

WORLD COMMISSION ON THE SOCIAL DIMENSION OF GLOBALIZATION

NATIONAL DIALOGUE IN INDIA

ISSUES FOR DIALOGUE

Questions for the Parallel Sessions

Globalization is a term which is used in many different ways. For purposes of this dialogue, it might be understood as the *progressive integration* of economies and societies, *driven* by the new *technologies* of information and communication; by common *policies* of liberalisation of trade and capital markets; and by *cross border systems* of enterprise and production. This process is currently evolving within a *framework* of *international agreements* covering a variety of areas, ranging from trade, finance and corporate responsibility, to human rights and sustainable development. This framework is still fragmented and lacks systemic coherence.

The **social dimension** of globalization refers to the impact of this process on the *life and work of people*, their families, and the societies in which they live. It includes questions of identity, community and values, as well as issues of employment, social protection, health and education.

The ultimate aim of the Commission is to identify areas of agreement on the *goals* of globalization, and to promote the *policies* necessary to attain them.

11.30a.m. - 1.00 p.m.

I. The common question: **WHERE ARE WE NOW ?**

Do you think the lives of the people of India have been enriched or diminished by the current process of globalization?

Comments are invited with particular reference to :

- a) **The human condition** : a) identity, community and values; b) employment, livelihoods, and social protection; c) health, education and the environment.
- b) The **values** which underpin Indian society and polity: democracy, social justice, secularism and gender equality.
- c) Who are the current **winner and losers** from globalization in our society? Do the new opportunities opened up by globalization outweigh the new insecurities and inequalities?
- d) Has our **national sovereignty** been impaired or strengthened by the process of global integration?

2.00 - 3.00 p.m.

II. *The specific questions* : **WHAT DO WE DO?**

How should the process of globalization be changed, or utilised, to benefit the lives of our people?

Comments are invited in the following specific areas:

1. Group on ***Industry, Labour, Agriculture***

a) How can ***national employment and productivity*** be promoted within the emerging global economy?

b) What are the key policy issues at i) ***sectoral***, ii) ***local*** level?

c) How can ***social dialogue*** be strengthened to help reduce social conflict ? Are current institutional and organisational structures for social dialogue in India adequate at a time of accelerated social and economic change?

2. Group on ***Government and Media***

What changes are called for in national and international policies to optimise the potential of globalization?

National Policies :

a) How should the role of the ***State*** change with respect to (i) ***markets*** and (ii) ***civil society***?

b) What should be done to identify and develop the key ***national capabilities*** necessary to optimise benefits from the global economy - (eg. policies and institutions in the areas of : human development; infrastructure; and social organisation)?

c) How can ***social protection*** be strengthened in an era of market competition?

International Policies :

a) Are the ***international "rules of the game"*** fair? How should international policies and negotiations change in the areas of ***finance, trade and development*** to bring the benefits of globalization to more countries and more people? How can these policies and negotiations be made more transparent?

b) What are the policy issues for the Indian ***media*** in an era of globalization? What needs to be done?

2. Group on *NGOs and Parliament*

- a) How can globalization bring benefit to *local communities*?
- b) How can the benefits be made more *inclusive* in terms of social groups (including religious communities and caste groups), gender, and geographical regions within the country?
- c) How can the policies and institutions of globalization be made more *democratically accountable*?
 - Should *international organizations* be subject to greater national parliamentary oversight?
 - How can new *technologies help to deepen democracy* by empowering social actors and promoting social organisation?
 - How can *political parties* and *Parliament better interact with civil society* and community organisations? How can "*representation*" be reconciled with "*voice*"?

3. Group on *Education, Culture and the Arts*

- a) What is a *realizable vision* in a global economy of a *decent life* for people?
- b) What *educational opportunities and systems* are required for people to benefit from increasing global integration?
- c) Can globalization promote *cultural diversity* on the basis of *shared values*?
- d) Is a *cosmopolitan identity* consistent with *national self worth*? How can they be made compatible?
- e) Can India *contribute to or influence the global identity* and, if so, how?
