

THE SOCIAL SUMMIT

The World Summit for Social Development, which was held in Copenhagen from 6-12 March 1995, brought together over 118 world leaders to agree on a political Declaration and Programme of Action to alleviate and reduce poverty, expand productive employment and enhance social integration.

The Summit consisted of three parts: a Plenary from 6-10 March for statements by high-level representatives; a Main Committee from 6-10 March for final negotiations of the Declaration and Programme of Action; and the Summit of Heads of State or Government on 11-12 March. Statements during the Plenary were organized around suggested daily themes: "enabling environment" on 6 March; "eradication of poverty" on 7 March; "gender and participation of women" on 8 March; "employment and problems of unemployment" on 9 March; and "social integration" and "implementation and follow-up" on 10 March.

POST-SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS

COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The 34th session of the Commission for Social Development was held at UN Headquarters in New York from 10-20 April 1995. In its consideration of the Social Summit, the Commission focused on the arrangements for the implementation and follow-up of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action. It adopted a draft resolution on the follow-up to the Summit transmitting its views and considerations to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) at its substantive session of 1995. These views included: the recognition that the Commission for Social Development should have a central role in the follow-up to the Summit and that it should be in a position to increase the added value of its contributions to international cooperation for social development. The draft resolution also called for ECOSOC to review the mandate, agenda and composition of the Commission, including an expansion of its membership and the annualization of its meetings. The practice of opening its debates to experts and the main actors of civil society in the field of social development was also recommended.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

At its substantive session of 1995, which took place in Geneva in July, ECOSOC held a debate on the follow-up to the Summit. In resolution 1995/60, the Council reaffirmed the recommendation of the Programme of Action that it should oversee system-wide coordination of the implementation of