

(g) Organization of national congresses and conferences, expert seminars and workshops to provide a forum for the exchange of opinions, information and experiences and for submitting proposals for action.

23. An important tool for promoting the objectives of the Year is to encourage the involvement in poverty eradication activities, through targeted campaigns, of different actors of society, such as business enterprises, trade unions, farmers' organizations and cooperatives. Activities could emphasize the importance of:

(a) Developing planning and policy-making procedures that facilitate partnership and cooperation between Governments and other actors of society in social development;

(b) Encouraging business enterprises to pursue investment and other policies, including non-commercial activities, that will contribute to social development, especially in relation to the generation of work opportunities, social support services at the workplace, access to productive resources and construction of infrastructure.

B. Activities for the observance of the International Year  
for the Eradication of Poverty planned by the United  
Nations system

24. Poverty has been a major concern, directly or indirectly, in the work of the entities of the United Nations system from the inception of the Organization. In the context of the United Nations Development Decades, and, more recently, in the context of the agenda for development, combating poverty has received critical attention. Following the decision by the General Assembly to convene a World Summit for Social Development, the different entities of the United Nations system have focused attention on how best to develop comprehensive approaches that would bring to bear, in an integrated manner, the different skills and experiences of the various agencies to the common goal of eradicating poverty. With the proclamation of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty, the programmes, organs and specialized agencies have initiated, or are planning, special events and activities to promote the objectives of the Year. Information on these activities, as provided by the entities of the system and available at this point in time, is summarized below. Other regular activities related to the fight against poverty are listed in the report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries (A/50/396).

Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development

25. The Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development was designated by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/183 as the preparatory body for the Year. During the Year itself, the Department will be responsible for providing substantive support for the monitoring, in the context of the inter-agency machinery, of the activities to observe the Year. The Department will support a number of substantive and information activities relating to its responsibilities in the areas of sustainable development, women and social

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