

recognized the need to take unremunerated work into account in efforts to create employment and eradicate poverty.

Canada also promoted a strongly participatory approach to the Summit core themes and recommended that people should be seen as the agents as well as the recipients of social development. Social policy analysts recommended that documents avoid "negative labelling" of people who live in disadvantaged circumstances. They reworked some of the current international usage, e.g., the term "the poor" was replaced by "people living in poverty." These analysts also promoted stronger conceptualizations of social development, e.g., the concept of "tolerance" was replaced by "respect for and value of diversity."

Canadian development specialists emphasized a two-track approach to poverty eradication: meeting basic human needs while ensuring access to productive resources and economic opportunities by people living in poverty. Canada also argued that social development must first and foremost take into account the circumstances of the people for whom it is intended. Accordingly, governments that endorsed the WSSD documents recognized the need for partnership with civil society in order to achieve social development.

II. ISSUES

A. An enabling environment: Although social development was seen primarily as a national responsibility, the WSSD recognized the supportive role of the international community in fostering an enabling environment.

- **A new concept:** The WSSD articulated an approach of "people-centred sustainable development" which includes respect for human rights, good governance, equity and the integration of social, economic and environmental policy.
- **Approaches to economic restructuring:** The WSSD noted that environmental and social considerations should be taken into account in the design and implementation of structural adjustment programs. Particular emphasis was placed on gender-sensitivity in economic programming.
- **The international environment:** Countries for the first time acknowledged the positive and negative impacts of globalization and the need to ensure that while countries benefit from globalization, they must mitigate its adverse consequences. Countries also acknowledged the need to move rapidly toward an international political and economic system based on the rule of law. Special consideration was given to the concerns of Africa and the least-developed countries, in particular with respect to debt relief.
- **The national environment:** Countries agreed on the importance of sound economic management, sustainable growth with equity, fairer distribution of resources (through, among other means, graduated taxation systems) and the need to reduce excessive