



Declaration of Intent
and Code of Conduct

Declaración de Intenciones
y Código de Conducta

Déclaration d'Intentions
et Code de Conduite

Dichiarazione d'Intenti
e Codice di Condotta

C I S P

COMITATO INTERNAZIONALE PER LO
SVILUPPO DEI POPOLI



Declaration of Intents

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International cooperation is a means of boosting human and material resources that already exist in the beneficiary countries. Therefore, instead of merely transferring resources from wealthy to poor countries, it tends to foster local development processes.

Cooperation must therefore be based on the enhancement of existing potential in the countries of southern areas of the world, with a special focus on human resources, institutions and local associations, as they represent the key elements to ensure the programme sustainability. For this reason, they must be strongly backed and supported.

Generally, cooperation programmes and projects have a double value for CISP. Firstly, they tend to meet basic needs and to solve concrete problems. Secondly, they are designed as tools for identifying, testing and consolidating geographic and/or sectoral policies.

Obviously, these aspects are mutually interdependent. In fact, the ability of a project to suggest or enhance a particular policy depends also on its impact, its effectiveness and on the credibility of the subjects implementing it.

Three concrete examples are here given:

a) the definition of general criteria for cooperation in the former Yugoslavia to support the peace-making process and the reconstruction of the social structure shattered by the war. Such criteria have been defined with the aim of giving an active role to the weakest groups of the population in the reconstruction phase;

b) the drafting of guide-lines for the implementation of health care technology projects and clinical engineering projects. In this case guide-lines have been drafted to facilitate planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the related activities, taking into account the specific features of the different contexts in which the projects were executed;

c) the definition of a formal set of specific guide-lines for the fishing and small-scale aquaculture sector. Such guide-lines have been drafted with the essential contribution of technicians, experts and representatives of the grassroots associations from a number of developing countries.

In order to improve the links between policies and

projects, CISP also promotes and participates in working and coordinating groups provided with a differentiated range of institutional competence and professional skills. In this framework, meetings with international institutions and agencies from the Northern and the Southern hemispheres of the world are called with the aim of defining country policies able to insert projects into wider, long-term strategies addressing the historical, political, social, cultural and economic problems of the areas concerned.

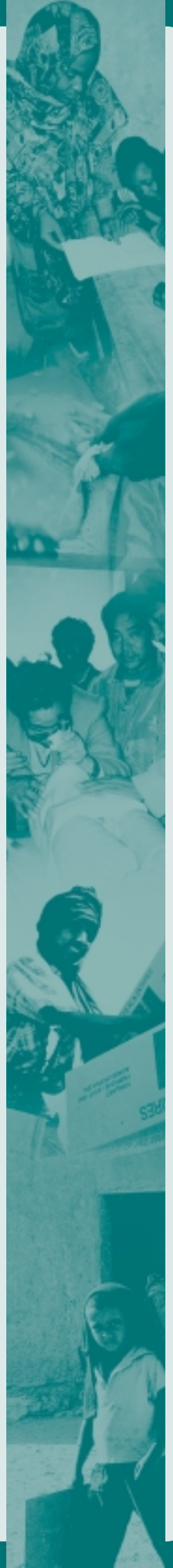
Moreover, CISP's sphere of action has taken place in a context which in recent years has been characterized by a sequence of United Nations international conferences, which have defined the fundamental principles for future work of the governments and, at the same time, have laid down the expectations and the working agenda of NGOs and grassroots associations.


Accordingly, governments have pledged to implement specific measures to fight poverty and social exclusion; to guarantee the right to food for all and food production; to promote employment and to guarantee respect for human and citizenship rights against any form of discrimination based on sex, race or disabilities. In other words, they have pledged to promote sustainable social development.

Many aspects of these issues have an international dimension and therefore require global and inter-agency intervention strategies if they are to be translated into effective actions at regional, national and local levels. This means that international cooperation must play an even more decisive role in promoting programmes and policies that take into account the rights to peace, development and democracy of all people throughout the world. International cooperation must also pursue the objective of more balanced and fairer relationships between rich and poor countries.

In this context, NGOs from both Southern and Northern areas of the world are called to pursue sound lobbying and advocacy actions in order to ensure that social development remain at the top of the international cooperation agenda, while encouraging the participation and involvement of local communities in development activities and projects.

Furthermore, CISP believes it necessary to adopt certain important overarching commitments. Particular attention is given to the issue of gender and environmental sustainability, not only on the grounds of both ethical and political reasons, but also for practical considerations related to the effectiveness of its programmes.





The general statements mentioned above define the main strategic, methodological and operational parameters that guide CISP's work. They are part of a set of ideas and principles shared with other international solidarity and cooperation associations.

■ **Basic rights: food security, fight against poverty and exclusion, proper use of natural resources**

Poverty, unemployment and exclusion of the poorest countries from world markets clearly show the existence of a "worldwide social issue", which also affects rich countries. This is why CISP focuses all its work in third countries on the identification and implementation of programmes and policies aimed at fighting poverty by supporting local economies and promoting food security.

This commitment is not separate from its work in Europe. Indeed, it must be made clear everywhere that solidarity is not a luxury. The struggle for food security in Africa, for example, in no way contradicts the improvement and upgrading of services in Europe's blighted suburbs, where thousands of citizens, both immigrants and nationals, live in unacceptable conditions of poverty and deprivation.

Access to the necessary quantity and quality of food to assure a balanced diet, while simultaneously respecting cultural and religious identity, is an unalienable human right as well as a priority goal to be attained through appropriate programmes and policies. Therefore, some priority criteria must be adopted, including: the enhancement of expertise and know-how in rural communities; the proper use of natural resources with emphasis on future needs; the promotion of the role of associations of farmers, small-scale fishermen, breeders and small producers in general; the enhancement of the role of women and women's associations; the strengthening of local institutions; the development of rural markets and the reorientation of agricultural research to the benefit of small-scale producers.

Increasing and diversifying food production is a necessary but insufficient requirement to achieve food security. In many countries, because of their inadequate purchasing power, the poorest sectors of the population have no access to food, even when available on local markets. Food security is therefore closely linked to fighting poverty and, at the same time, to the creation of job opportunities and the conditions necessary for social and economic emancipation. For this reason, access to the resources required to initiate and consolidate

income-generating activities must be facilitated. This can be done through micro-credit programmes for members of the population that, unable to offer adequate financial guarantees, have no access to existing service facilities.

It is also essential to reaffirm the priorities for: rapid early-warning systems in order to prevent food crises; applied research aimed at developing more efficient and long-lasting technologies and productive systems; adoption of measures that can guarantee the proper and safe management of natural resources (with particular reference to the most fragile ecosystems and those which ensure also the conservation of biodiversity); and implementation of land policies that meet the needs of small producers. Finally, the right to food security must be a binding element in every political or commercial agreement related to food production and distribution.

The issues mentioned above characterize programmes for the development of agriculture and livestock, fisheries and small-scale aquaculture, and other income-generating activities. These programmes always include vocational training, the diffusion of micro-credit facilities, the promotion of regional cooperation and the organizational strengthening of associations devoted to small-scale production. The approach outlined above is also applicable to programmes aimed at defending, rehabilitating and managing natural resources in areas where the ecosystems are threatened by uncontrolled exploitation. In these cases, programmes include reforestation and anti-erosion activities, environmentally compatible management of watersheds and coastal resources, restitution of land to indigenous communities, etc.

■ **Other fundamental rights of individuals and local communities: education, vocational training, health care, and healthy environment**

Education, vocational training, health care and a clean environment are other fundamental rights, which must be affirmed, extended and made effective.

In poor countries, illiteracy affects millions of people, primarily women. It is both the cause and the effect of a more general state of socio-political marginalization and poverty which often leads to exploitation, sometimes even to slavery. Illiteracy is an obstacle even to the development of whole areas of the planet.

This is why CISP is committed to affirming the right to education through the implementation of projects which focus on it. CISP is firmly engaged in lobbying governments and international

organizations to prevent them from progressively marginalising basic education, vocational and technical training and literacy plans when they draft financial recovery programmes that should not infringe upon the fundamental rights of the individual.

Local technicians and professionals represent necessary resources for development. Their training and education should not be based on a simple transfer of models arising from industrialized countries, but rather on training programmes that meet local needs and conditions. Cooperation must also help to strengthen regional and international inter-action between research centres and training institutions in the South with other institutional authorities responsible for the design, planning and implementation of development policy.

In the countries of the North, however, certain factors such as economic and employment crises, the reform of the Welfare State, the dramatic growth of immigration, the increase of individualism and the defence of private wealth are leading to a reassessment of the tools necessary to disseminate a culture of democratic participation, integration between people, cooperation and solidarity.

Therefore, programmes and activities conducted in Europe are part of a cultural policy which searches to re-balance relationships between rich and poor countries and to remove the processes giving rise to intolerance, racism and indifference. In this framework, the active involvement of teachers, students, young people and public opinion in general is very useful. For example, CISP has, for years, been running programmes specifically tailored for teachers on interdependency, responsible consumption and environmental protection, thus helping educators to include such issues in educational programmes as well as to produce informational materials and tools to share with their students.

CISP's commitment to the right to health is reflected in its projects and in the definition of criteria and priorities to make this right a reality, in both urban and rural areas and in countries shattered by war or by emergencies, as well as in other countries.

The famous motto "Health for all by the year 2000" that has guided programmes and projects over the past few decades, is still dramatically far from reality and from any foreseeable future. Indeed, there wasn't health for all by the end of the century and indicators are worsening, epidemics have become more widespread and the quality and quantity of health services are declining virtually everywhere in the world.

Foreign debt, combined with recovery policies which ignore people's priority needs, are causing a gradual reduction in funding for public health. Encouraging a review of current sectoral policy trends or simply emphasising the role of health care as a means of fighting poverty might be an attempt for regaining lost ground.

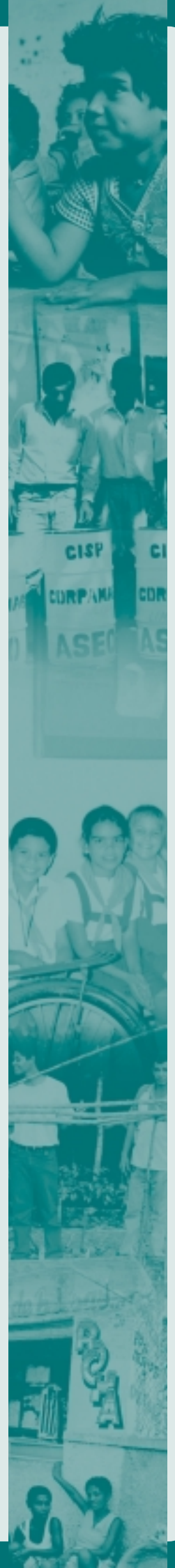
CISP intends to uphold local development processes with projects that guarantee the right to health and to a healthy life in a wholesome environment, with particular attention paid to the most deprived sectors of the population. It aims to contribute to the creation of territorial and integrated health care systems which can meet populations' health demand.


Key points in this strategy are the following: improvement of health care services and their cost-effective management; better use of human, economic and material resources; enhancing information systems for local health care planning; identification and testing of viable alternatives for financing health care systems (for example, the creation of local funds for health care; the recovery of traditional medicine; the spreading of cheap and appropriate technologies and therapies; or the creation of units for the appropriate maintenance of health care equipment). Other components of CISP's health care strategy are: enhancement of community participation, support of scientific research as well as emergency health care and prevention systems; promotion of public health programmes (mother-and-child health, fight against transmissible diseases, disease prevention and health education), welfare and mental health programmes for the most vulnerable and risk-prone sectors of the population.

CISP has also implemented environmental protection and rehabilitation programmes, promoting sustainable systems for waste treatment and disposal, particularly in marginal urban areas where the lack of such systems encourages the spreading of epidemics and diseases. CISP is also engaged in the improvement of water supply systems (wells, water distribution and related maintenance systems) where the lack and/or poor quality of water seriously threatens the population's health.

Support to peace-making processes and to the alleviation of complex emergencies

In various parts of the world today the lives of millions of people are threatened by wars among states or between different groups fighting within one country. In some cases, the social, economic





and institutional structures have completely disintegrated as a result of violent, destructive and prolonged conflicts, with often dramatic effects in terms of food security. This is then another reason why advocacy in every available context is necessary to ensure that adequate preventive systems be promoted.

The causes of these conflicts are many and diverse, depending on the local context. Nonetheless their effects and features have some common aspects. Behind religious, ethnic or nationalistic motivations, there are often precise interests linked to political and economic power groups. The role of intellectuals and democrats is nullified, while local warlords, who are often simple war criminals, take a leading position and become, at times, the privileged interlocutors of international diplomacy. Civilians are more and more often the main target of war, while atrocities of all kinds are inflicted upon them. War economies become real "oases" for speculators, both local and foreign, who exploit and profit from the general impoverishment of the population by looting, extortion and the black market. Several social groups pay the highest price for this: the poor become even more marginalized and lose any form of social protection. Women, in addition to other forms of violence, experience in many cases the repugnant violence against their bodies. Children, before and to a greater extent than others, endure the consequences of food shortage.

In the immediate aftermath of war, when it is easy to manipulate nationalistic feelings, there is the very high risk that power be seized by anti-democratic governments run by people responsible for human rights violations and war crimes. After any war, it is the civilian population that pays the highest price: mines spread throughout the territory continue to kill; the return to normality often coincides with the exclusion of the most affected sectors of the population from the economic and social recovery. Moreover, once the emergency is over, social and health care services recover very slowly, as they are less financially sustainable and are often politically "unprofitable".

CISP views humanitarian efforts to overcome complex emergencies primarily as a means of upholding peace-making processes, protecting the rights of the weakest individuals and empowering associations, groups and individuals whose interests are opposed to the rationale of war and violence. These efforts, if based upon the strengthening of local resources, can build a bridge towards future rehabilitation plans and the reconstruction of social, economic and institutional structures. Seeking immediate solutions to the

needs of the weakest sector of the population must go along with long-term and wide-range strategies. This is the reason behind projects aimed at the reinsertion of refugees and displaced peoples into their former lands and those geared towards permanent resettlement in new areas, aided by income-generating activities and the support of small-scale crop and livestock production.

In addition to humanitarian intervention, constant pressure must be exerted on the international community, and on the United Nations in particular, so that they can act as an effective means of prevention and conflict control. In fact, too often have those organizations accepted tacitly situations created by aggression and repression.

It is within this framework that CISP supports the work of War Crimes Tribunals in those countries that have undergone and are still undergoing the systematic violation of human rights as well as advocating full entry into force of the International Criminal Court. Affirming the rule of international law and its power to impose penalties means protecting the weakest and most vulnerable individuals against whom violence and repression are often unleashed with particular fury.

Lastly, there is a dynamic international movement that has struggled to outlaw the arm trade, denouncing its proliferation in the countries of the South and, more specifically, in the crisis-stricken areas of the world. This movement must be backed, as affirming the right to development and combating arm trafficking are inseparable and must be soundly reasserted in all contexts.

The role of international cooperation

In recent years, the credibility of international cooperation has been jeopardized due to serious acts of corruption that have robbed the "poor of the poor countries" of the resources which had been allocated to them, mainly to benefit the "wealthy in the wealthy countries", but, in some cases, also the "wealthy in the poor countries".

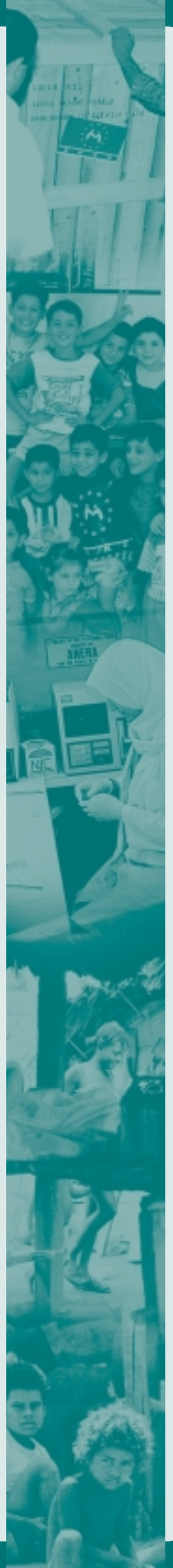
Apart from these scandals, too many resources have been allocated in the past to disproportionate cooperation programmes, bringing little benefit to local populations. On some occasions, they have even created more problems than those they solved. Incompetence, superficiality and the inadequate involvement of local populations and institutions partly explain such failures. In some cases, cooperation programmes have been designed with more attention given to those responsible for their implementation than to those supposed to be their beneficiaries.

We are asking the citizens of Europe to give financial and moral support to cooperation with poor countries. Such support finds not only an ethical basis, as development is a universal human right, but also a political and economic basis, given that the standard of living in industrialized countries will necessarily be affected by the growing poverty and despair of more than two-thirds of the world's population.

At the same time, we insist that those citizens have the right to know and also criticize the results they are helping to bring about. We are also fully aware that our effort is just a drop in the ocean considering the huge dimensions of poverty and underdevelopment. Nonetheless, we proudly highlight that international cooperation, if practised with high standards of professionalism and transparency, can solve concrete problems and improve the quality of life for millions of people. On these grounds, CISP is convinced of the

importance of evaluation as a crucial phase of all projects, programmes and policies. Evaluation must become a political and institutional obligation for the actors involved in international cooperation at all levels. They must be accountable to the public, in the North as well in the South, for the results and benefits of the projects implemented.

Lastly, efforts must be made to encourage more transparent and democratic methods on the part of international organizations, particularly the World Bank and the IMF. They must create permanent channels of consultation and dialogue on their policies with the representative organizations and associations of poor countries. In this way, economic recovery programmes can take into consideration and act on the expectations and priority needs of populations, and particularly those from the weakest sectors.





Code of Conduct for Cooperation Programmes

Final version 07.04.1997 – Reviewed 23.09.2001

CISP applies a Code of Conduct consistent with its strategic and methodological guide-lines when formulating and implementing its humanitarian, rehabilitation or development cooperation projects. The Code of Conduct enhances the work of the managerial staff and of all those who, in Italy and abroad, identify, implement and monitor the projects.

1. Projects must be designed to meet the real needs of the people and be defined in accordance with the economic, social, and cultural characteristics of the different contexts. This means always ensuring that projects are implemented in respect of local cultures.

2. Cooperation intends to enhance local technical, professional and material resources. This means, for example, that the functions assigned to expatriate personnel must not mortify or marginalize the role and contributions of local personnel, which, on the contrary, must be promoted and supported. Within this context, the promotion of South-South regional cooperation actions is crucial.

3. Activities undertaken in third countries tend to strengthen, improve and, if necessary, modify national development plans, that, in any case, must be taken into account when cooperation activities are planned. As a matter of fact, cooperation cannot substitute or replace the role of local planning authorities and agencies. On the contrary, only by acting in total respect for the role of these authorities and by a continuous dialogue with them, cooperation can have the authority and the status required to negotiate, whenever necessary, the introduction of corrective measures into local policies and plans.

4. In order to guarantee a high effectiveness of the projects implemented, attention must be paid to their identification, planning, monitoring and evaluation. Beneficiaries must be involved in the different phases of such activities and be informed on their results.

5. Professionalism is a fundamental ethical principle which characterizes the relationship existing between CISP, the countries and the communities with which it works. It is also a precondition for the establishment of sound and effective relationships based on mutual respect and cooperation.

6. Always in respect of the principle of non-interference in the political and religious life of third countries, CISP considers it appropriate the promotion of the role played by institutions and organizations, which actually contribute to development and democratization processes, also through the implementation of specific and operational collaborations. In this regard, CISP gives particular importance to the enhancement of the role of the associations of women, small producers and other marginal individuals and groups (refugees, indigenous communities, ethnic minorities, etc.).

7. In order to guarantee transparency, governments, partners and local communities must all be fully informed on funding sources that make it possible the implementation of projects.

8. Projects must be managed in order to ensure economic, social and institutional sustainability and guarantee long-term benefits. At the same time, financial resources must be used appropriately in order to guarantee the achievement of benefits for local populations.

9. Coordination between international cooperation agencies and organizations and the institutions in the recipient countries is an important means of ensuring greater effectiveness to the work and the policies implemented. At this regard, CISP is willing at all times to disseminate information on its activities.

10. With regard to humanitarian activities aimed at overcoming complex emergency situations, CISP acts in accordance with the Code of Conduct elaborated by the International Committee of the Red Cross which affirms, among others, the following principles: the universal right to humanitarian assistance without any restriction due to ideology, religion, race, sex or other considerations; the political and operational independence while implementing relief actions in order to avoid any possible support of one of the opposing factions, especially in situations of conflict; respect for the rights of the individual, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Declaración de Intenciones

Versión final 07.04.1997

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La cooperación internacional es un agente catalizador de los recursos humanos y materiales existentes en los países beneficiarios, orientado a la activación de procesos locales de desarrollo y no una simple transferencia de recursos de los países ricos a los países pobres.

La cooperación debe por lo tanto estar basada en la valorización de las potencialidades existentes en los países del Sur, empezando por los recursos humanos, instituciones y asociaciones locales que constituyen el factor más significativo para lograr la sostenibilidad de sus acciones y que por eso deben ser fortalecidas y apoyadas.

En general, para el CISP los proyectos y los programas de cooperación cumplen una doble función. Por un lado, están orientados a satisfacer algunas necesidades prioritarias y a la solución de problemas concretos. Por el otro, son concebidos como instrumentos para la identificación, experimentación o consolidación de políticas geográficas y/o sectoriales (*políticas*).

Evidentemente estas dos funciones son interdependientes, porque la posibilidad de que un proyecto inspire o refuerce una orientación de *policy* depende tanto del impacto como de la eficacia y de la credibilidad de las entidades que lo realizan.

Al respecto, se evidencian a continuación tres ejemplos concretos:

a) la definición de criterios generales para la cooperación en la ex-Yugoslavia (en apoyo a los procesos de pacificación y de recomposición de un tejido social desintegrado por la guerra, para que en la fase de reconstrucción, se fomente la participación activa de los grupos más débiles);

b) la elaboración de líneas directrices para la realización de proyectos en el sector de la ingeniería clínica y de la tecnología sanitaria (para planificar, realizar, monitorear y evaluar las actividades, teniendo en cuenta la especificidad propia de los contextos operativos en los cuales se realizan);

c) la formalización de las orientaciones de *policy* para el sector de la pesca y de la acuicultura en pequeña escala (con la colaboración determinante de técnicos, promotores y representantes de asociaciones populares de varios países en vía de desarrollo).

Con el fin de integrar los proyectos con las *políticas*, el CISP participa y/o promueve mesas de trabajo y coordinaciones caracterizadas por distintas competencias institucionales y profesionales. En este marco, se promueve el diálogo y la elaboración conjunta con instituciones y organismos internacionales, del Norte y del Sur, para la identificación de *políticas-país* que enmarquen los proyectos en estrategias de largo plazo (programas) coherentes con los problemas y las características histórico-políticas, sociales, culturales y económicas de las diferentes áreas.

La acción del CISP se ubica además en un contexto que en los últimos años se ha caracterizado por una agenda de conferencias internacionales de las Naciones Unidas que han definido, por una parte, los principios fundamentales de las acciones futuras de los gobiernos y, por otro lado, las expectativas y las agendas de trabajo de las ONGs y de las asociaciones de base.

En este contexto, los gobiernos se han comprometido a tomar medidas concretas para luchar contra la pobreza y la exclusión social, para garantizar el derecho a la alimentación y a la producción de comida, para promover el empleo y garantizar el respeto de los derechos humanos y de ciudadanía contra cualquier forma de discriminación debida al sexo, a la raza, a la incapacidad física y mental; en general, para promover un desarrollo social sostenible.

Teniendo en cuenta que muchos aspectos de estos temas tienen una dimensión internacional y requieren estrategias de acción global e interinstitucional para que se puedan traducir en acciones eficaces a nivel local, regional y nacional; la cooperación internacional debería desarrollar un papel aún más efectivo en la promoción de programas y políticas que tengan en cuenta tanto el derecho de todos los pueblos a la paz, al desarrollo, a la democracia, como la necesidad de equilibrio y justicia en la relaciones entre países ricos y países pobres.

Al respecto, las ONGs del Sur y del Norte están llamadas, por una parte, a presionar para poner el desarrollo social entre las prioridades de la agenda de la cooperación internacional y, por otra parte, a promover la participación y el compromiso de las comunidades locales en la realización de las actividades respectivas.

En la realización de las actividades de cooperación, el CISP considera necesario utilizar algunos criterios fundamentales, con especial referencia al enfoque de género y a la sostenibilidad ambiental. Ya sea por motivaciones de tipo ético y político, como por consideraciones





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