

in defining and implementing poverty reduction schemes. They also agreed to promote the further development and use of quantitative and qualitative indicators to measure poverty reduction.

- **Poverty and income:** In addition to basic human needs, countries paid special attention to the relationship between access to economic opportunity and poverty eradication by emphasizing measures such as land reform, secure land tenure, improved access to credit, extension services and markets, and support for small-scale entrepreneurs and the informal sector. The WSSD also recognized the need for all countries to develop social safety nets that include measures to help people find productive employment. The documents acknowledge that poverty programming needs to address problems of underemployment and the issue of unpaid work.

C. Employment: WSSD conclusions on employment mirrored much of the work of the International Labour Organization (ILO). However, the Social Summit was the first time that such a large group of countries adopted an international strategy for the creation of employment and reduction of unemployment.

- **New emphases:** Governments agreed to place employment creation at the centre of economic policies and to facilitate employment creation. They will explore the causes of long-term unemployment and pursue policies that will stimulate the demand for labour. They recognized the importance of information technology in training, education, employment creation and labour market information systems and undertook to exchange information and best-case scenarios in employment creation. They underscored the importance of education and training to improve labour-force participation.
- **Who generates employment?** Countries agreed to explore innovative options for employment and the distribution of work. They recognized the importance of the private sector and in particular the contribution of small and medium-sized enterprises and co-operatives in generating employment, and the important role of communities and the (non-criminal) informal sector in creating jobs. Governments agreed on the need to facilitate the transition of enterprises from the informal to the formal sectors of the economy and, while doing so, to extend labour standards and social protection to people working in the informal sector. They also agreed to monitor and assess the economic impact of trade liberalization, especially as it relates to employment.
- **What kind of work and for whom?** Governments recognized the importance of sustainable job creation, freely chosen employment and quality jobs. They acknowledged the importance of promoting and respecting international labour standards and workers' rights in all employment, removing systemic barriers to participation in the labour force, and understanding workers' needs to combine employment with family responsibilities. Governments agreed to set target dates for the elimination of child labour and to ensure the protection of working children and