

basic needs, reducing inequalities and targeting poverty, as a strategic objective.

III. OBJECTIVES, PRINCIPLES AND THEME FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY

11. The overarching objective of the Year may appropriately be derived from the decisions of the General Assembly that lead up to the proclamation of 1996 as the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty. In particular, the Assembly in its resolution 49/110 reaffirms that the major activities for the observance of the Year should be undertaken at all levels and that assistance should be provided by the United Nations system with a view to creating among States, policy makers and international public opinion a greater awareness of the fact that the eradication of poverty is both a complex and a multidimensional problem and fundamental to reinforcing peace and achieving sustainable development.

12. The significance of the activities to be undertaken during the Year should be judged largely on the extent to which they succeed in focusing attention, at all levels and among all sections in society, on the need to take seriously the substantive objective of eradicating poverty and instilling in the public consciousness that this is a reachable goal within a reasonable time span. Thus the aim of the activities during the Year should be to build the support structure for a longer term, sustained effort to implement the commitments undertaken and the basic programme already agreed upon at the World Summit for Social Development. The Declaration and Programme of Action agreed upon at Copenhagen established the necessary policies and actions to eradicate poverty, and the focus of the Year should thus be to ensure its timely implementation.

13. To this end, activities at all levels, national and international, public and private, might be guided by the following principles:

(a) The eradication of poverty requires a sustained, collective commitment and effort by national and local governments, civil society, business and corporations, supported by the international community, including in particular, regional and international organizations;

(b) The eradication of poverty requires measures to ensure that people living in poverty have access to the resources and opportunities necessary to escape from poverty, as well as measures to ensure that all members of society are protected from poverty as a result of illness, loss of employment, natural disaster or other misfortune;

(c) The eradication of poverty requires that all have access to basic social services and can participate in the economic, social, cultural and political life of society;

(d) The eradication of poverty requires that women be given the economic and social opportunities to contribute to development and that anti-poverty strategies and programmes be designed with a specific gender dimension;

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