rights and methodology of poverty studies and development of tools to facilitate comparative studies.
- The GGD Programme's series of conferences, workshops, publications and research have dealt with issues ranging from sexual trafficking and human security (girl violence in combat areas); to women and leadership around the world; migration and gender; globalization and the changing structure of the family; gender in the global political economy and education, outreach and capacity building.

- The results of the IGSC-organized 2005 workshop in Buenos Aires, which focused on themes including linear vs. polarising trends in world social processes; global players in the 21st century; culture, sustainable development and migration; migration, labour and human rights; as well as social policy and global social change, served specifically as an input into the 2005 UNESCO International Forum on the Social Science - Policy Nexus.
- The ISSC's first World Social Science Forum was held in Bergen, Norway, from 10-12 May 2009. It stimulated much-needed dialogue across disciplines and scientific fields, connected research and practice and provided a platform for debate, as well as the exchange of experiences, innovative ideas and emergent good practice on the overall topic of "One planet – Worlds apart?". The Forum programme included a number of sessions that are of direct relevance to the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, including
  - Civil Wars and Fragile States: Gender and Armed Conflict, Post-Conflict Reconstruction, the future of armed conflict
  - Environmental Hazards and social catastrophes
  - Worlds apart: inequality of income and opportunity
  - The competition between food, bioenergy, biodiversity and ecosystem services
  - Digitizing social sciences and the humanities
  - Governance and Development
  - Religion, democracy and the future
  - Poverty: The role of social research and social policy
  - One world or many – are values converging or diverging
  - Universalism vs multiculturalism
  - Towards novel assemblages of territory, authority and rights
  - Knowing better-and doing worse? What social science can provide for policy makers