Memo to Recharter a Section

To: International Studies Association
   Governing Council

From: Michael Niemann
       Chair, Global Development Section

Date: January 10, 2006

Re: Rechartering the Global Development Section

In compliance with Article IV, Section 1(b) of the International Studies Association Constitution regarding the rechartering of ISA sections, I hereby request that the Global Development Section be rechartered by the ISA Governing Council for the period 2001-2005.

In support of this request, attached are:

1. The current annual report of Section activities
2. Analysis of Section membership
3. Analysis of the financial base of the Section
4. Copy of the Section’s charter
5. List of Section leadership with terms of office
1. Annual Report of Section Activities

The year 2000 began with a strong showing for the GD section at the Los Angeles conference. The section sponsored and co-sponsored 26 panels and roundtables. Of particular importance was the Distinguished Scholar panel which honored the contributions of George Shepherd, a premier Africanist in the field whose contributions ranged from the founding of the oldest continuously published US journal dealing with Africa, *Africa Today*, to bridging the gap between theory and practice in his work related to the democratization of African politics. The celebratory reception, co-sponsored by the journal Third World Quarterly provided the appropriate conclusion to this event.

At the business meeting, the members present elected Matt Davies, Penn State – Erie as the new Vice-Chair of the section to follow Michael Niemann, Trinity College, who became section chair. Jennifer Clapp, Trent University, graciously agreed to fulfill the role of Secretary/Newsletter editor for an additional year. In addition, the members present agreed to extend the term of the section chair to two years starting with the year 2001. An ad hoc committee was also formed to select the distinguished scholar for the 2001 conference in Chicago.

Since the Los Angeles conference the main activity of the section has centered around the creation of the program for the 2001 conference in Chicago. Paper and panel submissions for the 2001 Chicago Conference were at an all time high. The draft proposal submitted by the chair contained 52 panels including those co-sponsored with other sections. In the preliminary conference program this number was reduced to 39 panels in part due to limitations of the size of the total conference and the number of presenters who ran afoul the multiple appearance rule. Still this is the largest number in the history of the section and an indication of the active and diverse membership the section enjoys.

The section’s annual newsletter was published in December 2000 recounting the programming activities to date as well as listing publications of section members and job adverts.

Financially speaking, the year was characterized by prudent financial management. The section began the year with a balance of $2398.77 and, by 30 November, maintained a balance of $2461.48. The only expenditures were related to the distinguished scholar panel and the associated reception and amounted to 2713.29. Income consisted of $1857 from the *Third World Quarterly*, our reception co-sponsor, and income from member fees amounting to $937.
2. Analysis of Section Membership

The GDS has experienced strong membership growth since its inception. Current membership stands at approximately 205 members (as of April 26, 2000). True to its interdisciplinary objectives, the GDS has attracted members from a variety of academic disciplines. Currently, members hail from the USA, Canada and 26 countries around the world. While there is still a predominance of representation from the Global North, we have seen an increase of members from the Global South. In terms of institutional background, GDS membership ranges from large research universities (both public and private) to small liberal arts colleges, as well as, practitioners with both public and private organizations engaged in development issues.

In short, the section is healthy in terms of membership which reflects its mission of bringing together a variety of voices engaged in the complex questions of development.
3. Analysis of the financial base of the Section

As of September 20, 2000, the GDS budget balance stands at $2294.48. Our primary source of income is the section dues paid by members when they pay their ISA membership. In addition we have regularly received funds from Taylor & Francis, the publishers of Third World Quarterly, in support of our annual reception at the ISA conventions. As a result, the balance in the GDS account has been fairly stable over the past years.

The two largest expenditures are our annual reception and our annual Distinguished Scholar Panel. As outlined above, the former is covered mostly through the contributions of Taylor & Francis so that the one recurring expenditure item are the costs related to the Distinguished Scholar Panel. As we reach out to bring scholars from the Global South, we can expect larger cost due to higher ticket prices, but we expect to cover these cost through co-sponsorships and/or the use of ISA travel support monies.
4. Charter of ISA Section on “Global Development” as agreed upon on Saturday, February 25, 1995 in the Joliet Room at the Chicago Hilton and amended on Thursday, March 18, 2000 in Los Angeles

Article 1: Name This Section shall be known as the Global Development Section of the International Studies Association (GD/ISA)

Article 2: Purposes The aim of GD/ISA is to advance analysis of and debate about the political economy of international development theory, politics, policy & planning, criterion & evaluation, especially between the scholarly and policy communities in both South & North. In particular, it will seek to advance in and through ISA awareness of issues in and participation by analysts from the South via continuing, mutual communication & research links among faculty, students, practitioners & others in civil society concerned with sustainable development;

Article 3: Networks GD/ISA will encourage cooperative relations with a range of institutions which share its interests, such as other Sections within ISA (especially Environmental Studies, Feminist Theory, International Ethics, International Organization, IPE & Peace Studies) and with like-minded professional associations (e.g., Society for International Development, Development Studies Association, Canadian Association for the Study of International Development, Association for Women in Development etc) and sections (e.g., Study Group on New World Orders in IPSA);

Article 4: Membership GD/ISA is open to all ISA members who pay Section dues and are thereby entitled to attend annual Section business meetings, to nominate & vote for the selection of Section office-holders and to receive Section mailings;

Article 5: Officers The Executive Committee of GD/ISA will consist of a past-Chair, Chair, Vice-Chair/Treasurer & Secretary/Newsletter Editor, all elected at the annual ISA & Section Convention for one year terms, except for the Chair who will serve a two year term. The Chair will normally provide liaison with the ISA and be responsible with the past-Chair for organizing the Section’s Convention panels. And the Vice-Chair will normally play the role of Treasurer. To ensure continuity as well as democracy, there will normally be rotation between positions. So, as the past-Chair retires, s/he is succeeded by the Chair and then the Vice-Chair/Treasurer, who in turn is succeeded by the Secretary/Newsletter Editor, i.e., there is one departing and one new Executive member per year, and no one person normally serves for more than four consecutive years. Each year, the one vacancy will be decided by election among nominated members; such nominations must be endorsed by at least five Section members and received at least one month before the annual meeting so that candidates can be announced along with panels before the Convention.

Article 6: Activities In addition to convening an annual business meeting of members of GD/ISA and elections, the Section will (co)organize panels at ISA Conventions, publish a Newsletter which will appear at least once a year, and co-sponsor events in between annual conferences in association with ISA Regions and related, appropriate organizations. All such activities will be approved by the Section’s Executive and publicized through the Newsletter.

Article 7: Finances The GD/ISA Section will finance its activities through ISA-approved dues and other incomes from members & friends which meet ISA criteria. The Vice-Chair as Treasurer will present a budget statement at the annual Section business meeting.
Article 8: Evaluations & Amendments The Global Development Section, like all other ISA Sections, has to be evaluated & rechartered every five years. Meanwhile, amendments to this Charter can be proposed by the Section Executive or by petition by 10 members received at least one month before the next ISA Convention. Any Amendments so proposed must be adopted by two-thirds of the Section’s members present & voting.
5. List of Section leadership with terms of office

Past-Chair (2000-2001):
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Chair (2000-2001):
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Vice Chair (2000-2001):
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Secretary/Newsletter editor (2000-2001):
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