

## The global financial crisis on the agenda at the 7th Forum of Ministers of Social Development for Latin America and the Caribbean.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Forum of Ministers of Social Development for Latin America and the Caribbean, that was originally due to take place in Caracas (**Venezuela**) at the end of March, will be held in the second-half of May, because of the recent reshuffle of the Venezuelan government.

This Forum, the first area for dialogue created by UNESCO's Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme to encourage links between research and social policies, will deal with "The impact of the global financial crisis on social policies in Latin America". It will discuss, not only the challenges caused by this crisis, but, above all, the choices it forces upon all the countries of the region.

Among the participants expected to take part in this forum are: at least 15 Ministers of the region; Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez; the President of the MOST Intergovernmental Council, the current **South-African** Minister for Social Development, Zola S. Skweyiya; the Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, Pierre Sané; the current President of the Forum of Ministers of Social Development for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Minister for Social Development of **Argentina**, Alicia Kirchner; as well as representatives from the Latin-American Council of Social Sciences (CLACSO), the Latin-American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO) and various "*Consejos comunales*", community organizations formed by local citizens in **Venezuela**.

Together, they will discuss the consequences of the financial crash on education, job creation, food and nutritional safety, family protection, equality between men and women, and, more generally, on all the social rights of the people of that region.

During this meeting, policy-makers, researchers, and civil society actors will share their experiences and mutual practices in order to, notably, develop proposals to strengthen regional cooperation and the contribution of regional social science research institutes in the development of public development policies.

After these debates, the Ministers will elect a new President of the Forum to replace Alicia Kirchner, the Minister for Social Development of **Argentina**, and will adopt a common Declaration to record their decisions and proposals.

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