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Send an e-mail to: wdrconf@gn.apc.org with your name and organisation. If you may have trouble downloading a long document from the web and would like to receive a hard copy of the draft report please indicate this, giving your postal address.

To order extra copies of this leaflet to pass to colleagues, distribute at conferences or include in mailings, contact either the New Policy Institute or the Bretton Woods Project:

New Policy Institute

The New Policy Institute is a progressive think tank, founded in 1996. Wholly independent, it has rapidly developed a public profile in the UK, and is now influential in a range of public policy areas including education, regulation, institutional reform, tax reform and, most notably, in the measurement and monitoring of poverty and social exclusion.

Further details about the Institute, its publications, staff and on-going work is available at www.npi.org.uk

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Bretton Woods Project

The Bretton Woods Project monitors World Bank and IMF policies and projects.

It circulates information, identifies campaigning opportunities, organises meetings with officials, and prepares briefings and a quarterly newsletter, the Bretton Woods Update. Recent reports include:

The Perestroika of Aid
New Perspectives on Conditionality
The World Bank and the State: a Recipe for Change?

The Bretton Woods Project

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on-line *debate*

DEBAT ELECTRONIQUE/DIALOGO ELECTRONICO

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inequality
North-South relations
global poverty
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inequality
global poverty
social exclusion
North-South relations
role of the World Bank
global poverty

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BRETTON WOODS PROJECT

Working to Reform the World Bank and IMF

On the electronic discussion

In September 2000 the World Bank will publish its once-in-a-decade World Development Report on poverty. During February and March 2000 there will be a global online discussion of the draft that will be fed on to the report's authors. This discussion is open to anyone, and is being run independently by the Bretton Woods Project and the New Policy Institute.

Why get involved?

The World Bank's research reports and journals are highly influential on development thinking and programmes. They achieve very wide distribution, major press coverage and are frequently cited. Of all its publications, the World Development Report (WDR) is the Bank's flagship publication, with over 150,000 copies printed and a large number distributed for free across the world. The decadal WDR on poverty guides official thinking on the issue for many years.

This is the first time that the Bank is widely circulating a draft WDR. Participating in the electronic debate will give you an important opportunity to influence this key report, which in turn is likely to influence official approaches to international development in the next decade. The conference will also give you an opportunity to share perspectives on poverty issues with people from many countries and backgrounds.

How will this e-consultation work?

In January the draft WDR will be posted on the web at

www.worldbank.org/poverty/wdrpoverty/

It will also be sent by post to those who request a hard copy. A small steering group will set questions on the text, to generate discussion on key themes. One will be posted each week between 21 February and 31 March. Weekly summaries of the discussion will also be circulated, and WDR lead author, Ravi Kanbur, will respond to the final conference summary.

Questions and summaries will be posted in English, French and Spanish, and contributions are welcome in all three languages.

Les questions et sommaires pour chaque semaine seront disponibles en français et vous pouvez aussi contribuer a la conference en français.

Todas las semanas las preguntas y los resúmenes serán traducido en español, y se puede contribuir al dialogo en español también.

The consultation will be moderated by the New Policy Institute and the Bretton Woods Project. This will ensure that circulated material is quality assured and will be relevant to each week's theme. It will be concise, and weekly updates will be available.

How can I sign up?

Send an e-mail to: wdrconf@gn.apc.org to get more information and an electronic sign-up form. Or see the BWP website: www.brettonwoodsproject.org or the NPI website: www.npi.org.uk

Comments on the World Development report

"I view WDRs as being one of the Bank's critical instruments for dialogue with the development community at large. They invariably lead to much debate and discussion on leading issues of the day. They should not just be reciting generic answers but raising fundamental questions to which there are no easy answers".

James Wolfensohn, World Bank President

"The World Bank's refocus on poverty, which has certainly been far more than a public relations exercise, treats poverty as a result of country-specific imbalances, policy errors, or political difficulties rather than of the principles and rules of the international economic order".

Jean-Philippe Thérien, 3rd World Quarterly

This year's report

Early outlines of the report suggest that it will treat poverty as multi-dimensional, arising out of complex interactions between assets, markets and institutions. Globalising trends are seen to present extraordinary opportunities for poverty reduction but also great risks including growing inequality and marginalisation.

This Report will develop three overarching themes for its recommendations on how to attack poverty: empowerment, security, and opportunity. The report will take stock of poverty trends in the 1990s, the negative impact of inequality, the role and accountability of institutions and risks and vulnerabilities at the local and national level.

Issues for debate

The WDR lead author recognises that people consulted so far have requested more attention to fertility and population, environment, gender and civil conflict issues and also highlighted 3 important debates, on:

the role of and limits to economic growth;

the need to face up to power and interests when discussing poor peoples' involvement in policy-making;

the role of international capital and international institutions.

See the September 1999 outline on:

www.worldbank.org/poverty/wdrpoverty/appr999.htm