

SHORT BIOS OF THE PANELLISTS

SOCIAL FORUM 2005

PANEL 1

THE PERSPECTIVE OF THOSE LIVING IN POVERTY: VOICES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Sister Valsa Joseph, Franciscans International, India

Sister Valsa is from Kerala, India and has a Master's Degree in Social Work. For over 20 years Sr. Valsa has lived and worked with Dalits and Tribal groups in Tamil Nadu, on projects such as non-formal education, womens groups and microcredit programs. The main focus has always been to empower them so as to make them agents of their own liberation. Also, as a social worker she had been networking with Dalits' and Women's organisations that worked towards the same goal. She is currently based in Rome as a co-ordinator for the Displaced Persons Desk of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary present in over 82 countries.

Françoise Ferrand and Cécile Reinhardt, ATD-Quart Monde, France

Françoise Ferrand has worked as a full -time volunteer at ATD-Fourth World since 1971. After 15 years of experience working with youth, she was put in charge of the ATD-Fourth World Popular Universities programme and managed the one in Paris from 1986 to 1993. She has been a member of the pedagogical team that directs the Fourth World University and Fourth World Partnership programmes since 1996. She lives in Rheims.

Cécile Reinhardt has been an ATD-Fourth World activist for more than 20 years. She works, at the ocal level, at the Fourth World Popular University in Alsace. At the national level, she is a member of the Sharing Knowledge and Practices Team. In 2000-2001 she participated in the Fourth World Partnership programme in the group of people with personal experience of extreme poverty. She lives in Mulhouse.

Rajsoomer Lallah, Member of the Human Rights Committee, Mauritius

Theme: State Institutions accountability in poverty: the civil and political rights perspective

Rajsoomer Lallah is a Former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Mauritius. Since 1977 he has been a member of the United Nations Human Rights Committee established under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights where he served as Chairman from 1989 to 1991. From 1996 to 2000 he was the Special Rapporteur of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (Burma). He was previously the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Chile (1983 – 1984). In 1998 he chaired a workshop on National Integrity Systems organized by Transparency International and the Economic Development Institute of the World Bank. From 1988 to 1998 he was a member of the International Commission of Jurist in Geneva.

Chamba Kajege, Coordinator, Tanzania Coalition on Debt and Development (TCDD), Tanzania

Chamba Kajege currently serves as Coordinator with the Tanzania Coalition on Debt and Development, a national coalition comprised of civil society organizations that coordinates lobbying on issues related to debt relief and debt cancellation. Mr. Kajege holds a Bachelors degree in Agriculture, as well as diplomas in Farm Management and Political Science. He is a member of the National Poverty Monitoring Steering Committee and has attended numerous national and international seminars, workshops and conferences on poverty reduction and development issues. Mr. Kajege previously served as Programme Officer with the Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation where he acted as Coordinator of the National Development Dialogue.

Haydée Isabel Castillo Flores, Comité de Desarrollo Departamental, Nicaragua

Haydee Castillo Flores, Nicaraguan, has a degree in social science and a master in development and planning. She is member of the Autonomous Movement of Nicaraguan Women, the Women Forum for the Central American Integration and the Advisory Council for the Nicaraguan Ombudsman for Women. She is the founder and president of FUNDEMUNI, foundation for the development of children and women, and the coordinator of the NGO Nueva Segovia. She has contributed to the formulation and implementation of strategies to empower the rural population, in particular women, in their fight against poverty and in favour of human dignity. She has carried out critical analyses of the National Development Plan and the poverty reduction strategies. As a civil society leader she participates actively in the promotion of human rights, the reduction of poverty and advocates for the consolidation of a Democratic Social State and the rule of law.

PANEL 2

GROWTH WITH ACCOUNTABILITY

Arjun K. Sengupta, United Nations Independent Expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty

Theme: Institutional accountability in pro-poor economic growth policies

Arjun K. Sengupta (India) is a member of the High-level Commission on the Legal Empowerment of the Poor established by Norway. He is currently the Independent Expert on Human Rights and Extreme Poverty of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (since 2004). From 1999 - 2004 he was the Independent Expert on the Right to Development. Previously he held positions at the International Monetary Fund where he was Special Adviser to the Managing Director (1988 - 1990) and Executive Director for India, Bangladesh and Bhutan (1985 - 1988).

Brian T. Ngo, Adviser, World Bank Europe Office

Theme: PRSPs: lessons learnt from the 2005 review on accountability of State institutions

Brian Ngo is Advisor, World Bank Europe Office in Paris. Mr. Ngo works in the Office of the Vice President in charge of Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Network (PREM). He represents the World Bank at the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC); led the preparation of the last Development Committee on Aid Effectiveness and Financing Modalities. Mr. Ngo is currently working as part of a team on the World Bank's Africa Action Plan. Before joining the Europe Office, he served as Lead Economist in the Office of the Chief Economist, Africa Region. He was also PRSP Lead Adviser; provided quality control review of Poverty Reduction Support Credits and policy-based lending and HIPC-related documents; coordinated analytical work and country rating exercises (CPIA). Mr. Ngo was acting World Bank Country Director for Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone (1999-2000) and Principal Economist, Macroeconomic Unit, Africa Region (1996-99). Mr. Ngo holds a PhD in Economics of the University of Wisconsin.

Jean-Pierre Chauffour, IMF Representative to the WTO, Geneva Office

Theme: Institutional accountability in pro-human rights growth policies: the IMF perspective

Jean-Pierre Chauffour, a Senior Economist at the IMF, is the IMF Representative to the WTO in Geneva. His previous positions include Deputy Division Chief in the Equatorial II Division of the Africa Department at the IMF and Economist with the European Commission in Brussels.

Aliro Omara Joel, Commissioner, Uganda Human Rights Commission

Theme: Role of a National Human Rights Institution in pro-human rights policies: the Ugandan experience

Commissioner Aliro Omara Joel holds a degree in law and diploma in legal practice both qualifications from Makerere University in 1974. He also holds a certificate in Human rights and humanitarian law from Lund University, Sweden. He has worked as a state attorney in Ministry of Justice, Uganda, Magistrate Grade I, Uganda Judiciary, Advocate Uganda high court. He also held the portfolio of Minister of Commerce, Uganda and was Member of Parliament - Uganda. Has also worked as a resident magistrate with Tanzania Judiciary, Senior lecturer in law at international co-operative college Moshi, Tanzania. He is now a Commissioner with the Uganda Human Rights Commission and is in-charge of Monitoring and Treaties department. He also serves as deputy chairman of the editorial board, Is a member of Publicity Committee. He also sits on the UHRC tribunal, which he chairs once in a while. His special areas of interest are; women, children, culture and minorities issues. He has written and presented papers on the above subject in different forums. He has also attended various workshops, seminars etc. on human rights

Rick Rowden, Policy Officer, Action Aid USA

Theme: Successes and limits of civil society participation to ensure greater accountability of State institutions for poverty reduction

Rick Rowden joined ActionAid International USA on April 1, 2003, with 3 years of policy research and advocacy experience. During this time, he has worked as a policy researcher and advocate with several DC-based international economic justice advocacy NGOs, including RESULTS and Jubilee USA. While at RESULTS, he conducted research and advocacy on IMF and World Bank policy reforms jointly with many civil society organizations in the US, Europe and throughout the Global South, including ActionAid. More recently, his policy work has focused on the linkages and policy coherence agreements between the IMF, World Bank and the World Trade Organization to gain a better understanding of how the overlapping policy agendas of these institutions impact global economic development and poverty eradication efforts.

Anthony Ohemeng-Boamah, Special Assistant to the Regional Director, Regional Bureau for Africa, United Nations Development Programme

Theme: Institutional accountability in pro-human rights growth policies: the UNDP perspective

PANEL 3

METHODS AND INSTRUMENTS

Robert Archer, Executive Director, International Council on Human Rights Policy

Theme: New tools to ensure human rights accountability of the State for poverty reduction

Robert Archer is the Executive Director of International Council on Human Rights Policy . Before coming to the Council Mr. Archer was the Policy Adviser at Christian Aid. He has degrees in philosophy and literature from Cambridge University and in African Studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies (London). He has taught and done research in Madagascar, and is the author of books on Madagascar and South Africa.

Boua Chanthou, Director, Partnership for Development in Kampuchea (PADEK), Cambodia

Theme: Methods and instruments for State accountability and civil society participation in poverty reduction strategies: success and challenges in Cambodia.

Boua Chanthou is currently the Director of the Partnership for Development in Kampuchea (PADEK), a non-governmental organization working on poverty-alleviation, specifically on issues related to capacity-building, food security, education and culture, and health, in five project areas in Cambodia. Ms. Chanthou holds a Masters degree in Multicultural Studies and a Bachelors degree in Economics, and has published and presented extensively on development issues, as well as women's rights, peace-building and national reconstruction in Cambodia. Ms. Chanthou previously served as Technical Advisor to the Secretariat of State for Women's Affairs and as Gender Officer for the Cambodian Development Resource Institute. She has also worked as a resource person for the United Nations Development Programme in the "Socio-Economic Dialogue" between Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thailand and Vietnam.

Zonke Zanele Majodia, Commissioner, South Africa Human Rights Commission

Theme: Parliamentary accountability mechanisms for poverty reduction strategy: the case of South Africa

Zonke Zanele Majodina is currently Deputy Chairperson of the South African Human Rights Commission with a specific focus on both equality rights and the rights of refugees and migrants. She is a member of many professional associations, mainly concerning forced migration, health, and child abuse, and has published and presented many papers on the effects and problems of war, violence, exile, refugees and repatriation. Ms. Majodina holds a PhD in Clinical Psychology and previously lectured and worked as a clinical psychologist in Ghana. Ms. Majodina also previously served as the Chief Director of the Office of the Public Service Commission of South Africa where she was responsible for the planning and implementation of policies on affirmative action, as well of programmes on merit and equity.
