



## **No development is possible without adhering to human rights!**

The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation (GFMEC) has stressed for several years that realization and adherence to basic human rights must savour the highest priority for development cooperation – as without such conditions effective development is impossible.

Source German Ministry for Development and Economic Cooperation,  
<http://www.bmz.de/de/presse/aktuellemeldungen/2008/maerz/20080311/menschenrechte/index.html> (press current news for human rights)

### **No development without human rights**

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“Without human rights there is no effective development and no active poverty reduction”. The Federal Minister, Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul reminded us at the presentation of the new development political plan of action for human rights 2008 to 2010 on 10.03.2008 in Berlin. “The realization and adherence of civil and political, economic, social and cultural human rights are decisive constituents of our development work – with the highest priority, according to Wieczorek-Zeul.

By up-dating the plan of action for 2008 to 2010 Germany ties in with the first development political plan of action 2004 to 2007 and the, thereby, incurred negotiated agreement for systematic anchoring of human rights approach in German development politics.

Germany took on the role of an international precursor through the realization of the plan of action and made effective its impact on the implementation of human rights standards and principles in world wide cooperation work.

“It is imperative how human rights are implemented. Therefore, the new human rights plan of action with its totally concrete measures is not patient paperwork but, however, plays a role for human rights to be promoted and encouraged in developing countries,” Wieczorek-Zeul emphasized. Germany will continue to campaign for the advantages of human rights in the future, for them to be put to use in even more countries and areas. As a whole, the new plan of action consists of 24 issues. Key aspects are, amongst others, the right to nourishment and health, a better control of transnational affiliated groups and the protection of human rights defence.

The plan of action for human rights meets a distinctly positive echo with human rights organizations. Representatives of the Human Rights Forum, Misereor Episcopal Relief Organization and the pastoral work greeted the plan of action at a mutual press conference with the Development Minister. Already during the composition of the plan a constructive dialogue, with non-governmental organizations, was focused on.

The connection between development politics and human rights has become more internationally important over the past years. The introduced systematical justification of development politics for human rights will be continued and deepened with the second plan of action.