

COMBATING POVERTY - Draft 3/12 March 92

The NGO Poverty and Affluence Working Group and the Women's Working Group recommend the following changes to A/Conf.151/PC/100/Add 2

Revise paragraph 6 to empower communities to play a role in the eradication of poverty and the development of sustainable livelihoods

6. Activities that will contribute to the integrated promotion of sustainable livelihoods and environmental protection cover a variety of sectoral interventions involving a range of actors, from local to global. Integrated action to promote sustainable livelihoods and protect the environment is essential at every level, especially the community or local level. In its general design, this programme should be focussed on the empowerment of local and community groups through the principle of delegating authority, accountability and resources to the most appropriate level. Enabling actions will be necessary at a national, regional and international level to support a locally driven approach.

The programme should contain immediate measures to empower peoples' organizations, women's groups and NGOs to alleviate poverty and to develop sustainably. It should also have a long-term strategy aimed at establishing the best possible conditions for sustainable national development that would eliminate poverty and reduce the inequalities between the various population groups. The principle of delegating to the lowest appropriate level and a locally driven approach, will ensure that the programme will be geographically and ecologically specific.

Add a new section on empowering communities in the ACTIVITIES section

a) EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

7. Sustainable development must be achieved at every level of organization. Peoples' organizations, women's groups and NGOs are important sources of innovation and action at the local level. Success at achieving community level sustainability combines empowerment, meeting needs of local people and caring for the environment. Peoples' organizations, women's groups and NGOs have a strong interest and proven ability to promote sustainable livelihoods and environmental conservation. They need a strong commitment from national governments and international organizations to support their efforts.