

6. In chapter V of the Programme of Action on implementation and follow-up, among the requirements specified for the promotion of an integrated approach to the implementation of the Programme of Action at the national level, in accordance with national specificities, is formulating or strengthening, by 1996, comprehensive cross-sectoral strategies for implementing the Summit outcome and national strategies for social development, including government action, actions by States in cooperation with other Governments, international, regional and subregional organizations, and actions taken in partnership and cooperation with actors of civil society, the private sector and cooperatives, with specific responsibilities to be undertaken by each actor and with agreed priorities and time-frames. 7/

7. The Programme of Action also calls on the General Assembly to review, in 1996, the effectiveness of the steps taken to implement the outcome of the Summit with regard to poverty eradication, as part of the activities relating to the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty. Furthermore, it also calls on the General Assembly at its fiftieth session to declare the first United Nations decade for the eradication of poverty, following the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty (1996), with a view to its considering further initiatives on the eradication of poverty. 8/

8. The concept of poverty developed in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development is broad. Poverty is not just inadequate income, but also includes lack of access to education, health care and other amenities, and exclusion from participation in the life of the community.

9. The Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development emphasize the need to focus efforts and policies on the root causes of poverty and the necessity to provide for the basic needs of all. These include the elimination of hunger and malnutrition; the provision of food security, education, employment and livelihood, primary health-care services, including reproductive health care, safe drinking water and sanitation, and adequate shelter; and participation in social and cultural life. Special priority should be given to the needs and rights of women and children, who often bear the greatest burden of poverty, and to the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups and persons. The Programme of Action also stresses that people living in poverty should have access to productive resources, including credit, land, education and training, technology, knowledge and information, as well as to public services, and should be able to participate in the elaboration of policies and the creation of a regulatory environment that would expand employment and economic opportunities. In addition, all people must be provided with adequate economic and social protection during unemployment, ill health, maternity, child-bearing, widowhood, disability and old age. 9/

10. The texts adopted at Copenhagen link the reduction of poverty with the reduction of inequalities. Opportunities for access to resources and income should be enhanced, and political, legal, economic and social factors and constraints that foster and sustain inequality should be removed. Furthermore, national budgets and policies should be oriented, as necessary, towards meeting