

military expenditures. They also acknowledged the importance of ensuring opportunity for all, especially the most marginalized.

- **Specific concerns:**

(i) **Gender:** The WSSD recognized that economic and social development cannot be achieved without gender equality.

(ii) **Youth:** The WSSD expanded on outcomes of the Children's Summit by highlighting both the needs of children and the specific concerns of young people as new entrants to the labour market.

B. Poverty: The agreement on eradication of poverty was the Summit's most notable achievement.

- **New agreement on poverty eradication:** Governments agreed to "national policies and strategies geared to substantially reducing overall poverty in the shortest possible time, reducing inequalities and eradicating absolute poverty by a target date to be specified by each country in its national context." Absolute poverty was defined as severe deprivation of basic human needs — including health, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, shelter, education and information — and was evaluated not just by income measurements, but also by lack of basic social services.

Countries agreed to formulate national and integrated strategies to eradicate poverty that will include greater emphasis on meeting the basic human needs of all people living in poverty. WSSD conclusions establish that poverty reduction, not poverty alleviation (poverty cannot be "alleviated"), is a holistic process and should be the primary purpose of both development and infrastructure programming. The conclusions also recognize the importance of establishing a continuum between emergency disaster relief and rehabilitation and urged the UN General Assembly to declare a decade for poverty eradication in 1996.

- **Future profiles of poverty:** The WSSD acknowledged that while poverty is currently concentrated in rural areas, urban poverty is one of the fastest growing forms of poverty. The documents stress the increasing relationship between poverty and the unsustainable use of the environment. Also discussed were issues such as the "feminization" and "juvenilization" of poverty, the latter referring to the emergence of massive youth unemployment in some regions of the world.
- **Participatory approaches to poverty eradication:** The WSSD conclusions encourage governments to approach poverty eradication differently. Countries agreed to review the root causes of poverty and acknowledged that poverty eradication must be based on an understanding of the livelihood strategies of people living in poverty. They also acknowledged that people living in poverty should have access to a sustainable livelihood and social safety nets to ensure that they do not fall back into poverty. Governments accepted that people living in poverty should be fully included