



# Geneva Social Observatory Activity Report

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First Quarter  
March 2009

## Mission

The Geneva Social Observatory (GSO) was established in Geneva, Switzerland in 2004 as a non-profit association. The aim of the GSO is to provide a neutral setting for dialogue on pressing social issues, such as HIV/AIDS and social responsibility, diabetes and social responsibility, and corporate social responsibility and trade. In order to have substantive discussions on these issues, the GSO believes that multiple points of view should be consulted, which is why representatives from the private sector, non-governmental organizations, trade unions, academia, governments and international intergovernmental organizations are invited to take part in the GSO meetings and events.

## Activity Report

This activity report is developed on a quarterly basis for the Friends of the GSO, who support the Observatory through donations, sponsorship of specific projects, in-kind support, and/or participation in GSO events.

Dear Friends of the GSO,

Following the success of the Forum to Adopt and Implement a Workplace Strategy on Diabetes and Wellness in Geneva on 25 September 2008, we at the GSO have busy with plans to adapt and implement the Workplace Strategy in the field, initially in Poland, Turkey and in Russia. This represents a new stage in the life of the GSO as we move from Geneva-based multistakeholder dialogues to work with partners in the different countries to put the recommendations developed over the last two years on diabetes and wellness into practice in the workplace.

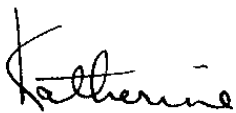
We are grateful to Merck / MSD Europe for their support in making this stage of the GSO Programme on Diabetes and Social Responsibility happen and to consultant Dr. David Gold, an expert on workplace health promotion and psychosocial issues at work and former Senior Specialist on psychosocial issues at the ILO's SafeWork office. We are also most appreciative of the partnerships that we are forging with institutions in the three countries.

Plans are also underway to adapt and implement the Strategy in other countries and regions. We have translated the Strategy into Spanish and the ILO is helping to distribute it to their staff networks in Latin America.

In this report we also want to record our appreciation for the tremendous support given by GSO President Martin Watson during the last three years. Martin has announced his decision to move to a new job in Brussels, and as a result he will stand down as President at the annual General Assembly in May. He will however continue to serve as a member of the Committee. Our thanks also go to GSO intern Philip Haddad visiting scholar from Kent State University for all of his help this quarter.

We encourage you to continue and to expand your support for GSO as we build our current projects and initiate new and more initiatives in coming years. For more information on how to contribute, please visit the "Support GSO" page on our website at [www.gsgogeneva.ch](http://www.gsgogeneva.ch) or write to me at [contact@gsogeneva.ch](mailto:contact@gsogeneva.ch).

Thank you,



Katherine Hagen  
Executive Director, Geneva Social Observatory

## Diabetes and Social Responsibility

### Programme update

Phase Three of the GSO Diabetes and Responsibility Programme is focused on implementing the Workplace Strategy on Diabetes and Wellness. This Phase has gotten off to a good start in 2009 with events set to take place in Poland, Turkey and the Russian Federation in the second half of the year. Solicitations for additional funding to take the diabetes and wellness project further with the development of pilot projects are being made to foundations and to businesses. Additional projects are being considered by the GSO Management Committee for Senegal and Mauritius, and also possibly India, Mexico, Brazil and Chile. The GSO Workplace Strategy and short proposal documents have been translated into Spanish to share initially with the ILO SafeWork programme, with the understanding that they will send them out to their networks in Latin America.

Documents related to the Programme can be found on the GSO website, [www.gsogeneva.ch](http://www.gsogeneva.ch). If you are interested in obtaining further information please send us a request by email at [contact@gsogeneva.ch](mailto:contact@gsogeneva.ch).

### Under consideration

At its meeting on 20 February the GSO Management Committee members discussed the relationship between stimulus packages and green jobs and how to make sure that they connect to the international financial institutions. GSO staff will continue to monitor and report on developments at the ILO, WTO and elsewhere on this relationship. Also of interest to the GSO are the evolving climate change and water scarcity debates.

For more information about GSO projects and how to participate, or to contribute either financially and/or in-kind, please write to [contact@gsogeneva.ch](mailto:contact@gsogeneva.ch) or call the GSO Secretariat at +41 22 734 9601.



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