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Department of Foreign Affairs
International Trade Canada
Economic and Social Development Division (AGS)

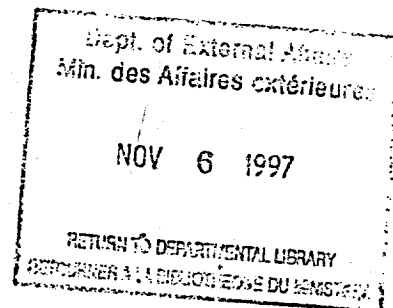
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: ONE YEAR LATER Roundtable Forum

**HOSTED BY: Foreign Affairs and International Trade,
in collaboration with CIDA and
Human Resources Development Canada**

**DATE: Thursday March 14/96,
13:30-17:00, LB Pearson Bldg,
125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa**

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a) UNITED NATIONS BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

- 1) Resolution - International Year for the Eradication of Poverty. (A/48/719)
- 2) Resolution - Proclamation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty. (L.80)
- 3) Report of the Secretary-General - Draft programme for the observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty (1996). (A/50/551)
- 4) Report of the Secretary-General Implementation of the Outcome of the World Summit For Social Development. (A/50/670)
- 5) Background paper prepared by the United Nations for the twenty-ninth series of Joint meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination of the activities of the United Nations System for the Eradication of Poverty. (E/1005/120)
- 6) Resolution: Implementation of the Outcome of the World Summit for Social Development.
- 7) Calendar of activities (French Only).
- 8) Year-End Update - World Summit for Social Development - Earth Negotiations Bulletin.

b) DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS & INTERNATIONAL TRADE CANADA, DOCUMENTS:

- 9) Background prepared by DFAIT: Outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development.
- 10) Statement by H.E. Mr. Robert R. Fowler Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations.
- 11) Halifax Summit Communique.
- 12) Canada and the International Debt Strategy: Past and Present.

43-280-389

48/183. International Year for the Eradication of Poverty

Date: 21 December 1993
Adopted without a vote

Meeting: 86
Report: A/48/719

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 47/196 of 22 December 1992 entitled "Observance of an international day for the eradication of poverty",

Reaffirming its resolutions 43/195 of 20 December 1988, 44/212 of 22 December 1989, 45/213 of 21 December 1990, 46/141 of 17 December 1991 and 47/197 of 22 December 1992 related to international cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries,

Recognizing that poverty is a complex and multidimensional problem with origins in both the national and international domains, and that its eradication in all countries, in particular in developing countries, has become one of the priority development objectives for the 1990s in order to promote sustainable development,

Noting that the efforts made at the national and international levels need to be enhanced to ensure the eradication of poverty, in particular in the least developed countries in sub-Saharan Africa, and other countries having concentrations of poverty,

Welcoming the success noted in organizing and observing the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty,

Taking into account its decision 35/424 of 5 December 1980 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 concerning guidelines for international years and anniversaries,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General, 92/

Stressing the positive impact that a favourable international economic environment, in particular in the area of trade, has in combating poverty in all countries, in particular in developing countries,

Stressing also the importance of international cooperation in combating poverty, inter alia, through exchange among Governments of successful experiences in the field,

1. Proclaims 1996 International Year for the Eradication of Poverty;
2. Decides that the major activities for the observance of the Year should be undertaken at the local, national and international 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 that the eradication of poverty is fundamental to reinforcing peace and achieving sustainable development;
3. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with States, concerned specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to prepare a draft programme concerning the preparations for and observance of the Year, containing the objectives, principles and main recommendations for the Year, and to submit a progress report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session;
4. Also requests the Secretary-General to give widespread publicity to the activities of the United Nations system, including those described in chapter 3 of Agenda 21 93/ related to the eradication of poverty;
5. Invites all States, organizations of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations concerned and interested national organizations, including non-governmental organizations, to exert every possible effort in the preparations for and observance of the Year and to cooperate with the Secretary-General in achieving the objectives of the Year;
6. Designates the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development as the preparatory body and the Economic and Social Council as the coordinating body for the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty;
7. Recommends that the preparatory body and the coordinating body work in close collaboration with all relevant organizations inside and outside the United Nations system in the preparations for and observance of the Year;
8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-ninth session a sub-item on the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty under the item entitled "International cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries".



General Assembly

RESOLUTION

Proclamation of the first United Nations
Decade for the Eradication of Poverty

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.2/50/L.80
11 December 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fiftieth session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 95 (i)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION:
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY IN
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee,
Mr. Conor Murphy (Ireland), on the basis of informal consultations
held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.39

Observance of the International Year for the Eradication of
Poverty and proclamation of the First United Nations Decade
for the Eradication of Poverty

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 43/195 of 20 December 1988, 44/212 of 22 December 1989, 45/213 of 21 December 1990, 46/141 of 17 December 1991, 47/197 of 22 December 1992, 48/184 of 21 December 1993 and 49/110 of 19 December 1994, all related to international cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries,

Recalling its resolution 48/183 of 21 December 1993, in which it proclaimed 1996 the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty,

Recalling also its resolution 49/110 of 19 December 1994, in which it requested that a draft programme on the preparations for and observance of the Year be elaborated at an early date,

Emphasizing the necessity that Governments focus their efforts and policies on addressing the root causes of poverty and providing for the basic needs of all,

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Recognizing that the eradication of poverty requires ensuring universal access to economic opportunities that will promote sustainable livelihood and making basic efforts to facilitate access to opportunities and services for the disadvantaged, and that people living in poverty and vulnerable groups must be empowered through organization and social life, in particular in the planning and implementation of policies that affect them, thus enabling them to become genuine partners in development,

Also recognizing that economic development, social development and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development, which is the framework for efforts to achieve a higher quality of life for all people, and that equitable social development, which empowers people living in poverty to utilize environmental resources sustainably, is a necessary foundation for sustainable development,

Stressing the necessity to promote and implement policies to create a supportive external economic environment, through, inter alia, cooperation in the formulation and implementation of macroeconomic policies, trade liberalization, mobilization and/or the provision of new and additional financial resources that are both adequate and predictable and mobilized in a way that maximizes the availability of such resources for sustainable development, using all available funding sources and mechanisms, enhanced financial stability, and ensuring increased access of developing countries to global markets, productive investments and technologies, and appropriate knowledge,

Also stressing that the United Nations system should play a central role in enhancing support and assistance for developing countries, particularly African countries and least developed countries, in their efforts to achieve the objectives set forth in the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action of

/...

the World Summit for Social Development, ^{1/} as well as in the major United Nations conferences organized since 1990 towards the eradication of poverty,

Emphasizing that empowering women will be a critical factor in the eradication of poverty, since women constitute a majority of people living in poverty, and since they contribute to the economy and to combating poverty through both their remunerated and their unremunerated work at home, in the community and in the workplace,

Considering that the international community at the highest political level has already reached a consensus and committed itself to the eradication of poverty in recent major United Nations conferences, including the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the International Conference on Population and Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and in particular the World Summit for Social Development, which addressed the eradication of poverty as one of its three major themes, as well as the expected contributions from the forthcoming second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the UNCTAD (IX) and the World Food Summit,

Noting the importance attached at the Halifax Summit of the Group of Seven most industrialized countries in considering measures towards the eradication of poverty,

Bearing in mind that Governments decided to adopt the appropriate measures and mechanisms for implementing and monitoring the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development, with the assistance, upon request, of the specialized agencies, programmes, funds and regional commissions of the United Nations system, with broad participation of all sectors of civil society,

Recalling the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, in particular paragraph 95 (c) of the Programme of Action, in which it is recommended that the General Assembly, at its fiftieth session, 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 considering further initiatives on the eradication of poverty,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the draft programme for the observance of the International Year for the Eradication of

^{1/} A/CONF.166/9, chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

Poverty 2/ and on international cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries, 3/

Taking note of the Secretary-General's proposal in response to resolution 49/110 of 19 December 1994, that the theme of the international year for the eradication of poverty be "Poverty can be and must be eradicated throughout the World".

A. Observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty (1996)

1. Urges all Governments, the international community, including the United Nations system, and all other actors in society to pursue seriously the objective of the eradication of poverty within the context of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty (1996);

2. Reaffirms that the activities for the observance of the Year shall 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 multidimensional problem, and is fundamental to reinforcing peace and achieving sustainable development;

3. Decides that the aim of the activities during the Year shall be to support a longer-term, sustained effort to implement fully and effectively the commitments, recommendations and measures undertaken and the basic provisions already agreed upon at major United Nations conferences since 1990, in particular the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women; 1/

4. Also decides that, in order to achieve the goal of eradicating poverty, activities during the Year, at all levels, shall be guided, inter alia, by the following principles:

(a) A sustained, collective commitment and effort shall be mounted by Governments, local administrations, all relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, business and corporations, supported

2/ A/50/551.

3/ A/50/396.

by the international community, including the United Nations system and relevant subregional, regional and other international organizations, and anti-poverty strategies and programmes shall be designed, implemented and monitored with the full and effective participation of people living in poverty;

(b) Measures shall be adopted to ensure that people living in poverty have access to the resources and opportunities necessary to escape from poverty, and policies shall be adopted to ensure that all people have adequate economic and social protection during unemployment, ill health, maternity, child-rearing widowhood, disability and old age;

(c) Access of all people living in poverty to basic social services shall be ensured, as well as their participation in the economic, social, cultural and political life of society;

(d) Women shall be given the economic and social opportunities to contribute to development, and anti-poverty strategies and programmes shall be designed with a gender dimension;

(e) Targeted programmes shall be developed to meet the special needs of particular social and demographic groups, including young people, disadvantaged older persons, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable and disadvantaged groups of persons;

(f) The international community shall provide continued and effective support to broad-based development in developing countries, in particular in Africa and the least developed countries;

(g) The efforts of the United Nations system to achieve the overall goal of eradicating poverty should be well coordinated in order to ensure that activities of relevant organizations are complementary and cost-effective;

5. Recommends that all States, as set out in the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, undertake the following, preferably by 1996:

(a) Develop a precise definition and assessment of absolute poverty;

(b) Elaborate the measurements, criteria and indicators for determining the extent and distribution of absolute poverty;

(c) Formulate or strengthen, as a matter of urgency, national policies and strategies geared to substantially reducing overall poverty in the shortest possible time, reducing inequalities, and eradicating absolute poverty by a target date to be specified by each country in its national context;

(d) Increase public efforts to eradicate absolute poverty and to reduce overall poverty substantially by, inter alia, formulating or strengthening and implementing national poverty eradication plans to address the structural causes of poverty, encompassing action on the local, national, subregional, regional and international levels;

(e) Attach particular attention, in the context of national plans, to employment creation as a means of eradicating poverty, while also giving appropriate consideration to health and education, assigning a higher priority to basic social services, generating household income, and promoting access to productive assets and economic opportunities;

6. Urges Governments to review, adopt and maintain macroeconomic policies and development strategies that address the needs and efforts of women living in poverty, in particular in rural areas, as set out in paragraph 58 of the Beijing Platform of Action 4/ adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women;

7. Reaffirms the agreement to a mutual commitment between interested developed and developing country partners to allocate, on average, 20 per cent of official development assistance and 20 per cent of the national budget, respectively, to basic social programmes;

8. Stresses that, during the Year and beyond, people living in poverty and their organizations should be empowered by involving them fully in the setting of targets and in the design, implementation, monitoring and assessment of national strategies and programmes for the eradication of poverty and the development of community bases, ensuring that such programmes reflect their priorities;

9. Takes note of the activities for the observance of the Year planned by the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, as contained in the report of the Secretary-General, 2/ and invites them to take further initiatives;

4/ See A/CONF.177/20.

10. Urges all multilateral financial and development institutions to intensify and accelerate their investments in social sectors and poverty eradication programmes;

11. Takes note of decision 95/22 of the Executive Board of United Nations Development Programme, in which the Board decided to give poverty elimination the overriding priority in Programme activities, and to concentrate its programmes on the most needy regions and countries, in particular the least developed countries, especially in Africa;

12. Invites all relevant specialized agencies, funds, programmes and related organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen and adjust their activities, programmes and strategies, as appropriate, in order to achieve the overall goal of eradicating poverty and meeting the basic human needs of all;

13. Welcomes the recent decision taken by the Administrative Committee on Coordination to establish task forces on different aspects of the follow-up to United Nations major conferences with a view to considering issues related to the eradication of poverty;

14. Takes note of the decision taken by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to establish an eradication of poverty fund for the duration of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty in order to help developing countries, particularly African countries and the least developed countries, in the elaboration of national plans during 1996 to combat poverty;

15. Requests the Secretary-General to take all relevant measures to arrange for the wide and effective dissemination of the present resolution and the programme for the observance of the Year, and in this regard invites all States, organizations of the United Nations system, relevant international organizations, concerned national organizations, non-governmental organizations and other interested groups of civil society to give the necessary attention to the observance of the Year;

B. First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)

16. Proclaims the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006);

17. Urges all Governments and the international community, including the United Nations system, and all other actors in society to pursue seriously the implementation of the outcomes of major United Nations conferences related to the eradication of poverty, in particular the World Summit for Social Development;

18. Welcomes the arrangements, within the agreed appropriation level for the 1996-1997 biennium, made by the Secretary-General regarding the entity, within the Secretariat required to undertake the functions needed in support of the system-wide implementation of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty, including activities of the Decade;

19. Also requests the Secretary-General to invite those organs, organizations, programmes, funds and bodies of the United Nations system that have not already done so to consider the establishment of focal points and other similar mechanisms so that they may effectively implement the provisions, agreements and outcomes of major United Nations conferences relevant to the eradication of poverty;

20. Recalls the coordinating role of the Economic and Social Council in the activities of the United Nations system towards eradication of poverty in the context of the coordinated follow-up of the outcome of the major United Nations conferences and summits organized since 1990 in the economic, social and related fields;

21. Stresses the importance of ensuring, at the intergovernmental and inter-agency levels, coherent, comprehensive and integrated activities for the Year and Decade, according to the outcome of the major United Nations conferences and summits organized since 1990 in the economic, social and related fields;

22. Invites the Administrative Committee on Coordination to ensure, in particular through the inter-agency task forces, the involvement and coordination of all relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system for a full and effective implementation of the present resolution and to submit to the General Assembly, at its fifty-first session, through the Council, reports on activities envisaged in support of the Decade, taking into account the outcome of the major United Nations conferences and summits organized since 1990 in the economic, social and related fields;

23. Calls upon States, the United Nations system, relevant international organizations and all other actors concerned with the Decade to participate

actively in the financial and technical support of the Decade, in particular with a view to translating all measures and recommendations into operational and concrete poverty eradication programmes and activities;

24. Decides that the trust fund of the World Summit for Social Development established in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/92 to finance preparatory activities be continued and renamed the Trust Fund for the Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, under the authority of the Secretary-General, with the aim of supporting programmes, seminars and activities for the promotion of social development in the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, which include activities of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, and invites all States to contribute to the Fund;

25. Requests, therefore, that the Secretary-General ensure that the outcomes of major United Nations conferences are disseminated as widely as possible, and also to ensure that the documents related to the Year and the United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, once adopted, be transmitted to all States, relevant international and regional organizations, multilateral financial institutions and regional development banks in order to secure their active and substantial contributions;

26. Recommends that donor countries give greater priority towards the eradication of poverty in their assistance programmes and budgets, on either a bilateral or multilateral basis;

27. Encourages developing countries to mobilize domestic and external resources for poverty eradication programmes and activities, and to facilitate their full and effective implementation;

28. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session, in one document, a progress report on action taken by the United Nations system to implement the programme for the observance of the Year and action envisaged to be taken in preparation for the Decade;

29. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session an item entitled "First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)".



General Assembly

Dept. of External Affairs
Min. des Affaires extérieures

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Fiftieth session
Agenda item 95 (i)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION:
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY IN
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Draft programme for the observance of the International Year
for the Eradication of Poverty (1996)

Report of the Secretary-General

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly, by its resolution 48/183 of 21 December 1993, proclaimed 1996 International Year for the Eradication of Poverty. At its forty-ninth session, the Assembly, in its resolution 49/110 of 19 December 1994, took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty (A/49/572) and requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with all States, concerned specialized agencies, programmes and organs of the United Nations system, relevant international organizations, non-governmental organizations and interested groups, to achieve at an early date the elaboration of the draft programme concerning the preparations for and observance of the Year, containing the objectives, principles, themes and main recommendations for the Year, which should be consistent with the challenge of poverty and the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, 1/ and to submit a final report thereon to the Assembly for consideration at its fiftieth session, with the aim of ensuring that the Year makes a distinct and significant contribution to the efforts to eradicate poverty.

2. In response to resolution 49/110 and to facilitate an initial exchange of views at the substantive session of 1995 of the Economic and Social Council on a possible programme to observe the Year, the Secretariat prepared a note containing elements of a draft programme for the Year. 2/ The draft programme took into account, and followed closely, the Copenhagen Declaration and



Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development. It also reflected the resolutions and decisions adopted at the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the thirty-fourth session of the Commission for Social Development, and the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development as well as the results of informal consultations within the United Nations system and with concerned non-governmental organizations.

3. The present report elaborates on the proposals contained in the above-mentioned note, taking into account the observations and suggestions made subsequently in response to the note verbale of the Secretary-General of June 1995 addressed to Member States, as well as additional information provided by entities of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations.

II. OVERALL ORIENTATION

4. Subsequent to the adoption of General Assembly resolutions 48/183 and 49/110, the heads of State and Government at the World Summit for Social Development launched a global drive for social progress and development embodied in 10 commitments. 3/ Commitment 2 reads in part as follows: "We commit ourselves to the goal of eradicating poverty in the world, through decisive national actions and international cooperation, as an ethical, social, political and economic imperative of humankind". 4/ To this end, heads of State and Government undertook to formulate or strengthen, as a matter of urgency, and preferably by the year 1996, the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty, national policies and strategies geared to substantially reducing overall poverty in the shortest possible time, reducing inequalities and eradicating absolute poverty by a target date to be specified by each country in its national context. 5/

5. In chapter II of the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, a strategy for the eradication of poverty is outlined, containing suggestions for priority action at the national level as well as supporting activities at the international level. The Programme of Action calls on Governments to increase public efforts to eradicate absolute poverty and to reduce overall poverty substantially, inter alia, by formulating or strengthening, preferably by 1996, and implementing national poverty eradication plans to address the structural causes of poverty, encompassing action on the local, national, subregional, regional and international levels. These plans should establish, within each national context, strategies and affordable time-bound goals and targets for the substantial reduction of overall poverty and the eradication of absolute poverty. In the context of national plans, particular attention should be given to employment creation as a means of eradicating poverty, giving appropriate consideration to health and education, assigning a higher priority to basic social services, generating household income and promoting access to productive assets and economic opportunities. 6/ Public efforts to eradicate poverty should also be increased by elaborating, at the national level, the measurements, criteria and indicators for determining the extent and distribution of absolute poverty. Each country should develop a precise definition and assessment of absolute poverty, preferably by 1996.

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

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;

(e) The eradication of poverty requires the development of targeted programmes to meet the needs of particular social and demographic groups, including young people, older persons, persons with disabilities and other groups or persons with special needs;

(f) The eradication of poverty requires that anti-poverty strategies and programmes be designed, implemented and monitored with the full participation of people living in poverty;

(g) The eradication of poverty requires increased and more effective support by the international community for broad-based development in developing countries, in particular in Africa and the least developed countries.

14. In the light of General Assembly resolutions 48/183 and 49/110 and of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, the Assembly may wish to adopt a theme for the Year. The theme might be "Poverty can be and must be eradicated throughout the world". The implementation of this theme would require a sustained, long-term commitment by Governments and all other actors in society, as well as the support of the international community.

IV. ACTIVITIES IN OBSERVANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY

15. In the light of the above-mentioned decisions and recommendations of the World Summit for Social Development, as well as the recommendations of the Fourth World Conference for Women, the International Conference on Population and Development and the World Summit for Children, the following major activities are proposed for the observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty:

(a) Every country should, with the support of the international community, formulate or strengthen a long-term national strategy for eradicating poverty;

(b) National and international organizations, including educational institutions, the media and other institutions of civil society, should promote awareness of the extent and nature of poverty, its destructive consequences both for the people concerned and for society as a whole, and effective measures for reducing and eradicating poverty;

(c) Countries and international organizations should increase support for research and dissemination of information on the extent and distribution of poverty, on its causes and consequences and on effective measures for reducing and eradicating poverty;

(d) Countries and international organizations should organize and participate in meetings to exchange information on their achievements and problems in reducing and eradicating poverty;

(e) Countries should encourage the development of community organizations, particularly in communities with a high incidence of poverty, and encourage and

support participation of such organizations in efforts to eradicate poverty and in the activities of the Year.

16. Furthermore, in accordance with the recommendation of the World Summit for Social Development, the General Assembly could, at its fiftieth session, declare the first United Nations decade for the eradication of poverty, following the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty, with a view to its considering further initiatives on the eradication of poverty; the United Nations, other international organizations and Member States should then develop plans and programmes for the decade.

17. Based on the experience of years and decades and other similar events organized under the auspices of the United Nations system, which are intended principally to create awareness and promote understanding of critical issues and mobilize resources and action at all levels, examples of possible activities are listed in the following paragraphs. These are followed by a summary of special activities for the observance of the Year planned by the United Nations system in support of national and local-level activities.

A. Activities that may be undertaken at the national and local levels

18. A coordinated approach by Governments, at national and sub-national levels, as well as the widest possible participation of the different private groups and actors in society, would best help to ensure progress towards eradicating poverty. Such a coordinated approach could be facilitated by the establishment of national coordinating mechanisms, with both governmental and non-governmental representation. Where such coordinating mechanisms were already set up to assist national preparations for the World Summit for Social Development, they might form the nucleus of organizational arrangements for preparing and monitoring national strategies to follow up the commitments and recommendations relating to the Summit objective of eradicating poverty. Coordinating bodies, or similar mechanisms at the national level, could also be responsible for disseminating information about the objectives, guiding principles and theme of the Year, particularly at the local level; encouraging actions within the community in observance of the Year; and, especially in respect of possible local-level initiatives, elaborating long-term strategies in the context of a United Nations decade for the eradication of poverty.

19. The dissemination of information is critical to any publicity campaign. Thus, in order to create a wide forum for the exchange of experiences and discussion of problems and solutions, and to mobilize public awareness, enhance participation, and stimulate action and cooperation to promote the objectives of the Year, the responsible national authorities should seek:

(a) The active involvement of the media and other sources of public information and opinion from the earliest stage onwards;

(b) The organization of a regular, up-to-date information provision and exchange system;

(c) The creation, production, distribution and use of printed, visual and audio information materials (databases, guides for action, inventories of action, progress reports, booklets, recurrent bulletins/newsletters, circular letters, press releases, press kits, posters, coins, stamps, souvenirs, television and radio programmes, video and audio cassettes);

(d) The involvement of prominent citizens in different walks of life in promoting the Year's objectives, theme and activities.

20. Activities need to encourage outreach to and the involvement of people living in poverty and their organizations in the setting of targets and in the design, implementation, monitoring and assessment of national strategies and programmes for poverty eradication and community-based development, ensuring that such programmes reflect their priorities. Examples of specific activities to this end are:

(a) Encouragement and support for local community development projects that foster the skill, self-reliance and self-confidence of people living in poverty and that facilitate their active participation in efforts to eradicate poverty;

(b) Support for the creation and development of community organizations and non-profit non-governmental organizations, particularly among the disadvantaged and vulnerable people in the spheres of poverty, education, health, social integration, human rights, improvement of the quality of life and relief and rehabilitation, thus enabling them to participate constructively in policy-making and implementation;

(c) Effective participation of such organizations as part of national coordinating mechanisms for observance of the Year, and provision to them of comprehensive information and other facilitative support;

(d) Provision of resources through such measures as small grant programmes and technical and other administrative support for initiatives taken and managed at the community level;

(e) Identification of existing national and international non-governmental organizations most concerned with the objectives, principles and themes of the Year and establishment of close collaboration and partnership with them.

21. The development of national policies to ensure that people living in poverty have access to basic social services, to economic opportunities that promote sustainable livelihood and to social protection during unemployment, ill health, maternity, disability and old age may be facilitated by the following measures:

(a) Review and appraisal of existing legal systems, programmes and services and their impact on the poor;

(b) Removal of any political, legal, economic and social factors, constraints and structural barriers that foster and sustain inequality in society and prevent people from escaping poverty;

(c) Promotion of effective enjoyment by all people of civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights, and access to existing social protection and public services, in particular through encouraging the ratification and ensuring the full implementation of relevant human rights instruments;

(d) Establishment of legislative and regulatory frameworks, institutional arrangements and consultative mechanisms for involving community organizations and non-profit non-governmental organizations in the design, implementation and evaluation of social development strategies and programmes.

22. Research on the effectiveness of different approaches to poverty eradication, and the dissemination of research results, is critical. The Year could help to stimulate action by encouraging:

(a) The active involvement of academic, research and educational institutions in observation of the Year, including in the work of the national coordinating mechanisms;

(b) The development, updating and dissemination of specific indicators of poverty and vulnerability, including income, wealth, nutrition, physical and mental health, education, literacy, family conditions, unemployment, social exclusion and isolation, homelessness, landlessness and other factors, as well as indicators of the national and international causes underlying poverty; for this purpose, the gathering of comprehensive and comparable data, disaggregated by ethnicity, gender, disability, family status, language groupings, regions and economic and social sectors;

(c) Systematic monitoring and assessment of the achievement of goals and targets agreed to in international forums in the area of social development; evaluating, quantitatively and qualitatively, changes in poverty levels, the persistence of poverty and vulnerability to poverty, particularly concerning household income levels and access to resources and services; and assessing the effectiveness of poverty eradication strategies, based on the priorities and perceptions of households living in poverty and low-income communities;

(d) Identification of the livelihood systems, survival strategies and self-help organizations of people living in poverty and working with such organizations to develop programmes for combating poverty that build on their efforts, ensuring the full participation of the people concerned and responding to their actual needs;

(e) Elaboration, at the national level, of the measurements, criteria and indicators for determining the extent and distribution of absolute poverty, its precise definition and assessment;

(f) Mobilization of the resources of universities and research institutions to improve the understanding of the causes of poverty and their solutions, as well as the impact of structural adjustment measures on people living in poverty and the effectiveness of anti-poverty strategies and programmes, strengthening the capacity for social science research in developing countries and integrating, as appropriate, the results of research into decision-making processes;

(g) Organization of national congresses and conferences, expert seminars and workshops to provide a forum for the exchange of opinions, information and experiences and for submitting proposals for action.

23. An important tool for promoting the objectives of the Year is to encourage the involvement in poverty eradication activities, through targeted campaigns, of different actors of society, such as business enterprises, trade unions, farmers' organizations and cooperatives. Activities could emphasize the importance of:

(a) Developing planning and policy-making procedures that facilitate partnership and cooperation between Governments and other actors of society in social development;

(b) Encouraging business enterprises to pursue investment and other policies, including non-commercial activities, that will contribute to social development, especially in relation to the generation of work opportunities, social support services at the workplace, access to productive resources and construction of infrastructure.

B. Activities for the observance of the International Year
for the Eradication of Poverty planned by the United
Nations system

24. Poverty has been a major concern, directly or indirectly, in the work of the entities of the United Nations system from the inception of the Organization. In the context of the United Nations Development Decades, and, more recently, in the context of the agenda for development, combating poverty has received critical attention. Following the decision by the General Assembly to convene a World Summit for Social Development, the different entities of the United Nations system have focused attention on how best to develop comprehensive approaches that would bring to bear, in an integrated manner, the different skills and experiences of the various agencies to the common goal of eradicating poverty. With the proclamation of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty, the programmes, organs and specialized agencies have initiated, or are planning, special events and activities to promote the objectives of the Year. Information on these activities, as provided by the entities of the system and available at this point in time, is summarized below. Other regular activities related to the fight against poverty are listed in the report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries (A/50/396).

Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development

25. The Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development was designated by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/183 as the preparatory body for the Year. During the Year itself, the Department will be responsible for providing substantive support for the monitoring, in the context of the inter-agency machinery, of the activities to observe the Year. The Department will support a number of substantive and information activities relating to its responsibilities in the areas of sustainable development, women and social

groups, social integration and social welfare, including the preparation of a special issue of the International Social Development Review devoted to poverty and a newsletter.

26. Close contacts will be maintained with the non-governmental community participating in events to observe the Year. The World Summit for Social Development emphasized the essential role played by actors of civil society in the struggle against poverty and called in particular for a strengthening of "actions taken in partnership and cooperation with actors of civil society, the private sector and cooperatives". 10/ In the light of General Assembly resolutions 48/183 and 49/110 and of the decisions of the World Summit for Social Development, the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development addressed a letter to international non-governmental organizations that took part in the preparatory process for the World Summit for Social Development. The aim of this letter was to emphasize the significance of the active participation of all actors of society, in particular non-governmental organizations, in the struggle against poverty; to inform them about the main activities the United Nations intended to undertake to observe the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty in 1996; and to ask for their cooperation in that respect.

Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis

27. Many of the population activities of the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis have a direct bearing on poverty. The analytical studies of the Population Division of the social and economic causes and consequences of fertility, mortality and migration, relate to poverty issues. The Division's work programme in this field also includes a review of conceptual approaches to poverty and its measurement, and the interplay between demographic characteristics of the poor and the equivalence measures that underpin many of the poverty indicators. Some other relevant activities might be added to the work programme of the Department in the course of the year.

Department for Development Support and Management Services

28. The Department for Development Support and Management Services will do its utmost to cooperate with the family of the United Nations agencies to attain the objectives of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty. It supports the idea that inter-agency teams should be placed at the disposal of developing countries that wish to formulate anti-poverty programmes and national strategies for the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development. A number of projects of the Department related to the issue of poverty will come to fruition in 1996. They include: a study of poverty in the Arab region; poverty and the environment in Thailand, Viet Nam and Laos; social mapping of indigenous communities in Indonesia; and poverty alleviation in Tanzania. In order to assess the policy relevance of these projects, a workshop will be organized towards the end of 1996.

Department of Public Information

29. The responsibility of the Department of Public Information in relation to the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty is to raise awareness about the work of the United Nations in this field. One possible activity is a series of regional work media briefings on the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development, emphasizing the issue of poverty eradication, to be organized in cooperation with the Government of Denmark early next year on the first anniversary of the Summit. A number of United Nations information centres will utilize the occasion of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, 17 October, as well as the Year itself, to undertake activities to promote the work of the United Nations on the eradication of poverty. Members of the Joint United Nations Information Committee, chaired by the Department of Public Information, will collaborate and coordinate system-wide public information activities relating to the Year. The Department will also produce and disseminate an extended background on the issues related to poverty eradication and a brochure on the aims and purposes of the Year which will include a calendar of United Nations system-wide activities being planned during the Year. These products, in English, French and Spanish, will be disseminated through the network of 67 United Nations information centres and services, as well as field offices of the United Nations system, to media, non-governmental organizations, parliamentarians, national ministries, educational institutions and other members of civil society. A logo for the Year has been designed and selected. In addition, work is under way on a signature campaign (typeface, colours, masthead) for use on all products related to the Year.

Economic Commission for Europe

30. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) might include in its programme of work an appropriate segment related to the issue of poverty, in particular in the fields of economic analysis and projections, human settlements, migration and statistics. ECE is also considering organizing some special events devoted to the observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty in cooperation with non-governmental organizations and the business community. In cooperation with the International Council on Social Welfare, ECE will mark the World Habitat Day in October 1996 by an event devoted to urban poverty. A similar event is planned for the observance of the International Day of Older Persons on 1 October 1996.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

31. The main activities of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in connection with the observance of the Year, involve the preparation of statistical data and social indicators for analysing the social situation and designing anti-poverty programmes. A Panorama Social de America Latina will be published with key topics such as employment, income distribution, poverty and social and geographical location (rural and urban), as regards living conditions and opportunities for social mobility. The 1996 edition will expand the number of countries covered. Training will also be provided to national experts on the use of social indicators to identify the most disadvantaged social groups and determine their characteristics with respect to age, gender, kind of work, education and geographical location, and

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to formulate alternative policies designed to alleviate poverty and improve living conditions. The Unit for the Integration of Women in Development will be monitoring progress achieved in the implementation of the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2000, particularly those strategic actions aimed at substantially improving the conditions of the poor and at improving the quality of life of women, especially those in the poorest groups. The twenty-sixth session of the Commission will take place at San Jose, Costa Rica, from 15 to 20 April 1996.

Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific

32. At its fifty-first session, the Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) adopted resolution 51/4 of 1 May 1995, entitled "Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region", in which the Commission requested the Executive Secretary of ESCAP, inter alia, to report to the Committee on Poverty Alleviation through Economic Growth and Social Development, at its third session, to be held in 1996, on the effectiveness of the steps taken to implement the Agenda for Action, with specific reference to poverty alleviation, within the context of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty. A report to that effect will be prepared by the secretariat, and it is envisaged that ESCAP members and associate members, as well as United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations participating in the 1996 session of the Committee, will exchange views and experiences and decide on follow-up activities on the subject. The secretariat will convene in 1996 a meeting of senior officials on the implementation of the Agenda for Action, with special reference to the theme of poverty eradication and linkage with the observance of the Year. At its fifty-first session the Commission also decided that the theme of the fifty-second session would be "Sustainable development and poverty alleviation in Asia and the Pacific". In that connection, a study on rural poverty alleviation in the context of sustainable development will be prepared by the secretariat for consideration by the Commission in 1996.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

33. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) is organizing an expert group meeting on policies and measures to reduce income disparities and alleviate poverty in selected ESCWA countries, which will be held in December 1995. New documents ("Poverty in the West Bank and Gaza Strip", "Poverty in Western Asia: population dynamics and employment issues", "Measurement of poverty in the ESCWA region", "Poverty and housing in the ESCWA region", "Social factors of housing and poverty: Jordan case-study", etc.) will be presented and discussed at the meeting. Planned activities for 1996-1997 include: coordination with the International Labour Organization and the UNDP national office for Lebanon for building on the work undertaken in the country profile "poverty in Lebanon"; convening of an ad hoc expert group on eradicating poverty in Western Asia: towards a plan of action; and publication during the biennium of Eradicating Poverty in Western Asia.

United Nations Children's Fund

34. High infant mortality, widespread child malnutrition, and persistent female illiteracy are both manifestations and causes of poverty. In collaboration with other agencies and national institutions, the major activities of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in 1996 consist of reviewing and assessing social indicators on immunization, malnutrition, education, water and sanitation, and micro-nutrients in the majority of the countries in which UNICEF has programmes. This review will be available around mid-1996. In addition, measuring poverty and tracking poverty trends over time are crucial for formulating national strategies for poverty eradication and for identifying areas of policy and programme intervention. To accomplish this, UNICEF is collaborating with UNDP and the World Bank to provide better coordinated support to the programme countries as well as suggestions for the monitoring of poverty. Furthermore, in collaboration with interested Governments and relevant United Nations agencies, in particular UNDP and the World Bank, UNICEF will contribute to the monitoring of the 20/20 initiative through its support to the restructuring studies of government and donor budgets.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

35. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) will organize a seminar on the effects of international economic relations on poverty and prepare a background paper. The participants will include both United Nations agency representatives and experts attending in their individual capacity. In order to make the findings of the seminar available in time for the discussions in 1996 during the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council on poverty eradication, UNCTAD proposes to hold the seminar at Geneva in March 1996.

United Nations Development Programme

36. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) welcomes the opportunity which this Year presents for building on the gains of the World Summit for Social Development, providing the impetus for the formulation of national strategies for poverty eradication and developing joint United Nations initiatives which would support the implementation of such strategies. UNDP sees the Year as a good opportunity for helping national partners to focus on the goals of poverty eradication and assisting Governments to deliver sound poverty eradication strategies and to give high visibility to the process. UNDP believes that its network of country offices could be used to support the objectives of the Year. In this regard, it sees a definite role for them in facilitating "dialogues with the poor".

37. Activities UNDP is likely to support, with Governments and United Nations partners, include development of national policy eradication strategies; working out country-specific definitions of poverty; and country-level poverty measurement/situation analyses. These activities will be carried out by UNDP country offices, which are expected to support Governments to make their poverty eradication strategies and plans as comprehensive and realistic as possible (i.e. develop clear national poverty definitions, identify poverty indicators, conduct poverty assessment studies where there are none, set time-bound targets,

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develop monitoring systems, etc.) and to integrate these fully into national development plans. In relation to the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty, UNDP has prepared a document entitled "Poverty eradication: a policy framework for country strategies" as a contribution to the policy dialogue on development alternatives and priorities for the coming years. UNDP is also cooperating with the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat for a poverty eradication information campaign at the country level and will build the theme into its regular information/communication activities.

United Nations Population Fund

38. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is undertaking activities addressing the issue of poverty through its regular programme activities. The eradication of poverty is a theme in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, in which an integrated approach to address the issues of poverty, population and development is promoted.

World Food Programme

39. The World Food Programme (WFP) intends to use the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty to highlight the developmental needs of the hungry poor and to increase the effectiveness of its poverty alleviation efforts at the country level. The major part of the activities of WFP in relation to the Year will take place at the country level in cooperation with all its partners - Governments, donors, non-governmental organizations and beneficiaries.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

40. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), as a humanitarian agency providing assistance and protection to refugees, has important links with the issue of the eradication of poverty. As far as its resources allow, UNHCR is willing to join in with and support any activities undertaken by the United Nations system.

International Labour Organization

41. The International Labour Organization (ILO) is producing an updated version of the Compendium on Poverty Estimates (2nd edition), which would include indicators of social exclusion and cover developed and developing countries. ILO would also document success stories and focus on issues such as the bargaining power of the poor. Above all, the very strong link between poverty and unemployment and underemployment has been emphasized by the World Summit for Social Development. All activities of ILO have therefore a direct bearing on the reduction and eradication of poverty.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

42. The Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) will convene a World Food Summit in November 1996 at Rome, with the aim of renewing the commitment of the world leaders at the highest level to the eradication of hunger and malnutrition and the achievement of food security for all, through

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the adoption of concerted policies and actions at global, regional and national levels. The outcome of the World Food Summit is expected to be a major contribution to the eradication of poverty.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

43. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) plans analytical and policy-oriented work in the area of poverty in connection with the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty. Within the framework of collaboration between UNESCO and the International Social Science Council in its Programme of Comparative Research on Poverty, several publications are being prepared and a series of expert group meetings are being planned to launch some comparative research programmes. For publications in 1996, the following monographs are under preparation: Poverty: a Worldwide Review of Research; Images of Poverty; Law, Power and Poverty; a glossary of poverty; Poverty and Participation in Civil Society; and Feminization of Poverty.

44. The International Social Science Journal will dedicate its issue No. 148 (June 1996) to the theme of poverty. During 1996-97, workshops will be organized on: poverty and social exclusion in the Mediterranean, in Crete, Greece; the economics of poverty, at Bergen, Norway; human rights as an instrument for poverty alleviation, at Sao Paulo, Brazil; the role of the State in poverty alleviation, at Nairobi; and law, power and poverty at Onati, Spain.

45. Within the framework of the World Decade for Cultural Development a workshop is envisaged on culture and poverty that will provide guidelines for the subsequent activities relating culture, poverty and development. UNESCO will also be encouraging its regional social science organizations to focus on poverty during the Year, and intends to use the occasion of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty in favour of its educational intervention in conflict situations by emphasizing the role of income-generating non-formal education in poverty eradication. In the draft programme and budget of UNESCO for 1996-1997, it is specifically foreseen that, in partnership with the United Nations system and grass-roots non-governmental organizations, projects aiming at strengthening endogenous capacities will be set up, with particular emphasis on active and voluntary participation of excluded groups such as unemployed, marginalized and poverty-stricken people through empowerment and training programmes. Seminars will be organized in five countries (Nicaragua, Guatemala, Colombia, Brazil and Peru) to discuss education and poverty. UNESCO will also support Member States in strengthening their social science infrastructures for developing endogenous capacities and for setting up relevant information, documentation and data on the impact of structural adjustment policies on the poor and on the effectiveness of anti-poverty strategies. UNESCO proposes to organize a clearing-house on policies and experiences which have proved effective in the fight against social exclusion. Broad synoptic regional reports assessing successful measures will be disseminated, in cooperation with the media, universities and other educational establishments, non-governmental organizations and representatives of civil society.

46. There is a special focus in UNESCO programmes on fostering a better understanding of the nature, causes and consequences of poverty and contributing

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to strategies for eradicating extreme poverty. An action-oriented project to fight poverty in South Asia is being developed, and a meeting comparing local strategies against poverty will be held in Costa Rica in the spring of 1996.

International Monetary Fund

47. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) Fiscal Affairs Department is considering the compilation, in 1996, of various papers written in IMF on the role of social safety nets in poverty reduction. IMF, through its United Nations Office, will be represented at all future inter-agency meetings on the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty.

World Bank

48. The World Bank already has in place a process for helping countries articulate their poverty reduction strategies through the preparation of poverty assessments, public expenditure reviews and country assistance strategies. The Bank's operations increasingly involve interactions with the poor, principally through participatory poverty assessments, which mean talking to the poor directly, and through participatory project preparation and implementation. Some of the new initiatives the Bank is proposing for 1996 which are currently under consideration include an accelerated programme for children to break the inter-generational cycle of poverty and some ideas in health (vaccine development and micro-nutrients). The Bank is also working to improve the effectiveness of the instruments it relies on to help countries reduce poverty, such as policy advice, technical assistance, project loans and policy loans.

International Fund for Agricultural Development

49. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has already begun preparations for the observance of the Year both at institutional level and through a number of public information activities. In its 18 years of operation, IFAD has designed and financed over 400 poverty alleviation projects in more than 100 countries across the developing world. In relation to the observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty, the Fund is going to upgrade a number of already planned activities, such as project implementation workshops to include "lessons learned" and "best practices". IFAD is exploring cost-effective ways of enhancing the level of exchange with the poor by strengthening participatory mechanisms that will allow the poor to express their views, ideas and proposals on how best to strengthen the impact of poverty projects in order to raise their productivity and incomes. IFAD, along with other national and multilateral institutions, is also sponsoring in November at Brussels, the Conference on Hunger and Poverty. The major objective of the Conference is to allow institutions of civil society, especially non-governmental organizations, to join hands with multilateral organizations, bilateral donors and national institutions to combat hunger and poverty. At Brussels, IFAD hopes to build an operational coalition that will allow successful programmes against poverty to be identified, expanded and replicated. Within this context, IFAD is also collaborating with the World Bank to promote micro-financing programmes. Such programmes will be designed to pioneer new modalities for poverty eradication.

50. A number of activities will be undertaken within IFAD itself over the Year. The Fund's Latin America and the Caribbean Division is planning to start regional "discussions on poverty with the poor", to promote analysis of poverty issues from the poor's perspective and organize forums to discuss problems and solutions emerging at project level. Some regional and subregional IFAD technical assistance grants could also be used to organize regional and subregional events on poverty issues where the voice of the poor could be heard. Another global study on issues such as household food security, rural financing and desertification control will help in defining strategies for future poverty alleviation investments in the regions. IFAD is also preparing to hold a subregional workshop at Cape Town, South Africa on 30 and 31 January 1996 which will review the experiences of a large number of IFAD-supported projects. The workshop, in which poor groups as well as government officials and project staff, administrators and donors will be participants, will represent a demonstration of solidarity in a country just liberated from apartheid, to work for a world free from poverty. The event could also include an exposition of traditional and improved farmers' instruments, artisanal products of rural communities from various parts of the developing world, a photo exhibit, stands for publications, a video show and a musical programme, while the African and international media would cover the event through national and satellite television networks. The exposition planned for Cape Town would effectively be structured as a "mobile expo". It could then travel throughout the Year to destinations such as Beijing, Cairo, Dakar, London, Mexico City, Nairobi, New Delhi, New York, Rio de Janeiro, Riyadh, Rome, Tokyo and Washington, D.C., where it would arrive in time for the observance of the 1996 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

51. To mark the launching of the International Year, a special video "promo" and a video news release for distribution through Reuters satellite feeds and other channels would be produced in December 1995. In addition, a series of monthly 30-minute television programmes on various success stories in the fight against rural poverty in Africa would be developed. Moreover, a series of short documentaries on the socio-economic conditions of rural communities in developing countries in Arabic, English, French, German, Italian and Spanish for broadcast on the Euronews network is being planned. Other productions are under negotiation. An IFAD-sponsored workshop on environmental support to nomads and sustainable management of multi-purpose marginal land resources is scheduled to take place at Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, from 16 to 19 March 1996. In addition, IFAD is seeking to improve public awareness both in donor and recipient countries of the importance of solidarity and cooperation to eradicate poverty.

Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions

52. The Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions (CCPOQ), of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), at its seventh session, in New York, took note of the work accomplished to date on poverty eradication and the positive response given to the report of the CCPOQ Working Group on Poverty on the work of the United Nations system on poverty alleviation. 11/ It decided to pursue these efforts on the basis of a three-day brainstorming workshop to be convened at the ILO Training Centre at Turin at the end of January 1996 to generate ideas on practical issues for follow-up. Some of the issues proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the workshop are: criteria for

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identification of poverty groups; the geographical structures for such action; identification of the basic programmes; an understanding of the reasons for successes and failures of poverty programmes; and strategies for extending services and targeting benefits to the poor.

C. Activities by other organizations

53. The decision to designate 1996 International Year for the Eradication of Poverty was communicated to regional and international organizations outside the United Nations system, inviting them to take appropriate action in regard to its observance. Information made available from these organizations will be included in the newsletter and other informational material to be issued during the course of the Year.

Notes

1/ Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (A/CONF.166/9), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

2/ E/1995/92.

3/ Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (A/CONF.166/9), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I, sect. C.

4/ Ibid., commitment 2.

5/ Ibid.

6/ Ibid., annex II, paras. 26 (b) and (d).

7/ Ibid., para. 83 (d).

8/ Ibid., paras. 95 (a) and (c).

9/ Ibid., annex I, sect. C, commitment 2.

10/ Ibid., annex II, para. 83 (d).

11/ ACC/1995/POQ/CRP.19, annex.



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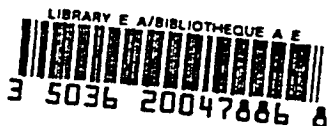
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Agenda item 161

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE WORLD SUMMIT
FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 16 December 1992, the General Assembly, by its resolution 47/92, decided to convene a World Summit for Social Development at the level of Heads of State or Government, and accepted with deep appreciation the generous offer of the Government of Denmark to host the Summit. The report of the Summit, held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, is now before the General Assembly. 1/

2. The World Summit for Social Development adopted a Declaration, entitled the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, and a Programme of Action 2/ and recommended their endorsement by the General Assembly at its fiftieth session. The Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development includes a statement on the current social situation and the reasons for convening the Summit, a set of principles and goals, and 10 Commitments. The Programme of Action outlines policies, actions and measures to implement the principles and fulfil the commitments enunciated in the Copenhagen Declaration.

3. The follow-up and implementation of the decisions and recommendations adopted by the Social Summit are particularly challenging owing to the complex and interconnected nature of the issues and the commitments made. The reduction and elimination of poverty, the promotion of productive employment, the creation of socially integrated societies and the creation of a political and economic environment supportive of those goals entail a vast array of policies and actions and a large number of actors. Goals must be pursued in a comprehensive way, integrating environmental, human rights, gender and other dimensions highlighted at previous global conferences. The main responsibility for the implementation of the policies, actions and measures contained in the Declaration and Programme of Action rests with national Governments. At the same time, it is one of the key axioms of the Summit that all private and public institutions and organizations, as well as all citizens, should share that responsibility, and it is clearly stated in the Declaration and Programme of Action that international cooperation and assistance are essential for its full implementation. Commitment 10 of the Declaration calls for improved and strengthened cooperation for social development, in a spirit of partnership, through the United Nations and other multilateral institutions. In chapter V of the Programme of Action, the Secretary-General of the United Nations is requested to ensure active coordination of the implementation of the Declaration and the Programme of Action (para. 98 (d)). The present report focuses mainly on the supportive role of intergovernmental bodies and the organizations of the United Nations system.

4. On 29 March 1995, the Secretary-General sent a letter to Heads of State or Government who had participated at the Social Summit and stressed the political significance of the event and of the commitments taken. He also indicated that he was initiating a process to ensure a coordinated response from the United Nations system, based on a clear division of labour. In a second letter to Heads of State or Government dated 28 July 1995, the Secretary-General suggested the designation of a national focal point on the implementation of the Summit. The Secretary-General asked for the personal views of Heads of State or Government on ways to maintain the momentum towards the objectives agreed upon in Copenhagen. In related exchanges with Governments, the Secretary-General

emphasized that the situation of least developed countries would be fully taken into account in the follow-up to the Summit. In their responses to the Secretary-General's letter, Governments emphasized their determination to foster social development and to implement the objectives and commitments adopted in Copenhagen. Focal points are being designated in central ministries. Some national committees, established in the context of the preparation of the Summit, are being maintained, while in other cases new national committees are being put in place. Such initiatives should play a role in maintaining the momentum for the pursuit of social development that was created in Copenhagen.

5. In the Programme of Action, the Administrative Committee on Coordination, which is chaired by the Secretary-General, was invited to consider how the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system might best coordinate their activities to implement the objectives of the summit. On 21 June 1995, the Secretary-General sent a letter to heads of United Nations programmes and specialized agencies and the Bretton Woods institutions, stressing the need to approach the follow-up to United Nations conferences in an integrated manner. He then presented a report to the coordination segment of the Economic and Social Council in July outlining the elements of a system-wide integrated approach to the follow-up to United Nations conferences.

6. The intergovernmental discussions in the Economic and Social Council and the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on an Agenda for Development of the General Assembly confirmed Member States' expectations that the system would mobilize to provide effective, concerted support for the implementation of the commitments and programmes of action emanating from recent global United Nations conferences.

7. In his communications to executive heads, the Secretary-General has stressed that strong inter-agency cooperation will be required to promote effective follow-up action by Governments at all levels. It is, however, in relation to national action at the country level - in assisting individual countries to translate the outcomes of the conferences into concrete national policies and programmes, and in providing resident coordinators and country-level teams with coherent system-wide support - that existing inter-agency efforts need to be especially reinforced. Bearing in mind that follow-up mechanisms for the Rio Conference are already in place, the immediate priority should be to support effective country-level action that would ensure an integrated follow-up to the Cairo, Copenhagen and Beijing conferences around key, common objectives. The overriding goal, in this respect, should be to mount a concerted attack on poverty, building on the conceptual framework developed at the Social Summit - in particular the consensus reached in Copenhagen that poverty elimination requires basic social services, employment and sustainable livelihoods, the advancement of women and an enabling environment, at both the national and international levels.

8. To transform these concepts into practical modalities for action, proposals were submitted to the Administrative Committee on Coordination involving the expansion of the existing Task Force on the International Conference on Population and Development into a more broadly focused body concentrating on the provision of basic social services for all, and the establishment of task forces under a lead agency, which would address respectively the enabling environment

for social and economic development, and employment and sustainable livelihoods for all. Complementary arrangements would be established at the regional and country levels.

9. These proposals, which are designed to mobilize the United Nations system to provide effective, concerted support for specific, goal-oriented programmes aimed at the implementation of the commitments and plans of action emanating from recent United Nations conferences, in particular at the country level, and in support of national follow-up, were considered at the October session of the Administrative Committee.

II. AN IMPROVED AND STRENGTHENED FRAMEWORK FOR COOPERATION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

10. The Social Summit addressed issues of universal relevance. It recommended policies and actions involving all members of the international community. It gave a comprehensive meaning to social development. Its scope, which encompasses the three core issues of poverty, employment and social integration, as well as the areas covered by the 10 Commitments, cuts across the responsibilities of national ministries and the mandates of different organizations within the system.

11. The Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action emphasizes that Governments have the primary responsibility for social development. However, the notions of participation and responsibility are extended to the private sector, to the media, to non-governmental organizations and to all elements of civil society (Declaration, para. 27; Programme of Action, chap. V, para. 85 (g)).

12. International cooperation is given a major role in the Declaration and Programme of Action. Commitment 10, an improved and strengthened framework for international, regional and subregional cooperation for social development, in a spirit of partnership, through the United Nations and other multilateral institutions, is necessary to implement the outcome of the Social Summit. Chapter V of the Programme of Action makes clear that implementing the Declaration and the Programme in developing countries, in particular in Africa, and the least developed countries, will require additional financial resources and more effective development cooperation. The special needs of small island developing States and of landlocked developing countries are recognized. Chapter V also makes clear that continued international cooperation and assistance are required for countries with economies in transition. A proper articulation of various forms of cooperation, at the national, regional, subregional and international levels, is seen as crucial to the implementation of the outcome of the Social Summit. Cooperation ought to be based on the recognition of the diversity in the world and on the need for solidarity, within and among nations (chap. V, para. 82)..

13. The Summit was also remarkable for emphasizing that principles and values such as responsibility and solidarity should provide the foundation for human endeavours and political action. It presented the eradication of poverty as an ethical, social, political and economic imperative (Declaration, Commitment 2)

and stressed that societies must respond more effectively to the material and spiritual needs of individuals, their families, and the communities in which they live (ibid., para. 3). An essential requirement for the implementation of the Summit, including through international cooperation, is solidarity, extending the concept of partnership and a moral imperative of mutual respect and concern among individuals, communities and nations (Programme of Action, chap. V, para. 82).

14. These dimensions of the Social Summit ought to give shape to the actions that will be taken by the international community to implement its recommendations and commitments. They have implications for follow-up at the national and international levels. The follow-up should be innovative and lead to practical results. It will require changes or reorientations in institutional arrangements and in the concepts and processes that underlie them. It should be integrated in the elaboration of an agenda for development and the coordinated follow-up to recent global conferences, while respecting the specificity of the philosophy and message of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action. It should be holistic, in the sense of putting together the various facets of economic development and social progress, while respecting the diversity of social conditions and of traditions and culture. And it should be comprehensive, while ensuring the political visibility called for by the priority given to social development by the Summit. These are among the criteria against which the overall review and appraisal proposed by the Summit to the General Assembly for the year 2000 (Declaration, Commitment 10, para. (g)) should be conducted. At the international level, the calendar and agendas of meetings of intergovernmental bodies should be organized to maximize their contribution to the review.

15. In considering the issues before it on the implementation of the World Summit for Social Development, the General Assembly may wish to give special attention to the outcome of the 1995 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council. The Secretary-General's report to the Council 3/ and the subsequent agreed conclusions (see A/50/3, chap. III, para. 22) provide a framework for follow-up arrangements based on the mandate and functions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies. In choosing its themes for the coordination segment the Council may wish to choose a theme that would maximize its contribution to the Summit review.

16. The decisions on the follow-up should contribute to the broader discussions on the reform of the functioning of the United Nations in economic, social and related fields currently under way, as well as to the discussions on an agenda for development and on coordinated follow-up of other major United Nations conferences.

III. ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

A. Economic and Social Council

Recommendations made by the Social Summit

17. Commitment 10 of the Declaration calls for strengthening the structure, resources and processes of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, together with other organizations of the system concerned with economic and social development. The Economic and Social Council is specifically requested to review and assess progress made by the international community towards implementing the outcome of the World Summit (paras. (e) and (f)).

18. In chapter V of the Programme of Action, the Economic and Social Council is requested to oversee system-wide coordination of implementation of the Summit outcome (para. 95 (f)). Part of its strengthening mentioned in Commitment 10 would be to establish a closer working relationship with the specialized agencies and to draw upon the work done on a common framework for the implementation of the outcomes of conferences. The Council is also invited to review the reporting system in the area of social development and to consider holding joint meetings with the Development Committee of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) (para. 95 (g)). The Council is further invited, together with the General Assembly and other organs of the United Nations system, to contribute to the mobilization of financial resources and, in particular, to consider new and innovative ideas for generating funds (para. 93). Lastly, it is stipulated in the Programme of Action that, in addition to the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council could also convene meetings of high-level representatives to promote international dialogue on critical social issues and on policies for addressing them through international cooperation (para. 95 (d)).

Initiatives taken since Copenhagen

19. The Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1995 held a debate on the follow-up of the Summit under its agenda item on operational activities and under its agenda on social development. In its resolution 1995/60, the Council, apart from its decisions relating to the work of the Commission for Social Development, reaffirmed the recommendation of the Programme of Action that it should oversee system-wide coordination of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit and reiterated the need for all relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to be involved in the follow-up to the Summit, in accordance with their mandates. The Council also reiterated that the implementation of the Declaration and the Programme of Action would require the mobilization of financial resources at the national and international levels.

20. The Council considered the theme of coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system and the implementation of the results of the major international conferences organized by the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, during the coordination segment of its substantive session of 1995. In its agreed conclusions, the Council, while emphasizing that each conference had its own thematic unity, decided to carry out, within the framework of its yearly

coordination segment, a review of cross-cutting themes common to major international conferences and to contribute to an overall review of the implementation of the programme of action of a United Nations conference. To that end, the Council would draw on a consolidated report of the Secretariat based on the input of functional commissions and other intergovernmental bodies and would also benefit from the active participation of funds, programmes, the regional commissions and relevant specialized agencies. The Council was to decide at its resumed substantive session of 1995 on a common theme(s) that it would consider in 1996 (see the agreed conclusions, sect. I.B). The Council was also to decide on the substantive theme to be taken up by the special session of the Commission for Social Development (see resolution 1995/60).

21. In its same conclusions on a coordinated follow-up to international conferences, the Council stated that it would ensure the harmonization and coordination of the agendas and work programmes of the functional commissions. To achieve this, the Council could, inter alia, organize meetings on specific issues with the chairpersons and secretariats of the functional commissions, as well as with other subsidiary and related bodies and their executive boards. The role of the regional commissions and a better interaction between the Council and the Committee for Programme and Coordination are also mentioned. Furthermore, all functional commissions are invited to develop multi-year programmes of work for the follow-up and review of programmes of action of conferences. As noted in paragraph 28 below, the Commission for Social Development is to consider such a multi-year programme of work at its special session of 1996. A better division of labour among the functional commissions would require, according to the Council, that each would focus on core issues of the conference for which it is responsible and on receiving inputs from other commissions on related issues (see the agreed conclusions, sect. I.B and C).

B. Subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council;
the Commission for Social Development

22. It will be recalled that the Commission for Social Development participated in the elaboration of the agenda for the World Summit for Social Development. The report of its thirty-third session presented to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in 1993 4/ contributed to a clarification of the agenda of the Summit and the treatment of the three core issues. For example, the Commission outlined the elements of social development strategies that would further social integration, including equal access to opportunities and information, promotion of the role of grassroots and non-governmental organizations, and ensuring that public administration is transparent and accountable. These are elements of the "society for all" advocated in the Programme of Action. In addition, the Commission emphasized that a stable and non-discriminatory international environment was essential for social development.

Recommendations made by the Social Summit

23. Commitment 10 includes the decision to strengthen the structure, resources and processes of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies. It also includes a reference to the role of relevant functional commissions in the

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review and assessment of the outcome of the Summit to be undertaken by the Council and submitted to the General Assembly (paras. (e) and (f)).

24. In chapter V of the Programme of Action, the Economic and Social Council was invited to review the mandate, agenda and composition of the Commission for Social Development, including consideration of the strengthening of the Commission, taking into account the need for synergy with other related commissions and conference follow-up (para. 95 (f)).

25. It should also be noted that in chapter V of the Programme of Action, the role of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in monitoring the relevant aspects of the Declaration and the Programme of Action is emphasized (para. 95 (i)). This Committee, which is made up of experts, receives and examines reports of States parties on their compliance with the provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Thirty-fourth session of the Commission for Social Development

26. At its thirty-fourth session, the Commission for Social Development adopted resolution 34/4 on the follow-up of the Summit, with three key points: it referred to its central role in the follow-up; it proposed an opening of its debate to experts and the main actors of civil society; and it indicated that the Council might consider an expansion of the membership of the Commission and the annualization of its meetings. 5/

27. The Commission also adopted a provisional agenda for its thirty-fifth session, 6/ scheduled to take place in 1997, with two substantive items: the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the monitoring of other international plans and programmes of action. Under the item on follow-up to the World Summit, the Commission identified four sub-items: (a) implications of decisions and resolutions adopted by the Council at its substantive session of 1995 and the General Assembly at its fiftieth session that relate to the Commission; (b) priority subjects encompassing the core issues, commitments and related issues of the Summit; (c) review of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the Summit, including reports of relevant bodies of the United Nations system; and (d) review of the world social situation.

Decisions of the Economic and Social Council on the Commission for Social Development and other functional bodies

28. The Economic and Social Council, in considering the report of the Commission, adopted the agenda the Commission proposed for its thirty-fifth session in 1997. With regard to the role of the Commission for the follow-up of the Summit, the Council in its resolution 1995/60 decided that the Commission should review, on a periodic basis, issues related to the follow-up and implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, and that such a role would involve an improvement of international understanding of social development making recommendations regarding social development to the Council and elaborating practical measures aimed at furthering the Summit's recommendations; that the Commission should adapt its mandate so as to ensure an integrated approach to social development, develop a multi-year programme of

work to the year 2000, establish the practice of opening its debates to experts and the main actors of civil society, review and update its methods of work and review the reporting practices to and by the Commission; and that the Commission should hold a special session in 1996 to review its mandate, elaborate its multi-year programme of work and review the frequency of its meetings.

29. The Council was to decide, at its resumed substantive session of 1995, on the substantive theme to be considered by the Commission.

30. Also in its resolution 1995/60, the Council stipulated that the review by the Commission should be done in a manner consistent with the functions and contributions of other relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system. In particular, the work of the Commission should be coordinated with the work of other functional commissions of the Council, notably the Statistical Commission and the Commission on Population and Development. Such harmonization will require close cooperation between the chairpersons and bureaux of the various intergovernmental bodies, as well as between secretariats.

31. The Commission's preparation of a multi-year programme of work to the year 2000 should be based on the relative advantages of the Commission for Social Development in the overall structure of intergovernmental bodies and their current mandates, one of which is its capacity to consider issues pertaining to social integration. This could mean that the Commission could adopt a social integration or "society for all" perspective on a variety of issues, including poverty and unemployment (Programme of Action, chap. IV, para. 66).

32. Governments that are members of the Commission have traditionally been invited to send representatives having expertise in the field of social development and integrated social policy and planning. Notably, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1139 IV (XLI), Member States elected to the Commission should nominate candidates who hold key positions in the planning or execution of national social development policies or other persons qualified to discuss the formulation of social policies in more than one sector of development. Member States are urged to adhere to those guidelines. In addition, and apart from the participation of all non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, a number of initiatives to promote greater participation of the private sector and of representatives of civil society in the sessions of the Commission are envisaged, starting with the special session in 1996, in line with the recommendation of the Council regarding the opening of the debates of the Commission to experts and representatives of civil society.

C. United Nations programmes

Recommendations made by the Social Summit

33. The implementation of the outcome of the Summit at the national level requires, inter alia, the assistance, upon request, of the programmes of the United Nations system. This is stated in Commitment 10 and recommendations are

made on technical cooperation, technical assistance and operational activities for development in chapter V of the Programme of Action.

34. The international support for the formulation of national strategies for social development would involve assisting countries in building or strengthening their capacity for the design and implementation of such strategies, the coordination of the assistance provided by different agencies and the development of improved statistics and indicators (Programme of Action, chap. V, para. 84).

35. With regard to the mobilization of financial resources, bilateral and multilateral donors are invited to coordinate their financing policies and planning procedures in order to improve the impact and cost-effectiveness of their contributions to social development in developing countries (ibid., para. 88 (o)). A similar call for coordination is made for the assistance to countries with economies in transition (ibid., para. 89). Programmes of the United Nations are also invited to assist Governments in ensuring that structural adjustment programmes contribute to employment, the reduction of poverty and social integration, including through reviews, policy dialogues and new initiatives (ibid., para. 96).

36. In the general context of a renewal, reform and revitalization of the United Nations system and of its operational activities in particular, the United Nations operational activities for development should be strengthened. To this end, the Summit called on the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to organize United Nations system efforts towards capacity-building at the local, national and regional levels, and to support the coordinated implementation of social development programmes through its network of field offices. At the country level, coordination to implement the outcome of the Social Summit should be improved through the resident coordinator system. Such development efforts by the United Nations require a substantial increase in resources for operational activities (ibid., para. 99).

Initiatives taken since Copenhagen

37. UNDP has established a Summit follow-up strategy group, which is working with UNDP country offices and country-level partners to assist them in elaborating specific strategies and programmes for implementing the Programme of Action. Commitments and recommendations of the Summit closely parallel its mission and strategy as outlined in its "Initiatives for Change". 7/ Elements of the UNDP follow-up strategy include support to countries in integrating Summit agreements into long-term development plans, in particular for the eradication of poverty; promoting dialogue among international development cooperation partners on Summit follow-up, in particular in relation to aid coordination and cooperation; and the possible establishment of a "capacity-development window" facilitating the mobilization of funds for national capacity-building. Two strategy papers have been circulated to resident coordinators: "From Poverty to Equity" 8/ and "Beyond Copenhagen". 9/ Feedback has already been received from 43 country offices on specifics of national follow-up. UNDP is also working closely with Governments and United Nations system partners on several post-Copenhagen initiatives, including a proposed international meeting on the 20:20 formula for funding social

programmes; the possible establishment of a consultative group on the poorest; poverty monitoring; and the Secretary-General's Special Initiative for Africa within the framework of the Administrative Committee on Coordination.

38. Immediately following the Summit, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) informed its field and headquarters staff of the highlights of the Summit, in particular as they relate to the decisions and recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development. The Fund will implement all relevant recommendations that are within its mandate and will serve as an advocate for recommendations on other population-related social goals, objectives and commitments adopted by the Summit. The Fund will keep its Executive Board informed of progress made in implementing the recommendations of the Summit. 10/

39. In 1994, the Executive Board of UNICEF decided to include an item on the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development on the agenda of its 1995 session. The documents submitted by the Executive Director for discussion at the session in May 1995 noted that the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action reaffirmed many of the objectives and goals adopted by the World Summit for Children. UNICEF is committed to playing an active and supportive role in the overall United Nations system follow-up process, with a particular focus on action at the field level. The follow-up to the World Summit offers opportunities to strengthen and accelerate the implementation process for the outcome of the World Summit for Children and other related conferences. 11/

40. Other programmes, notably the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), are undertaking activities that will contribute to the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action.

D. Regional commissions

Recommendations made by the Social Summit

41. The regional commissions are invited, through Commitment 10, to participate in a strengthened cooperation for social development at the national, regional and subregional levels. At the national level, the regional commissions could assist countries to take measures and develop mechanisms for implementing and monitoring the outcome of the Summit. They could convene, in cooperation with regional intergovernmental organizations and banks and on a biennial basis, a meeting at a high political level to evaluate progress made towards fulfilling the outcome of the Summit. The commissions should report to the Economic and Social Council on the outcome of such meetings and, in general, should assist the Council and the General Assembly in their review and assessment of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit (Programme of Action, chap. V, para. 95 (h)).

42. The emphasis of the Summit on increased cooperation at all levels implies that the regional commissions are expected to support the implementation of the

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objectives of the Declaration and the Programme of Action, in particular to assist developing countries, Africa and the least developed countries, and the countries with economies in transition. Such support should apply to the mobilization of financial resources, the orientation towards social development of structural adjustment programmes, as well as South-South cooperation, the development of knowledge and indicators on the implementation of the Summit at the regional level and the mobilization of actors of the civil society at the regional level in the process of social development.

Initiatives taken since Copenhagen

43. The ministers in charge of social development policy from 11 States Members of the Rio Group (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela) met at Buenos Aires on 4 and 5 May 1995 and adopted a declaration on the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development as well as a set of actions to be taken at the regional level. Three main orientations have been chosen: formulation and management of social policies; creation of a regional database on social projects, programmes and initiatives; and technical cooperation among developing countries for social development activities in Latin America. A regional meeting of representatives from the Rio Group, the United Nations system and lending institutions is to take place in Quito in November 1995. In addition, a regional project on social indicators will be launched for the Latin American region with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and UNDP with the support of the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank.

44. At the Summit itself in Copenhagen, the Chancellor of Austria issued an invitation for a meeting at the European level, to be convened in Vienna in 1997, which would review the progress made towards fulfilling the outcome of the Summit. The Chancellor indicated that the regional meeting should include the development of an appropriate framework to deal with the specific problems of the countries of the region with economies in transition.

45. In relation with the implementation of Commitment 2, on the eradication of poverty and the observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty, all regional commissions are planning a large number of activities, including expert group meetings, studies and publications, the development of regional programmes of action and of indicators and statistical profiles of social groups in poverty.

E. Agencies of the United Nations system

Recommendations made by the Social Summit

46. In Commitment 10, Heads of State and Government decided that they would instruct their representatives to the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as international development agencies and multilateral development banks, to enlist the support and cooperation of those organizations to take appropriate and coordinated measures to implement the goals and commitments of the Summit. All the organizations of the system are strongly invited, in a spirit of partnership, to foster social development. The

specialized agencies are invited to contribute to the review and assessment of the outcome of the Summit to be undertaken by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. Also, along with other organizations of the system, the specialized agencies might be invited by Member States to assist them in taking measures and elaborating mechanisms for the follow-up of the Summit.

47. The specialized agencies and the Bretton Woods institutions are invited, together with the United Nations and its various programmes, to give particular attention to international cooperation and assistance to developing countries, Africa and the least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition (Programme of Action, chap. V, paras. 96 and 97).

48. Together with the programmes of the United Nations, specialized agencies have a role to play in the support that the international community might provide to Governments for the formulation of national strategies for social development (ibid., para. 84).

49. The Programme of Action includes a large number of recommendations on the role that the specialized agencies, and in particular the Bretton Woods institutions, should play in the mobilization of financial resources for social development and the implementation of the commitments made in Copenhagen. With regard to debt reduction and on the basis of the decisions taken during the course of 1994 by seven major industrialized countries and the governors of the World Bank and IMF, the international financial institutions are invited to explore ways of adopting additional and innovative measures to alleviate the debt burden of developing and low-income countries; the resources of the Debt Reduction Facility of the International Development Association (IDA) ought to be mobilized and alternative mechanisms to complement that Facility ought to be considered (ibid., para. 90).

50. With regard to structural adjustment programmes, specialized agencies and international financial institutions also have a critical role to play in order to gear those programmes towards the objectives of social development (Declaration, Commitment 8). All institutions are invited to assist Governments in protecting basic social programmes and expenditures, reviewing the impact of structural adjustment programmes on societies and enabling small enterprises and cooperatives to increase their capacity for income generation and employment creation. The World Bank, IMF and all other regional and international finance organizations are requested to give higher priority to social sector lending. All institutions of the system are also invited to cooperate with the United Nations in assessing the impact of structural adjustment programmes (Programme of Action, chap. V, para. 91).

51. The Summit also concluded that consideration should be given to the holding of joint meetings of the Economic and Social Council and the Development Committee of the World Bank and IMF. In addition, the Secretary-General and the heads of IMF, the World Bank, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations funds and programmes and other relevant agencies are invited to consider the possibility of holding joint meetings prior to the Development Committee's session (ibid., para. 95 (g)).

52. Since one of the three core issues of the Summit was the expansion of productive employment, ILO has a special role to play in the implementation and follow-up of the Declaration and Programme of Action. In Commitment 3, the goal of full employment and the respect for workers' rights are to be supported at the international level through a variety of measures (paras. (j) and (k)). In chapter III of the Programme of Action, it is indicated that Governments should enhance the quality of work and employment by, *inter alia*, promoting the role of ILO, in particular as regards improving the level of employment and the quality of work (para. 54 (e)). In chapter V, in the context of ensuring coherence in the efforts of the United Nations system, the General Assembly is invited to give consideration to requesting ILO, whose mandate, tripartite structures and expertise give it a special role in the field of employment and social development, to contribute to the implementation of the Programme of Action (para. 98 (c)).

53. In the Programme of Action, the World Trade Organization is invited to consider how it might contribute to the implementation of the Programme, including in cooperation with the United Nations system (para. 98 (b)).

54. In Commitment 6, pertaining to the attainment of the goals of universal and equitable access to quality education and to the highest standard of physical and mental health, the specialized agencies, notably the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), are requested to take measures to promote the specific objectives of the Summit on education and health and to give greater emphasis to the eradication of poverty, promotion of full and productive employment and fostering of social integration.

Initiatives taken since Copenhagen

55. In April 1995, the Development Committee of the World Bank and IMF decided to consider at its meeting in October 1995 the implications of the World Summit for Social Development for developing countries and countries with economies in transition. IMF and the World Bank prepared a joint paper on activities of the two organizations in the area of poverty reduction, with particular emphasis on the role of public expenditure. The paper identifies aspects of the work of the two institutions to be strengthened and considers ways of enhancing cooperation between the Bretton Woods institutions and other multilateral and bilateral donors in support of the poverty-reduction strategies of developing and transition economies.

56. The ILO Governing Body, at its session in March/April 1995, requested the Director-General to ensure that ILO research, operational and standard-setting activities were geared closely to the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action. At the request of the Governing Body, the Director-General of ILO informed the Secretary-General that ILO wished to be fully associated in the monitoring and reporting arrangements for the follow-up of the Summit. The Governing Body also requested the Director-General to submit to it at its session in November 1995 detailed proposals concerning actions to be taken by ILO in giving effect to the decisions or recommendations of Copenhagen, taking into account resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and other competent organizations of the United Nations system. In response to

Commitment 3 (i) of the Copenhagen Declaration, the ILO Governing Body decided to consider at its session in November 1995 the questions of promoting universal ratification of the ILO fundamental human rights conventions, combating child labour and improving the effectiveness of ILO supervision of labour standards. 11/

57. At the session of the International Labour Conference in June 1995, the Director-General submitted a report on promoting employment, focusing on the follow-up to the Summit. An informal tripartite meeting at the ministerial level considered another paper, on follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, on the role of ILO. The meeting concluded that ILO, with its tripartite structure, must play a leadership role in the activities of the international system, at the country and global levels, in the fields of employment and labour policies and the defence and promotion of workers' rights, while respecting the overall coordinating role of the Economic and Social Council. ILO also intends to assist Governments and social partners in formulating national strategies to attain the goal of fuller and high-quality employment, and will strengthen its capacity to monitor the employment situation and relevant global trends that affect employment, underemployment and unemployment. To that end, it will be publishing a regular review of the world employment situation. The Governing Body will be examining at its session in November 1995 a document containing more detailed proposals on the action to be taken by ILO in giving effect to the outcome of the Summit. 12/

58. In addition to the World Bank, IMF and ILO, specialized agencies, including UNESCO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and WHO, are developing activities in response to the requests made in Copenhagen; other agencies, notably the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), are also directly involved in the follow-up to the Summit, in particular with regard to the reduction and eradication of poverty.

59. Executive heads agreed that monitoring the follow-up by the United Nations system to recent global conferences would continue to be a major concern of the Administrative Committee on Coordination in the period ahead. In order to promote an integrated follow-up to the conferences, the Administrative Committee decided that, in future, it would undertake such reviews on the basis of a thematic approach, bringing together related results of recent global conferences, and drawing for that purpose on relevant inter-agency mechanisms. The selection of the themes for such reviews will take into account the need to monitor progress in the implementation of conference results and to provide the Economic and Social Council, in particular at its coordination segment, with consolidated information, analyses and assessment of system-wide activities in support of the Council's own thematic review.

60. The Administrative Committee on Coordination concurred with the proposal that coordinated support for country-level action should be organized, in the first instance, around three interrelated themes: (a) the enabling environment for social and economic development; (b) employment and sustainable livelihoods; and (c) basic social services for all. It considered that these themes were especially relevant to a concerted attack on poverty which constituted a major, overarching priority objective underlying all the conferences.

61. With regard to arrangements for pursuing these themes, the Administrative Committee agreed that the existing task force on the International Conference on Population and Development, under the chairmanship of the Executive Director of UNFPA, should be expanded to focus more broadly on social services for all, and that task forces should be set up to address respectively the enabling environment for social and economic development, and employment and sustainable livelihoods. The World Bank agreed to serve as lead agency for the task force on the enabling environment for social and economic development and ILO for the one on employment and sustainable livelihoods.

62. During the discussions, several suggestions were made with regard to the scope of work of each of the task forces. It was agreed that the lead agencies would consult members of the Administrative Committee on the definition of the work of and participation in the task forces and on the contribution different organizations could make to their work from their varying perspectives.

63. The Administrative Committee noted that the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women ^{13/} encompassed, but went well beyond, the above themes. The gender dimension should be taken fully into account in the work of each of the thematic task forces. Following the relevant decisions by the General Assembly, consideration will need to be given to the best means of promoting sustained and coordinated follow-up to the Platform for Action and of ensuring that the improvement of the status of women in all its aspects is placed in the mainstream of the work of the system.

64. With regard to regional-level arrangements, the Administrative Committee noted that the executive secretaries of the regional commissions, in consultation with the Administrator of UNDP, would work with the concerned agencies and programmes, drawing on the strengthened inter-agency consultative arrangements put in place further to the Secretary-General's letter of 4 March 1994 in order to develop concerted action programmes at the regional level in support of conference objectives.

65. At the country level, resident coordinators, in close cooperation with United Nations system partners, should take the lead in establishing thematic groups that would draw on but not necessarily be identical to, the inter-agency task forces referred to above, reflecting the particular situation, priorities and needs of the country in question. These groups should fully involve national and local authorities and non-governmental organizations, and work with all concerned agencies and programmes, including those not having field representatives.

66. In the context of the work of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, the Subcommittee on Statistical Activities has established an expert group to follow up the statistical implications of the Summit. This expert group has a work programme and has recommended that an expert group on the measurement of poverty be created. ^{14/} Also, the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions has a working group on poverty evaluation and reviewed the follow-up to the World Summit at its session in September 1995.

F. Secretariat

67. Within the Secretariat of the United Nations at Headquarters, the contribution to the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action will be provided mainly through the technical and substantive servicing of the relevant intergovernmental bodies - notably the Commission for Social Development, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly - by the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development. That Department, together with other departments within their mandates, will ensure the provision of relevant documentation to the intergovernmental bodies that will review and appraise the implementation of the outcome of the Social Summit.

68. The Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis intends in particular to establish, in relation with the work of the Administrative Committee on Coordination's Subcommittee on Statistical Activities, a United Nations common data system task force aimed at developing a coordinated and consistent methodological approach to data collection across the United Nations system in response to the requests made by different conferences, including the Social Summit, for better statistics and indicators. In the same Department, research and studies will be conducted on such issues as the dimensions and characteristics of poverty, forms and causes of social exclusion, policies to enhance social integration and policies to encourage the creation of employment opportunities. The results of those studies will be made available to Member States, notably through the Report on the World Social Situation and the World Economic and Social Survey. The Department for Development Support and Management Services, in addition to developing a system for the monitoring of the effects of adjustment, is carrying out a number of technical cooperation projects and workshops in the field of poverty and social integration that are relevant to the implementation of the Summit's recommendations. In addition, it is assisting countries in formulating social development or human development strategies in response to the specific recommendation made in this connection at the Summit. The work of the General Assembly on public administration and development at its resumed fiftieth session in April 1996 (see General Assembly resolution 49/136) will be of direct relevance to the creation of a favourable environment for social development.

69. Since the scope of the Declaration and Programme of Action is extremely broad, notably in relation to the creation of a supportive environment in the economic and political spheres, most entities of the United Nations Secretariat will have to play a role in the implementation of the outcome of the Summit. This applies to the Centre for Human Rights and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and the Department of Political Affairs.

IV. ROLE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

A. The recommendations made by the Social Summit

70. The first role and function that the General Assembly, the highest intergovernmental body in the United Nations system, is expected to play is to

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stimulate, orchestrate and lead an effective implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, by the international community as a whole, including Governments, organizations and agencies of the system, the private sector and the actors of the civil society. This means that the General Assembly ought to keep social development and the objectives and commitments of the Summit high on the agenda of the international community, as decided by Heads of State and Government in Copenhagen (Programme of Action, chap. V, para. 95 (a)).

71. Secondly, the General Assembly is responsible for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit, including the consideration of further actions and initiatives that might be required:

(a) The Assembly is invited by the World Summit to hold a special session in the year 2000 for an overall review and appraisal of its outcome (ibid., para. 95 (b));

(b) The Assembly is also invited to include the follow-up to the Summit in its agenda every year, starting in 1995, as an item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development" (ibid., para. 95 (a));

(c) In 1996, the Assembly is invited to review 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. In that regard, the Assembly is asked, at its fiftieth session, in 1995, to declare the first United Nations decade for the eradication of poverty (ibid., paras. 95 (a) and (c));

(d) To fulfil this function of review and appraisal, the General Assembly will benefit from the review and assessment on the progress made by the international community to implement the outcome of the Summit, to be undertaken by the Economic and Social Council on the basis of reports of national Governments, the regional commissions, relevant functional commissions and specialized agencies. In Commitment 10, the Council is requested to undertake that review and assessment and to report to the Assembly for its appropriate consideration and action. The frequency of the review by the Council is not stipulated in the Copenhagen text.

72. Related to this second function of review and appraisal are the activities of the General Assembly on the follow-up of other major conferences, on the elaboration of an agenda for development and on an integrated consideration of the themes common to major international conferences. One of the seven crucial and essential requirements for an effective implementation of the outcome of the Summit is the integration of goals, programmes and review mechanisms that have developed separately in response to specific problems (ibid., para. 82). In that regard, the conclusions elaborated by the Economic and Social Council in July 1995 include the recommendation, also made in the Programme of Action, that the Assembly address such integrated follow-up within the framework of the discussions on an agenda for development (ibid., para. 95 (e)). The objective given by the Council is to promote better coherence and harmonized and integrated policy guidance. The Council also suggested that the Assembly might consider improving the coherence of its Main Committees to ensure that the

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system is equipped to follow up effectively the integrated approach related to the outcomes of United Nations conferences (see A/50/3, para. 22, agreed conclusions, sect. I.A).

73. Also related to the review and appraisal of the outcome of the Summit by the General Assembly are the items that are regularly before its Second and Third Committees. The Third Committee has a standing item on social development that includes the situation of specific groups, as well as every other year a discussion on the social situation in the world on the basis of the Report on the World Social Situation and the interim report on the same subject; through its items on human rights, advancement of women, crime prevention, drug control, refugees, the Third Committee touches upon subjects that are relevant to the implementation of Commitments 1, 4, 5 and 10. The Second Committee considers the question of poverty eradication as well as a large number of economic and social issues, for instance population, which are related to Commitments 1 to 3, 5 and 7 to 10. The Assembly may wish to review these practices, as part of the rationalization of its agenda, with a view to ensuring an integrated and focused consideration of the issues involved.

74. The General Assembly is expected to promote an international dialogue on critical social issues and on policies for addressing them through international cooperation. It is stated in the Programme of Action that the Assembly, as well as the Economic and Social Council, could convene meetings of high-level representatives for the purpose (Programme of Action, chap. V, para. 95 (d)). The Assembly, and the Council, would have to decide, as appropriate, on the convening of such meetings and on the topics to be discussed. It can be assumed, however, that the core issues of the Summit, the 10 Commitments and the related recommendations in the Programme of Action, would delineate the scope of such an international dialogue.

75. The fourth function of the General Assembly as envisaged by the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action is to consider measures to ensure the coherence of the activities of the entities of the United Nations system involved in the promotion of international cooperation for social development. The Assembly is invited by the Summit to consider four types of action:

(a) Promotion and strengthening of the coordination of the United Nations system, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization, at all levels, for economic and social development programmes. This could be achieved, inter alia, through reports to and meetings of these entities with the Economic and Social Council. The Assembly was therefore invited by the Summit to request the Council to take action in this regard (ibid., para. 98 (a));

(b) Invitation to the World Trade Organization to consider how it might contribute to the implementation of the Programme of Action, including in cooperation with the United Nations system (ibid., para. 98 (b));

(c) A request to ILO to contribute to the implementation of the Programme of Action, in the field of employment and social development, notably because of its mandate, tripartite structure and expertise (ibid., para. 98 (c));

(d) A request to the Secretary-General to ensure effective coordination of the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action (ibid., para. 98 (d)).

76. Given the scope of the recommendations in the World Summit and the involvement of a wide range of actors, the review by the General Assembly in the year 2000 would be assisted by complementary consideration in an independent expert forum of the issues arising in the implementation of the outcome of the Summit.

77. The implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action in developing countries, in particular in Africa, and the least developed countries, will need additional financial resources and more effective development cooperation and assistance (ibid., para. 88). Among the 15 requirements to achieve this objective is agreeing on a mutual commitment between interested developed and developing country partners to allocate, on average, 20 per cent of official development assistance and 20 per cent of the national budget, respectively, to basic social programmes (ibid., para. 88 (c)). Interested developed and developing countries may like to consider how to move this agreement forward, especially in the area of methodological and conceptual standardization.

B. Decisions that the General Assembly might wish to take

78. Apart from making recommendations and taking decisions on substantive and other aspects of the report of the World Summit for Social Development, the General Assembly may wish to take the following decisions:

(a) To hold a special session in the year 2000 for an overall review and appraisal of the outcome of the Summit;

(b) To include in its agenda, between 1996 and 2000, an item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development", and to consider the implications for the treatment of related items on its agenda;

(c) In addition to the above, consideration could be given to convening, in 1997, a meeting of high-level representatives to consider issues of social development, with particular emphasis on the 10 Commitments adopted in Copenhagen in March 1995.

79. In relation to the three proposals referred to above, the General Assembly may wish:

(a) To invite the Economic and Social Council to consider arrangements to maximize its contribution to the review of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit and the preparations for the overall review and appraisal in the year 2000, including an assessment of the operational and other activities of technical assistance provided by the United Nations and its system. The contribution of the Economic and Social Council would be centred on specific aspects of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action and would be based, as envisaged in Commitment 10, on reports from a variety of sources. The

feasibility of convening a meeting of high-level representatives on the subject of international cooperation for social issues and policies, in 1999, from the viewpoint of the overall coordination of the relevant activities of the United Nations system, should also be considered. The Commission for Social Development would play a central role, in particular from the perspective of social integration; the Secretariat would report to the Council on the activities and findings of other relevant functional commissions; in deciding, the year before, on the contents of its review the Council would take into account the related choice of theme(s) for the integrated consideration of the follow-up of major conferences. The Council would report to the Assembly on the results of its reviews;

(b) To invite the regional commissions, which have been requested in the Programme of Action to convene on a biennial basis, a meeting at high political level to review progress made towards implementing the outcome of the Summit (ibid., para. 95 (h)), to hold such a meeting between 1996 and 1998, in order that the results could be used by the Economic and Social Council in 1999 and the Assembly itself in the year 2000. The invitation from the Government of Austria for a European meeting in 1997 would be seen in this context;

(c) To invite the Secretary-General, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission for Social Development, as well as other relevant intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system, to ensure an effective representation and participation of all actors of the development process, including the private sector, the media and representatives of civil society;

(d) With regard to the participation of the private sector and civil society in the implementation of the outcome of the Summit, to consider the convening of special forums in 1997, prior to the meeting of high-level representatives mentioned above.

80. In addition, the General Assembly may wish:

(a) To encourage Governments, in addition to the fulfilment of the commitments taken in Copenhagen, to prepare periodic national reports, outlining successes, problems and obstacles, as envisaged in the Programme of Action (chap. V, para. 83 (j)), in particular with regard to defining time-bound goals and targets for reducing overall poverty and eradicating absolute poverty, expanding employment and reducing unemployment and enhancing social integration, within each national context, and to make those reports available to the United Nations. The Commission for Social Development would be the main forum for the exchange of experience on the implementation at the national level of the outcome of the Summit and the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly would be apprised of the results of the exchange;

(b) To encourage Governments as well as public and private institutions to take initiatives to promote activities relevant to the high priority attached by the Summit to social development and to the implementation of the objectives and Commitments adopted in Copenhagen;

(c) To request the Secretary-General to prepare an integrated and comprehensive report on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit

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for Social Development for consideration by the General Assembly, in the year 2000, and in 1997, in the context of its meeting of high-level representatives; and to request the Secretary-General also to prepare such an integrated and comprehensive report for the Economic and Social Council in 1999, from the viewpoint of the activities of the United Nations system to promote international cooperation for the implementation of the outcome of the Summit.

Notes

1/ Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (A/CONF.166/9).

2/ Ibid., chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II, respectively.

3/ E/1995/86.

4/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1993, Supplement No. 4 (E/1993/24).

5/ Ibid., 1995, Supplement No. 4 (E/1995/24), chap. I, sect. E.

6/ Ibid., sect. B.

7/ DP/1994/39.

8/ E/1995/89.

9/ DP/1995/39.

10/ E/1995/55.

11/ ITM/1/1995.

12/ GB.264/5.

13/ Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (A/CONF.177/20), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

14/ ACC/1995/14, chap. II, sect. F.



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**COORDINATION OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM
FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY**

(Background paper prepared by the United Nations
for the twenty-ninth series of Joint meetings
of the Committee for Programme and Coordination
and the Administrative Committee on Coordination)

COORDINATION OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY

1. The Committee on Programme and Coordination, at its thirty-fifth session, held in New York from 15 May to 9 June 1995, agreed that the theme for the current series of joint meetings of CPC and ACC should be "Coordination of the activities of the United Nations system for the eradication of poverty." The present background note by the Secretariat, based on inputs from and consultations with organizations of the UN system, is meant to stimulate a constructive dialogue on ways and means to enhance the coordinated delivery of UN system assistance to Governments in implementing their poverty eradication policies and programmes. Issues addressed here are closely related to those being considered by the General Assembly at its current session with respect to international cooperation in the eradication of poverty in developing countries, the International Year for Poverty Eradication, follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, the coordinated follow-up to major UN conferences and the comprehensive policy review of operational activities.

I. THE SETTING OF POLITICAL PRIORITIES FOR THE UN SYSTEM BY THE CENTRAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES

2. In its broadest and positive sense, coordination should result in a coherent continuum of activities to achieve a common purpose. Indeed, effective collaboration can exist only when there are common purposes that in turn must be the product of consultations and agreement among the organizations of the system on major priorities and the responses to

them. This would require as a sine qua non the setting of political priorities for the system by the central intergovernmental bodies. The United Nations system could then use the overall strategies and approaches thus developed as a framework and operational guide in developing harmonized plans and programmes as well as joint evaluation of the results and of the impact in the field.

3. The required common purpose for the eradication of poverty and the requisite commitment to it by the international community at the highest political level has evolved from recent major UN conferences including UNCED, ICPD, the Conference on Women and, in particular, the World Summit for Social Development, which addressed poverty as one of its three major themes. The Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Summit reflect an international consensus on the principles and goals, the commitments undertaken and the actions required to eradicate poverty and provide the benchmarks against which system-wide activities can be developed and assessed. Poverty eradication has clearly emerged as a key development priority.

4. Heads of State and government committed themselves, at the Summit, to "an improved and strengthened framework for international, regional and subregional cooperation for social development, in a spirit of partnership, through the UN and other multilateral institutions." They accordingly agreed to enlist the support and cooperation of the United Nations system, international development agencies and multilateral development banks "to

take appropriate and coordinated measures for continuous and sustained progress in attaining the goals and commitments agreed to by the Summit. The UN and the Bretton Woods institutions should establish regular and substantive dialogue, including at the field level, for more effective and efficient coordination of assistance for social development." Governments also decided to "adopt the appropriate measures and mechanisms for implementing and monitoring the outcome of the (Summit), with the assistance, upon request, of the specialized agencies, programmes and regional commissions of the UN system, with broad participation of all sectors of civil society"

(Commitment 10).

5. Strong emphasis is placed in the Copenhagen Programme on the formulation of integrated strategies to eradicate poverty. These strategies should be based on promoting sustained economic growth, in the context of sustainable development, and social progress, requiring that growth be broadly based, offering equal opportunities to all peoples. Governments are urged to integrate goals and targets for combating poverty into overall economic and social policies and planning at the local, national and, where appropriate, regional levels.

6. Each country is requested to develop a precise definition and assessment of absolute poverty, preferably by 1996 at which time the General Assembly will review 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. The Copenhagen Programme of Action also recommends that the General Assembly, at its fiftieth session, should declare the first United Nations decade for the eradication of poverty, following the conclusion of the International Year with a view to consider further initiatives in this area.

II. ASSESSMENT OF UN SYSTEM COORDINATION IN THE AREA OF POVERTY ERADICATION

7. The eradication of poverty is a goal which drives the developmental work of the United Nations system and which is at the very heart of the mandates of many organizations. It is well-recognized that poverty is a complex and multisectoral issue and that it must be addressed by a multiplicity of actors working in concert. Furthermore, poverty has many causes and manifestations, demanding interventions that differ among regions, countries and even communities. Consequently, organizations of the UN system are undertaking a wide range of activities targeted at the eradication of poverty. Recently, the ACC Consultative Committee for Programme and Operational Questions issued a report designed to facilitate a review of the policies and programmes of the UN system in this area. It demonstrates that, while there is no universal solution to the scourge of poverty, there are indeed cases of successful interventions by the UN system which can be replicated. The report has been sent to Resident Coordinators/ Resident Representatives with the purpose of enhancing UN system

collaboration at the country level, based on an improved awareness of ongoing work within each organization. (footnote referring to the CCPOQ report).

A. Typology of activities

8. The CCPOQ classifies the manifold activities of the UN system organizations into eight categories:

Analytical work: This area of activity focuses on the problem of definition and determinants of poverty, the methodology for the assessment of poverty and the development of corresponding indicators. A subject of particular interest over the past decade has been the impact on poverty of stabilization, structural adjustment and economic and social reform programmes adopted by a large number of countries with the advice and assistance of the IMF and the World Bank. The result of this research has had an important influence on the design and content of more recent adjustment programmes.

Income generating activities: This work aims to increase the incomes of the poor through employment creation and productivity-enhancing measures, with a focus on sectors in which the poor are concentrated.

Labour-intensive public works: The labour-intensive approach to the production of assets, goods and other services involves the use of working methods and systems that optimize labour content, usually through a cost-effective combination of labour and the use of light equipment.

Access to basic services: Many organizations of the UN system are involved in

activities to develop or strengthen the access of the poor to basic services, including low-cost safe water, supplies, sanitation and hygiene, primary health-care services and basic education.

Social funds and safety nets: A number of UN organizations are increasingly involved in providing funds and technical assistance to establish various forms of social funds and safety nets to protect vulnerable groups.

Participation of the poor: There is an increasing tendency to introduce a participatory approach in the programmes and projects of several UN organizations. In this connection, some agencies regard participation as desirable in its own right and linked to empowerment of the poor, while others view participation as a means to promote economic efficiency and the sustainability of anti-poverty projects.

Targeted efforts towards reducing discrimination: Anti-discrimination activities include the collection, analysis and dissemination of information on discriminatory practices; the establishment of international standards; the improvement of conditions in the labour market and the prevention of child labour.

Monitoring of poverty changes: A number of organizations are involved in either the measurement of or reporting on poverty, and a few are directly involved in poverty-related data collection. At the inter-agency level, the measurement of poverty is undertaken by a Task Force of the UN Statistical Commission. The ACC Subcommittee on Rural Development examines various aspects of poverty alleviation strategies.

B. Policies and multisectoral strategies

9. The global consensus reelected in the Copenhagen Summit provides a framework for the articulation by the UN system of broad policies and multisectoral strategies for developing specific anti-poverty programmes. The view is now widespread among the organizations of the UN system that the best way of alleviating poverty is to successfully implement a development strategy that pursues sustained economic growth with equity. More equitable growth almost invariably implies more employment-intensive patterns of growth which increase the demand for labour, the major asset of the poor, and are more equitable. The employment-generating capacity of growth can be enhanced by investing in the more labour-intensive sectors of the economy (in particular agriculture), by increasing investments in human capital (basic education, primary health care, nutrition and population programmes) and by reducing or removing distortions in relative factor prices that arise from a malfunctioning of the labour market or of the market for credit. The sustainability of development is a dimension that has acquired increased importance in this regard.

10. Information obtained from organizations of the United Nations system reflects that, within the context of an overall, system-wide effort to eradicate poverty, each organization has developed its own targeted policies and strategies evolving from its unique and specific mandates.

11. Some indeed consider poverty eradication to be the very *raison d'être* of their efforts. UNDP, for instance, is reorienting its programming activities to target poverty as its priority concern, following a decision by its Executive Board in June 1995. Thus, all its activities will be geared towards, and be measured against, the ultimate goal of poverty eradication. UNDP's other major programming areas - gender equity, the promotion of jobs and sustainable livelihoods, environmental preservation and regeneration, and governance - which together define UNDP's sustainable development framework, will increasingly come under the fold of poverty eradication. The World Bank considers its fundamental objective to be to assist countries to reduce poverty and raise living standards. Its poverty reduction strategy encompasses broad-based, labour-demanding economic growth, human resource development and the provision of safety nets for the poor and vulnerable. It defines its assistance to a country through the Country Assistance Strategy (CAS), which is formulated through the findings of country-specific poverty analyses, public expenditure reviews and other economic and sector studies.

12. Similarly, IFAD considers that rural poverty alleviation is its sole mandate, and that all its activities focus on this single goal. Its Special Programming Missions are the analytic mechanism for the articulation of its country policy and investment strategy. The missions, which are meant to provide clear indications of priority target groups and activities for IFAD project assistance within a long-term development strategy for the country, involve a thorough review of the nature and impact of policy instruments affecting the production

capacity, employment opportunities, income generation and standards of living of the rural poor. To respond to specific requirements for strategic guidance on national strategy and project development, Country Strategy Studies have been developed as a supplementary mechanism, and serve to assess the significance of implementation issues for both general strategy and project design, and formulate guidelines for IFAD's operations. WFP also indicates that its very mandate is to seek hunger and poverty alleviation. It has developed project guidelines that specify the nature and type of collaboration with other actors in the UN system for the preparation and implementation of its projects. It prepares Country Strategy Outlines, involving an assessment of the poverty and food insecurity problem, the understanding of the policies and strategies of the national governments in addressing these issues, and the examination of the relative roles of other agencies, donors and non-governmental organizations. WFP is revising its General Regulations to enable it to adopt a programme approach based on country-specific strategies. Country Programmes, which would be based on Country Strategy Outlines, would include provisions to ensure that they are linked to the country strategy note. WFP considers that the advantages include increased operational flexibility which could be put to use not only in responding to unforeseen needs for intra-programme changes, but also in responding to demands from multi-agency coordination and integration efforts.

13. A number of organizations consider that the delivery of basic social services is one of the most effective and cost-efficient ways to combat the worst manifestations of poverty.

In the context of the 20/20 initiative, as reflected in the outcome of the World Summit on Social Development, basic social services are taken to comprise basic education, primary health care and family planning services, low-cost water and sanitation services and nutrition programmes. UNICEF, which focuses the bulk of its operational support and resources on the provision of basic social services for the survival, protection and development of children and women, in line with the outcome of the World Summit for Children, has also espoused the concept of "adjustment with a human face" - encouraging the redesign of adjustment programmes to allow the poor to participate more effectively in the process of economic and social development and to ensure their protection during periods of economic stagnation and fiscal austerity. Of particular importance has been its insistence that the debate needed to shift from an excessive focus on the macro policy framework to the meso level - the policy instruments that govern the allocation of resources within a given macro-economic policy framework. These instruments include public expenditure allocation, aid utilization, credit allocation, income and pricing policy, etc. UNICEF's Situation Analyses of Children and Women and its National Programmes of Action provide the programmatic and institutional framework for achieving national goals, and are meant to be consistent with the Country Strategy Note.

14. UNEFA contributes toward the eradication of poverty through the promotion and implementation of population and sustainable development programmes. Its Country Programmes place a strong emphasis on gender equality and equity in formulating,

implementing and evaluating all population programmes. Priority is assigned to the integration of population inputs into broader development policy frameworks such as the country strategy notes, rolling development plans, structural adjustment programmes and sectoral policy frameworks. The ILO considers that the creation of productive employment is the most effective approach to development including, inter alia, the role and needs of women, the provision of social services, income generation and the increased participation of local communities. It fields multidisciplinary advisory teams to different regions and prepares Country Objective Statements, following consultations with the government, employers, workers organizations, UN agencies and donors. WHO regards poverty as the leading cause of illness and death in the world, and therefore its work, particularly its technical cooperation with countries, aims at overcoming the root causes of poverty and ill health. A special initiative of Intensified Cooperation with Countries and Peoples in Greatest Need aims to enable poor countries to establish equitable and sustainable health systems tailored to their specific needs. Following situation assessments, plans of action are developed and additional resources mobilized through better use of local resources and improved aid management. WHO notes that the UNDP Round Table or the World Bank Consultative Group processes have been extensively used to achieve better aid coordination in this regard. It has also established a Global Task Force on Health and Development, which analyzes the evolution of health determinants, especially those that are poverty-related, and it is actively promoting the development of national health and service monitoring and evaluation in the light of its Health for All strategy. UNESCO's follow-up to the World

Summit for Social Development, especially under Commitment 6, will continue to place emphasis on meeting the goals and objectives of the Education for All programme as an integral approach to eradicating illiteracy - one of the root causes as well as effect of poverty. The aim of this strategy is to close the gap between literate and illiterate populations and to devise sustainable educational development, with emphasis being placed on girls and women, particularly in rural areas. UNESCO supports governments, inter alia, in carrying out country-specific studies on the causes and consequences of poverty, in the impact of structural adjustment on the poor, and on the effectiveness of anti-poverty strategies. With reference to specific country programmes, UNESCO's cooperation with UNDP within the framework of the Technical Support Services (TSS-1) mechanism has progressively addressed the issue of poverty eradication.

15. The IMF indicates that its policy advice is increasingly emphasizing the social dimension of adjustment and that it has paid greater attention to social issues in the context of surveillance and members' economic policies, financial support to member countries implementing adjustment programmes, and technical assistance. It stresses the importance of a high-quality growth strategy, which implies pursuing economic policies that foster macroeconomic stability; implementing structural policies designed to allow market forces to allocate resources and create an enabling environment for private sector activity; implementing sound social policies, including social safety nets to protect the poor and vulnerable groups during the adjustment period; and strengthening economic governance. In

this context, Fund policy advice emphasizes macroeconomic implications, cost effectiveness and the financial viability of social policy choices. The IMF considers that, through policy discussions and technical assistance, it could contribute further to improving the capacity of governments to monitor social developments and pursue transparent social policies.

16. Several UN organizations strive to achieve poverty eradication within the scope of their own sectoral work. For instance, FAO's activities in poverty eradication have been driven since 1979 by the Declaration of Principles and Programme of Action of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. Under its programmes FAO collaborates with governments in undertaking the institutional and structural transformations that would facilitate the access by the poor to natural resources, as well as to productive inputs such as credit. The revised FAO Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development (1996-2001) and the Plan of Action for People's Participation in Rural Development provide the frameworks for increasing the involvement of the rural poor in economic, social and political development. FAO collaborates with UN system agencies in fielding joint missions to advise on the adoption of national policies and strategies to ensure poverty eradication through growth with equity and people's participation. UNIDO identifies three out of its seven priority themes for the 1996-1997 biennium as being focused on poverty in industrial development: small and medium enterprises; rural industrial development and the linkage between industry and agriculture, with a focus on Africa and the least-developed countries. ITU indicates that its development arm, the Telecommunication

Development Bureau, could be involved in system-wide work in poverty eradication through integrated rural development in developing countries, which is a top priority programme for the LDCs in the Buenos Aires Action Plan for Global Telecommunication Development. UNEP links poverty eradication to environmental sustainability, considering that both have social roots and are interdependent. It aims to promote the assessment and applicability of economic instruments for the sustainable use of natural resources in development projects. HABITAT deals with urban poverty through efforts based on increasing community participation; its work is driven by the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000. UNCTAD'S Standing Committee on Poverty Alleviation focuses on the effect of international economic relations on poverty, and has formulated recommendations for international cooperation, among others, in the area of trade and poverty. Others, such as UNRISD, DESIPA and INSTRAW, undertake research and/or training in areas related to poverty eradication.

17. The work of the regional commissions in poverty eradication focuses on a multisectoral approach to the region-specific conditions of poverty. In this connection, it should be noted that the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action state that the regional commissions, in cooperation with regional intergovernmental organizations and banks, could convene on a biennial basis a meeting at a high political level to evaluate follow-up to the Summit, exchange views and adopt appropriate measures. It has been suggested that, with respect to the biennial meeting, a set of guiding principles and

methodologies for monitoring could be established, including poverty indicators and indices reported by the Interagency Task Force on the measurement of poverty.

18. The information received from organizations of the UN system reflect the increasing importance being accorded to policies and strategies aimed at the eradication of poverty. Each organization works within the context of its own mandate; there is a variety of action-oriented plans driving its activities. Nevertheless, these plans contain policies and measures that are convergent or complementary. Furthermore, there exists an active and vibrant level of inter-agency cooperation in the area of poverty eradication, which is most clearly seen in operation at the field level, where a pragmatic and goal-oriented approach to poverty is taken.

III. POVERTY-ERADICATION PROGRAMMES AND COORDINATION

MECHANISMS AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL

19. The national level of implementation and coordination is of key importance for the overall effectiveness of the struggle against poverty. As the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action make abundantly clear, each country must develop its own policies and strategies, and the international community must focus its efforts in supporting country-specific programmes, while at the same time creating a supportive international environment.

20. A number of mechanisms do exist for coordination both horizontally within the UN system at the country-level and vertically between UN system organizations and the relevant government ministries and departments. As part of the process of implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/199, the Resident Coordinator system is being strengthened, the programme approach is being increasingly adopted by the UN agencies and the Country Strategy Notes are being formulated in interested developing countries. Many countries have established inter-ministerial or inter-departmental committees or economic coordination and planning ministries. Similarly, United Nations system field coordination committees have been set up, or at a minimum, regular inter-agency meetings are convened by the Resident Coordinators in most countries. Thematic groups, including on poverty eradication, are also being used to coordinate action at the national and local levels.

21. Detailed information on a few case studies of the experience gained in developing and implementing poverty eradication programmes and in coordination at the country level in developing countries at various stages of development will be included in the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session (A/50/). The examples serve to indicate the scope and range of activity and help to identify the main problems and obstacles to achieving a fully effective and well-coordinated response to the challenge of poverty.

22. To summarize the findings, several conditions need to be met, by governments and

UN organizations together, to achieve positive results. First, it is essential that the government demonstrate its full political commitment to the goal of poverty eradication. It must also be willing and able to mobilize and allocate the required domestic financial and human resources for that purpose, and to take the lead in organizing a coordinated response to the challenge of poverty. Second, the strategy to be pursued must be based on growth with equity, full participation of all actors in development, including the civil society, NGOs/CBOs and the poor themselves and should involve a decentralized approach in which decisions and resources allocation can be made at the local level, taking into account the specific conditions and needs of the target groups or areas.

23. Third, the UN system can and must play an advocacy role, provide the necessary financial and technical assistance and help develop coherent and complementary poverty eradication programmes. Accordingly, it must build the capacity of the government, where needed, to carry out its leadership and coordinating responsibilities. Fourth, the coordinating mechanisms that now exist - ACC and its subsidiary machinery at headquarters and the Resident Coordinator system at the country level - must be used to their fullest to this end. For instance, the ACC mechanisms should be directed to effectuate a broader approach to poverty eradication among UN organizations, particularly in light of the coordinated follow-up to major UN conferences. This would include ensuring that the Resident Coordinator system be used in assisting in the formulation, in close consultation with the government, of clear and coherent poverty eradication strategies with specific goals and targets, to be

integrated into the overall national plans and programmes, as well as in ensuring the coordinated inputs of the UN system in their implementation, evaluation and monitoring.

24. Fifth, coordination should not be confined to broad strategy and policy formulation, but must also aim at achieving greater compatibility and closer integration of programming approaches and project formulation. This could be effectuated through such means as the development of common definitions of poverty, working together on poverty indicators, common data collection, identification of target groups and areas and shared assessment, evaluation and monitoring of results and impact. Joint programming could also be pursued wherever feasible.

25. Sixth, for the UN system organizations to come together under a common programming framework, it is necessary for economic and social policy making not to be disjointed. The relationship between the United Nations, its funds and programmes, the specialized agencies on the one hand, and the Bretton Woods institutions on the other is of key importance in this regard. An integrated poverty agenda can be moved forward if all players closely cooperate to develop not only common approaches, definitions, poverty-assessment indicators and data collection, but also to achieve greater complementarity and integration in their economic and social policies including through the Policy Framework Papers and the Country Strategy Note.

26. Finally, the critical question of the allocation of resources to meet the challenge of poverty eradication must not be forgotten. Even the best strategies and most well-coordinated programmes can not be effectively implemented in the absence of the required resources. Determined efforts must be made, at national, regional and international levels, to mobilize and reallocate resources towards the goal of poverty eradication. In this regard, the commitments made at major international conferences including, in particular, the World Summit for Social Development, should be fully adhered to by all countries.

IV. ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

27. The brief overview of the types of activities undertaken by the organizations of the system in the area of poverty eradication, the multisectoral strategies being pursued and the mechanisms for coordination employed particularly at the country-level, suggests that in their assistance programmes the organizations of the UN system are according the highest priority to the goal of poverty eradication. It is also evident that considerable progress is being made in achieving better coordination among the poverty eradication activities of the system. The implementation of the various elements of resolution 47/199 and, in particular, the strengthening of the resident coordinator system, the development and application of the programme approach, the formulation of the country strategy notes and the constitution of thematic teams or groups have placed at the disposal of the system the necessary instruments for developing a concerted and well-coordinated response to the challenge of poverty eradication.

28. In many respects, however, there is a long way to go before the system as a whole could be viewed as pursuing a truly coherent approach to poverty eradication. The issues that need to be addressed are evident. First and the most important is the question of ensuring consistency between the macro-economic and social policies as well as between the national policy framework and the programmes and projects being carried out at the meso and micro levels. Related to this is the need to ensure consistency of approach among the multisectoral strategies being pursued, for example, by the World Bank, the UNDP, IFAD, ~~WFP~~ and others. The question that needs to be addressed is what inter-linkages or coordinating arrangements exist or are being developed among these strategies and to what effect?

29. Another key dimension where a coordinated approach is of particular relevance is in the identification of the types of poverty and the target groups that need to be reached. This implies the need to develop common definitions and concepts and common data collection arrangements to help identify the poor and develop a kind of a poverty map of the country as well as common indicators to monitor progress. The poverty eradication initiative launched by the JCGP a few years ago in a number of countries was designed to promote such common actions. Considerable progress has been made since then, in the countries concerned.

30. The question to be addressed, however, is what are the lessons of the experience

gained and how could these be applied in other countries and regions? Furthermore, how can such common approaches be extended to involve other organizations, including the Bretton Woods institutions.

31. An equally critical element of success is the question of resources: whether the high priority attached to poverty eradication both as a national and global objective is reflected in the proportion of resources being devoted by countries and by the organizations of the system to targeted poverty eradication programmes. What are the trends in this respect and what steps need to be adopted, taking into account in particular, the commitments undertaken at the World Summit for Social Development to mobilize and allocate the level of resources required to meet the poverty eradication goals of the country?

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE WORLD SUMMIT
FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

(FINAL VERSION)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

Recalling its resolutions 46/139, of 17 December 1991, 47/92 of 16 December 1992 and 48/100 of 20 December 1993;

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolutions 1991/230 of 30 May 1991, 1992/27, of 30 July 1992, 1995/60 of 28 July 1995, and Agreed Conclusions 1995/1 of 28 July, 1995;

Having considered the report of the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995;

Expressing its profound gratitude to the Government and people of Denmark for the hospitality extended to all participants at the Summit, and for the facilities, staff and services placed at their disposal;

Expressing also its satisfaction that for the first time in history, at the invitation of the United Nations, heads of State and Government gathered in Copenhagen to recognize the significance of social development and human well-being for all and to give to these goals the highest priority both now and into the twenty-first century by reaching a successful conclusion and adopting the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action;

**Critical Importance of National Action and International
Cooperation for Social Development**

- 1.- Takes note with appreciation of the Report of the World Summit for Social Development;
- 2.- Takes note also of the Report of the Secretary General on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development;
- 3.- Endorses the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action, adopted by the World Summit for Social Development on 12 March, 1995;

4.-. Reaffirms the pledge by the heads of States and Government at the Summit to give highest priority to national, regional and international policies and actions for the promotion of social progress, justice and the betterment of human condition, based on full participation by all;

5.-. Recognizes the necessity to create a framework for action to place people at the center of development and direct economies to meet human needs more effectively;

6.- Stresses the need for a renewed and massive political will at the national and international levels to invest in people and their well-being to achieve the objectives of social development;

7.- Emphasizes that economic development, social development and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development;

8.-Recognizes that social development and the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Summit are primarily the responsibility of Governments although international cooperation and assistance are essential for their full implementation;

9.- Reiterates the call to governments to define time-bound goals and targets for reducing overall poverty and eradicating absolute poverty, expanding employment and reducing unemployment and enhancing social integration, within each national context;

10.-. Emphasizes also that there is a need for promotion of an integrated and multidimensional approach for the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action at all levels;

11.-. Reiterates the call for 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;

12.- Reiterates the call for regularly assessing national progress towards implementing the outcome of the Summit, possibly in the form of periodic national reports, outlining successes, problems and obstacles. Such reports could be considered within the framework of an appropriate consolidated reporting system, taking into account the different reporting procedures in the economic, social and environmental fields;

13.- Reaffirms the need for an effective partnership and cooperation between Governments and the relevant actors of civil society, the social partners, the major groups as defined in Agenda 21, including NGO's and the private sector in the implementation and follow-up of the Declaration and Programme of Action, and ensuring their involvement in the planning, elaboration, implementation and evaluation of social policies at the national level;

14.- Also recognizes that the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action will require the mobilization of financial resources at the national and international levels, as set out in Commitment 8 and 9 of the Declaration and paragraphs 87 to 93 of the Programme of Action;

15.- Recognizes further that the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action in developing countries, in particular in Africa and the least developed countries, will need additional financial resources and more effective development cooperation and assistance;

16.- Concurs that substantial debt reduction is needed to enable developing countries to implement the Declaration and Programme of Action, as set out in Commitment 9(o) of the Declaration and par. 90 of the Programme of Action;

17.- Reaffirms the importance of agreeing on a mutual commitment between interested developed and developing country partners to allocate, on average, 20 per cent of ODA and 20 per cent of the national budget, respectively, to basic social programmes;

18.- Also recognizes the necessity of providing appropriate technical cooperation and other forms of assistance to the countries with economies in transition, as set out in the provisions of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action;

19.- Urges the Secretary General in cooperation with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and other multilateral development institutions, to study the impact of structural adjustment programmes on economic and social development and assist adjusting countries in creating conditions for economic growth, job creation, poverty eradication and social development;

20.- Encourages Governments as well as public and private institutions and organizations to take initiatives relevant to the high priority attached by the Summit to social development and to the implementation of the objectives and commitments adopted at the Summit;

The Role of the United Nations System

21.- Calls upon all relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the UN system to be involved in the follow-up of the Summit and invites specialized agencies and related organizations of the UN system to strengthen and adjust their activities, programs and medium-term strategies, as appropriate, to take into account the follow-up of the Summit;

22.- Reaffirms that the follow-up of the World Summit for Social Development will be undertaken on the basis of an integrated approach to social development and within the framework of a coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the results of the major international conferences in the economic, social and related fields;

23.- Decides that the General Assembly, through its role in policy formulation, the Economic and Social Council, through its role in overall guidance and coordination, in accordance with their respective roles under the Charter and with General Assembly resolution 48/162, and a revitalized Commission for Social Development shall constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental process in the follow-up to the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action;

24.- Decides to hold a special session of the General Assembly, in the year 2000, for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit and to consider further actions and initiatives;

25.- Reaffirms also that the Economic and Social Council will provide overall guidance and oversee system-wide coordination in the implementation of the Summit outcome and make recommendations in this regard;

26.- Requests the Economic and Social Council, so that it can review progress made towards implementing the outcome of the Summit as well as improving its own effectiveness to continue examining ways to strengthen, consistent with the mandates of the Charter of the United Nations and in accordance with Assembly resolutions 45/264, 46/235, and 48/162, its role, authority, structures, resources and processes, bringing specialized agencies into a closer working relationship with it;

27.- Invites ECOSOC, to review the reporting system in the area of social development with a view to establishing a coherent system that could result in clear policy recommendations for governments and international actors;

28.- Calls upon the Commission for Social Development, as a functional commission of ECOSOC, with the primary responsibility for the follow-up to and review of the implementation of the World Summit for Social Development to develop a multi-year programme of work to the year 2000 selecting specific themes and addressing them from an interrelated and integrated perspective, in a manner consistent with the functions and contributions of other relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and to present its recommendations to ECOSOC which should ensure harmonization between such multi-year programme of work and those of other relevant functional commissions of the Council;

29.- Endorses ECOSOC resolution 1995/60 and calls upon the Commission for Social Development, when developing at its next session its multi-year programme of work for the follow up of the World Summit for Social Development to:

a) Adapt its mandate in order to ensure an integrate approach to social development;

b). Integrate the current sectoral issues on its agenda i the multi-year programme;

c) Review and update its methods of work and mak recommendations to ensure an effective follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development;

d) Establish the practice to invite experts to contribute to its work;

e). Consider integrating high-level representatives on social development issues and policies into its work;

30.- Requests the Commission for Social Development, in the light of the scope of work of the Commission, to consider at its next session, the composition of the membership of the Commission and the frequency of its sessions, and to make recommendations therein to the Economic and Social Council;

31.- Requests the Commission for Social development to establish the practice of involving the relevant actors of civil society in the field of social development to contribute to its work and requests the Secretary General to present proposals for consideration at its next session by the Commission for Social Development and ECOSOC, taking into account the experience gained in other functional commissions, the ECOSOC, ILO and the World Summit for Social Development;

32.- Requests ECOSOC, without prejudice to the outcome of the review of consultative arrangements by the open-ended Working Group on the review of arrangements for consultation with NGO's to consider authorizing the participation at the next session of the Commission for Social Development of interested civil society organizations which had participated, by accreditation, in the World Summit for Social Development;

33.- Invites also within their mandates the regional commissions, in cooperation with the regional intergovernmental organizations and banks to consider convening, on a biennial basis, a meeting at high political level to review progress made toward implementing the outcome of the Summit, exchange views on their respective experiences and adopt the appropriate measures;

34.- Emphasizes the important role of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in monitoring those aspects of the Declaration and Programme of Action that relate to compliance by State-Parties with the international Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

35.- Takes note of the establishment of task-forces for the follow-up of the summit and other related UN Conferences and invites the ACC to bring system-wide coordination issues to the attention of ECOSOC, in particular its coordination segment and to make recommendations thereon;

36.- Reiterates that UN operational activities should be strengthened in order to contribute to the implementation of the summit outcome in accordance with relevant resolutions;

37.- Requests UNDP to facilitate the UN system efforts towards capacity building at the local, national and regional levels, and should support the coordinated implementation of social development programmes through the resident coordinator system;

38.- Invites the International Labor Organization, which because of its mandate, tripartite structures and expertise, has a special role to play in the field of employment in social development, to continue to contribute to the implementation of the Programme of Action;

39.- Invites the Bretton Woods Institutions to be actively involved in the implementation and the follow-up of the World Summit for Social Development and to enhance their cooperation with other parts of the UN system for this purpose;

40.- Invites the World Trade Organization to consider how it might contribute to the implementation of the Programme of Action, including activities in cooperation with the UN system;

41.- Invites the Secretary General, including within the framework of the ACC, to make appropriate arrangements, which may include joint meetings, for consultations with the Heads of the IMF, the World Bank, International Labor Organization, the UN funds and programmes and other relevant agencies, for the purpose of cooperating in the implementation of the Declaration and the Programme of Action in their respective organizations;

42.- Requests the Secretary General to ensure an effectively functioning Secretariat, within which clear responsibility is assigned to assist with the implementation and follow-up of the World Summit for Social Development and servicing the intergovernmental bodies involved;

43.- Requests the Secretary General and UN bodies, in a coordinated manner to take appropriate measures to strengthen the UN capacity for gathering and analyzing information and developing indicators of social development, taking into account the work carried out by different countries, in particular by developing countries as well as providing policy and technical support and advice, upon request, to improve national capacities in this regard;

44.- Decides that the Trust Fund of the World Summit for Social Development, established in accordance with GA resolution 47/92 to finance preparatory activities, be continued and renamed "Trust Fund for the Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development", under the authority of the Secretary General, with the aim of supporting programmes, seminars and activities in the promotion of social development for the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, which includes activities of the UN Decade for the eradication of poverty and invites all States to contribute to it;

45.- Requests the ECOSOC to consider new and innovative ideas for generating funds and to offer for this purpose any useful suggestions;

46.- Calls upon the Secretary General to disseminate as widely as possible the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, including to all competent organs of the United Nations and specialized agencies;

47.- Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its 51st session, an item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development", and consider the implications for a more coherent treatment of related items on its agenda in the appropriate fora.

1996



ANNEE INTERNATIONALE POUR

*l'élimination
de la pauvreté*



NATIONS UNIES

1 9 9 6

La pauvreté en perspective

Le demi-siècle écoulé depuis la fondation de l'Organisation des Nations Unies en 1945 a vu la prospérité s'accroître comme jamais auparavant, puisque la production mondiale de biens et de services a été multipliée par sept et le revenu par habitant a plus que triplé. Durant la même période, la lutte contre la pauvreté a marqué des points dans le monde entier :

- Bien que la population mondiale ait augmenté, la proportion de pauvres a en fait diminué, passant à 25 % environ en 1995 alors qu'en 1985 elle s'établissait à 32 % (chiffres de la Banque mondiale);
- Le taux de croissance des pays en développement, qui était de 4,5 % en moyenne en 1995, devrait de manière générale continuer à distancer celui des pays industrialisés, qui est de 2,5 %;
- Deux des pays les plus peuplés du monde sont en expansion : l'économie chinoise a connu un taux de croissance annuel d'environ 12 % depuis la fin des années 80, tandis que l'Inde a enregistré ces 10 dernières années un taux de croissance économique annuel proche de 5 %.

Mais cette progression a été très inégalement répartie. Même en période d'abondance, le nombre des pauvres augmente. A l'heure actuelle, un être humain sur cinq vit dans le dénuement le plus décourageant. L'écart entre riches et pauvres se creuse tant à l'intérieur des pays qu'entre pays développés et nombre de pays en développement, surtout parmi les moins avancés.

Un problème complexe

La pauvreté est un problème complexe et multidimensionnel dont les origines sont aussi bien nationales qu'internationales. Il n'existe aucune solution uniforme qui puisse s'appliquer à l'échelle mondiale. Il est en revanche essentiel, pour résoudre ce problème, de mettre en place des programmes de lutte particuliers à chaque pays et d'appuyer l'action nationale par des efforts internationaux, tout en créant un environnement international favorable.

L'élimination de la pauvreté et de la faim, la répartition plus équitable des revenus et la valorisation des ressources humaines restent partout des enjeux d'importance majeure. La lutte contre la pauvreté est une tâche commune qui incombe à tous les pays.

Comment mesurer la pauvreté ?

- La pauvreté se mesure traditionnellement par rapport au revenu ou aux dépenses permettant d'assurer un niveau de vie minimal. La plupart des pays ont fixé un "seuil de pauvreté" (revenu déterminé d'un ménage) et surveillent le nombre des personnes restant en deçà de ce seuil.

"La pauvreté absolue", mesurée à l'échelon mondial en 1990 par la Banque mondiale qui avait retenu comme critère un revenu de 370 dollars par personne et par an, touchait alors, selon ces calculs, environ 1,1 milliard de personnes dans les pays en développement. Si on y ajoute les pauvres des pays développés, le chiffre actuel est estimé à 1,5 milliard de personnes.

La notion de "pauvreté relative" tient compte du fait que la pauvreté n'est pas une question de simple survie, qu'elle se définit par rapport au niveau de vie considéré comme un minimum dans la communauté où l'on vit. Dans certains pays d'Europe par exemple, le seuil de pauvreté est fixé à la moitié du revenu moyen au niveau national.

- Le point de vue du développement humain est plus large encore. L'idée est que, pour éliminer la pauvreté, il ne suffit pas d'accroître le revenu permettant d'acquérir des biens et des services. On fait donc entrer en ligne de compte d'autres critères, tels que la mortalité infantile, l'espérance de vie, la nutrition et la santé, l'accès à l'eau salubre et à l'assainissement, l'alphabétisation et d'autres aspects de la vie des êtres humains qui déterminent globalement la qualité de leur vie.

L'extrême pauvreté est une "condition si limitée par la malnutrition, l'analphabétisme, la maladie, le cadre de vie sordide, la forte mortalité infantile et la brièveté de l'espérance de vie qu'on ne peut raisonnablement dire qu'elle est conforme à la dignité de la personne humaine".

*— Robert S. McNamara,
ancien président de la Banque mondiale*

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Regarder les choses en face

Malgré la prospérité croissante, les 30 dernières années ont aussi connu un accroissement de la pauvreté. C'est ainsi que :

- Chaque minute de chaque jour, une cinquantaine de bébés naissent dans la pauvreté;
- Sur les 5,7 milliards d'habitants de la planète, 1,5 milliard sont désespérément pauvres, et ce nombre augmente d'environ 25 millions par an. Selon l'UNICEF, si les tendances économiques et démographiques actuelles se maintiennent, le nombre des pauvres quadruplera en l'espace d'une vie humaine;
- Le rapport entre le revenu des 20 % les plus riches et celui des 20 % les plus pauvres du monde, qui était de 30 pour un en 1960, est passé à 61 pour un en 1991;
- Vingt pour cent des habitants du monde survivent actuellement avec un revenu journalier inférieur à un dollar;
- A l'heure actuelle, un milliard de pauvres vivent dans les zones rurales; or, d'ici à 2005, une personne sur deux vivra dans des villes ou des agglomérations, et on assistera donc à une "urbanisation de la pauvreté";
- La majorité des pauvres du monde sont des femmes. Les enfants et les autres groupes vulnérables et défavorisés, tels que les populations autochtones, les handicapés, les personnes âgées, les réfugiés, les migrants et les chômeurs de longue durée, sont les plus menacés par la pauvreté;
- Dans les pays en développement, on estime à plus de 95 millions le nombre d'enfants de moins de 15 ans qui travaillent pour aider leur famille vivant dans la misère, et il pourrait y avoir autant d'"enfants des rues", sans abri ni ressources;
- Plus de 120 millions de personnes sont officiellement au chômage, et bon nombre d'autres sont sous-employées. Les jeunes, même instruits, sont nombreux à n'avoir guère d'espoir de trouver un travail productif.

Situer la pauvreté

Il y a des pauvres même dans les pays les plus prospères, mais il y a aussi des pays entiers accablés par la misère. Les problèmes les plus aigus sont dans les pays en développement, dont plus du tiers de la population vit en deçà du seuil de pauvreté.

- **Pays les moins avancés (PMA) :** Une grande partie des pauvres du monde vivent dans les 48 pays les moins avancés. La première liste des PMA établie par l'ONU en 1971 comportait 25 pays, elle en compte maintenant 48;
- **Asie du Sud :** C'est en Asie du Sud (Inde, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Bhoutan et Népal) qu'est concentré le plus grand nombre d'indigents; or dans cette région vivent 21 % de la population mondiale;
- **Afrique :** En Afrique, une personne sur deux vit dans la misère. Le continent africain compte 16 % des pauvres du monde, vivant pour la plupart (60 %) dans les zones rurales de l'Afrique subsaharienne;
- **Economies en transition :** Les pays en transition vers une économie de marché (anciennes républiques de l'Union soviétique et pays d'Europe centrale et orientale, par exemple) ont connu des problèmes économiques aigus, que l'inflation vient encore aggraver. Les plus durement touchés sont les personnes âgées et tous ceux qui n'existaient plus de systèmes de sécurité sociale qui n'existent plus.
- **Pays membres de l'OCDE :** Si pour la Banque mondiale les pays de l'OCDE ne comptent que 1 % des habitants les plus pauvres du monde, il y a pourtant plus de 15 % de la population des Etats-Unis et d'Europe occidentale qui vivent au-dessous du seuil de pauvreté. Depuis 1960 le chômage augmente, et il y a à l'heure actuelle quelque 34 millions de chômeurs dans les pays développés; dans les seuls pays de l'Union européenne, il y aurait 52 millions de pauvres, 17 millions de chômeurs et 3 millions de sans-abri.

Une prise de conscience graduelle

Éliminer la pauvreté exige davantage qu'une augmentation du produit national brut : c'est un processus complexe qui a certes des aspects économiques, comme la création d'emplois, mais aussi d'autres aspects non économiques comme la satisfaction des besoins fondamentaux, le respect des droits de l'homme et la participation populaire au processus de développement lui-même. Lutter contre la pauvreté c'est aussi lutter pour la dignité de l'être humain, le développement durable et la paix.

"Partout où des hommes et des femmes sont condamnés à vivre dans la misère, les droits de l'homme sont bafoués."

*– Le père Joseph Wresinski
Mouvement ATD-Quart Monde*

D'abord une journée...

- **Journée internationale pour l'élimination de la pauvreté : le 17 octobre**

Le 17 octobre 1987, 100 000 défenseurs des droits de l'homme appartenant à tous les milieux se sont réunis sur la place des libertés et des droits de l'homme, au Trocadéro à Paris, à l'endroit même où a été signée en 1948 la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme, pour "rendre hommage aux victimes de la faim, de l'ignorance et de la violence... (et) proclamer leur conviction que la misère humaine n'est pas inévitable".

En 1993, la Journée a été pour la première fois marquée dans le monde entier, après avoir été proclamée par l'Assemblée générale dans sa résolution 47/196 du 22 décembre 1992.

Puis une année...

- **Année internationale pour l'élimination de la pauvreté : 1996**

En 1994, l'Assemblée générale a proclamé 1996 Année internationale pour l'élimination de la pauvreté.

L'objectif est "de sensibiliser au fait que l'élimination de la pauvreté est un facteur essentiel pour raffermir la paix et assurer un développement durable" et de catalyser des actions concrètes afin "que l'Année apporte une contribution spécifique et appréciable à l'élimination de la pauvreté" (résolution 49/110 de l'Assemblée générale, 1994).

Puis des engagements solennels...

- **Sommet mondial pour le développement social** : en 1995, les dirigeants de 117 pays se sont engagés au nom de leur pays à éliminer la pauvreté, à défendre le plein-emploi et à favoriser l'instauration de sociétés stables, sûres et justes.

Engagement 2

"Nous nous engageons à poursuivre l'objectif de l'élimination de la pauvreté dans le monde, grâce à des actions nationales et à une coopération internationale menées avec détermination; il s'agit là pour l'humanité d'un impératif éthique, social, politique et économique."

Engagement 3

"Nous nous engageons à favoriser la réalisation de l'objectif du plein-emploi en en faisant une priorité de base de nos politiques économiques et sociales et à donner à tous, hommes et femmes, la possibilité de s'assurer des moyens de subsistance sûrs et durables grâce à un emploi librement choisi et à un travail productif."

*– Extrait de la Déclaration adoptée par le
Sommet mondial pour le développement social,
Copenhague, mars 1995*

Des objectifs nationaux . . .

Dans la Déclaration adoptée par le Sommet social, les gouvernements se sont engagés à arrêter des politiques visant à éliminer l'extrême pauvreté avant une date fixée par chaque pays en fonction de son contexte national. A la fin de 1996, l'Assemblée générale évaluera les progrès accomplis par les gouvernements dans la mise en place de ces politiques et la fixation d'objectifs nationaux pour l'élimination de la pauvreté.

Enfin une décennie . . .

- **Décennie pour l'élimination de la pauvreté : 1997-2006**
On s'attend qu'après l'Année internationale l'Assemblée générale proclame la période 1997-2006 Décennie pour l'élimination de la pauvreté.

Pleins feux sur l'élimination de la pauvreté

Tout au long des années 90, l'ONU a organisé une série de conférences internationales consacrées à des problèmes mondiaux de développement. Cette suite de conférences, dont les thèmes s'entrecroisent, a fait ressortir la nécessité d'un développement durable axé sur l'être humain, dont la pierre angulaire devait être l'élimination de la pauvreté.

Depuis le Sommet mondial pour le développement social, l'élimination de la pauvreté englobe des aspects tels que l'accès aux services et équipements essentiels, un emploi productif et des moyens d'existence viables, un sentiment de sécurité, la réduction des inégalités, l'élimination de la discrimination et la participation à la vie de la communauté.

Des mesures concrètes pour éliminer la pauvreté

Voici quelques-unes des mesures concrètes que les organismes des Nations Unies et les gouvernements, de même que les ONG, le secteur privé et la société dans son ensemble, mettent en place dans un effort concerté visant à éliminer la pauvreté :

- **Faire disparaître la faim :**

Grâce au développement agricole durable, grâce à l'amélioration de la distribution et du stockage des denrées alimentaires et en facilitant l'accès des populations à faible revenu aux produits alimentaires;

- **Assurer un niveau de vie minimal :**

Par une action nationale de lutte contre les causes profondes de la pauvreté dans les domaines de l'éducation de base, des soins de santé primaires et des soins de santé génésique, et des services sociaux de base, avec notamment comme objectifs précis :

- Porter l'espérance de vie à au moins 60 ans d'ici à l'an 2000;
- Eradiquer, éliminer ou enrayer les maladies constituant des problèmes sanitaires mondiaux d'ici à l'an 2000;
- Ouvrir à tous l'accès à l'éducation de base d'ici à l'an 2000;
- Réduire de moitié par rapport au niveau de 1990 le taux d'analphabétisme des adultes, en s'attachant en particulier à alphabétiser les femmes;
- Mettre en place des programmes de lutte contre la pauvreté axés sur les femmes, notamment des plans pour l'emploi, le logement à prix abordable et l'accès à la terre et au crédit.

- **Multiplier les possibilités de travail productif, créer des emplois et favoriser le plein-emploi :**

Grâce à des initiatives du secteur privé visant à encourager l'esprit d'entreprise, à multiplier les créations d'emploi, à stimuler les branches d'activité faisant appel à une main-d'œuvre nombreuse et à lutter contre le sous-emploi et le travail non rémunéré;

- **Démarginaliser les femmes et les autres groupes vulnérables :**

En prenant les mesures voulues pour garantir à ces groupes l'égalité des chances en matière d'emploi dans les secteurs structuré et non structuré; en s'efforçant d'éliminer les préjugés et la discrimination à leur encontre; en les faisant participer à la prise de décisions;

- **Susciter un environnement économique stable et porteur :**

Grâce à une plus grande stabilité financière internationale et une croissance sans inflation; par une utilisation efficace des ressources et la promotion d'un secteur privé socialement responsable;

- **Financer le développement et alléger la dette extérieure :**

En accroissant les ressources multilatérales et en apportant au problème de la dette extérieure une solution efficace, durable et favorisant le développement; en faisant appel en sorte que l'aide publique au développement atteigne le taux visé de 0,7 % du produit national brut; en poursuivant l'initiative 20 %/20 % et en augmentant les investissements étrangers directs dans les pays en développement; et en utilisant à bon escient les ressources libérées par la réduction des dépenses militaires.

- **Encourager les échanges internationaux dans l'esprit des directives issues des négociations d'Uruguay :**

Grâce à l'intégration de tous les pays dans un espace commercial international ouvert, équitable, sûr, exempt de discrimination et prévisible; en renforçant la coopération Sud-Sud; par une diversification des produits de base, l'amélioration de l'accès aux marchés pour les exportations et l'élimination du protectionnisme.

Calendrier d'activités

Année internationale pour l'élimination de la pauvreté

Janvier, Turin (Italie)
Séminaire sur la lutte contre la pauvreté
Centre de formation de l'OIT

5-16 février, New York
Habitat II, 3^e session du Comité préparatoire

19-23 février, Le Cap (Afrique du Sud)
Séminaire du FIDA sur les méthodes
d'atténuation de la pauvreté rurale dans les
pays en développement d'Afrique australe

Mars 1996, Recife (Brésil)
Séminaire sur la pauvreté dans les zones
urbaines (CNUEH)

Mars 1996, Genève
Séminaire relatif aux effets des relations
économiques internationales sur la
pauvreté (CNUCED)

Avril, Asie du Sud-Est
ONG, gouvernements et FIDA : partenariat
pour l'atténuation de la pauvreté

27 avril-11 mai, Midrand (Afrique du Sud)
Neuvième session de la Conférence des
Nations Unies sur le commerce et le
développement : Mondialisation et
libéralisation, et leurs effets en ce qui
concerne l'atténuation de la pauvreté

3-14 juin, Istanbul (Turquie)
Habitat II

7 octobre, Europe
Manifestations concernant la pauvreté dans
les villes, à l'occasion de la Journée mondiale,
de l'habitat, patronnée par la CEE et le
Conseil international de l'action sociale (CIAS)

17 octobre 1996
Journée internationale pour l'élimination de
la pauvreté

13-17 novembre 1996, Rome (Italie)
Sommet mondial de l'alimentation patronné
par l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour
l'alimentation et l'agriculture (FAO)

1997-2006
Décennie internationale pour l'élimination
de la pauvreté

(NOTE: THIS IS AN EXCERPT FROM THE DOCUMENT)

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A FINAL REPORT ON THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
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WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT:
YEAR-END UPDATE

Even though the World Summit for Social Development (WSSD) has come and gone, important work remains to be done to implement the Programme of Action adopted by the Conference on 12 March 1995. In this regard, the 50th United Nations General Assembly reviewed the outcome of the Summit and adopted a resolution that sets out the role of the UN system in its implementation.

This special year-end issue of the Earth Negotiations Bulletin will summarize the results of the General Assembly's consideration of the Summit and highlight upcoming events. This issue of the Earth Negotiations Bulletin is published as part of a series of year-end issues intended to summarize the current state of play in the various sustainable development conferences and negotiations reported on by the Bulletin in 1995.

THE SOCIAL SUMMIT

The World Summit for Social Development, which was held in Copenhagen from 6-12 March 1995, brought together over 118 world leaders to agree on a political Declaration and Programme of Action to alleviate and reduce poverty, expand productive employment and enhance social integration.

The Summit consisted of three parts: a Plenary from 6-10 March for statements by high-level representatives; a Main Committee from 6-10 March for final negotiations of the Declaration and Programme of Action; and the Summit of Heads of State or Government on 11-12 March. Statements during the Plenary were organized around suggested daily themes: "enabling environment" on 6 March; "eradication of poverty" on 7 March; "gender and participation of women" on 8 March; "employment and problems of unemployment" on 9 March; and "social integration" and "implementation and follow-up" on 10 March.

POST-SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS

COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The 34th session of the Commission for Social Development was held at UN Headquarters in New York from 10-20 April 1995. In its consideration of the Social Summit, the Commission focused on the arrangements for the implementation and follow-up of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action. It adopted a draft resolution on the follow-up to the Summit transmitting its views and considerations to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) at its substantive session of 1995. These views included: the recognition that the Commission for Social Development should have a central role in the follow-up to the Summit and that it should be in a position to increase the added value of its contributions to international cooperation for social development. The draft resolution also called for ECOSOC to review the mandate, agenda and composition of the Commission, including an expansion of its membership and the annualization of its meetings. The practice of opening its debates to experts and the main actors of civil society in the field of social development was also recommended.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

At its substantive session of 1995, which took place in Geneva in July, ECOSOC held a debate on the follow-up to the Summit. In resolution 1995/60, the Council reaffirmed the recommendation of the Programme of Action that it should oversee system-wide coordination of the implementation of

the outcome of the Summit and reiterated the need for all relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the UN system to be involved in the follow-up to the Summit. The Council also reiterated that the implementation of the Declaration and the Programme of Action would require the mobilization of financial resources at the national and international levels.

ECOSOC also considered the theme of coordinated follow-up by the UN system and the implementation of the results of the major international conferences organized by the UN in the economic, social and related fields. In its agreed conclusions, ECOSOC decided to carry out within the framework of its yearly coordination segment a review of cross-cutting themes common to all the major international conferences and to contribute to an overall review of the implementation of the programmes of action from each conference.

With regard to the Commission for Social Development, ECOSOC decided that the Commission should periodically review issues related to the follow-up and implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action. The Commission should also adapt its mandate so as to ensure an integrated approach to social development, develop a multi-year programme of work to the year 2000, establish the practice of opening up its debates to experts and the main actors of civil society, and review and update its methods of work. ECOSOC also recommended that the Commission should hold a special session in 1996 to review its mandate, elaborate its multi-year programme of work and review the frequency of meetings.

UN SYSTEM FOLLOW-UP

Since Copenhagen, a number of UN programmes, agencies and commissions have begun to implement the Declaration and Programme of Action. The following list of initiatives is indicative of these efforts.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has established a Summit follow-up strategy group, which is working with UNDP country offices and country-level partners to assist them in elaborating specific strategies and programmes for implementing the Programme of Action.

UNDP is also working closely with governments and UN system partners on several post-Copenhagen initiatives, including a proposed international meeting on the 20:20 formula for funding social programmes; the possible establishment of a consultative group on the poorest; poverty monitoring; and the Secretary-General's Special Initiative for Africa.

The UN Population Fund (UNFPA) informed all of its field and headquarters staff of the highlights of the Summit, in particular as they relate to the decisions and recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development.

At its meeting in October 1995, the Development Committee of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) considered the implications of the Social Summit for developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) Governing Body, at its session in March/April 1995, requested the Director-General to ensure that ILO research, operational and standard-setting activities are geared closely to the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action. At its session in November 1995, the Governing Body considered the questions of promoting universal ratification of the ILO fundamental human rights conventions, combating child labor and improving the effectiveness of ILO supervision of labor standards.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY HIGHLIGHTS

The General Assembly Plenary considered implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development (Agenda Item 161) on Thursday and Friday, 7-8 December 1995. Delegates had before them the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development (A/50/670) as well as the report of the Social Summit (A/CONF.166/9).

During the course of the debate, most delegates noted that while it is the primary responsibility of States to attain the Summit's goals, those goals have to be achieved in the context of a broad partnership with the international community through the United Nations. Delegates stressed the importance of the role of ECOSOC as a coordinating body and called for a review of the mandate and method of work of the Commission for Social Development. Several delegates endorsed the recommendation that a special session be convened in the year 2000 to examine implementation of the Summit's outcome.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION

During December, interested delegates drafted a resolution on "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development." Consensus on this resolution was achieved only after lengthy consultations. One of the more difficult issues was agreement on the methodology for

involving relevant actors of civil society in the field of social development to contribute to the work of the Commission for Social Development. Since this item was considered in the General Assembly Plenary, it was not brought to the Third Committee for adoption but rather was expected to be adopted in the General Assembly Plenary before it adjourned on 22 December 1995.

The draft resolution addressed both the critical importance of national action and international cooperation for social development and the role of the UN system. With regard to national action and international cooperation, the resolution endorses the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action and reaffirms the pledge by the Heads of State and Government to give the highest priority to national, regional and international policies and actions for social development. The draft resolution also:

stresses the need for political will;

emphasizes the interdependence of economic development, social development and environmental protection;

recognizes that implementation of the Programme of Action is primarily the responsibility of Governments;

reiterates the call to governments to define time-bound goals and targets for poverty reduction and eradication, expanding employment and reducing unemployment, and enhancing social integration;

reiterates the call for comprehensive cross-sectoral strategies for implementing the Summit outcome;

reiterates the call for assessing national progress toward implementing the outcome of the Summit through periodic national reports;

reaffirms the need for an effective partnership between governments and civil society;

recognizes that the implementation of the Programme of Action and the Declaration will require mobilization of financial resources at the national and international levels

as well as substantial debt reduction;

reaffirms the importance of implementing the 20:20 concept between interested developed and developing countries; and

urges the Secretary-General, the World Bank and the IMF to study the impact of structural adjustment programmes on economic and social development.

With regard to the role of the UN system, the draft resolution calls on all parts of the UN system to adjust their activities and programmes to take into account follow-up to the Summit. The General Assembly, ECOSOC and the Commission for Social Development will form a three-tiered intergovernmental process for Summit follow-up. A special session of the General Assembly will be held in the year 2000 for overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action.

The draft resolution also calls on ECOSOC to: oversee system-wide coordination in the implementation of the Summit outcome; improve its own effectiveness; and review the reporting system in the area of social development.

The draft resolution calls on the Commission for Social Development to:

- develop a multi-year programme of work to the year 2000, selecting specific themes and addressing them from an interrelated and integrated perspective;

- adapt its mandate to ensure an integrated approach to social development;

- integrate the current sectoral issues on its agenda; review and update its methods of work;

- invite experts to contribute to its work;

- consider integrating high-level representatives on social development issues into its work;

- consider at its next session the composition of its membership and the frequency of its sessions and make recommendations therein to ECOSOC; and

- enable the participation of relevant actors of civil society in the field of social development.

The draft resolution also invites the Regional Commissions in cooperation with regional intergovernmental organizations and banks to consider convening, on a biennial basis, a high-level meeting to review progress made toward implementing the outcome of the Summit. UNDP is requested to facilitate UN-system capacity building efforts. The ILO, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization are also asked to contribute to the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action.

The Secretary-General is requested to: ensure an effectively functioning Secretariat to assist in the implementation and follow-up of the Summit; and strengthen UN capacity for

gathering and analyzing information and developing indicators for social development. Finally, the resolution decides that the Trust Fund of the Social Summit should be continued and renamed "Trust Fund for the Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development," with the aim of supporting programmes, seminars and activities for the promotion of social development and the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action and invites all States to contribute to it.

THINGS TO LOOK FOR IN 1996

COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: The Commission for Social Development will meet in a special session from 21-30 May 1996 at UN Headquarters in New York. The theme of the session will be "Strategies and actions for the eradication of poverty: formulation of integrated strategies; meeting basic human needs of all; and promotion of self-reliance and community-based initiatives."

NORWEGIAN INITIATIVE ON THE 20:20 CONCEPT: Norway has proposed hosting a meeting on operationalizing the 20:20 concept. A small preparatory group, consisting of three developed and three developing countries, has begun work on the meeting in cooperation with the relevant UN organizations. The preparatory group has recommended that the meeting work towards a common definition of basic social programmes, define modalities for implementing the 20:20 concept, and agree on ways to monitor implementation.

DANISH SEMINARS: The Government of Denmark will be convening in Copenhagen international seminars on selected social development issues. The Danes will be setting up a small secretariat to prepare for these seminars.

This issue of the Earth Negotiations Bulletin

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Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
Ministère des Affaires étrangères et du Commerce international

Economic & Social Development Division (AGS)

Issues Paper:

Outcomes of the
World Summit for Social Development



August 1995

I. BACKGROUND

Introduction: The World Summit for Social Development (WSSD) was convened by the United Nations to discuss problems of social development through four core themes: the eradication of poverty; employment; social integration; and national and international enabling environments for social development. One hundred and eighty-six countries attended the Summit, making it one of the largest events of its kind in UN history and 118 of the delegates were at the level of head of state or government.

Discussions were wide-ranging: their outcome was the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action. The 10 commitments of the Declaration deal with: an enabling environment; poverty eradication; employment; social integration; gender equality; education and culture; Africa and the least-developed countries; structural adjustment; resource utilization; and strengthening social development in the international system. The outcome is the broadest-ever governmental consensus on social development and will influence international social and economic policy for many years to come.

Conclusions and concepts: While most WSSD conclusions fall within the parameters of Canadian foreign policy, the WSSD approach to social development may change the way we manage social development in the future. For example, while the international community generally agrees on the need for economic development in countries, it was often assumed that people would benefit as a by-product of growth and sound economic management. The WSSD concluded that people are both the agents and the beneficiaries of economic development, and that without effective social development they can be marginalized in the development process. Apart from encouraging sound macro-economic policy, the WSSD urged countries to improve their commitment to equity and to integrate social policy into economic and environmental policy and planning. The WSSD endorsed a "people-centred" approach: its documents focus throughout on the rights and responsibilities of people.

Canada's participation and contribution: Canada was one of a few countries that undertook wide-ranging consultations on the WSSD and supported pre-Summit cross-country consultations with the provinces and by civil society, including individuals, representatives of labour, the private sector, political parties, indigenous groups, community organizations, co-operatives, non-profit and non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, the media, and public information groups. Government and non-governmental consultations benefited from a new dialogue between social policy and international development specialists and activists, to the extent that Canada's outline of the Draft Declaration became the basis of the Copenhagen text.

One of the results of this relationship was the promotion by Canada of new concepts in the four core areas of the Summit. For example, Canada promoted and obtained full international recognition of the contribution made to society by people who perform unremunerated activities, such as household work or subsistence agriculture. The Summit

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

military expenditures. They also acknowledged the importance of ensuring opportunity for all, especially the most marginalized.

- **Specific concerns:**
 - (i) **Gender:** The WSSD recognized that economic and social development cannot be achieved without gender equality.
 - (ii) **Youth:** The WSSD expanded on outcomes of the Children's Summit by highlighting both the needs of children and the specific concerns of young people as new entrants to the labour market.

B. Poverty: The agreement on eradication of poverty was the Summit's most notable achievement.

- **New agreement on poverty eradication:** Governments agreed to "national policies and strategies geared to substantially reducing overall poverty in the shortest possible time, reducing inequalities and eradicating absolute poverty by a target date to be specified by each country in its national context." Absolute poverty was defined as severe deprivation of basic human needs — including health, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, shelter, education and information — and was evaluated not just by income measurements, but also by lack of basic social services.

Countries agreed to formulate national and integrated strategies to eradicate poverty that will include greater emphasis on meeting the basic human needs of all people living in poverty. WSSD conclusions establish that poverty reduction, not poverty alleviation (poverty cannot be "alleviated"), is a holistic process and should be the primary purpose of both development and infrastructure programming. The conclusions also recognize the importance of establishing a continuum between emergency disaster relief and rehabilitation and urged the UN General Assembly to declare a decade for poverty eradication in 1996.

- **Future profiles of poverty:** The WSSD acknowledged that while poverty is currently concentrated in rural areas, urban poverty is one of the fastest growing forms of poverty. The documents stress the increasing relationship between poverty and the unsustainable use of the environment. Also discussed were issues such as the "feminization" and "juvenilization" of poverty, the latter referring to the emergence of massive youth unemployment in some regions of the world.
- **Participatory approaches to poverty eradication:** The WSSD conclusions encourage governments to approach poverty eradication differently. Countries agreed to review the root causes of poverty and acknowledged that poverty eradication must be based on an understanding of the livelihood strategies of people living in poverty. They also acknowledged that people living in poverty should have access to a sustainable livelihood and social safety nets to ensure that they do not fall back into poverty. Governments accepted that people living in poverty should be fully included

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

street children. They recognized the difficulties of groups with specific needs, including people with disabilities, indigenous people, migrant workers and potentially disadvantaged groups such as women and youth, in entering and staying in the work force.

- **New agreement:** The conclusions recognize the need to better understand the relationship between paid and unpaid work; to measure and value the contribution of unpaid work to the economy; and to incorporate such understanding into employment and poverty reduction strategies. Examples of such work, much of which is still unrecorded or undervalued, include care of dependants and the subsistence agriculture practised by many people living in poverty.
- D. Social integration:** The social integration conclusions emphasize the need to respect and value diversity and to ensure enabling legal and regulatory frameworks for the participation of individuals and civil society in social development. The conclusions also identify groups whose situations warrant specific attention.
- **Improving governance:** Countries committed to transparent, open, inclusive and accountable public institutions. They agreed to simplify administrative regulations, disseminate public information and ensure effectiveness at all levels of government and encouraged the free formation of co-operatives, community and other organizations of civil society and their involvement in social development activities. Internationally, the Summit called for enhanced international co-operation to eliminate crime, violence against women and trafficking in women and children.
 - **Valuing diversity:** Countries stressed the importance of understanding diversity and valuing its contribution to society. They advocated laws to combat racism and intolerance; ratification of the Convention Eliminating Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); strengthening dispute resolution machinery and respect for cultural heritage. They also encouraged the media to promote social integration. Special attention was given to the role of education and culture in promoting the value of diversity. Countries also committed to eradicating illiteracy.
 - **Equality and social justice:** The WSSD acknowledged that people who are particularly disadvantaged should not be marginalized from society and recognized the need for capacity-building measures to develop their potential. Emphasis was placed on including marginalized and disadvantaged people, such as those with disabilities, indigenous people and older persons, in mainstream life. The need for fairer and more equitable treatment for refugees, displaced persons, migrants and asylum seekers, and the vital importance of family reunification was recognized. The Summit documents promote justice and equality for all, in particular for women and youth.

III. IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOW-UP

The WSSD suggested ways in which the international community can improve social development and advocated improvements in policy and programming.

- **Strengthening the UN system:** Recommendations for follow-up included strengthening the UN system to deal with social development. The UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is expected to oversee system-wide co-ordination of the Copenhagen results. This may include strengthening the Commission for Social Development, a potential focal point for follow-up to the WSSD. The Summit requested the General Assembly to hold a special session in the year 2000 to review implementation of the WSSD conclusions. The UN was also encouraged to identify new and innovative sources of funding to promote social development.
- **International dialogue:** The UN General Assembly (UNGA) was invited to convene meetings of high-level representatives to promote dialogue on international co-operation in social development. UNGA was asked to draw on the Agenda for Development to elaborate a common framework for implementing UN conference outcomes.
- **A role for the International Financial Institutions (IFIs):** The Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the ILO were urged to promote coherent international approaches to social development and to take social development into account in their structural adjustment programs. ECOSOC was requested to consider holding joint meetings with the Development Committee of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund on social development issues.
- **National and international reporting:** Although the WSSD documents did not specifically mandate countries to report to the UN on social development, they encouraged the creation of national strategies for social development. The UN was called on to "create a consolidated reporting system" on social development with a view to establishing clear policy recommendations for governments and international organizations.
- **Indicators for social development:** The Summit urged the creation and better use of national and international indicators to monitor social development, and consolidation of such data internationally. Participants agreed that indicators should be both quantitative and qualitative and should be based on the experience and evaluation of the groups studied.
- **The 20/20 proposal:** This compact was seen as a historic breakthrough which demonstrates an international commitment to social investment. The 20/20 is intended to be a bilateral compact between developing and donor countries: recipient

countries that do not already do so will allocate 20 per cent of government expenditures towards meeting basic human needs and donor countries that enter into the compact will support these efforts by re-orienting 20 per cent of Official Development Assistance (ODA) to meeting basic human needs.

- **Resource issues:** There were calls for mobilization of new, adequate and/or predictable resources for social development from all sources, private and public, in all WSSD documents. The UN was tasked with finding new resources for social development.
- **Partnership for social development:** The program of action called for involvement of civil society and all levels of government (provincial, municipal, etc.) in achieving social development.

IV. ELEMENTS OF A CANADIAN RESPONSE TO INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

Canada views the WSSD as a qualified success. While it achieved a measure of consensus on social development that was unprecedented in UN history, the documents do not represent a comprehensive work program. More work is needed to create an international program of action on social development.

People centredness: This is already an objective of Canadian policy. Canada is promoting greater commitment to financing social development by re-orienting 25 per cent of ODA toward meeting basic human needs. The government is also committed to ensuring greater focus on the needs of the poorest people and countries. The promotion of good governance, respect for human rights and democracy — key elements of Canadian policy — encourage a people-centred approach to development.

An enabling environment: Canada's approach to trade liberalization and debt relief contributes to an enabling international environment for social development. Canada has consistently promoted a rules-based international trade and financial system, and has worked to ensure the success of the WTO. Canada is a leader in debt relief for the most severely indebted least-developed countries and promotes this policy internationally.

Poverty eradication: One of the overarching objectives of Canada's international policy is the eradication of poverty. Canada is committed to reallocating 25 per cent of ODA toward meeting basic human needs and giving priority to those countries in which there are substantial concentrations of people living in poverty. Canada's poverty programming recognizes the changing profiles of poverty and the relationship between poverty reduction and income. Canada is currently promoting an international conference on social indicators to improve measurement and monitoring of social development and will encourage the development of indicators to monitor the situation of disadvantaged groups listed in the program of action. The Department of Human Resources Development will play a leading role in co-ordinating programs for the international year for poverty eradication in 1996.

Employment: Canada is a leader in the development of labour market information systems and has pioneered understanding of the measurement and valuation of unpaid work, knowledge that should be shared. Canada recognizes the importance of international labour standards but prefers to promote respect for these standards through mechanisms other than trade agreements. The Government supports a central role for the ILO in the follow-up to the WSSD and strengthened co-operation on social development within the multilateral system.

Social integration: Good governance and respect for the value of diversity are objectives of Canadian policy. Canada has actively promoted ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), introduced language on the elimination of violence against women in many international forums and is a leader in programs for people with disabilities. Canada is willing to assist countries wishing to better understand social policy issues and is supporting the development of indicators to monitor the situation of groups with specific needs.

Implementation and follow-up: As Chair of the recent G-7 Summit in Halifax, Canada promoted and obtained agreement that the IFIs should focus more on poverty reduction. Canada has also actively promoted a central role for the Commission for Social Development in following up on the Summit as well as the participation of civil society and expert guidance in assisting in the Commission's work. Canada is seeking better consolidation of UN reporting systems before agreeing to further national reports on social development. The Government is also committed to working with like-minded countries to enable developing countries to reduce excessive military expenditures and direct the funds to social and economic development.

A role for civil society in follow-up: Canada's partnership role with civil society was noted by many other delegations at the Social Summit. While consultations are just beginning on its follow-up, it is expected that civil society will participate in discussions on implementation of Summit agreements and indeed on follow-up to several other UN conferences that address social issues.

Conclusions: The WSSD has given a fillip to issues that have lingered on the international agenda for many years without much cohesion, commitment or co-ordinated action. The Summit achieved an international consensus that poverty eradication, employment and social integration should be objectives of social and economic policy. This consensus will permit more effective, focussed action by the international community in the future and perhaps assist the discussions of the G-7 when they meet in Lyon in 1996.

Canada has been invited by several countries to provide technical assistance in social development as a result of its active participation in the Summit and is developing strategies to market its expertise in social development. Dialogue on follow-up is just beginning and will involve consultations and concerted action with representatives of civil society and all levels of government involved in social development.



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PRESS RELEASE NO. 23

**STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. ROBERT R. FOWLER
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF CANADA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

TO THE FIFTIETH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**ITEM 161: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE
WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

NEW YORK, 7 DECEMBER 1996

COMMUNIQUÉ DE PRESSE NO. 23

**ALLOCUTION DE S.E. M. ROBERT R. FOWLER
AMBASSADEUR ET REPRÉSENTANT PERMANENT DU
CANADA AUPRÈS DE L'ORGANISATION DES NATIONS
UNIES**

**DEVANT LA CINQUANTIÈME SESSION DE
L'ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE**

**POINT 161: SUITE DONNÉE AU SOMMET MONDIAL POUR
LE DÉVELOPPEMENT SOCIAL**

NEW YORK, LE 7 DÉCEMBRE 1996

**PERMANENT MISSION OF CANADA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**LA MISSION PERMANENTE DU CANADA
AUPRÈS DES NATIONS UNIES**

Mr. President:

I welcome this opportunity to set out how Canada views the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development. This is also the right occasion to speak to the role of the UN in the implementation of the Program of Action. Since this is the first time the General Assembly has considered the WSSD since the Copenhagen event, I start by expressing our appreciation to Denmark for hosting the Summit, and to Ambassador Somavia for the passion and imagination he brought to the whole process.

The WSSD took a comprehensive approach to social development. It expressed a people-centred vision of sustainable development in which economic, social and environmental objectives are interwoven for the purpose of improving the well-being of people. Beyond the nice words, what is new here is the emergent idea of individual economic and social security as an increasingly important factor in global affairs. From that comes a renewed focus on human development, both in domestic public policy and international cooperation.

The WSSD approach to enablement and empowerment merits mention. It recognizes that at the heart of policies to enable social development are democratic institutions, respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, the rule of law and respect for cultural diversity. This shows a profound understanding that these are policies that foster personal well-being and social and political inclusiveness. The emphasis on empowerment and participation of individuals and communities reflects the conviction that people should be able to participate fully in the decisions and processes that shape their lives. Development must be by people, not only for them. Gender equality is central to this.

It is worth referring also to the principles and values which infuse the Declaration and Program of Action, notably solidarity, partnership and mutual respect as well as to the ethical underpinning of the key Commitments made. These principles, if acted out, offer the appropriate basis for national harmony as well as international cooperation in a world where interdependence is deepening at all levels.

High minded declarations of intent often engender skepticism, especially when not tied to concrete action. The acid test for our publics will indeed be the followup. In planning for that, it is worth keeping in mind the new elements that Copenhagen brought forward in the international approach to social development.

A key point is the universal relevance of the issues addressed by the Social Summit. Poverty is a main preoccupation, but the approach is not North-South. The reality is that all our countries are grappling, in different ways, with the central Summit themes: poverty reduction, employment creation and and social cohesion.

While national responsibilities are paramount, there is also a global context. We live at a time when people are being integrated into a global economy and culture. Traditional forms of solidarity, such as the extended family, as well as more modern forms of social protection are changing, as the roles of the family and the state change. Many countries are flourishing in the new economic context. However, severe problems of unemployment, poverty and income distribution have grown worse in many places, contributing to political instability, mass migration, environmental stress, and ethnic conflict.

Mr. President:

The Social Summit should be situated in the wider context of the current series of major UN international conferences that run from Rio to Istanbul. Taken together, these conferences articulate a comprehensive vision of sustainable development. Canada believes that the coherent and coordinated implementation of the conclusions of these conferences should be the principal vocation of the UN system in the economic and social fields.

Given the inevitable overlap of issues among conferences, a thematic approach to followup is the only practical way forward. This is why we were pleased by the decision of the Secretary-General to establish three inter-agency task forces organized around the following key themes: the enabling environment; meeting basic needs; and sustainable livelihoods. We are especially pleased to note the close cooperation with the World Bank and the ILO envisaged in these coordination arrangements. Goal oriented, practical cooperation between the UN and the Bretton Woods institutions, and with specialised agencies, is the best way to secure the closer partnership that is often called for. We encourage the Secretary-General to proceed with establishing a fourth task force on the empowerment and advancement of women to support sustained followup to the Beijing Platform for Action. Of course this would not diminish in any way the need for the other task forces to build the gender and sustainability dimensions into their work.

We know that the UN funds and programs have already taken steps to put social development goals in general and the followup to Copenhagen in particular at the core of their work. The UNDP can make a particular contribution in facilitating the systemwide effort by drawing upon its extensive field network to support coordinated programming and helping to build national capacity to tackle poverty and other key Copenhagen commitments. We should acknowledge the leadership shown by Gus Borch in these respects.

Canada also envisages a meaningful role for a revitalised Social Development Commission in the followup to the Social Summit. We think there is room for a policy oriented body to shed further light on how to attain the agreed goals. Accordingly, at its special session, the Commission should give the highest priority to the formulation of a multi-year thematic work programme which reflects the Copenhagen framework. This work programme should recognize the important interrelationships between the core themes of the summit: poverty, employment and social integration. The Commission should also:

- Adapt its mandate in order to ensure an integrated approach to social development
- Integrate the current sectoral issues on its agenda into the multi-year thematic programme of work
- Review and up-date its methods of work
- Seek creative ways of involving in its work independent experts and representatives of civil society.

We also continue to see an important role for ECOSOC in harmonizing the work programmes of this commission with others, as well as in providing policy coordination.

Mr. President:

The Social Summit drew important commitments from us all. It provides a basis for restoring social concerns to the heart of economic policy formulation. Through, for example, the idea of 20/20 compacts it set out concrete ideas of how to direct more resources to poverty reduction and related objectives. In this respect, Canada has undertaken to provide 25 per cent of its ODA to meeting basic needs.

The 20/20 commitment is one example of how the Summit creatively envisaged constructive partnerships. We look forward to working closely with others to identify other creative ways for encouraging the implementation of the Summit outcomes. In so doing we will be mindful of the broader requirement for us all: to give substance to the undertaking made at Copenhagen -- to put people first.

Halifax Summit

COMMUNIQUE

June 15 - 17, 1995



Halifax Summit

COMMUNIQUE

June 15 - 17, 1995

HALIFAX SUMMIT COMMUNIQUE

PREAMBLE

1. We, the Heads of State and Government of seven major industrialized nations and the President of the European Commission, have met in Halifax for our 21st annual Summit. We have gathered at a time of change and opportunity, and have reaffirmed our commitment to working together and with our partners throughout the world.

GROWTH AND EMPLOYMENT

2. The central purpose of our economic policy is to improve the well being of our people, allowing them to lead full and productive lives. Creating good quality jobs and reducing unemployment, which remains unacceptably high in too many of our countries, is thus an urgent priority for all of us. We are committed to establishing an economic environment conducive to the accomplishment of this goal.

3. We remain encouraged by the continued strong growth in much of the world's economy. While there has been some slowing, in most of our countries the conditions for continued growth appear to be in place and inflation is well under control. We will pursue appropriate macroeconomic and structural policies to maintain the momentum of growth.

4. Yet problems remain. Internal and external imbalances, together with unhelpful fluctuations in financial and currency markets, could jeopardize achievement of sustained, non-inflationary growth as well as the continued expansion of international trade.

5. We remain committed to the medium-term economic strategy that we earlier agreed upon. Consistent with it, we are determined to make the best possible use of the current economic expansion by taking steps to promote durable job creation. This requires determined action to further reduce public deficits, to maintain a non-inflationary environment and to increase national savings for the funding of a high level of global investment. Each country has to keep its own house in order.

6. We endorse the conclusions reached by G-7 Finance Ministers in Washington and ask them to maintain close cooperation in economic surveillance and in exchange markets.

7. Good fiscal and monetary policies will not on their own deliver the full fruits of better economic performance. We must also remove obstacles to achieving the longer-term potential of our economies to grow and create secure, well-paying jobs. This will require measures to upgrade the skills of our labour force, and to promote, where appropriate, greater flexibility in labour markets and elimination of unnecessary regulations. At Naples we committed ourselves to a range of reforms in the areas of training and education, labour market regulation and adjustment, technological innovation and enhanced competition. As we pursue these reforms, we welcome the initiation by the OECD of a detailed review of each member economy's structural and employment policies.

8. As a follow up to our discussions, we agree to ask ministers to meet in France before our next Summit to review the progress made in job creation and consider how best to increase employment in all of our countries.

9. We are also committed to ensuring protection for our aging populations and those in need in our societies. To this end, some of our countries must take measures to ensure the sustainability of our public pension programs and systems of social support. Similar attention is required in some of our countries to ensuring the availability of private sector pension funds.

10. We welcome the results of the G-7 Information Society conference held in Brussels in February, including the eight core policy principles agreed to by Ministers, and encourage implementation of the series of pilot projects designed to help promote innovation and the spread of new technologies. We also welcome the involvement of the private sector. We encourage a dialogue with developing countries and economies in transition in establishing the Global Information Society, and welcome the proposal that an information society conference be convened in South Africa in spring 1996.

MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF THE 21ST CENTURY

11. International institutions have been central to our pursuit of stability, prosperity and equity for the past 50 years. Last year, in Naples, we called for a review of the international institutions to ensure that they are equipped to deal effectively with the challenges of the future. Today, in Halifax, we are proposing some concrete steps toward this goal. All countries have a stake in effective, efficient institutions. We pledge our full energies to strengthening the institutions in partnership with their entire membership to enhance the security and prosperity of the world.

Strengthening the Global Economy

12. The world economy has changed beyond all recognition over the last fifty years. The process of globalization, driven by technological change, has led to increased economic interdependence: this applies to some policy areas seen previously as purely domestic, and to interactions between policy areas. The major challenge confronting us is to manage this increased interdependence while working with the grain of markets, and recognizing the growing number of important players. This is especially important in the pursuit of global macroeconomic and financial stability.

13. Close consultation and effective cooperation on macroeconomic policies among the G-7 are important elements in promoting sustained non-inflationary growth avoiding the emergence of large external and internal imbalances, and promoting greater exchange market stability. Our Ministers have adopted a number of changes to the structure of their consultations over time, in order to strengthen policy cooperation, including enhanced consultation with the IMF.

14. The growth and integration of global capital markets have created both enormous opportunities and new risks. We have a shared interest in ensuring the international community remains able to manage the risks inherent in the growth of private capital flows, the increased integration of domestic capital markets, and the accelerating pace of financial innovation.

15. The developments in Mexico earlier this year and their repercussions have sharpened our focus on these issues. We welcome the recent more positive turn of events in Mexico, as well as the positive developments in a number of emerging economies.

16. The prevention of crisis is the preferred course of action. This is best achieved through each country pursuing sound fiscal and monetary policies. But it also requires an improved early warning system, so that we can act more quickly to prevent or handle financial shocks. Such a system must include improved and effective surveillance of national economic policies and financial market developments, and fuller disclosure of this information to market participants. To this end, we urge the IMF to:

- establish benchmarks for the timely publication of key economic and financial data;
- establish a procedure for the regular public identification of countries which comply with these benchmarks;
- insist on full and timely reporting by member countries of standard sets of data, provide sharper policy advice to all governments, and deliver frank messages to countries that appear to be avoiding necessary actions.

17. If prevention fails, financial market distress requires that multilateral institutions and major economies be able to respond where appropriate in a quick and coordinated fashion. Financing mechanisms must operate on a scale and with the timeliness required to manage shocks effectively. In this context, we urge the IMF to:

- establish a new standing procedure -- "Emergency Financing Mechanism" -- which would provide faster access to Fund arrangements with strong conditionality and larger upfront disbursements in crisis situations.

18. To support this procedure, we ask:

- the G-10 and other countries with the capacity to support the system to develop financing arrangements with the objective of doubling as soon as possible the amount currently available under the GAB to respond to financial emergencies;

19. To ensure that the IMF has sufficient resources to meet its ongoing responsibilities, we urge continued discussions on a new IMF quota review.

20. Solid progress on the elements discussed above should significantly improve our ability to cope with future financial crises. Nevertheless, these improvements may not be sufficient in all cases. In line with this, and recognizing the complex legal and other issues posed in debt crisis situations by the wide variety of sources of international finance involved, we would encourage further review by G-10 Ministers and Governors of other procedures that might also usefully be considered for their orderly resolution.

21. We continue to support the inclusion of all IMF members in the SDR system. Moreover, we urge the IMF to initiate a broad review of the role and functions of the SDR in light of changes in the world financial system.

22. Closer international cooperation in the regulation and supervision of financial institutions and markets is essential to safeguard the financial system and prevent an erosion of prudential standards. We urge:

- a deepening of cooperation among regulators and supervisory agencies to ensure an effective and integrated approach, on a global basis, to developing and enhancing the safeguards, standards, transparency and systems necessary to monitor and contain risks;
- continued encouragement to countries to remove capital market restrictions, coupled with strengthened policy advice from international financial institutions on the appropriate supervisory structures;
- Finance ministers to commission studies and analysis from the international organizations responsible for banking and securities regulations and to report on the adequacy of current arrangements, together with proposals for improvement where necessary, at the next Summit.

23. We also recognize that international financial fraud is a growing problem. We are committed to improving communication between regulators and law enforcement agencies.

Promoting Sustainable Development

24. A higher quality of life for all people is the goal of sustainable development. Democracy, human rights, transparent and accountable governance, investment in people and environmental protection are the foundations of sustainable development. The primary responsibility rests with each country but bilateral and multilateral international cooperation is essential to reinforce national efforts. We are committed to securing substantial flows of funds and to improving the quality of our assistance.

25. IDA plays an indispensable role in helping to reduce poverty and integrate the poorest countries into the global economy. We urge all donor countries to fulfil promptly their commitments to IDA-10 and to support a significant replenishment through IDA-11. We look forward to the recommendations of the Development Committee's Task Force on Multilateral Development Banks.

26. Multilateral institutions play a crucial role by providing intellectual leadership and policy advice, and by marshalling resources for countries committed to sustainable development. The United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions should build on their respective strengths. The UN offers a unique forum for consensus building on global priorities, is an advocate for core values, and responds to development and humanitarian needs. The Bretton Woods institutions have a particular role in promoting macroeconomic stability, in supporting favourable environments for sustainable development and in mobilizing and transferring resources for development. We will work with the organizations and all their members to ensure relevant multilateral institutions:

- make sustainable development a central goal of their policies and programmes, including by intensifying and deepening the integration of environmental considerations into all aspects of their programmes;
- encourage countries to follow sound economic, environmental and social policies and to create the appropriate legal and structural framework for sustainable development;
- encourage countries to follow participatory development strategies and support governmental reforms that assure transparency and public accountability, a stable rule of law, and an active civil society;
- encourage the development of a healthy private sector, expand guarantees and co-financing arrangements to catalyze private flows, and increase credit for small and medium-sized enterprises;
- continue to provide resources for the infrastructure needed for sustainable development, where these are not available from the private sector.

27. We agree on the need to actively support the peace process in the Middle-East. Such support would include the establishment of a new institution and financing mechanism enhancing regional cooperation. We therefore urge the Task Force already at work to continue its deliberations with an aim to arriving at a suitable proposal in time for the Amman summit next October.

Reducing Poverty

28. An overriding priority is to improve the plight of the world's poor. Persistence of extreme poverty and marginalization of the poorest countries is simply not compatible with universal aspirations for prosperity and security. Sub-Saharan Africa faces especially severe challenges. We will work with others to encourage relevant multilateral institutions to:

- focus concessional resources on the poorest countries, especially those in Sub-Saharan Africa, which have a demonstrated capacity and commitment to use them effectively, and take trends in military and other unproductive spending into account in extending assistance;
- direct a substantially increased proportion of their resources to basic social programmes and other measures which attack the roots of poverty.

29. We welcome the Paris Club response to our encouragement last year to improve the treatment of the debt of the poorest countries and urge the full and constructive implementation of the Naples terms. We recognize that some of the poorest countries have substantial multilateral debt burdens. We will encourage:

- the Bretton Woods institutions to develop a comprehensive approach to assist countries with multilateral debt problems, through the flexible implementation of existing instruments and new mechanisms where necessary;
- better use of all existing World Bank and IMF resources and adoption of appropriate measures in the multilateral development banks to advance their objective and to continue concessional ESAF lending operations.

30. Open markets throughout the world are also crucial to accelerated economic growth in the developing countries. Multilateral institutions should work to assist the integration of the poorest countries into the world trading system. We encourage the WTO to monitor and review the Uruguay Round's impact on the least developed countries.

Safeguarding the Environment

31. We place top priority on both domestic and international action to safeguard the environment. Environmental protection triggers the development and deployment of innovative technologies, which enhance economic efficiency and growth and help create long term employment. In their policies, operations and procurement, G-7 governments must show leadership in improving the environment. This will require the appropriate mix of economic instruments, innovative accountability mechanisms, environmental impact assessment and voluntary measures. Efforts must focus on pollution prevention, the "polluter pays" principle, internalization of environmental costs, and the integration of environmental considerations into policy and decision making in all sectors.

32. We underline the importance of meeting the commitments we made at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit and subsequently, and the need to review and strengthen them, where appropriate. Climate change remains of major global importance. We will work with others to:

- fulfil our existing obligations under the Climate Change Convention, and our commitments to meet the agreed ambitious timetable and objectives to

follow up the Berlin Conference of the Parties;

- implement the medium term work program adopted pursuant to the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- conclude successfully the work of the CSD intergovernmental panel on forests, and promote a successful UN Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks and international consensus at the next CSD session on action to deal with the problems of the world's oceans.

33. We encourage a clearer delineation of the mandates of the CSD and UNEP. CSD should be the global forum for identifying and agreeing upon long term strategic goals for sustainable development. UNEP should act as an international environmental voice and catalyst; it should focus on monitoring, assessment, and the development of international environmental law.

Preventing and Responding to Crises

34. Disasters and other crises complicate the development challenge and have exposed gaps in our institutional machinery. To help prevent and mitigate emerging crises, including those with human rights and refugee dimensions, we will ask:

- the UN Secretary General to explore means to improve the analysis and utilization of disaster and conflict-related early warning information, particularly through the High Commissioners on Human Rights and Refugees;
- the Bretton Woods institutions and the U.N. to establish a new coordination procedure, supported as necessary by existing resources, to facilitate a smooth transition from the emergency to the rehabilitation phase of a crisis, and to cooperate more effectively with donor countries;
- the bodies involved in the provision of humanitarian assistance to cooperate more closely with the Department of Humanitarian Affairs in its assigned coordination role.

Reinforcing Coherence, Effectiveness and Efficiency of Institutions

35. To fulfil their missions effectively into the future, multilateral institutions must continue to undertake reforms and to improve coordination and reduce overlap. The international financial institutions have shown flexibility in responding to the changing needs of the world economy; there nevertheless remain a number of areas where improvements are desirable to better prepare the institutions for the challenges ahead. We will encourage:

- the World Bank and the regional development banks to decentralize their

operations wherever possible;

- the IMF and World Bank to concentrate on their respective core concerns (broadly, macroeconomic policy for the IMF and structural and sectoral policies for the World Bank);
- revision of the Ministerial committees of the IMF and World Bank to promote more effective decision-making;
- the World Bank Group to integrate more effectively the activities of the International Finance Corporation and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency into its country assistance strategies;
- the multilateral development banks to coordinate their respective country programmes more effectively with bilateral and other multilateral donors.

36. So as to allow the United Nations better to meet the objectives in its Charter, we will encourage broadening and deepening the reform process already underway, and will work with others to:

- complete the Agenda for Development, which should set out a fresh approach to international cooperation and define the particular contribution expected of UN bodies;
- develop a more effective internal policy coordination role for the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC); encourage deeper cooperation between UN and specialized agencies both at headquarters and in the field; consolidate and streamline organizations in the economic and social fields, such as humanitarian relief and development assistance; and encourage the adoption of modern management techniques, with a more transparent and accountable Secretariat;
- update and focus mandates to avoid duplication; eliminate overlaps with new organizations, eg. UNCTAD with WTO, and consider the roles of certain institutions in light of evolving challenges, eg. Regional Economic Commissions and UNIDO;

We call upon Member States to meet their financial obligations and urge early agreement on reform of the system of assessment.

37. To increase overall coherence, cooperation and cost effectiveness we will work with others to encourage:

- rationalization of data collection, analysis, priority setting, and reporting activities, and greater complementarity in the provision of assistance at the country level;

43. Consistent with the goal of continued trade liberalization, we will pursue work
- trade and environment to ensure that rules and policies in these different areas are compatible;
 - the scope for multilateral action in the fields of trade and competition policy;
 - trade, employment and labour standards.
44. We will work together with our partners in the WTO and other appropriate fora create the basis for an ambitious first WTO Ministerial Meeting in Singapore in 1996.

ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION

45. We recognize the progress of many countries in transition toward democratic, market-based societies. Early and determined macroeconomic stabilization has proven the most effective strategy to allow an early return to growth. To consolidate these gains, the process of far reaching structural reform must be pursued vigorously. We will continue our support for economic reform in the economies in transition, and their integration into the global trade and financial systems. We recognize their need for improved market access.

46. We welcome the good start Ukraine has made on its bold program of economic reform. The recent Stand-By Arrangement with the IMF provided the basis for substantial financial support by the international financial institutions and bilateral donors. We encourage Ukraine to continue its reform efforts in close cooperation with the international financial institutions. Assuming the continuation of strong economic reform, an additional \$2 billion in commitments could be available from the international financial institutions by the end of 1996.

47. We are encouraged by Russia's renewed commitments to financial stabilization and economic reform. Continued political reform is also necessary. We believe that a stable political, regulatory and legal environment, and the development of a modern financial sector, together with the full implementation of the policy measures outlined in the recently-signed IMF Stand-By Arrangement, will promote Russian economic recovery. We welcome the June 3 Paris Club debt rescheduling agreement and recognize the relevance of a comprehensive multilateral treatment of Russia's external public debt. We also note Russia's interest in working in close cooperation with the Paris Club.

NUCLEAR SAFETY

48. Each country is responsible for the safety of its nuclear facilities. We welcome progress to date in improving levels of nuclear safety in the countries of central and eastern

Europe and the Newly Independent States. We congratulate President Kuchma of Ukraine on his decision to close the Chernobyl nuclear power plant by the year 2000. We reaffirm the commitments of support made last year at Naples under the G-7 Action Plan for Ukraine's Energy Sector. We are pleased to note the replenishment of the EBRD Nuclear Safety Account and the commitment of bilateral resources for short-term safety upgrades and preliminary decommissioning work for the closure of Chernobyl. We invite other donors to join with the G-7 countries in contributing funds for this purpose.

49. In order to assist the closure of Chernobyl, we will continue our efforts to mobilize international support for appropriate energy production, energy efficiency and nuclear safety projects. Any assistance for replacement power for Chernobyl will be based on sound cost-effective and environmental criteria. The World Bank and EBRD should continue their cooperation with Ukraine in devising a realistic long-term energy strategy. They should increase their financial contribution in support of appropriate energy sector reform and energy conservation measures, and mobilize private sector support for energy investments.

NEXT SUMMIT

50. We have accepted the invitation of the President of France to meet in Lyon from June 27th to 29th, 1996.

Halifax, June 16, 1995

CANADA AND THE INTERNATIONAL DEBT STRATEGY: PAST AND PRESENT

Introduction:

Some developing countries have long experienced difficulties meeting their international financial obligations, but it was not until the early 1980s that this began to threaten the international financial system as a whole. The Latin American debt crisis of the 1980s was a wake-up call for the international community. A variety of measures were adopted to help relieve the onerous pressures of debt servicing for affected middle-income countries (which held large amounts of mainly commercial but also official bilateral debt).

For its part, the Paris Club of official bilateral creditors rescheduled the Latin American (and other problem) debt owed to them, extending the maturity and grace periods. Under the Brady plan, commercial banks agreed to reduce their outstanding loans to middle-income developing countries which had in place macroeconomic adjustment programs. In many cases, financing was provided by official sources (IFIs, bilateral donors) to help the debtor country provide collateral and meet other up-front costs of debt reduction agreements.

By the early 1990s, these and other measures had helped restore middle-income countries to financial viability; indeed, many can now boast of new capital inflows. The focus of debt relief efforts has thus switched to low-income countries, mainly in Africa, which continue to experience serious difficulties in servicing their high stocks of external debt owed mainly to official bilateral and multilateral creditors.

Current Problem Debtor Profile:

The World Bank/IMF have identified 41 heavily-indebted poor countries (HIPCs), of which 33 are in Sub-Saharan Africa. According to various studies, up to 20 of the HIPCs have debt sustainability problems.

The total external debt stock of the HIPCs was US\$164 billion in 1994, with the following average profile: 17% owed to private creditors (e.g. commercial banks); 64% to official bilateral creditors (e.g. governments and export credit agencies); and 19% to multilateral institutions (e.g. IMF, World Bank, AfDB). Actual debt profiles vary widely, however, so appropriate action for relief must be determined on a case-by-case basis. Debt relief mechanisms - which already exist to some degree for all categories of debt - may need to be strengthened for problem HIPC debtors if these countries are to be returned to financial viability.

Canada's Record on International Debt:

Canada has been involved in a variety of unilateral, bilateral and multilateral debt relief initiatives since the debt crisis emerged in the early 1980s. Total debt forgiven to date amounts to over \$2.5 billion:

- **ODA Debt:** Canada has forgiven over \$1.2 billion in official development assistance (ODA) debt since 1978, including all ODA debt (\$950 million) owed by Sub-Saharan African countries;
- Since 1986, our ODA program has been grant-only and we consistently call on other donors to do the same. Canada's remaining ODA loans - none to problem HIPC's - are highly concessional and are generally being serviced normally by the countries concerned;
- At UNCED in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, Canada announced a major debt conversion initiative for Latin America. The initiative provided for conversion of up to \$145 million of ODA debt owed by ten Latin American countries. So far, six have taken advantage of this facility. Approximately \$125 million of a possible \$145 million has been converted;
- Canada continues to press other countries to forgive or convert ODA debt of the HIPC's, and to provide new ODA on a grant or near-grant basis only.
- **Official Bilateral (Export Credit) Debt:** Through the Paris Club of official creditors, Canada rescheduled billions of dollars of Latin American and other debt during the crisis period of the 1980s, and has reduced official bilateral debt of problem debtors by approximately \$1.25 billion since debt reduction (versus simple rescheduling) was first adopted as an option at the Paris Club in 1988;
- Within the G-7 and the Paris Club, Canada has long pushed for more concessional terms for the poorest debtors. Canada strongly supported the introduction of Toronto, Enhanced Toronto and the most recent Naples Terms for the poorest debtors (which allow for up to 67% reduction on eligible debt, up to the full stock);
- At present our focus within the Paris Club is on ensuring full and generous implementation of the Naples Terms, but these terms may not be enough for a few problem debtors. Canada is prepared to support debt relief of up to 80% on a case by case basis. Canada will be pressing for full implementation of the Naples Terms by all Paris Club creditors in the context of the next G-7 summit in Lyon.
- **Multilateral Debt:** The problematic issue of debt owed to multilateral institutions is at the forefront of discourse on the debt issue today. The G-7 Halifax Communiqué called for the development of a comprehensive approach to assist countries with multilateral debt problems, through better use of existing IMF/World Bank resources and/or new mechanisms as necessary. This message was reiterated by ministers at the October 1995 IMF/World Bank Interim and Development Committee meetings. Canada has been pressing for definitive action by IFIs both at the institutions themselves and in the context of preparations for the G-7 summit in Lyon;
- The IMF/World Bank have prepared preliminary studies and are expected to propose a comprehensive plan of action in time for their Spring Meetings in April. This plan

must address not only World Bank and IMF debt but also regional development bank debt as many problem African debtors owe more to the African Development Bank than any other international financial institution;

- Canada supports the creation or strengthening of a variety of mechanisms, across the IFIs, to help relieve multilateral debt. To ensure continued concessional flows to the HIPC's, Canada also supports the sale of a modest amount of IMF gold, the proceeds of which would be used to replenish ESAF.

Debt and Development:

Empirical evidence and experience has shown that heavy debt loads have negative implications for development for a variety of reasons (e.g. the crowding out of social spending in favour of debt service, reluctance of private investors to invest in heavily indebted poor countries etc.). Conversely, reducing debt loads to sustainable levels can have a positive impact on development prospects - in the presence of a sound macroeconomic and structural framework.

However, the regaining of financial viability, while a necessary step, does not in itself guarantee poverty reduction. Indeed, some of the steps required by the IMF, the World Bank and the Paris Club to restore viability may impact disproportionately on the poor, unless acknowledged and provisioned against. Canada continues to press the IFIs to design economic adjustment programs that better protect social safety nets and to engage in programming which has a direct impact on poverty. We have seen considerable improvement in recent years. Canada also presses for strengthened support for good governance as a key element to sustainable development.

Mexico's recent financial difficulties demonstrate the continued vulnerability of even those developing economies which have exited from the debt rescheduling process. In the period since the peso crisis, Canada and other G-7 members have successfully encouraged the IMF, the World Bank and potentially affected countries to adopt measures to help avoid or mitigate the effects of any future such financial shocks.

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