

The net effect of these observations, to which we will return below, is that the argument for international labour standards shifts from a "rational" economically based "race to the bottom" to a race which should not occur at all because it is based on an economic mistake.

(2) The data also cohere with well remarked upon changes in our approach to and understanding of development. The evolution within the World Bank of a Comprehensive Development Framework (CDF) and the push to a "post-Washington consensus" understanding of the necessary ingredients of building sustainable societies and economies, is consistent with the data, and indeed help explain it. At the core of the Comprehensive Development Framework is a new understanding of what developments consists of, and what its point is. And at the core of that understanding are the observations of Sen, noted at the outset of this study.

(3) The data also cohere with Canadian domestic policy developments. For example at the core of Canada's innovation strategy as expressed in the documents Achieving Excellence: Investing in People, Knowledge and Opportunity and Knowledge Matters: Skills and Learning for Canadians is the idea that the development and mobilization of human capital lies at the core of national economic success. These federal government studies reflect and adopt the view taken by leading Canadian policy thinkers, such as Tom Courchene who has articulated a "mission statement for Canada" which reads as follows:

To design a sustainable, socially inclusive and internationally competitive infrastructure that ensures equality of access for all Canadians, so that they may develop, enhance and employ their skills and human capital in Canada thereby enabling them to become full citizens in the information-era Canadian and global societies. This is a mission statement which places human capital development and utilization (mobilization) at the centre of the domestic policy agenda as the preconditions for Canada's success in the future. The four core rights are an intimate part of the infrastructure of human capital mobilization. Thus the data reflect the value and truth of this domain policy understanding and revolution.³³

In short, the data present a puzzle only on a set of understanding inconsistent with our new understanding of both international and domestic policy.

³³ Courchene, "A Mission Statement for Canada" Policy Options, July-August 2000 6 at 10.