

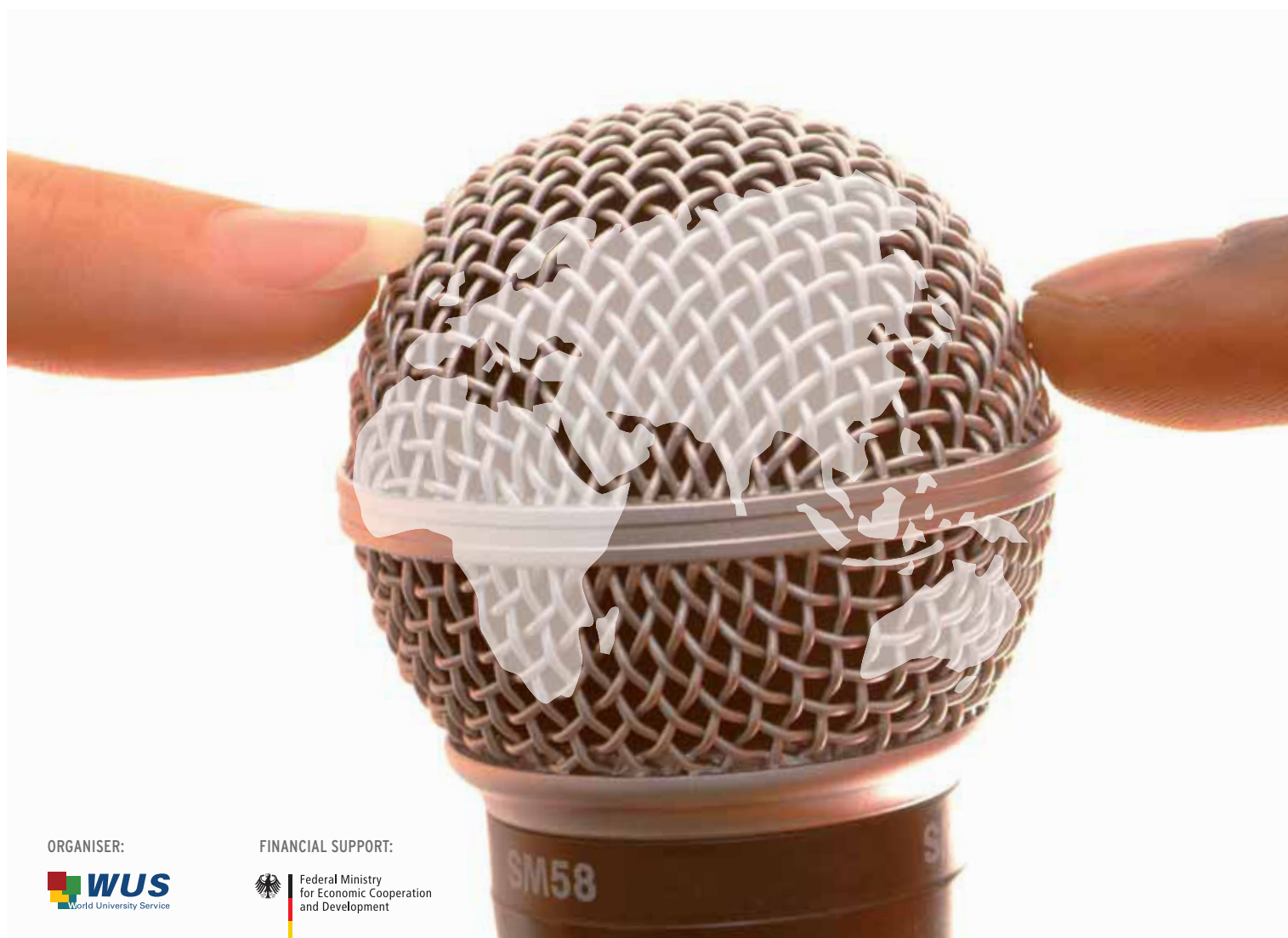
GLOBAL LEARNING, WELTWÄRTS AND BEYOND

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON EDUCATION
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
CONFERENCE REPORT AND COLLECTION OF ESSAYS

International NGO Conference leading up to the UN 2009
World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development

Gustav-Stresemann-Institute
Langer Grabenweg 68, Bonn

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PREFACE



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Global Learning enables people in the North and South to participate in the self-determined creation of a sustainable world society. Volunteer services can play a crucial role in this respect - if they are embedded in the structures of Education for Sustainable Development. In this context, civil society has a major role to play.

Leading up to the "UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development", the NGO Congress "Global Learning, weltwärts and beyond" let the voice of civil society from all over the world be heard. Approximately 175 representatives from civil societies, coming from 51 countries, were holding discussions on the progress made and challenges faced in the field of 'Education for Sustainable Development': what have been the achievements of the UN Decade for Sustainable Education in the last five years? What input have development voluntary services like 'weltwärts' made towards promoting Global Learning?

Recommendations from the congress were incorporated in a Bonn NGO Declaration and introduced at the UNESCO Half-Time-Conference. The participants exchanged experiences and discussed lively - as documented in this report - in the spirit of sustainability.

GREETINGS



HEIDEMARIE
WICZOREK-ZEUL
GERMAN FEDERAL MINISTER
FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT

As the 21st century gets underway, the world is faced with huge challenges that can only be mastered through joint international efforts. Simultaneously, new crises are threatening to make people's living conditions, particularly those of people in the developing countries, worse.

Education for Sustainable Development is very important in this connection: it equips people with the skills they need in order to act responsibly in a complex global society. This is where the BMZ's new 'weltwärts' programme comes in: by encouraging young people to serve as development volunteers, it is making an effective contribution to development education with a view on Global Learning.

I, therefore, welcome VENRO's initiative in organising an international NGO conference leading up to the "UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development".

Civil society is a key partner when it comes to implementing the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, and NGOs are responsible for the realisation and implementation of the 'weltwärts' programme. We are depending on civil society - not just for the implementation of the UN Decade - and on constructive and close cooperation with the NGOs.

Regards,

IMPRINT

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