

causes of poverty and that job creation is fundamental to social peace. The need to create jobs for 30% of the world's people who, according to the International Labor Organization, are presently unemployed or underemployed is stressed. The economic, financial, and trade institutions are called upon to support activities that would lead to full, meaningful employment at decent remuneration and thus eliminate a major cause of poverty; but the policies and practices of these institutions have a negative effect on employment.

Moreover, the mere existence or provision of jobs or participation in economic activity cannot be taken as a measure of success. The informal sector, reaching as high as 60% in some countries, is the last resort for women who must provide for their families. More often than not, however, what they earn is hardly enough to live on, and there is no social security coverage or other labor protection. There are ample instances of foreign direct investment permitting transnational corporations to set up production in countries and to create new jobs – but at wages below subsistence level – that result in the elimination of many jobs in local industries that are ruined by transnational competition. In the globalization scheme, the multinationals seek maximum profit, and in the competition to attract such foreign investment, 'flexibility' is demanded. This is leading to erosion of minimum wage provisions, greater use of women and children as cheap sources of labor, further exploitation of workers, and the weakening and even prohibition of trade unions, all of which serve to perpetuate – not to reduce or eliminate – poverty and misery.

One of the greatest challenges facing contemporary society in view of the scientific-technological revolution is how to create meaningful jobs at reduced hours with decent pay, adequate protection, and social security benefits and provisions. Contrary to what is stated in the draft, it is human labor which creates the wealth of nations, not corporations. The wealth generated by workers should be returned to them in the form of adequate wages and social security provisions. This would be a major step towards redistributing income that is today concentrated in fewer and fewer hands. At the same time, the practices of multinationals which often endanger workers' safety and damage their health and the environment should be prohibited by national and international law. Codes of Conduct for the Transfer of Technology and for Transnational Corporations are more important today than ever before.

The drafts note progress in the Uruguay Round of trade talks but acknowledge that not all countries or sectors will benefit. New issues such as services, agriculture, trade-related investment measures and intellectual property rights will be brought into the World Trade Organization and will benefit the industrialized countries and transnational corporations most of all. Yet they will create many new problems and hardships for poor countries and people. According to expert projections, many farmers will have to compete with cheaper imports and may not survive; the price of many foods imported by poor countries will rise while the price of certain commodities exported by many poor countries will fall; countries that are net importers of food will be disadvantaged; and Africa will be further marginalized in world trade. The effect of these policies will be to erode financial resources for development even further and to make life more difficult for hundreds of millions of people.

Eliminating poverty and preventing social disintegration:

The present macro-economic framework does not provide the conditions in which social development can be realized. Against this background, it will be even more difficult for governments to commit themselves, as called for in the drafts, to reducing child and maternal mortality, hunger and malnutrition, illiteracy, unemployment and inadequate housing and finding ways to end the subordination of and discrimination against women. These objectives can only be achieved if there are resources to invest in primary health care, safe drinking water, universal basic education, adequate shelter, special programmes geared to enhancing the status of women, and jobs for all. People everywhere have a right to these provisions as specified in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Declaration on the Right to Development, yet today these rights are derided to 20% of the

world's people who live in conditions of absolute poverty. Such social objectives and human rights provisions should be built into macro-economic policy rather than conceived as compensatory measures.

Improved economic and social conditions will promote greater social and political stability. This will contribute to stemming the flow of refugees and migrants, diminishing ethnic, religious, and nationalist tensions, preventing conflict and war, and reducing the need for humanitarian assistance and peace-keeping missions. Many of the bloody conflicts in progress today – from former Yugoslavia and others in eastern Europe to Somalia and Rwanda – have as important contributing factors debt, structural adjustment, falling commodity prices, and the restructuring of fragile economies imposed by external forces.

The imposition of further political conditionalities, for example constitutional changes, can serve as pretexts to permit the introduction of neo-liberal policies. They undermine the principle of self-determination of peoples and lead to even greater marginalization of certain population sectors rather than expressing a genuine will to assist in democratic development. The displacement and relocation of indigenous communities in order to build mega-projects or to put land to agro-industrial use is an example of the destruction of traditional indigenous and peasant means of livelihood and the exclusion of their communities from full participation in economic, political and social life. Genuine democracy and popular participation in decision-making are indispensable if all human rights are to be realized. In this connection, education for justice, peace, cooperation and intercommunal understanding is crucial.

The problems facing humanity today are huge and require urgent attention and massive resources if they are to be overcome. AIDS is specifically mentioned in the drafts, but it is only one of many epidemics taking lives today. The resurgence of tuberculosis (which according to some World Health Organization experts may be the most deadly disease in the coming years) and cholera deserve equal attention and efforts to overcome. The continuing endemic and epidemic diseases such as malaria, leishmaniasis, and mal de Chagas must also be given high priority.

Examining basic assumptions:

The major weakness of the drafts is their basic assumption that present institutional arrangements, 'free trade', the 'free market', and the spirit of competition will solve humanity's pressing problems. Recent developments show that present economic structures are marginalizing rather than integrating people. This is so even in the rich industrialized countries of the North, where poverty and unemployment are increasing and where racist, xenophobic, and nationalist tendencies are having murderous consequences.

The draft Programme of Action ends with strong praise for the contributions of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, which have managed to project positive images in certain circles despite their solid share in creating and exacerbating many of the problems under consideration by the Summit. Their policies have resulted in cuts in health, education and social services and an increase in poverty, unemployment and instability. These have been major contributing factors to conflict, war, refugee and migrant flows, the illicit traffic in drugs, and environmental degradation. Their policies are among the greatest obstacles to genuine economic and social development.

For this reason the international financial institutions are the targets of NGO campaigns all over the world, particularly during this year's observation of the 50th anniversary of the Bretton Woods Institutions. While NGOs have varying prescriptions for how best to transform these institutions, all agree that transparency, accountability and democratization of their decision-making processes are crucial. This must apply as well to all aspects of the global economic system and to investment and production decisions.

Some proposals for achieving the objectives of the Summit:

We have tried to show that the objectives of the World Summit for Social Development cannot be achieved without correcting the fundamental inequities inherent in the international economic system. In this connection, the following are a matter of urgency:

- cancel the external debt of developing countries (official bilateral, multilateral, and commercial) as a symbol of "jubilee" in the UN's 50th year;
- investigate the disappearance of public funds to private bank accounts (capital flight, commissions, etc.) and secure their return in the form of development assistance;
- bring the international financial institutions under UN control in order to democratize them, and remove their profit orientation; return to the General Assembly and ECOSOC the responsibilities given to them under the UN Charter in economic and social matters that have been appropriated by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund;
- proceed from structural adjustment to structural transformation through reorienting production to domestic needs rather than for export;
- convene a high-level, multi-disciplinary task force within UN system (including the ILO, UNCTAD, and other Specialized Agencies) to come up with recommendations as to how jobs should be created and distributed, taking into account that much necessary new work needs to be done in the fields of environmental protection, provision of social services, and construction of housing, schools, public transportation and health facilities. Part-time workers must be remunerated at decent pay levels and be assured of adequate protection and social security benefits;
- renew efforts to elaborate a Code of Conduct for the Transfer of Technology and a Code of Conduct that would regulate the activities of transnational corporations, establishing mechanisms to monitor their implementation;
- call on all States that have not yet done so to ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and elaborate an Optional Protocol that would make it possible for individuals and collectivities to present their complaints against States or other institutions that violate these rights to the UN;
- facilitate the access of hundreds of millions of peasants who do not have ^{resources} fertile land and irrigation, but not by renting them marginal or degraded land as is proposed in the draft;
- implement policies of fiscal redistribution by means of heavy taxation on large corporations and especially on speculative and non-productive finance capital;
- divert funds spent on the military to civilian production and the satisfaction of human needs; renounce assistance for military purposes and for the purchase of arms; prohibit unilateral coercive actions; and
- formulate a people's agenda and strategy for development based on affirmation and encouragement of grassroots efforts (through trade unions, people's movements and NGOs) to participate in decision-making rather than marginalizing them and repressing their activities. Such an agenda would transform the inequitable global economic system currently based on fabulous profits for the few into a people-centered system based on cooperation, sharing, solidarity, equity and justice for all.

22 August 1994

ORGANIZATIONS IN CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization
 All India Women's Conference
 American Association of Jurists
 Arab Lawyers Union
 Arab Organization for Human Rights
 Centre Europe-Tiers Monde (CETIM)
 Comision de Derechos Humanos de Centroamerica (CODEHUCA)
 Education International
 Food First Information and Action Network (FIAN)
 Habitat International Coalition
 International Association Against Torture (IACT)
 International Movement for Fraternal Union Among Races and Peoples (UFER)
 International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
 International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations
 Indian Council of South America (CISA)
 International League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples
 Movement Against Racism and for Friendship Among Peoples
 SOSTorture/OMCT
 Servicio Paz y Justicia de America Latina
 Third World Movement Against the Exploitation of Women
 War Resisters International
 Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
 World Christian Life Community
 World Federation of Trade Unions
 World Peace Council
 World Young Women's Christian Association

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS WITHOUT CONSULTATIVE STATUS

CECOTRET
 Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions
 Council on International and Public Affairs
 Human Rights Commission of Guatemala
 INFORM Sri Lanka
 INHURED International, Nepal
 Nord-Sud 21
 Women for a Just and Healthy Planet, Toronto
 Women's World Summit Foundation

For the identification of action oriented strategies in any programme of action, it is of great importance to analyse the underlying causes, manifestations, linkages and gravity of the problems which are attempted to be solved in the Social Development Summit. Such profiling of the Summit's core problems - poverty, unemployment and social disintegration are not done in an explicit and comprehensive way. This has resulted in unclear delineation of strategies and which are naturally not very action oriented. In addition to this, a clear definition of social development has not emerged. As a consequence, in the Programme of Action document the term 'social development' is used interchangeably with social welfare, social safety net and anything other than economic development. But, as we know, in order to solve problems of poverty, unemployment and social disintegration, a comprehensive concept of social development is needed which addresses the economic, social, political and cultural dimension of the problem.

We are, therefore, suggesting that in the Programme of Action document there should be a preamble analysing the causes of the three issues of the Summit as well as a clear definition of social development.

We are also proposing the following text for preamble.

"The problems of poverty, unemployment and social disintegration are strongly interrelated and are, in fact, a manifestation of powerlessness resulting from social, economic, political and cultural disabling environment which creates a situation at the local, national and international level wherein the poor, the unemployed and the socially excluded (same persons in most cases will be in all three) lack access to productive resources (and credit, technology, information, etc.), lack access to public services (education, health, etc.), participation in decision making processes and wherein the market operation is not free but distorted and skewed against the weak; the values, practices and legal systems based on patriarchy discriminates and marginalises women: the single-minded implementation of growth model of development, not mindful of equity has resulted in deepening of concentration of wealth and opportunities, exclusion of majority from its benefits, unsustainable extraction of natural resources and aggravation of environmental degradation.

The Programme of Action for Social Development should, therefore, be to increase access to productive resources and public services and creation of conditions for popular participation in important decision-making processes, reformation of market operations to remove biases and distortion so that it really operates freely, removal of all gender discrimination from all spheres of economy, society, planning processes and legislation and adoption and operationalisation of sustainable development model which is productive, socially just, environmentally sound, culturally vibrant and spiritually fulfilling.

To carry out the agenda of social development, cooperative alliances of all actors are needed. The people themselves should be the main actors when mobilised and empowered. NGOs and civil society organisations are facilitators in the process of social mobilisation and empowerment. National governments and international cooperation organisations should be enablers through policy initiatives, good governance and allocation of appropriate levels of resources.

Social Integration:

We witness an upsurge of communal, religious extremists and neo-fascist forces at the wake of the cold war. Some forces are trying actively to use religion for political ends. This has led to a rise in ethnic strife and communal violence resulting in serious social disintegration of communities in different parts of the world. These forces are against human progress,

democracy and particularly women's development. Therefore, governments, UN and multilateral systems alongwith progressive forces of civil society should chalk out strategies to fight this alarming and evil phenomena.

Governments should develop legislative measures to discourage politics based on religion and ethnic groupings. The UN and multilateral organisations should help and encourage governments in developing appropriate legislative and legal provisions. The civil society forces should organise popular mobilisation against the process.

Education serves as a powerful tool for social integration by promoting tolerance, democratic values, respect for the human person cutting across prevailing unjust and discriminatory values based on race, colour, gender, caste, creed and religion. Governments should not support, sponsor or promote religious/ethnic value based education. The religious institutions should provide religious education to their respective communities.

While it is very important to broaden the extent of coverage of basic education, it is important to improve the quality of education. Education systems should be decentralised giving adequate power to local communities to make it people accountable and community based. The pedagogic processes and techniques be made "Learners Centred" promoting active learning instead of rote learning. This will help build effective literacy and analytical skills.

An Enabling Environment:

Globalisation: The negative aspects of globalisation must be recognised and it should be affirmed that unless inequality and marginalisation, both within and among countries, are addressed, current globalisation process will exacerbate existing inequalities and marginalisation.

Trade: Acknowledgement that free trade in an unlevel playing field again perpetuates inequalities of the global economy. Acknowledgement that free trade must also operate in a manner fair to developing countries whose exports need to be treated preferentially. Acknowledgement that unless trade liberalisation policies effectively address environmental concerns, unsustainable development practices will erode social development progress.

Debt: Debt relief is also relevant to countries other than Africa, such as in LDCs of Asia and the Pacific.

Structural Adjustment Programmes: Language of L 13 be restored.

Governance: Participatory and democratic forms of governance must be established and governments should be held accountable to their ratification of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as repeal of other repressive laws that violate the basic rights of individuals. These are basic pre-conditions for the full and genuine participation of people in the life of society. Furthermore, governments must be transparent in their conduct and fully accountable to their constituencies.

Statement of the German NGO-Forum for the World Social Summit.

A Position Paper

August 1994

I. Preamble

1. The end of the Cold War has opened up new opportunities for international cooperation, peace, democracy, social progress and a higher standard of living. At the same time, however, the world faces an alarming degree of social disintegration, ethnic, religious or cultural conflicts and growing poverty.

2. Mutual interdependencies between national and regional policies, and global structural changes are increasing, whereas the internationalization of the economy is increasingly restricting the scope for action of national politics. Solutions to the problems of the future can only be found by taking into account these international interdependencies. This applies particularly to the Social Summit.

The NGOs consider global social compensation to be necessary. Social policy must be conceived as an integral part of national and international politics. In the experience of the NGOs, social justice and social security can be expected neither from state action nor from market mechanisms alone.

3. The Social Summit offers the opportunity of giving political priority to social development - a survival issue for humanity - raising public awareness of social development, and reaching agreement on the central challenges in the countries of the South, the East and increasingly also in the wealthy North: Creation of productive employment, support for the social integration of marginalized sections of the population and combating poverty.

Social policy is more than a policy of allocation; its objective must be sustainable human development and social justice which can only occur with the participation of those affected and those representing their interests. Social policy is an important means of building consensus and social cohesion in democratic societies from which the economy also benefits. Therefore, access to resources, employment and social security must be guaranteed to all, independent of race, ethnicity and nationality.

4. The NGOs do not regard the Social Summit as an isolated event but rather as an essential follow-up to previous conferences and simultaneously, as an opportunity to enhance the role of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and to gain recognition of its standards and conventions, to further develop further the recommendations stipulated in the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (1979), in the strategies for the future drawn up in Nairobi on the Promotion of Women (1985), in Agenda 21 (UNCED 1992), and in the Vienna Human Rights Declaration (1993), and to tackle their implementation. Social policy, therefore, includes observance of and the commitment to enforcing economic, social and cultural human rights. The NGOs emphatically underline the importance of these human rights and the responsibility of national and international political protagonists to ensure human rights.

II. Recommendations to the World Social Summit

1. In light of increasing poverty, the unresolved problems of employment and the growing social crisis with its consequences for democracy and political stability, it is crucial not to stop at non-binding declarations of intent at the World Summit but to arrive at binding plans

of action and to put these rigorously into effect at both national and international levels. Taking into account that there are no speedy solutions to the structural problems, the NGOs suggest an implementation period of 10 years in accordance with the recommendations of the Human Development Report (1994).

2. The World Social Summit is based on the central demands for social justice and the realization of political, social and economic human rights which ever since the foundation of the United Nations have found their expression in inter-governmental Conventions and action programmes. Of particular importance are: The covenants on economic, social and cultural human rights as well as on political and civil human rights which came into force in 1976, the standards and conventions of the ILO, the convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979), the Forward Looking Strategies drawn up in Nairobi (1985), as well as Agenda 21 formulated during the UNCTAD conference in 1992 and the Vienna Human Rights Declaration of 1993. The commitment to implement these treaties and declarations must be emphasized by political determination, by increasing financial funding and by enhancing the efficiency of international implementation and control mechanisms.

3. The German NGO-Forum affirms the urgent need for a new model of sustainable human development which should centre around an extended concept of "human security", and support, for example, the following demands of the Human Development Report (1994):

- the commitment to drawing up a global social charta,
- the "20:20 agreement on human development",
- strengthening the economic and socio-political role of the United Nations.

4. In spite of the economic and social differences of the participating countries, the Social Summit should contribute to translating into action globally valid minimum standards of human rights and ecology, and to extending the range of social policy laws.

This applies especially to the right of assembly and association and the right to union representation. Furthermore, the German NGO-Forum demands an optional protocol for economic, social and cultural human rights which would facilitate individual complaints against state violations and breaches of this right at the UN "Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights".

Worth considering as relevant bodies for the observance of social standards are the present reporting and complaint procedures at the International Labour Organization (ILO) and at the UN Treaty Bodies on Human Rights, in particular, the Committee for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The whole coordination could be carried out under the auspices of a reformed Economic and Social Council of the UN (ECOSOC).

5. In order to promote socially equitable development, national economic policy must give priority to eradicating poverty and creating secure framework conditions for economic activity and to promoting productive employment, while at the same time taking gender equality into account. Essential duties of the state lie in promoting sustainable human development through education and training which must aim at the full development of the person, his/her talent and the intellectual and physical abilities. Financial and credit policies must be deployed, particularly by means of promoting unbureaucratic small loan systems which have a positive impact on employment. Greater emphasis must be placed on the expansion of rural employment by means of agricultural policies, on promoting medium and small-scale producers, also in the informal sector, and on creating jobs. Similarly, public health services and social security should be included: Everybody should receive social security covering life's basic risks: illness, unemployment, poverty and old-age. For this end, social networks financed by means of labour or taxation should be established in all countries to enable a life in dignity.

6. In the process of globalizing production and liberalizing the world market, increasing poverty and unemployment cannot be countered only by growth strategies with their obvious social and ecological limitations. Without improving poor people's opportunities for and conditions of competition, this section of the community will not be in the position to achieve self-sufficient development. Within the framework of international social politics, policies to combat poverty and eradicate its causes, along the lines of an international social compensation, should be promoted.

On the basis of already existing treaties and resolutions, the following measures should be taken immediately:

- a) Implementation of the resolutions on development and environment policies of the Agenda 21 of the Rio Conference, especially those on climate protection, foreign debt relief and the removal of unilateral trade barriers on the part of industrialized countries.
- b) Removal of the tariff and non-tariff barriers to exports from developing countries. Dispense with customs differentiation which place a greater burden on manufactured goods than on raw products.

Imports that comply with social and ecological standards which have yet to be agreed upon, should receive preferential treatment; effective review mechanisms for granting preferential treatment need to be set up. Newly introduced social clauses in international trade agreements, should be tied to international standards already in existence, and their effectiveness should be improved. However, by no means should all international social standards be included, only the elementary and inalienable basic standards of the International Labour Organization (ILO), the specialized agency of the UN responsible for social policy. There should be a guarantee that the demand for social minimum standards is not misused as a new instrument of protectionism by the industrialized countries.

- c) In light of a global solution to the debt crisis efforts to push ahead extensive country-specific procedures for foreign debt relief should include representatives of social interests; only in well-founded cases (eg. serious human rights violations in debtor countries, corruption), and in agreement with national NGOs and movements, should there be any deviation away from these procedures.

- d) It is essential that the policies of the Bretton Wood institutions be subject to a fundamental reform which should, by means of institutional changes, strengthen the participation of developing countries in the decision-making procedures. The policies of the member governments, especially of the executive directors, should be bound more directly to the formulation of political demands and objectives by the national parliaments. Furthermore, the observance of international social standards and ecological soundness in line with sustainable development, should be demanded. Social security and the reduction of poverty must become integral components of economic reform measures. Social cushioning should not merely be directed at alleviating the negative effects of these measures.

7. Policies and programmes of international cooperation are to be orientated towards combating poverty, and towards achieving sustainable human development. Special attention should be paid to the coherence of foreign policy, economics and finance, agricultural as well as industrial policy.

- a) Poverty-orientated development cooperation should be geared to satisfying basic needs, to realizing the basic rights to education and training, to creating the preconditions for productive employment, and to the setting up a social security

system. In addition, it should contribute to the permanent eradication of both the internal and external causes of poverty and migration.

- b) Self-help and participation must be decisive instruments of and political objectives for eliminating poverty. Beside economic participation, political participation is a major component of the democratization process of many countries in order to legitimate state action and to create a counterweight to the state when it comes to economic and social compensation, social justice, the development of a legal culture and the constitutional state.

- c) To counter continued marginalization and further impoverishment in the informal sector, an unrestricted access to land benefitting the landless and poor and safeguarded by law, must be guaranteed by means of far-reaching agrarian reforms which should consider ecological preconditions. Governments must give precedence to political measures for protecting particularly threatened and poorer sections of society, in their budgets as well, and guarantee that all the resources at their disposal are utilized. The territorial and cultural rights of indigenous people should be recognized.

- d) The significance of the economic and social achievements of women must correspond to their participation in political responsibility. The extensive international agreements that aim at eliminating legal discrimination against women, and at achieving equal participation in the development process, must be ratified and implemented by all governments.

- e) Children are the hardest hit by poverty which frequently leads to their exploitation in the forms of child prostitution, child labour and child slavery, and which forces them to live on the streets and robs them of their future. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child laying down the fundamental rights of children has been ratified by over 150 nations. The Social Summit should call upon national governments to:

- comply with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child,

- to fulfil the ILO Convention Nos. 5 and 138, in order to establish minimum standards for child labour and to put a stop to the exploitation of all working children,

- to ratify and implement the Hague Convention on the protection of children and for cooperation in the area of international adoption (May 1993) in order to halt international trafficking in children.

- f) The basic requirements for self-reliant and sustainable human development are social changes and political mobilization through the participation of social movements, associated NGOs, and independent representative bodies in an emerging civil society. A major task of cooperation is to safeguard the political and legal space for their participation and the preconditions for their ability to work. On the basis of their experience, proximity to the grassroots and as a corrective to state policies, non-governmental organizations, social movements, trade unions and churches must play an active role in designing and implementing new social policy concepts. Furthermore, they must participate in the realization of social policy at national and international levels.

Public social services should be offered at decentralized and local self-governing levels to a much greater extent and their efficiency should be specifically promoted on the basis of the principle of subsidiarity.

III. German Social and Development Policy - The National Report of the German Government

III.1. Preliminary Remarks

- 1) The NGO Forum criticizes the fact that the German Government did not include the NGOs in the preparations for the Social Summit. This is not only contrary to the recommendations of the UN preparatory committee, and to the standard practices at other UN summits but it also falls short of the agreement on the central importance of civil society in overcoming global problems - the theme of the Social Summit. The German Government should put into practice its own previous statements on the important role of NGOs, and demonstrate capacity for dialogue and a willingness to cooperate.
- 2) From the point of view of the NGO Forum, the German Government in its report has given an incomplete picture of the social reality in Germany and world-wide. A problem-orientated analysis is lacking. The social security system in Germany and the social policy efforts of the state are depicted as exemplary and positive, without adequately going into the problems of present deficiencies and future development. In view of the hitherto unresolved problems due to German Unification, shortcomings in the social system and political decisions must be examined as well. It must be recognized that increasing unemployment, growing poverty and hitherto unrecognized social polarisation indicate a deep crisis, which questions the economic and social model and makes apparent the need for structural changes.
- 3) In the opinion of the NGO Forum, the German Government's report assumes that the problems can be solved primarily by liberalization and privatization. Basic elements of a social market economy, for example social compensation and the solidarity principle, are obviously less important for policy design. The intention of the Social Summit, however, is to place people and the goal of social justice at the centre of the economy.

III.2. The Social Policy of the German Government

The social security system in Germany has, in principle, proved to be a success. Further cutbacks should not be allowed. Instead an essential reorganization should be orientated more to the structural problems, also referred to in the poverty report of the independent welfare organizations and the German Federation of Trade Unions (DGB). The NGOs identify the following priorities :

1. Mass and long-term unemployment jeopardize the core of the social system which is centrally linked to the insurance premiums paid by the work force. Unemployment is the most important cause of poverty and social marginalization. Women, in particular, are affected by this. Promoting productive employment should therefore be the prime objective.
2. Gradual cutbacks in government expenditure for vocational training, employment support and job creation schemes are counter-productive. Instead, public-sponsored employment opportunities must be created for those who do not stand a chance on the regular job market, where they can be qualified for regular employment so as to facilitate their integration into the regular labour market.
3. Instead of reducing the unemployment insurance payments and excluding the long-term unemployed from a security system financed by the labour force, these must be ensured against poverty and a socio-cultural subsistence level must be guaranteed. This can be achieved by an administrative combination of insurance systems and social welfare. The state cannot be allowed to impose incompatible compulsory payments onto the self-governing security system in order to evade its own social obligations. Neither can it be

allowed to shirk its social responsibilities by decentralizing social obligations without granting the municipalities, the welfare associations and private agencies the necessary funding in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity. The socially more disadvantaged sections of society should not be saddled with the cost of German Unification.

4. The social welfare system as the last network of social security must provide living conditions fit for human beings, and must be needs-orientated. Women especially, and subsequently more and more children, are increasingly having to rely on this system which simultaneously restricts their future prospects. All government attempts to cut social benefits during periods of financial shortages and to misuse the level of payment of social welfare as a shunting yard for financial shortages must be deterred.
5. Poverty alleviation must be institutionalized on a permanent basis. For this end, a regular poverty report is required which clearly defines indicators concerning the adequacy of social welfare measures, the relative poverty line, and the situation of the poor in the areas of housing, health, education and culture.
6. Single mothers, unemployed women and women migrants in Germany have a distinctly higher risk of poverty than do other sections of the population. Therefore, a coherent and preventative economic and social policy must have a preventive effect.

The concept of work has to be redefined. Besides gainful employment in the formal and informal sectors it should cover unpaid work for society, including work done for the family (looking after children and other dependants), voluntary work and charity work. People who do unpaid, yet "priceless" work should not be punished with poverty. The state must be committed to including them into the existing systems of social security, e.g. health insurance, provisions for old-age and unemployment insurance. A new assessment and revaluation of women's traditional occupations is essential in order to realize the right to equal pay for equal work. The social conditions for the compatibility of family and employment must be improved.

The social cohesion of society is a valuable good, of which the family is an essential guarantor. Family contributions, in a society characterized by gainful employment, must receive greater recognition and likewise, have its own system of social security. Visible poverty risks for families must be countered with needs-orientated and productivity-related benefits.

7. Achieving fair incomes and a more just distribution of wealth should remain the goals of a liberal and social democracy. Shortcomings in the tax system, particularly in the tax compensations for families, housing subsidies, or taxation of inheritance which lead to safeguarding unjustified ownerships, should be revised.

The principle of solidarity must remain the basis of social security supplemented at the same time by a financing scheme which more justly incorporates all income earners.

III.3. International Cooperation

1. In the face of the world-wide human crisis and an impending global catastrophe, the NGO-Forum demands a fundamental re-orientation of development cooperation. It is acknowledged that several of the guide-lines of German development policy presented in the report contain new approaches, however, there is a call for a more rigorous and consistent implementation of the political concepts in development policy practice and a self-critical reflection on the deficits.

This applies particularly to the principle of coherence between development policy and other areas of politics and the emphasis on poverty orientation as the overall concern of German development policy. Also valid are the references to internal constraints, the necessity for

structural reform to improve prevailing conditions, and the demand for the integration of social security and poverty alleviation in the structural adjustment programmes of the IMF and World Bank whose policies, however, require fundamental reform. Due to the influences of other external interests on development policy the principle of coherence is not enforced consistently and rigorously. German development aid must be increased in accordance with the 0.7 per cent pledge and must be designed more effectively in a more participatory manner and with more social compatibility.

2. The analysis of the causes of poverty is, however, criticized for being one-sided and inadequate. There is no reference to the interdependence between the model of economic prosperity in the North and the deterioration of living standards in the South, a central issue for the NGOs. Nor is there a reference to the urgently needed contributions of the North towards a more just world, without which, the problems connected with refugee and migratory movements for example, cannot be adequately solved.
3. According to the NGOs, the call for a liberalization of the markets as the most important approach to solving development problems is based on a limited problem analysis. Even if the removal of protectionism is indisputably a positive step for many countries, this alone cannot be expected to solve the social crisis. Moreover, the demand for liberalization appears implausible in so far as the industrialized countries' obligation to opening up the markets to products from the South is only fleetingly noted. There are no questions raised as to the common causes of poverty, unemployment and social disintegration in both the South and the North. Current discussions on new development models which, besides ecological sustainability aim at the development of social justice as an integral objective, are also ignored just the issue of fundamental reforms in the world economic system or demands for debt relief.
4. Suggestions and demands for alleviating poverty and marginalization refer almost solely to internal and national conditions, and the external causes of poverty are to a great extent not regarded. In the recommendation section, the governments of developing countries are called upon to facilitate more self-help and participation, to develop a better economic order and to create a minimum of social security. It is not considered that the globalization of the economy increasingly limits the scope for action of the more nation-state orientated policy, so that solutions to global problems of the future are only internationally possible.
5. Poverty-orientated policy should amount to more than statistical recording and administration of poverty. Moreover, the responsibilities to observe human rights must be emphatically stressed, an issue accepted by all the countries that acceded to the covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Human Rights: These countries have committed themselves first of all to refraining from all measures which violate economic, social and cultural human rights. Secondly, they committed themselves within the framework of national and international law, to effectively protect those who have suffered violations against human rights from attacks by third parties. Finally, they are urged to deploy all suitable measures within their powers to achieve as soon as possible, a full guarantee of economic, social and cultural human rights for all those individuals whose normative status has not yet been fulfilled.

Twelve points to Save the Social Summit

An NGO statement
for the second session of the Preparatory Committee
of the Social Summit
25 August 1994

The World Summit for Social Development (WSSD) must not be allowed to fail. Nor must its objective of forging a new development consensus continue to be regarded with a mixture of indifference or scepticism by the international community. There is too much at stake for us to allow that to happen. NGOs working together within the Development Caucus and the Women Caucus believe that unless the structural causes of poverty, unemployment and social exclusion are adequately defined and properly addressed the Summit will be judged a failure. A new paradigm for authentic, sustainable social development giving highest priority to the work of caring for and nurturing families in communities as the true national wealth should emerge out of WSSD. All forms of oppression or discrimination based on gender, race, ethnicity, class or religion must be eliminated.

From the experience and analysis of our organisations working in social development throughout the world the following points are essential to the conclusions of the Summit:

1. Structural adjustment programmes focused on export led growth and which disregard wealth distribution and environmental sustainability have failed to create employment, deepen social inequality and poverty, and thereby feed social dis-integration. The impact of these policies falls most heavily on women. Trickle down economics is not working - in the north or the south. The Summit must urge adjustment policies be fundamentally revised. Through its expert Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, ECOSOC should investigate the underlying premises of World Bank and IMF policies, and measure their impact against the criteria established for the Social Summit: namely, do they exacerbate or alleviate the forces which exclude and deprive poor people from their enjoyment of their basic rights.
2. The International Financial Institutions should be willing to provide the relevant UN treaty monitoring bodies with regular reports explaining what steps they are taking to assist governments to comply with their economic, social and cultural obligations under the treaties. They should also provide these committees with evaluations of the effectiveness of their poverty alleviation measures and provide desegregated data on the impact of their programmes on women, children and other vulnerable groups.
3. The UN expert bodies on economic and social rights should also examine the implications of the new trade regime and the operations of the WTO. There is a need for a social audit to gauge their impact on human welfare in the South. The right of Nations to establish national food and agriculture policies in order to eradicate hunger and ensure food security should be explicitly recognized. There should be no patenting of life forms.
4. The full costs of the Uruguay Round must be assessed and as promised at the start of the negotiations, compensation for those nations and sectors within nations which experience net loss must be made to ensure social development is not hindered.
5. For a lot of countries the debt burden remains one of the most important obstacles to social development. The Social Summit should promote debt reduction initiatives that go beyond the existing package of options including the writing off of multilateral debt, especially in Africa.

6. Recognizing that the major actors of the macro-economic system are unaccountable, the Summit should include as a condition for an enabling economic environment the international monitoring and a code of conduct for the operations of transnational corporations and call for a reform of the multilateral structure, which brings the accountability of the Bretton Woods Institutions into the UN system.

7. The UN target for Overseas Development Assistance of 0.7% should be achieved by all OECD countries, including those who have yet to make such a commitment. To enable social sector expenditure and to enable investment in the economy of the poor, effective spending of public resources is required. To achieve social development that caters for a broad range of fundamental human needs at least 50% of Official Development Assistance should be allocated to social areas, which would include income a guaranteed provision of basic needs in primary health care, reproductive health, education, shelter, water and sanitation, income transfers to the people living in poverty, work guarantee schemes, credit for the poor - particularly women, agricultural extension and support for small-scale farmers, fishers, support to small-scale market production, institutional support - on behalf of cooperatives, farmers' organisations and women's organisations, information services, etc.

8. The WSSD should call on all on governments to ratify the six core Human Rights Treaties, the International Convention Relating to the Protection of Migrant Workers and their families, and the relevant ILO conventions by the year 2000. The Programme of Action should call on governments to recognize legally binding obligations to ensure economic and social rights, and to establish a means for vindicating those rights.

9. Recognizing the central role of citizenship and citizens' organization in social development, the Programme of Action should insist on governments to commit themselves to provide legal and regulatory frameworks for the contribution of different actors so as to involve local, regional and national civil society in social development. The WSSD should draw on the contribution and respect of the unique cultures of people and integrate sustainable indigenous and traditional practices which do not violate women's rights into social development.

10. The Summit should establish effective mechanisms to curb the arms trade as a contribution to minimising violent social disintegration.

11. The gender specific aspects of each issue addressed by the Summit should be explicitly identified in the policy analysis and commitments taken by the Summit.

12. The Summit should vest principal responsibility for the monitoring of the commitments undertaken in the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The Committee's mandate and methods of work should be adjusted accordingly to accommodate such responsibilities.

Initially endorsed by

Cordillera People's Alliance, Phillipines
DAWN
EURODAD
EUROSTEP
Instituto del Tercer Mundo, Uruguay
The International Human Rights Law Group - Washington D.C.
THIRD WORLD NETWORK
WEDO

(NGOs wishing to endorse the statement should sign below and return the copy to the NGO computer room behind room 3)

**People's Alliance for Social Development
Alliance des Gens pour le Développement Social
Alianza de la Gente para el Desarrollo Social**



THE SILENCE OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY

PRESENTATION OF PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (FRANCISCO VIO GROSSI)

Mr. President:

I would like to start by bringing to you all on behalf of the People's Alliance for Social Development the greetings, hopes and dreams of our own capacity and special that of the civil society to take control of our own lives. The People's Alliance is a vast coalition of broad sections of civil society with whom several international networks work in Asia, Africa, Latin America, North America, Europe, the Arab World and the Caribbean.

Since the last Prep Com we have conducted regional meetings on the Social Summit with leaders in Asia, Latin America, the Arab World and North America. More dialogues are planned for Africa and Europe.

On the basis on consultations to date the following issues emerge regarding enabling environment:

The people are happy the summit is creating the opportunity to openly and popularly address the issues of poverty, unemployment and social integration which for generations they themselves have raised under very difficult and prohibiting circumstances.

Civil society has tremendous experience in addressing these issues. However we are also aware that our experience is not well known because it is an experience which has been accumulated in great silence. The only way to create an enabling environment for them to emerge is respecting their silence. Those of us who have been speaking and listening to

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our voices for the last several hundred years will have to learn to listen to the silence of the civil society.

At this moment I'd like to invite you all to keep 15 seconds of silence to start listening the silence of those who have been silence for centuries. For this I myself will stand up.

In the name of that silence we want the summit to commit ourselves all, government, the private sector and the voluntary sector to provide the space to each of ourselves and to open bridges and the channels for dialogue, cooperation and joint action.

All of us must be respected as independent, but at the same time as interdependent. None of us should consider themselves to have the answer to the questions mankind faces. Let alone the right to impose the solutions.

To the end therefore the People's Alliance calls for the following measures to create an enabling environment for a people's solution to the problems of poverty, unemployment and social integration:

1.- To communitize the economy so that economic decisions which affect communities are taken by the communities.

2.- To strengthen capacities at grass roots level in areas of ideas articulation and systematization, knowledge and skills base, institution and leadership.

3.- To create mechanisms to ensure that the multinational and private companies, the World Bank and IMF, the UN are accountable to the civil society

4.- To create concrete mechanisms for guaranteeing equal share of power between men and women.

Finally Mr President, the People's Alliance has committed itself and invites this summit to commit itself also to:

- eradicate poverty all over the world because it is morally unacceptable.
- guarantee employment and work for all
- promote social integration through respect of diversity and proclaim the universal right to be different..

A Position Statement of Japanese NGOs on the Draft Declaration and Program of Action of the World Summit for Social Development

AUGUST 1994

We, the Japanese NGOs undersigned, while supporting a number of positive proposals contained in the draft Declaration and Program of Action (referred to as D and POA hereafter), present a series of proposals for inclusion in D and POA. We do so because we feel D and POA have some major weaknesses that should be overcome if they are to be effective in achieving the professed goals.

The weaknesses lie basically in their failure to address a series of fundamental issues that need to be faced in the global task of bringing about social development. They include: (1) the need for fundamental development paradigm shift based on the full understanding of the indivisibility of social, economic, and environmental considerations, (2) the need to transform the global structure steadily, if gradually, toward equality between the North and South, (3) the need to identify the primary actors in bringing about social development, and (4) effective means and facilities of implementation reflecting the burning requirements stemming from (1) to (3).

It should be clear that social development is an integrated process. It synthesizes improvement in the material life of communities and individuals, their spiritual and material self-reliance through acquisition of capacities to self-manage and choose a proper development model, their participation in decision-making processes affecting them, their right to sustainable utilization of natural and human resources, the preservation and development of community identities, and harmonious coexistence between diverse values and cultures on a broader scale.

(1) Development paradigm shift

One of the major weaknesses of both D and POA is that they cling to the traditional development paradigm that assumes economic growth (GNP growth) as the basic means of resolution of poverty, unemployment, and other problems. It has been proven through the decades-long development experience that GNP growth-oriented development has not only failed to remove global poverty but also driven the large number of people of the world to increased plights, destroyed the environment, and in many cases triggered and aggravated conflicts between people's groups threatening social disintegration. It is clear to us that the three concerns of the Social Summit, namely, poverty, unemployment, and social disintegration, cannot be expected to be resolved separately because they are largely consequences of the working of the dominant development model (maldevelopment model) which boils down to GNP growth.

The D and POA should therefore take cognizance of the indivisibility of the three evils alike rooted in the dominant paradigm of development, disavow this paradigm, and on that basis call for a new paradigm of social development. As the result of the lack of recognition of this interlinkage, the documents refer to sustainable development only as a factor additional and supplementary to economic growth.

We propose that global priority areas for social development be designated from this vantage point.

Global poverty, obviously concentrated in developing countries, largely stems from the GNP-centered development paradigm, which has led to the destruction and marginalization of agriculture and farming populations in the interest of world market-oriented industrialization, aggravated by environmental disruption, population concentration in urban centers, and an influx of

migrant workers into metropolitan centers. Global urban poverty has its roots in rural poverty. Since the destruction of environment, generation of poverty, and social disintegration generally go hand in hand in this process, it is imperative that resources be mobilized and redistributed both on the national and global scale to rectify this vicious cycle by sustainably (eco-cyclically) developing agriculture and other primary sectors in order to enrich farming, fishing, and other primary sectors in the world. Respect for communal rights including rights to commons is essential in this regard.

In the same vein, the problems of unemployment, seen in this light, cannot be reduced to the generation of wage job opportunities through economic growth as the POA tends to argue. The numbers of wage job seekers are increasing precisely because rural communities collapse together with their original productive activities. It is of strategic importance to mobilize resources to ensure the stability and sustainable enrichment of rural village communities worldwide.

Regarding social integration, the right to self-determination of indigenous peoples should be clearly recognized together with their other rights as indigenous peoples.

These are the cornerstones of the new paradigm of development that should be promoted for global social development.

In this context, the Social summit can and should accept, and build on, Agenda 21 of the Rio Summit, especially the Rio Principles 3,4,5,8, and 20, and other achievements of the U.N. system. The idea of sustainable development should be placed in the center of social development and the UNDP's advocacy for human development should also be incorporated within the Declaration.

(2) Global inequality

The POA rightly states (item 31) that "as poverty results from social, economic, legal, and political structures..., efforts to reduce and eliminate poverty must be based on a continuing examination of the structures and processes that determine the distribution and redistribution of income in a society." This approach ought to be applied to the global structure also. While the POA recommends a number of specific positive measures concerning domestic policies and arrangements for poverty alleviation, it does not even mention, let alone examine, the global structure and processes reproducing poverty, nor does it present proposals for rectification except mild debt reduction measures, part of which are already agreed upon.

Vis-a-vis the well known calamitous consequences of structural adjustment programs (SAPs) on the weakest groups of people, POA proposes a "fair sharing of the burdens of structural adjustment." But we firmly believe that it is not mere alleviation of the merciless consequences of SAP but SAP itself that should be called into question if we are to ensure people-centered social development.

The social Summit should also address the issue of the scandalously skewed resources distribution in favor of developed countries. With 20% of the world population consuming 70% of world energy, 80% of timber, and 60% of food, global equity is hard to achieve. So is global social development. Here again, the idea of development of a new pattern should be introduced so as to reduce this unequal consumption pattern at once ensuring the well-being of the people both in the North and South. In this context, the recommended reduction in trade barriers administered by WTO and UNCTAD does not seem to offer a fundamental solution since this would only strengthen the existing unequal consumption distribution pattern in the long run.

One of the few international remedial measures involving the global scene proposed in the POA is an increase in official development assistance (ODA). But the POA fails to qualify what kind of aid is needed for what purposes. So far, ODA programs of Northern countries, including Japan, have often been publicly criticized for their disservice to grassroots communities. Mere quantitative increase in aid will not help unless the existing aid programs are put to full critical review and reoriented toward empowerment of the grassroots communities through participation.

(3) Primary actors and their participation

The key to social development is people and their participation.

The declaration, however, seems to regard "entrepreneurs and enterprises" as primary "partners and key players." (D22-24) "Entrepreneurs and enterprises create the wealth of nations," it says. (D24) Though the Social Summit's appeal (and warning) should also go to "entrepreneurs and enterprises" and their support should be sought, it should not be forgotten that in many cases they are sacrificing people and environment for the sake of their profits.

It should be clear that people are not merely victims but also the prime actors in bringing about social development, for it is far too clear that without their participation no substantive change will occur.

It is true that people's participation is recommended in national contexts, but there is no mention of participation of people in the global decision-making process which is in the hands of the World Bank, IMF and other agencies controlled by the North. Given the extreme secrecy, absence of transparency, and lack of accountability to the people on the part of these global institutions of power, drastic democratization processes should take place within them in order to allow the participation of people themselves for the redefinition and reorientation of goals of their policies for the sake of substantiating social development on a global scale.

(4) Policy recommendation and implementation

Keeping the above in mind, we propose the following as measures to create an enabling global environment:

1. Regarding "free trade," we propose "ethical trade" which includes the imposition of "virgin taxes"; tariff barriers protecting local production of staple foods, protective measures for agriculture to ensure price stability of farm products; regulation by the United Nations on destructive activities of transnational corporations including their free plant relocation at the cost of workers and communities. The Social Summit in this regard should resume the process of drawing up a code of conduct for multinational corporations, which was suspended by the abolition of the U.N. Center on Transnational Corporations.

2. Regarding external debts and SAPs, the documents should state:

a) that one of the major causes of wide spread poverty, growing unemployment and ever-increasing discrimination and marginalization of the vast majority of people of the South is their huge external debts and debt servicing to the North. We regard it imperative that a step further than the measures already agreed upon by the G7 meetings be taken on this matter. Concretely, we propose a 100 percent cancellation of the debt stock for the poorest most heavily indebted countries and a 50 percent debt relief for the most heavily indebted middle income countries by the end of 1995, when the UN celebrates its 50th anniversary. We also propose that debt relief be discussed in a more open forum than the Paris Club. The UNDP Round Tables could be a useful model.

b) We propose inclusion in the documents a recommendation that Structural Adjustment Programs having been forced for ten years or more upon South indebted countries be immediately stopped.

3. Regarding ODA, we propose the establishment of an ODA guideline so that ODA be provided and used to promote social development undertaken by grassroots communities. This guideline must include mandatory social development assessment and environment assessment as integral part of cost-effectiveness analysis of major assisted projects, participation of communities involved in related decision-making processes, and independent project evaluation by a neutral international body.

4. As a way of facilitating social development and redistributing global resources, an independent Social Development Fund should be established to make resources available directly to grassroots social development activities. This fund should be independent of the World Bank, and managed with the participation of people's organizations and NGOs working with them.

5. On reforms in the Bretton Woods Institutions and the UN system,

a) we propose that the World Bank and IMF are placed under UN administration; that the World Bank ceases its activities as a lending institution and initiates instead a grant program; that the IMF acts exclusively as a deliberative body for maintaining currency exchange rates, and stop interfering in the economic policy of its member countries; that the voting power within it be distributed equally among all member nations, and direct membership be recognized in these institutions.

b) The UN has two major areas of functions and operations, security and development. In terms of its security agenda, the existing post-Cold War Security Council is controlled by a single superpower, the United States, which equates "security" to "national security," and which places a priority on the necessity of military intervention. In our view, this notion of national security only serves the interests of powerful northern countries, the G-7, TNCs, and other northern institution of power. We propose that the Security Council be restructured into a democratic organization through the abolition of the veto power of the Permanent Five, and should equally distribute its seats to regions and areas, act to protect human, social, environmental, and cultural security.

Concerning development functions of the UN system, we propose that the Economic and Social Council be reorganized and empowered into a more viable body vested with enforcing powers, with its members reduced to a number comparable to that of the reorganized Security Council. As for UN agencies under the ECOSOC, such as UNDP and UNCTAD, they should restore their full functions and powers they once had. It is advised that the UN allocates more funds to these agencies rather than lavish much money on UN peace-keeping operations which have proved failures at least in Somalia and former Yugoslavia.

Signed;

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International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR)
People to People Aid (P2)
Free East Timor Japan Coalition
Japan International Volunteer Center
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POLICY PROPOSALS CONCERNING THE IMF AND WORLD BANK

JAPAN BRETTON WOODS COALITION
APRIL 1994

July 1994 will mark the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Bretton Woods agreements, which set the tone for the postwar global economic order. It was under these agreements that the World Bank (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development - IBRD) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) were established. The signing of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in 1947 marked the birth of the so-called Bretton-Woods/GATT Order. This world order was established under the belief that the division of the world's economy into "blocs" had led to World War II. The founders believed that this new order would result in global economic development and a prevention of the formation of new blocs through the promulgation of the principles of freedom, non-discrimination, and multilateralism in the areas of international currency (by the IMF), international finance (by the World Bank) and international trade (through GATT).

Fifty years later, however, numerous contradictions stemming from the Bretton-Woods Order have sprung up, and they can no longer be ignored. In this year, which marks the 50th year of the agreement, we have critically examined the role played in particular by the World Bank and the IMF, and hereby propose the following measures to reform their respective policies.

Reforming the IMF and World Bank

We propose that Japan, which is the world's second largest funder of the IMF and World Bank, and which supplies vast sums of co-financed loans in the form of official development assistance (ODA), make the following demands for reforming the World Bank and IMF:

1. *That the World Bank and IMF be placed under United Nations administration.*

Despite the fact that the Article of Agreement states that these institutions are linked with the UN, they are not actually under the control of the UN. The activities of the BWI should be checked by the General Assembly.

2. *That the World Bank stop being a lending institution and instead initiate a grant program.*

3. *That the IMF act exclusively as a deliberative body for maintaining currency exchange rates, and withdraw from interference in the economic policy of countries.*

4. *That voting power be distributed equally among all member nations, and direct membership be recognized in these institutions.*

The inequality in voting power among nations detracts from the original nature of these international institutions as assemblies of sovereign nations. Voting rights should, in principle, rest directly with the people of the world. The conditions that a country must first become a member of the IMF before gaining membership to the World Bank and IDA constitutes a bottleneck that places unnecessary burdens on sovereign nations. A one-nation/one-vote system must be adopted and voluntary membership in IDA and other independent institutions should be recognized in order to respect the rights of all sovereign nations. Furthermore, NGOs (nongovernmental organizations) and POs (peoples' organizations) must be ensured a space to express their points of view. Adopting a multiple representative system according to the model of the ILO (International Labor Organization) is another alternative.

5. *That the thorough public disclosure of information be ensured.*

The World Bank, ostensibly, possesses excellent guidelines concerning the environment and indigenous peoples, and these guidelines are followed when environmental impact assessments are made. Unless the information from these assessments is made public, however, there is no way of ensuring that the guidelines are indeed being followed. In the World Bank's loan program as well, many documents are compiled during the entire application and lending procedure, yet only a few are ever disclosed to the public. This raises the question of for whose sake the assistance programs are being implemented. Indeed, it is essential that information be made available particularly to those local residents who are the supposed beneficiaries of particular projects. Any project for which information cannot be disclosed is bound to fail from the very beginning. The World Bank must adopt the principle that all information concerning all projects be disclosed. Making the policy-making process open to the public is particularly important in avoiding the pursuit of random policies not based on local realities.

Unfortunately, the IMF has not taken a single step toward releasing information to the public. This situation must be rectified as soon as possible.

6. *That inspection panels be established and managed independently of the World Bank and IMF managements.*

Whenever local residents raise objections concerning some project, the situation calls for an independent investigation by a third party totally independent of the managements. The study panel should consist of independent and impartial members, and should be invested with the authority to enforce compliance with its decisions. Furthermore, the investigation must take into consideration social and economic impacts, and include "non-project loan" areas as well as project-based ones. To include in the investigation only the views of those who speak certain languages is to effectively take away the opportunity of other people to speak, and this must be remedied and a place be provided for people to express their views in any language.

7. *That the policy of involuntary resettlement be reevaluated.*

The World Bank is currently working on a report on this issue, which only points to the fact that many people have indeed been victimized by the Bank's resettlement policy. The number of people involuntarily resettled, including those for projects planned in the near future, will soon reach 3 million. In most cases the relocated people face severe hardships. To avoid this, involuntary resettlement must be abolished; furthermore, the World Bank must bear joint responsibility in compensating the resettled families.

8. *That the Structural Adjustment Program be immediately stopped.*

In its policy toward the IMF and World Bank, the Japanese government must push for the termination of SAPs. In October 1991, Japan's Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) raised some questions directed to the World Bank (*Fund Research Quarterly* Vol. 92, No. 2). It is, however, unclear whether this position is the Japanese government's adopted policy, and how this issue was dealt with at the IMF/World Bank Board Meeting. The Japanese government should seek the cancellation of the structural adjustment policy and take concrete steps to accomplish this.

In spite of criticism from nations of the South, on February 23, 1994, the IMF decided to initiate its 2nd Expanded Structural Adjustment Loan program, for which Japan is to provide 43% of total funds (about US\$ 7 billion). We demand that the process by which this decision was reached be publicly disclosed, and that a reevaluation be carried out.

Resolving the Issue of Third World Debt

1. The Japanese government should agree to the Trinidad Terms (concerning the debt burden of sub-Saharan nations)

On June 15, 1993, UNICEF released a report entitled "Debt Relief for Africa: A Call for Urgent Action for Human Development" and made an appeal for resolving the global debt crisis. In particular, the total debt of Africa's sub-Saharan nations has reached \$183 billion, for which annual servicing hit \$20 billion in 1992, or 35% of their total exports. The net funds flowing from the South to the North, determined by subtracting assistance from the North from these payments, has reached \$10.4 billion. As a result, sub-Saharan Africa is the only region in the world where all social indices, including those on malnutrition and employment, have continuously deteriorated throughout the 1980's. Of the debts borne by sub-Saharan countries, bilateral and multilateral ODA amount to 47% and 39%, respectively. UNICEF is therefore calling on countries of the North to agree to the Trinidad Terms. It is also calling upon the IMF to sell off its gold reserves and appropriate the generated funds to cover the debts, and on the World Bank and African Development Bank to transfer the debts owed them to the International Development Association (IDA). Among member nations of the Paris Club, the United States and Japan have opposed the Trinidad Terms; the U.S. for financial reasons and Japan on the principle of opposing any reduction in debt obligations. Under the concerted pressure from European governments and western NGOs, however, the Clinton administration reversed its decision and now accepts the Terms. Japan is thus the only Paris Club nation which has not accepted them. This has brought the issue to a standstill, since the Paris Club requires the unanimous agreement of all its members to act. While the Japanese government has thus far agreed to extend repayment periods on loan principle and has approved new loans to cover debts whose repayment period was already due, this has only lead to the accumulation of interest and increased debts, and has merely deferred the problems until some future date. **We strongly call on the Japanese government to accept the Trinidad Terms.**

2. Proposal for Debt Reduction

(1) Debt Reduction for Uganda

Next, we propose a reduction of Uganda's debt according to proposals made by OXFAM, a British NGO, in response to UNESCO's proposal.

Uganda is the sixth poorest country of the world, with a per capita GNP of \$170. Idi Amin's autocracy and the prolonged civil war finally came to an end, and since 1987 the Museveni Administration has been striving to rehabilitate the country. Its GNP has grown by an annual rate of 6% after 1991, under a Structural Adjustment Program imposed by the IMF and the World Bank. Uganda is, however, today a country with \$2.46 billion in debt. The international market price of coffee, which makes up two thirds of Uganda's exports, has fallen by half compared to earlier prices, and the country's \$173 million in debt payments in 1993 amounted to 80% of its total exports. If no measures are taken the debt will never be cleared.

The multilateral portion, which forms 60% of Uganda's debt, must be either appropriated by selling off the IMF's reserve fund or forgiven by changing it over to the IDA. As for the bilateral portion, two thirds of it should be written down under the Trinidad Terms, and 100% should eventually be written off. Japan's lending makes up only \$1.2 million of this total.

The first thing Japan must do is to support the Trinidad Terms. Then it must take the initiative in curtailing debts among Sub-Saharan countries with the precedent of Uganda's case.

(2) Debt Reduction for the Philippines

The Philippines is a medium-income nation (with a per capita GNP of \$740) but suffers from a heavy indebtedness of \$31.9 billion (as of the end of 1991). Most of this debt was accumulated up to 1986 under the Marcos Administration. During this period the load already amounted to as much as \$28.2 billion.

The Philippines' public debt is \$24.5 billion, 76.9% of the total. Within this public debt, bilateral loans occupy \$10.2 billion, or 41.4%. Servicing for 1991 reached \$1.4 billion on the public debt and another \$1.4 billion to private banks, or a total of \$2.8 billion.

These payments are, of course, made by the Government, and in 1989 debt payments made up 43% of government expenditures. Under these circumstances, public welfare such as education, sanitation, and agricultural development have suffered from deep budget cuts.

Japan's share of these bilateral loans is \$2.88 billion (1989), the largest among creditor nations and 10.3% of the entire debt.

Since 1982 when the Philippines' debt crisis first took place, an NGO called the Freedom from Debt Coalition (FDC), which consists of two hundred and fifty groups and political parties, has been actively dealing with debt problems among countries of the South. In addition, the Philippine legislature (especially the Senate) has aggressively discussed debt curtailment and opposition to the Structural Adjustment Programs of the IMF and World Bank.

In recent years, the Philippines has suffered from a series of natural disasters, such as the Baguio Earthquake and the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo. In these cases the northern countries might have been expected to enact special debt reduction measures, but because of the tough attitudes of Japan and the U.S., who have great power, this country has not been able to enjoy the benefits given to Mexico and Argentina. There are good reasons, as we have shown above, for curtaining the Philippines' debt.

Japan must, first, cut its bilateral share of loans (most of it loans given in yen as part of ODA) by 50% following the Toronto Terms, and must grant a 100% forgiveness of the "illegal debt" incurred by the Marcos Administration.

Japan should suggest that the Philippines government give such ministries as the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Land Reform, and Ministry of Environment a nominal amount of exempted public debt after 1986 for their social service programs. In particular, the highest priority should be given to the preventive injection program for children which Minister Fravier, Minister of Health who joined the Cabinet from an NGO, has been energetically executing. This program needs to be carried out with the cooperation of NGOs.

Proposal on Japan's Systemic Issues

1. Japan's fundamental policy on the IMF/World Bank should be discussed in the National Diet. As the IMF/World Bank fete their 50th anniversary, comprehensive discussions on such issues as their roles, organizational reforms (disclosure of information and establishment of independent inspection panel) are taking place both in the official institutions themselves and between these institutions and NGOs. As a government of a major financier country, the fundamental attitude of Japan toward the IMF/World Bank needs to be considered in the Diet.

2. Overall consideration and action on foreign aid problems should be the responsibility of the National Diet's Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs.

A special subcommittee should be established under the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs to set fundamental policy on foreign assistance, including financing of the IMF/World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB), and for bilateral aid and, through discussions with NGOs, to build basic principles including the bills outlined below.

3. Japan needs to set in law its fundamental principles on multilateral assistance.

Even though Japan has a large influence on the financial policies of IMF/World Bank as their second largest investor, its principles have not been made clear either externally or domestically. The government should prepare bills to give an accurate position on environmental protection, human rights, and so on in regards to the financial items of IMF/World Bank or ADB; these bills should regulate the votes of the Japanese executive directors (EDs) of the IMF/World Bank.

Incidentally, the U.S. enacted an International Financial Institutions Act (1986) and an amendment that makes financing conditional upon environmental assessments. Other countries such as Germany, Holland, and Canada have passed similar bills.

4. Concerning the Japanese EDs of the IMF/World Bank:

(1) Japanese EDs of the IMF/World Bank are dispatched by the Bureau of International Financing of the Ministry of Finance. However, there has never been any clarification of either the orders they receive or of the standards upon which they base their votes. Moreover, Japanese citizens do not receive any reports from the EDs. In the U.S., there have been cases of World Bank Reports being given to NGOs by EDs. First of all, the Japanese government should clarify the content of the EDs' votes, their reports, and the content of the instruction given to them by the Ministry.

(2) Besides the EDs, there are Vice-directors and three other Japanese staff working in the Japanese ED offices at the IMF and World Bank in Washington. Currently, two of them are staff members of the Export-Import Bank on loan. To have the Director's decision made from a comprehensive view of environment, welfare, and gender, the directors and other staff should be chosen from the Environmental Agency, the Ministry of Health and Welfare, and the public. The number should be equally divided between men and women.

(3) For the past few years, at annual meetings of IMF/World Bank, counter conferences have been held by NGOs from various countries, at which positive discussions between NGO representatives and EDs from many countries have been made possible. The Japanese EDs, however, have been notorious for not speaking to NGOs. To practice IMF/World Bank reform, the EDs ought to listen willingly to what NGOs say.

Background to Our Policy Proposal

The major reason behind the international notoriety of the the World Bank and the IMF is the responsibility they bear for the debt crisis, for Structural Adjustment Programs, and for the resulting problems such as human rights violations, environmental destruction, destruction of lives, and the like. Not only World Bank Loan during the 60's and the 70's but also ODA from many countries and private banks was a major cause of the debt crisis among southern countries. As a measure to overcome this crisis the IMF and World Bank started refinancing (Structural Adjustment Facility or SAF) those countries under conditionalities of reduced budgets, market liberalization, privatization, currency devaluations, organizing export-oriented economies, and other measures. This policy consequently put pressure on southern peoples' lives and has been treated as a crucial problem in America and Europe as well as in the countries in the South.

It is unfortunate that in Japan people are not very interested in the issues of the World Bank and IMF. Still, Japan is the world's greatest creditor and biggest ODA donor. It is the second largest investor, following the U.S., in the World Bank and IMF, as well as in the IDA, IFC, and MIGA. The World Bank and IMF are particularly authoritative in the issues of currency, financing, and aid. Japan holds great influence in the World Bank and IMF through its ODA and private funds. In particular, the Government and the Ministry of Finance participates in policy-making by delegating EDs and staff. Considering these Japanese "contributions" to the World Bank and IMF, it seems impermissible for us as tax-payers to remain silent.

On the Debt Issue

1. Today 161 nations in the world called "developing countries" continue to receive ODA from the advanced industrial nations, in spite of the fact that 30 years have passed since the beginning of assistance. In 1991 six countries, including South Korea and Singapore, managed to emerge from this club, but five others from the ex-Soviet Union fell into it.

A total of 42 countries of the South make up the poorest of the poor, with per capita GNPs of under US\$670 (in 1992 Japan held the world's first spot (discounting the financial empire of Switzerland) with \$28,190), and their combined population adds up to 3,190 million people. Furthermore, more than 1 billion people suffer, respectively, from malnutrition and lack of access to safe water. 150 million are homeless, and 200 million children under the age of 15 are working.

One of the major causes of the problems that afflict the people of the South today is their huge foreign debt. This includes all the debt owed by governments of the South, and can be divided into three broad categories: bilateral debt owed to governments of the North; multilateral debt owed to international institutions such as the World Bank and IMF; and debt owed to Northern banks. As of the end of 1992, the total came to \$1,662 billion, an amount higher than the \$900 million outstanding in 1982, when the debt crisis broke out. Under structural adjustment programs forced upon them by the IMF and the World Bank, these governments have repaid, during the past ten years, \$1,500 billion, with roughly half of this in interest payments.

2. On the North's side, 17 countries called the Paris Club work to resolve the debt problem, as do the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) within the OECD, and the leaders of the North at their annual G-7 summits. Japan, the world's largest creditor, a country with a huge trade surplus, and a major disburser of ODA, plays a major role in this structure.

A variety of initiatives to solve the debt crisis have come from the ranks of the IMF, World Bank, Paris Club, and the G-7 summits. The major point of these efforts was to deal with the private debts of medium income and heavily indebted countries like Mexico and Brazil which

are endowed with rich natural resources. The result of these efforts was a transfer of private debt into public debt. This was, in effect, a bail-out of Northern banks. At the beginning of the 1990's there were pronouncements that "the debt crisis is over," but what this meant was that the crisis was over for the banks in the North.

Public debt owed by countries of the South increased from \$69 billion in 1970 to \$1.1532 trillion at the end of 1992. In 1992, servicing of this debt reached \$125 billion, with 40% of this in interest payments. In contrast, total ODA payments from the North to the South in 1992 were just \$55 billion.

3. In the summer of 1982, Mexico announced that it could no longer service its debts, starting a wave which spread to Brazil, Argentina, Venezuela and throughout Latin America, to the Philippines and parts of Africa, and other regions of the South. The main reason behind the accumulation of debt can be found in the trade and balance deficits that these countries had generally maintained since Independence, but the direct trigger for the crisis in 1982 was a combination of the so-called petrodollars that flowed into oil-producing countries after the first oil shock in 1973, and the fact that Northern private banks, who faced a shortage of lending opportunities in their own countries, began to form consortia to offer "development loans" to governments in the South throughout the 1970's. The major targets for these loans were countries with ample natural resources and large populations. The banks pushed floating rate loans on these countries.

Many of these development projects either ended in failure or were infrastructure projects which did not provide short-term profits. In the late 1970's, the policies of the U.S. Carter Administration led to a rise in international interest rates, and Third World debt grew tremendously. This is how the debt crisis broke out.

Resolving the crisis became a matter of life and death for the banks of the North, and the United States government took the leadership in rescuing them. "Comprehensive debt-alleviation measures" were taken under which the IMF provided short-term loans to governments of the South, in exchange for which the banks granted reschedulings and new loans. At the same time, the IMF pushed "stabilization program" on the governments of the South under which priority was given to repaying the debts. The World Bank, for its part, proposed longer term Structural Adjustment Program, or SAPs, and provided financing under these plans. These SAPs currently make up more than 20% of Bank funding.

The SAPs have placed a primary emphasis on increasing exports, and countries have been coerced, in order to attract foreign investments, to devalue their currencies, liberalize their markets, weaken governmental regulations, and privatize nationalized industries. In order to restrict expenditures, they have been made to cut public expenditures in such areas as welfare, education, health, and agricultural development, as well as to lay off and cut salaries of public servants. They have thus been forced to use their scarce foreign currency and government resources primarily to repay the debts.

At the International People's Tribunal to Judge the G-7, which was held to coincide with the G-7 Tokyo Summit in July 1993, a group of 13 participants from the South came and gave testimony on the variety of detrimental effects these IMF/World Bank SAPs have had on people, and especially on women, children, and indigenous peoples, in the South (for reference, see the Indictment of the People's Tribunal).

In addition, under the SAPs people who had no responsibility for the loans are being forced to bear the burden of repayment — or in other words, the debts are being paid back with the lives of the poor. There have also been international proposals concerning the legality of the international floating interest rate system which triggered the crisis.

4. In March 1989, U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Nicholas Brady proposed a strategy for dealing with the crisis. Under this plan, either 1) the debts (principle) of Southern countries would be reduced, but the governments would repay this portion at the same interest rates but in local currency, with government bonds; 2) government bonds would be issued in equal amounts to the debt reductions, but at reduced interest rates; or 3) new loans would be provided at the ratio of 25% of the old debts. Agreements were reached on these terms in Argentina, Mexico, as well as Nicaragua, where a pro-American government had just come to power. The reductions were quite small, however, the period of execution, 4-5 years, was too long to be able to expect results, and this plan was merely one to convert international into domestic debt. The United States' national interest was clearly visible.

5. At the Commonwealth meeting in Trinidad and Tobago in September 1990, U.K. (then) Minister of the Exchequer John Major made a proposal to reduce Third World debt. Under this plan, which became known as the Trinidad Terms, the debts of the 19 most heavily indebted countries would be drawn down by two thirds. Naturally, a condition was that the governments of these countries carry out IMF/World Bank Structural Adjustment Programs.

6. Japan's financial policies have an enormous influence not only on international economics but on environmental and human rights problems throughout the world. In spite of this reality, however, Japan has never made any substantial contribution at international economic and political fora, in fact when it has made remarks on the question of debt reduction they have mainly been negative. At the 1994 G-7 financial ministers' meeting, for instance, the other six members supported a move to reduce Africa's debt burden, but Japan opposed the proposal (in spite of the fact that this was based on the Agenda 21 statement that, "If the debt issue is not solved quickly in a sustainable way, the developing countries will not be able to get back on the road to development" (C 2.4).

Why is Japan opposed to debt reductions? To understand this we have to examine the special characteristics of the source of Japan's funding. In other countries public credit (loan aid) is derived from taxes, but in Japan it comes, in addition, from national treasury sources such as pensions and the postal savings system. Under this structure, any move to reduce debts would have a direct impact on the people's pensions and savings, and would put further pressure on the national budget. People are legally forced to enter these pension programs, however, and this therefore amount effectively to a form of taxation. In spite of this fact there are no checks on the use of these funds, even from the National Diet which is supposed to represent the people. In particular, decisions on loans used to guarantee exports are made by the the Financial Operations Division of the Finance Ministry without any consultations with the Diet. These kinds of financial mechanisms, which allow certain sections of the bureaucracy to carry out manipulations without any supervision, are unconstitutional. The debts of developing country are guaranteed by the people's pensions and health insurance, and this makes it impossible to carry out the reductions that are in fact necessary.

The IMF and World Bank: Problems in the System

1. The Bretton Woods system was built intentionally as part of the postwar free market economic order, and were built and maintained by the United States' enormous power. As the IMF's other name, the "cops of the economic world," indicates, these institutions were to a great extent linked to the political interests and strategies of the United States, and do not represent a system that can work for the human rights of the people of the South, for democracy, or to solve environmental problems.

2. The IMF and World Bank ignore the particular circumstances of the different countries of the South, and impose a single model of economic development. They consider problems such as inequality, human rights violations, and environmental destruction to be no more than marginal "side effects" within their system, which gives priority to macroeconomic indicators. As a result, the main factors they examine when considering financing are productivity and profitability. This approach ignores the basic viewpoint of social development and people's autonomy.

3. Countries which do not gain membership to the IMF are denied international financing. In fact, membership in the IMF is a prerequisite for joining the World Bank, and this membership in turn is necessary for joining the IDA.

In addition, countries which do not join the World Bank find themselves unable to receive ODA from donor nations, and even private loans become unavailable. As a result, governments have been forced to accept the World Bank model of development, meaning market liberalization, privatization, and large-scale development projects. Non-membership precludes non-interest loans from the IDA, the "second World Bank."

4. The power of developing countries to express their interests is almost nil. In the IMF and World Bank group, voting power is basically distributed according to capital contributions. As a result, the advanced industrialized nations hold a majority vote in every institution. In other words, they must follow the dictates of the industrialized countries.

Many countries of the South have made capital contributions and are hence members of the World Bank and IMF, but because of the way that votes are distributed it is fair to say that they have next to no power to express their interests. Despite the fact that the IMF and World Bank hold great power over the fates of the 70% of the world's population who form the people of the South, it is next to impossible for these people to have their voices reflected in those institutions, and they are basically powerless.

5. Roughly 90% of the World Bank's financing comes from the financial markets, showing that these institutions form a system built on these mechanisms. The basis of the World Bank's plans are profitability and productivity, and as a result it emphasizes large-scale infrastructure projects, and this gives rise to the following two problems:

1) Countries are forcibly incorporated into the market economy. Only half of all production in the developed countries, and a mere one fourth in developing countries, is counted in the monetary economy. Non-monetary activities such as subsistence production are not included in GNP. In order to be incorporated into these figures their products must be put on the market and purchased with currency. In the same way, the international financial system does not count goods which are purchased using local currencies; they must be put on the world market and purchased with international currency. Production for one's own consumption or for the consumption of a single country therefore become breaches of international standards, and people are coerced into producing commodities to be traded in international currency (in addition, the market becomes flooded with similar products from all around the world, leading to drops in commodity prices).

2) The World Bank procures costly funds from the international financial market and then lends it to countries of the South at rates which include the cost of procurement and an added spread to cover the cost of lending. Thus, the World Bank is no aid organization, but rather, as its name indicates, a bank. The governments of the South are forced to give priority to their debt servicing both in financial policy and in foreign currency operations in order to maintain a good relationship with the Bank. The people of these countries are forced to shoulder the burden.

7. The World Bank and the IMF are in effect guaranteed by nation-states. The advanced

countries support the World Bank in the form of "callable capital." In Japan, money derived from pension funds and postal savings, as well as financing made by organizations like the OECF (Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund) is used to co-finance funds with the World Bank. Any crisis the Bank faces, therefore, it does not face alone.

In addition, developing countries are never allowed to default, and so the states themselves are guarantors of the debt. The states have found themselves guaranteed, and in exchange institutions such as the IMF and World Bank have gained the ability to interfere in their internal affairs.

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ESCAP과 아태지역 NGO문서

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

PRELIMINARY DRAFT

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENDA FOR THE ESCAP REGION
INTO THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The ESCAP region, comprising 54 countries and areas and accounting for approximately 58 per cent of the world's population, stands poised at the threshold of what promises to be a new century of great progress.

2. That a firm foundation for further progress has been forged is evident in a number of regional trends, among them: substantial and sustained economic growth; rising public concern and active pursuit of an enhanced and equitably shared quality of life; major advances towards broad-based people's participation in governance; a clear determination to resolve intra-regional disputes in a spirit of constructive engagement and mutual respect; and the establishment of effective regional and subregional mechanisms to promote economic and social cooperation.

3. Notwithstanding the economic growth and political reforms recorded in developing countries across Asia and the Pacific in recent years, the region's fundamental social objectives of the eradication of absolute poverty, enhancement of popular participation and realization of distributive justice have yet to be fully achieved. At the same time, various new challenges to the region's sustained social development have emerged.

4. The present **Social Development Agenda for the ESCAP Region Into the Twenty-first Century** (hereafter referred to as the "Agenda") addresses those critical issues by identifying specific courses of action to be taken by the countries of the region, individually and collectively. With this **Agenda**, the Governments of Asia and the Pacific reaffirm their commitment to the region's social development objectives by adopting a set of specific, time-bound goals and targets.

5. This **Agenda** arises out of and builds upon the **Social Development Strategy for Asia and the Pacific Towards the Year 2000** (hereafter referred to as the "Strategy"), adopted by the Fourth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Development, convened at Manila in October 1991. That **Strategy** provides an overview of the critical social issues in the ESCAP

THE ESCAP REGION AND THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENDA FOR THE ESCAP REGION
INTO THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

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region and proposes broad national and regional policy guidelines to address those issues. Those guidelines have been applied by a number of countries in the region, with beneficial results.

6. This **Agenda** has been adopted by ESCAP in anticipation and in support of the global initiatives to be considered at the World Summit for Social Development, to be convened by the United Nations at Copenhagen in March 1995. The **Agenda** casts the three themes of poverty alleviation, social integration and employment expansion in terms of specific priorities and actions for the ESCAP region. In keeping with the three "core issues" to be addressed by the World Summit for Social Development:

- (a) "Poverty alleviation" refers here to both the reduction and elimination of widespread poverty;
- (b) "Social integration" refers here not to the elimination of differences but to the enabling of all social groups to live together in productive and cooperative diversity.
- (c) "Employment expansion" refers here to the expansion of productive employment and the reduction of unemployment; and

7. The themes of poverty alleviation, social integration and employment expansion carry great relevance for all the countries of Asia and the Pacific, but their significance differs according to each country's development situation and prospects into the twenty-first century. For many developing countries in the region, particularly those in South Asia, Central Asia and the Pacific, the main tasks will remain the elimination of absolute poverty and the provision of basic social services to the vast majority of the people. Employment expansion and social integration in that context serve as means for eradicating poverty and sustaining the momentum of development.

8. Where substantial social development has already been achieved, as in a number of countries in East and Southeast Asia, the further task lies in

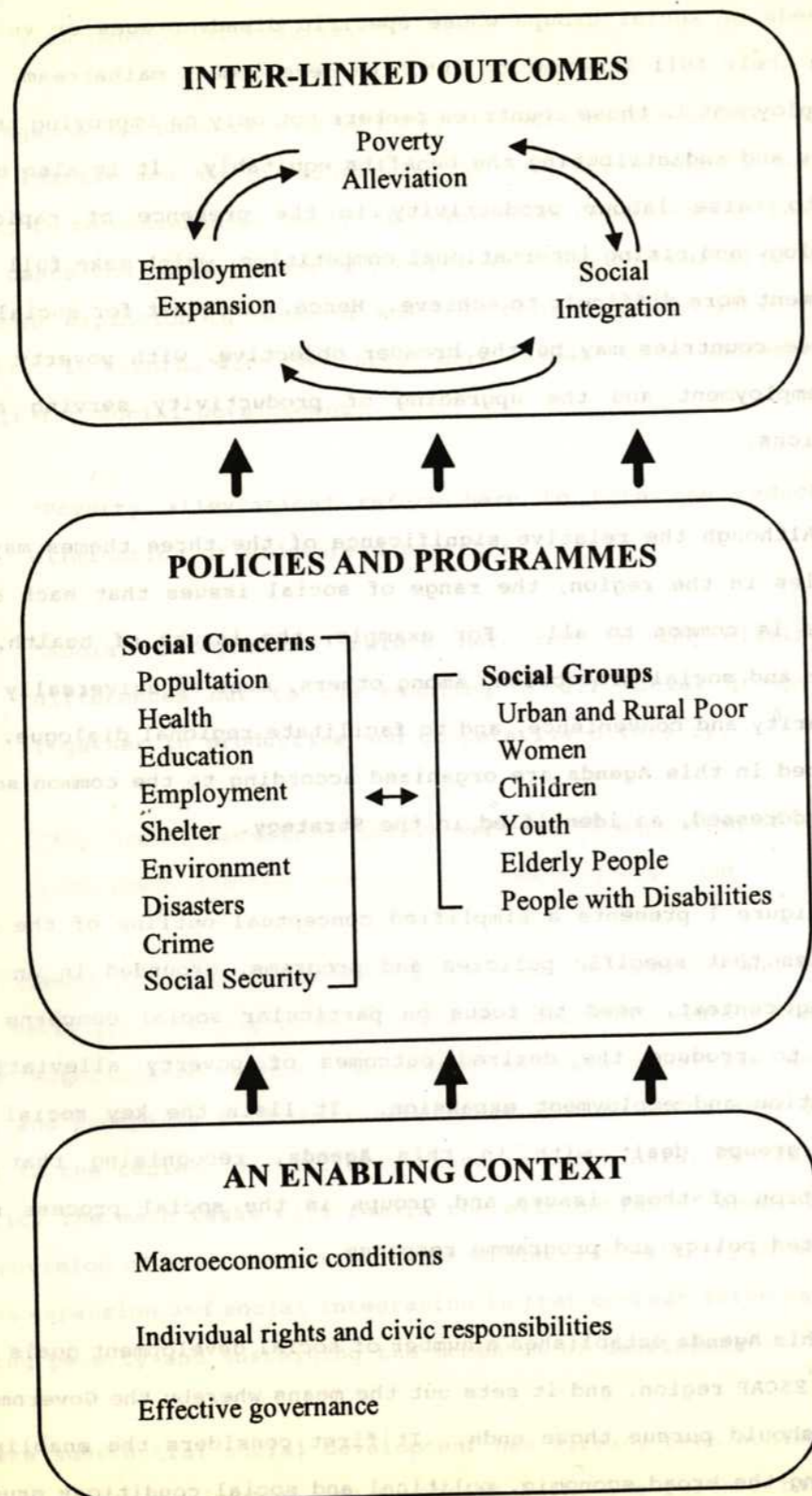
universalizing those gains and thereby strengthening social cohesion. The task of poverty eradication in those countries requires focused attention to the needs of social groups whose specific disadvantages or vulnerabilities impede their full integration into the development mainstream. The concern for employment in those countries centers not only on improving the conditions of work and redistributing the benefits equitably. It is also driven by the need to raise labour productivity in the presence of rapidly changing technology and rising international competition, which make full or near-full employment more difficult to achieve. Hence, the quest for social integration in those countries may be the broader objective, with poverty eradication, full employment and the upgrading of productivity serving as necessary conditions.

9. Although the relative significance of the three themes may vary among countries in the region, the range of social issues that each country must address is common to all. For example, the issues of health, education, shelter and social protection, among others, must be universally confronted. For clarity and convenience, and to facilitate regional dialogue, the actions contained in this **Agenda** are organized according to the common social issues to be addressed, as identified in the **Strategy**.

10. Figure 1 presents a simplified conceptual outline of the **Agenda**. It indicates that specific policies and programs, grounded in an appropriate enabling context, need to focus on particular social concerns and social groups to produce the desired outcomes of poverty alleviation, social integration and employment expansion. It lists the key social issues and social groups dealt with in this **Agenda**, recognising that the close interaction of those issues and groups in the social process requires an integrated policy and programme response.

11. This **Agenda** establishes a number of social development goals and targets for the ESCAP region, and it sets out the means whereby the Governments of the region should pursue those ends. It first considers the enabling context, including the broad economic, political and social conditions crucial to the

Figure 1. Social Development Agenda: A Conceptual Framework



attainment of the people's hopes and aspirations. It then identifies the targets and goals to be addressed by specific social development policies and programmes. These are organised around specific social concerns, with social groups being referred to wherever directly relevant to a particular social concern. Finally, the Agenda addresses the means of implementation to be applied at the national, subregional and regional levels.

12. Recognizing that the Programme of Action to be adopted by the World Summit for Social Development will provide a comprehensive framework for global action, this Agenda sets out the course of action to be taken by the Asian and Pacific region, as agreed by the members and associate members of ESCAP.

II. AN ENABLING CONTEXT

13. The objectives of social development in the ESCAP region can be fully achieved only within a context of enabling conditions that ensure continuing economic growth and material progress, promote both individual rights and civic responsibility, and deliver effective governance. Such enabling conditions are not present to the same degree throughout the region. Action to ensure the presence of the necessary enabling conditions constitutes a distinct task in itself if the goals and targets of this Agenda are to be attained.

A. Economic growth

14. As widely observed throughout Asia and the Pacific, social development requires sustained economic growth. Only a dynamic economy can supply the necessary financial resources to permit the redistribution of income and wealth and the provision of basic social services demanded by the broad masses of the people throughout the region.

15. At the same time, it is recognized that economic growth in itself is not sufficient to generate the social changes demanded by the people. Deliberate policy interventions are required of the Governments of the ESCAP region (hereafter referred to as the "Governments") to ensure that development serves the people's quality of life and that it proceeds in a fair and equitable manner.

16. Therefore, the Governments will review their macro-economic policies and adjust them as appropriate to sustain a long-term economic growth rate that permits steady improvement in the people's quality of life. This will include actions to increase domestic savings and investment, maintain price stability and balance-of-payments equilibrium, and improve levels of productivity and employment, while ensuring an equitable distribution of income.¹

17. Similarly, the Governments will continuously review and adjust their

sectoral economic policies to maximize the potential gains from comparative advantage, respond effectively to changes in world demand, adapt to new technologies and thereby sustain and enhance productive employment, and consequently alleviate poverty and promote social stability.²

18. In the design and implementation of structural adjustment policies, the Governments will take into explicit account the negative social effects that may be entailed and will devise complementary social policies to minimize or offset those adverse effects, particularly those affecting the poor and other disadvantaged groups in society.³

19. The Governments will seek, through cooperative means, to achieve and sustain an international economic environment that maintains the momentum towards liberalization in the global markets for goods and services, including finance and technology. They will work together for: (a) an augmentation of the real flow of development assistance to the region, especially to the least developed countries; (b) a reduction of the burden borne by the severely indebted countries; and (c) reforms in the international monetary and financial system that take into explicit account the needs of the region's developing countries.⁴

B. Effective governance

20. Effective governance is a precondition for successful social development. It requires that the reliability and integrity of the legislative, administrative and judicial branches of the State are ensured through accountability of action and transparency in decision making. Through such means Governments will be provided with the necessary "political will" to formulate socially responsible policies and programmes and the capacity to implement them efficiently and effectively.

21. Effective governance also requires that Governments pursue constructive cooperation with non-governmental organizations, private enterprise and the people at large, in order to ensure that social development policies and

programmes reflect broad societal aspirations and priorities. Through such cooperation and through strengthening of the means of effective popular participation, Government can be brought closer to the people, improving its performance and ensuring that the people's concerns are fully taken into consideration by the policy makers and executors. To those ends, the Governments will ensure that all sections of society, including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, are provided with equitable opportunities to be represented in legislative and other policy-making bodies at the national, provincial and local levels.⁵

22. Appropriate attention will be accorded by the Governments to the advantages of decentralization of both responsibility and authority, including fiscal authority, in the planning and delivery of social services. Without jeopardizing the continuity and quality of the services provided, relevant units of local government will be empowered, where appropriate, to assume increasing responsibility and authority for social development.⁶

23. The Governments will facilitate the active participation of the poor and other target groups in social development policy making, planning and programming. This will further promote popular participation, improve the effectiveness of social development interventions in meeting the people's needs and help ensure the equitable distribution of development benefits.

C. Individual rights and civic responsibilities

24. The Governments reaffirm their conviction, as reflected in the **Declaration on the Right to Development**, that policies, plans and programmes to advance social development can ultimately succeed only in a context that upholds the dignity of the individual, acknowledges that the proper role of the State is to serve the needs of civil society, and recognizes the value of a diversity of viewpoints in public discourse and debate.⁷

25. To that end, the Governments will strengthen the legal and administrative framework and other institutions to protect and encourage

respect for diversity of opinion and for full and free participation in civic affairs without distinction as to gender, race, language, religion, class or other social group affiliation.⁸

26. The Governments will identify and remove legal provisions that restrict the full and free participation of disadvantaged social groups in civic affairs. Affirmative action will be taken to redress inequalities in opportunity encountered by those groups, including, where appropriate, especially with respect to their representation in legislative bodies, participation in government service and contribution to development planning and programme implementation, particularly at the local level.⁹

27. In implementing the **Agenda**, the Governments will take into full account the widely differing national and local social circumstances in the region, including differences in indigenous cultural values and social practices.

28. Strong traditions of social responsibility and collective action are a common heritage throughout the region. The socially integrative aspects of those traditions will be applied as a constructive means of supporting national policies, plans and programmes for social development, without prejudicing the rights of all citizens to the pursuit of their individual hopes and aspirations.

III. ACTION ON MAJOR SOCIAL ISSUES

29. As highlighted in the Strategy, the broad range of interrelated social issues confronting Asia and the Pacific is preventing large sections of society, particularly the disadvantaged and vulnerable social groups, from realizing their hopes and aspirations for substantial and sustained improvement in their quality of life. To address those social issues effectively, a well-coordinated, multisectoral initiative aimed at dealing with the situation at its roots is required.

30. In adopting this Agenda, the Governments have reached a consensus for action on the region's critical social issues. That consensus expresses a commitment of the Governments to: (a) the achievement of the social development goals and targets specified in earlier global and regional instruments, including the Strategy and (b) the setting of goals and targets for critical social concerns where no goals and targets had earlier been specified.

31. Many of the specific goals and targets cited in this Agenda are drawn from or based on existing international instruments. In this Agenda, the ESCAP members and associate members recommit themselves to the aims and objectives of those instruments. The goals and targets contained in this Agenda generally set the years 2000, 2010 or 2020 as their attainment dates, depending on the complexity of the issue and the resources required.

A. Population

32. The Governments recommit themselves to the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development. Of particular importance, those countries of the region that have not yet reduced their fertility level to a replacement level of 2.2 children per woman will strive to do so by the year 2010.¹⁰

33. In pursuance of that goal, the Governments will cooperate in introducing

and promoting the use of effective measures of family planning throughout the region, consistent with the principles enunciated in the Declaration on the Right to Development.¹¹ Through those measures, they will, by the year 2000, reduce maternal mortality rates to half of the 1990 rates or less, wherever the 1990 rates were above ?????.¹²

34. In their development strategies, the Governments will take into full account the changing demographic profile to ensure that all policies respond fully to the needs of specific population groups experiencing rapid growth, particularly the elderly and working women.¹³

B. Health

35. In accordance with the Declaration of Alma-Ata and recalling the Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s (hereafter referred to as the Plan of Action for Children), the Governments recommit themselves to the attainment of health for all by the year 2000 and to the goals of the Plan of Action for Children. Towards those ends, they will re-examine their development priorities to ensure full access to primary health care to all people in the region by the year 2000.

36. In particular, the countries of the region will: (a) by the year 2010, reduce their infant mortality rates to 40 per 1000 live births or less;¹⁴ (b) by the year 2000, reduce under-five mortality rates to 70 per 1000 live births or by a third of their 1990 levels, whichever is less;¹⁵ (c) by the year 2000, reach the goals set in the Plan of Action for Children with respect to immunisation, the eradication of polio and neonatal tetanus, the limitation of measles, diarrhoea and acute respiratory infections, and the reduction of malnutrition, including dietary deficiencies such as those involving iron, iodine and vitamin A;¹⁶ and (d) by the year 2000, ensure food security for all households, including those in isolated communities.¹⁷

37. The Governments will augment the infrastructure and personnel devoted

to basic health care, with special attention to reaching poor and isolated communities.¹⁸ They will ensure the provision of appropriate pharmaceuticals and other health care products at prices that the poor can afford.

38. Immediate action will be taken by the Governments to prevent the further spread of HIV/AIDS. National, subregional and regional strategies will be formulated and implemented to: (a) promote behaviour change through information and education; (b) provide support services for those already afflicted, ensuring against unreasonable discrimination against them; and (c) set in place prevention programmes for especially vulnerable groups.¹⁹

39. The Governments will formulate national, subregional and regional strategies against drug abuse, consisting of programmes for drug demand reduction (including primary prevention, treatment and rehabilitation) as well as effective control of illicit supplies.²⁰ Special attention will be given in those strategies to the encouragement of a supportive community environment for youth.

40. The Governments will enact and implement legislation and regulations to promote health and safety at work, in public places and in the home.²¹

C. Education

41. Recalling the aims and objectives of the World Declaration on Education for All and Framework for Action to Meet Basic Learning Needs, the Plan of Action for Children, and the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region, as Revised in 1994 (hereafter referred to as the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development), the Governments recommit themselves to the goal of education for all.

42. The countries of the region will halve, by the year 2000, the levels of adult illiteracy from the levels prevailing in 1990, with emphasis on female literacy.²² Special or non-conventional programmes will be designed and implemented to impart literacy and numeracy skills for specific target groups

among the adult population, especially women and disabled persons.²³

43. The Governments will mobilise resources to ensure the attainment of universal access to basic education by 2010 where this has not yet been achieved. They will, by the year 2000, ensure that at least 80 per cent of primary school-age children complete primary education.²⁴

44. In pursuance of that goal, programmes will be introduced that identify and address the specific reasons for low enrolment, non-attendance and poor performance among specific social groups, such as girls, children in isolated or poor communities, children with disabilities and children in the labour force. Programmes for non-conventional primary education will be designed for groups that cannot be reached through the formal school system or conventional methods of instruction, and to enable drop-outs and non-starters to join the educational mainstream.²⁵

45. The Governments will facilitate access to secondary education for all who qualify.²⁶ However, expansion of secondary or tertiary education should not be pursued at the cost of improvements in the scope and quality of basic education.

46. In conformity with the education and literacy goals of the Jakarta Declaration for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific (hereafter referred to as Jakarta Declaration for the Advancement of Women), the Governments will introduce measures to promote equal participation rates for girls and boys in secondary education and increased access for girls and women to higher education.²⁷

47. Existing curricula for secondary education will be redesigned, as necessary, to emphasize skills for independent learning, critical thinking, effective communication and the application of knowledge to local problems and conditions.²⁸

48. The Governments will ensure that vocational training enables workers to

respond effectively to changing labour market needs in the increasingly competitive global economy. This may include entrepreneur skills training. Governments will also ensure that vocational training is made directly relevant to employment circumstances, perhaps by involving business enterprises more in training programmes. Particular attention will be given to training disadvantaged social groups.²⁹

D. Employment

49. In fulfilment of the aims and objectives of the Development Strategy for the Fourth International Development Decade, the Governments will seek to sustain patterns of economic growth that are consistent with high levels of productive employment. That will require policies designed to encourage labour-intensive development and alleviate the impact of displacement of labour by capital.³⁰

50. The Governments will, as appropriate, devise and initiate measures to support the informal sector, including small-scale and cottage industries and services, especially in rural areas. Those measures will include: (a) revision of laws and regulations that penalize informal-sector employment; (b) provision of infrastructure and essential services to support informal sector activities; and (c) special programmes to provide access to credit, technology and business training for informal sector undertakings.³¹

51. Consistent with national circumstances, the Governments will introduce and strengthen policies and programmes to: (a) support the income of small farmers by promoting their productivity and (b) enhance their economic security through the diversification of their productive activities. Those policies and programmes will, as called for by national circumstances, include investments in irrigation, electrification, transport and communication, and other rural infrastructure; improved access to land and farm credit; technical extension; agricultural price support and stabilization; and farmers' training and education.³²

52. To enhance the income-earning capabilities of the rural and urban poor, the Governments will, by the year 2000, determine the feasibility, scope and appropriate modes of land reform in both rural and urban areas in accordance with the goals of social justice and efficient land use, and will initiate and complete those reforms within a predetermined time-frame.³³

53. The Governments will enhance the efficiency and flexibility of their labour markets by supporting the development of labour-market institutions that provide job seekers with open information about job opportunities, and employers with ready information on available workers. The involvement of the private sector and non-governmental organizations in those activities will be encouraged.³⁴

54. Working conditions in the formal and informal sectors will be improved in all countries of the region by: (a) encouraging alternative forms of support and social protection, such as cooperatives and workers' associations; (b) enforcing reasonable and cost-effective standards of occupational health and safety; (c) promoting awareness of workers' rights; and (d) protecting working children and youth against exploitation.³⁵

55. The status of women in the labour force will be enhanced through the promulgation and enforcement of legislation and regulations to eliminate wage differentials between women and men and to improve women's working conditions.³⁶

56. The Governments, particularly in countries with large numbers of temporary or permanent migrant workers, will enhance the provision of assistance, information, protection and equality of treatment of migrant workers, especially women.³⁷ Source and host countries will take steps, through bilateral or international action, to protect the rights of international migrant workers, especially women.³⁸

E. Shelter

57. The Governments recommit themselves to the goals contained in **General Assembly resolution 42/146 on the right to adequate housing**, which firmly establish the human right to shelter and the obligation of the State to provide the enabling conditions whereby the people's shelter needs may be met.³⁹

58. The Governments will facilitate the provision of adequate shelter for all by the year 2000, as put forward in the **Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000**, recognizing that adequate shelter means shelter that is affordable, has secure tenure, is structurally stable, is served by appropriate infrastructure and provides access to employment and community services.⁴⁰ Immediate attention will be given to the development of housing that promotes inter-generational contact and mutual support, and to the introduction of measures to promote barrier-free built environments that facilitate the free movement of persons with disabilities.⁴¹

59. The Governments will ensure universal access to safe drinking water by the year 2000,⁴² and they will ensure the provision of adequate water and energy supply, sanitation, sewerage and solid waste disposal infrastructure in all settlements by the year 2025.⁴³

60. The Governments will create a legal and policy framework that allows business enterprises, non-governmental organizations and local governments to contribute their financial, physical and human resources towards the provision of affordable shelter for all.⁴⁴

61. Shelter-related policies, including those relating to budgetary priorities, rent, credit and interest rates, tenure and ownership, land taxation, zoning, utilities, and building regulations, will be reviewed periodically by the Governments and revised as necessary to ensure that those policies are supportive of the goal of shelter for all.⁴⁵

F. Environment

62. The Governments recommit themselves to the **Ministerial Declaration on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific** and its associated **Regional Strategy**, and to **Agenda 21**. They do this based on their expressed environmental values and the close nexus that exists among poverty, population and environmental factors. The Governments reaffirm their intent to integrate their environment policies, plans and programmes at all levels and in all relevant sectors, so as to ensure that environmental conditions support the social welfare.

63. The Governments will, by the year 2000, formulate action plans for the best use and sustainable management of land resources, taking into particular account the welfare of local and indigenous communities.⁴⁶ Special attention will be given to the identification and promotion of environmentally sound survival strategies to encourage poor communities to adopt economically viable and ecologically sustainable life-styles.⁴⁷

64. With a view to sustainable development, the Governments will put in place, by the year 2000, programmes for the protection, conservation and sustainable use of their forest, mountain, coastal and freshwater resources which integrate the issue of poverty eradication and address the special needs of the disadvantaged and vulnerable sections of society.⁴⁸

65. The Governments will, by the year 2000, enact legislation and put in place measures to ensure the environmentally sound management of toxic and hazardous wastes and products. Attention will be given to programmes to minimize the generation of hazardous wastes and use of toxic chemicals, and to prevent their illegal international traffic. Also by that year, appropriate environmental and health safeguards will be included as part of all national development programmes.⁴⁹

66. The Governments will continuously improve their national data and information systems and introduce standard accounting procedures and project

evaluation methods to monitor the social development implications of ecological change, especially with respect to its effects on the poor and other disadvantaged sections of society.⁵⁰

67. In accordance with their capacity and within the framework of regional and international co-operation, the Governments will assign priority to the development and implementation of measures to counter the adverse effects of environmental hazards and environmental degradation on the quality of life of the people. Those measures will, *inter alia*, promote the introduction and use of environmentally sustainable technologies, including indigenous technologies that are easily accessible to poor communities.

G. Disasters

68. The Governments will, by the year 2000, put in place comprehensive strategies and specific social service contingency plans to prepare for and deal with natural disasters relevant to their circumstances, including typhoons, floods, droughts, tidal waves, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.⁵¹

69. To achieve that goal, the Governments will develop the technical and institutional capacity to mitigate the effects of natural disasters through: (a) hazard-prevention measures; (b) risk zoning; (c) early-warning systems for both decision-makers and the populations at risk; (d) evacuation plans; (e) emergency supplies and budgetary mechanisms for emergency assistance; (f) improved food distribution networks; and (g) short-term employment plans for disaster-stricken households.⁵²

H. Crime

70. In conformity with the **Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (The Beijing Rules)** and the **Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (The Riyadh Guidelines)**, the Governments reaffirm their conviction that crime is at root, both in its causes and effects, a social issue, and they reaffirm that adequate responses can be framed only within the

context of programmes for integrated social development.

71. In their effort to prevent crime, especially juvenile crime and delinquency, the Governments will: (a) strengthen community institutions, particularly those geared directly to youth, and increase youth participation in those institutions; (b) enhance the content of both formal and nonformal education to increase its relevance to livelihood opportunities, sensitivity to human rights and gender issues, and support of family life; and (c) work with the mass media to promote positive social values and socially responsible life-styles.⁵³

72. The Governments will give special attention to the treatment of young delinquents and criminal offenders, especially females, through: (a) the training of police personnel to enable them to fulfill constructive social functions in dealing with juveniles; (b) the setting up of special juvenile crime prevention, enforcement and justice mechanisms to deal with young offenders; and (c) improved economic and social rehabilitation of juvenile offenders through community involvement.⁵⁴

73. The Governments will strengthen national, subregional and regional strategies to deal with the trans-border aspects of organized criminality, especially in drug-related matters.⁵⁵

I. Social Security

74. Consistent with the **Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future**, the Governments will, by the year 2000, devise financially and administratively viable social security programmes in accordance with the prevailing standards of society and within available resources.⁵⁶ Priority will be given to the introduction and strengthening of social safety nets for the protection of the disadvantaged and vulnerable sections of society in the countries undergoing structural adjustment and economic transition.

75. In the spirit of the **Convention Concerning Minimum Standards of Social Security**, the Governments will strengthen and broaden the coverage of their formal social security systems, where such systems already exist, and introduce such systems where they do not yet exist, to ensure that basic social protection is extended to all disadvantaged and vulnerable social groups.⁵⁷

76. The overall policy framework for achieving that goal will be formulated by the Governments by the year 2000. That framework will provide viable forms of social protection covering unemployment, illness, disability and old age. Among other means of comprehensive social protection to be considered are emergency employment schemes, targeted subsidies, catastrophic illness insurance and community-based care and rehabilitation.⁵⁸

77. In pursuance of the **Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002**, the Governments will enact and ensure the effective implementation of measures providing people with disabilities full access to education, training for productive employment and opportunities to participate meaningfully in social and economic life. Policies and programmes will be set in place by the year 2000 for: (a) local-level and community-based support services for elderly persons; (b) social and economic rehabilitation of people with disabilities; and (c) entry of persons with disabilities into the development mainstream.⁵⁹

78. The Governments will, through fiscal or other incentives, introduce measures to support the family as the basic provider of social protection to its dependent members. This will be in addition to the benefits afforded to specific disadvantaged groups directly.⁶⁰ Legislation and regulatory provisions extending fiscal and service-related support to care-givers of elderly dependents and persons with disabilities as well as parents or guardians of children will be in place by the year 2000.

79. This **Agenda** presents the consensus views of the ESCAP members and associate members as to the course of the region's social development into the twenty-first century, with special reference to the core issues of poverty alleviation, social integration and employment expansion. The Governments recognize that the task of social development is, first and foremost, a national responsibility, to be supported by regional and subregional as well as international initiatives as appropriate. How they aim to attain the goals and targets agreed upon in this **Agenda** must, in the final analysis, be a matter of national decision, to be reached within the context of regional and subregional as well as international cooperation. Drawing on regional experience and building on the points of regional consensus contained in the **Strategy**, this section considers the means that the Governments may wish to adopt in that task.

A. Mobilization of enablers

80. The task of social development can be adequately addressed only through the active involvement of the total network of social institutions, including the State, non-government organizations in all their guises, private enterprise, the community and the family. In particular, effective and sustained social development requires the mobilization of marginalized social groups as active participants in, not passive beneficiaries of, social development policy-making, planning and programming.

81. The Governments will therefore facilitate the efforts of non-governmental organizations to mobilize and organize marginalized social groups for empowerment and self-reliance. Government support will foster conditions conducive of the participation of non-governmental organizations in generating awareness among the poor and other disadvantaged and vulnerable groups of their legal rights and responsibilities. Support will be extended to enable self-help groups of the poor and other disadvantaged and vulnerable groups to create, increase and maintain their own assets.

82. Non-governmental organizations, in cooperation with Governments, will be enabled to participate directly in the provision of social services under impartial rules for accreditation, especially in areas and phases of implementation which take full advantage of their flexibility, innovativeness and empathy with marginalized communities. Through the intermediation of non-governmental organizations, Governments will disseminate expertise, information, funding, technology and material resources to assist in the formation of self-help groups among the poor and facilitate such groups in designing and implementing their own projects.

83. The Governments will provide an atmosphere conducive of cooperation with non-governmental organizations. In particular, they will:

(a) establish mechanisms at the national, provincial and local levels to involve non-governmental organizations in social development policy-making, planning and programming;

(b) set up national bodies to coordinate and catalyze non-governmental organizations in pursuit of specific national social development goals and targets;

(c) mobilize professionals in specific fields to assist non-governmental organizations and self-help groups of the poor;

(d) identify and remove legal, regulatory and other obstacles that hinder the legitimate social development activities of non-governmental organizations;

(e) support non-governmental organizations in developing innovative operational modalities in pursuit of national social development goals and targets;

(f) identify areas of social development for which non-governmental organizations could serve as lead implementors, in close collaboration

with the concerned government agencies; and

(g) earmark resources -- human, material and financial -- in each government agency to be devoted to the support of non-governmental organizations and self-help groups of the poor.

84. The private sector will be encouraged, through appropriate fiscal and other incentives, to channel resources to the task of social development. At the same time, incentives will be devised to encourage private enterprise to participate on a commercial basis in social services provision, including the delivery of education and health services and the construction of social infrastructure, under transparent rules and in line with social objectives and the principle of public accountability.

85. The Governments will take appropriate measures to ensure that:

(a) basic social services are accessible to all sectors of society, including the poor and other disadvantaged and vulnerable groups;

(b) those services are available at prices that marginalized social groups can afford;

(c) the quality of those services meets international standards and does not jeopardize the long-term interests of marginalized groups in their respective societies.

86. The convergence of social development efforts will be a common goal of the State and its agencies, non-governmental organizations, the business sector and local communities. Through inter-sectoral consultation and coordination, the Governments will take the initiative in formulating clear priorities and ensuring that the respective comparative advantages of all partner institutions are maximized. Consultative mechanisms involving the different sectors will be established to take into explicit account the inputs of non-governmental organizations and other enablers in the planning,

financing and implementation of social development programmes.

B. Planning and target-setting

87. The goals and targets set forth in this Agenda will be reflected in national social development plans. Priority attention in those plans will be given to the formulation of programmes to improve the quality of life of the poor and other disadvantaged and vulnerable social groups.

88. The Governments will review the actions called for in this Agenda with a view to specifying more precise time-bound goals and targets at the national level. Such further goal- and target-setting, as well as further refinement of national policies and programmes, will be considered in regional and subregional forums to be convened by ESCAP in follow-up of the World Summit for Social Development.

89. Each Government will establish or designate an appropriate statutory body to coordinate and monitor the implementation of all national, provincial and local programmes for social development, in consonance with national and regional goals and targets, including those specified in this Agenda.

90. The Governments will undertake regular reviews of their budgetary priorities, including their access to or disbursement of official development assistance, to ensure that those priorities accord with their national social development priorities as well as the priorities set out in this Agenda.

C. Information and research

91. The implementation of national, provincial and local social development programmes will be monitored continuously and strengthened at regular intervals. For that purpose, the Governments will support research and development institutions to assist them in monitoring, review and revision of policies, plans and programmes directed at improving the quality of life of marginalized social groups.

92. The Governments will undertake, in close collaboration with all concerned sections of society, research on approaches to and modalities for the implementation of the Agenda at the national, provincial and local levels. Non-governmental organizations, community self-help groups and government agencies will be given ready access to the outcome of such research as a means of supporting their implementation of the Agenda.

93. The Governments will consider establishing national social development information centres to:

(a) maintain computerized databases on social development conditions and trends, and to monitor the implementation of social development policies, plans and programmes;

(b) maintain active rosters of technical experts, non-governmental organizations, government agencies and private sector bodies involved in social development activities;

(c) provide accession services to data and information on social development;

(d) publish for regular dissemination newsletters and journals on social development issues, including social development policies, plans and programmes;

(e) support the production of documentary films on innovative approaches to implementation of the Agenda; and

(f) organize, at the national, provincial and local levels, exhibitions forums for discussion on social development issues.

94. Each Government will designate an agency to mobilize widespread support among all sections of society for national implementation of the Agenda. That agency will disseminate information on the Agenda in the national and local

languages directed at diverse enabler and marginalized social groups. It will involve other government agencies, the mass media and non-governmental organizations at all levels to publicize the Agenda and the national social development policy-making, planning and programming exercises to be undertaken.

D. Human resources development

95. The Governments will accord high priority to human resources development for the attainment of the goals and targets of the Agenda. Curricula for all levels of education and training and in all relevant disciplines will be reviewed and revised to ensure the development of a social consciousness and understanding of the implications of action for social development. In particular, national institutions for public administration will strengthen their training on the social development responsibilities of civil servants. Similarly, governments will invite management training institutions and other institutions responsible for the training of private sector personnel to include in their curricula the civic responsibilities of the private sector with respect to social development.

96. The Governments will strengthen the quality of human resources for the planning and implementation of social development programmes at the provincial and local levels through such means as enhanced opportunities for re-training and advanced training, greater autonomy in the consideration of innovative ideas, as well as for social and other benefits. Emphasis will be given to the enhanced development of professionalism among concerned government personnel. Attention will also be given to the improvement of working conditions and incentives to promote initiative and commitment in government agencies concerned with social development.

97. Attention will be given by the Governments to the development of schemes that provide young professionals with opportunities to contribute to and gain experience in the implementation of social development programmes and projects. Qualified senior citizens will also be encouraged to participate

in training activities for social and economic development.

98. Training workshops and seminars will be organized for key actors in the implementation of the Agenda. The Governments will also assist non-governmental in obtaining funding for activities to upgrade the effectiveness of their personnel in addressing social development issues and in mobilizing other sectors of society. A particular focus of training activities will be on means of raising the awareness of marginalized social groups with regard to their rights and entitlements and their own potential for self-help. Technical training, including training to improve the productivity of poor farmers and the quality of products made by poor artisans, will be included among the human resources development activities directed at local-level implementation of the Agenda.

E. Regional and subregional support

99. The Governments will cooperate in the establishment of reliable regional and subregional data bases to facilitate cross-country comparison. That cooperation will cover, among other matters, the collection and analysis of data and information on: (a) the situation and demographic trends concerning diverse social groups, including the poor; (b) health status; (c) education and literacy; (d) sanitation; (e) housing; (f) state of the environment; and (g) scope of social service delivery.

100. The Governments will cooperate in research on social issues of critical concern at the regional and subregional levels, with a view to strengthening policy and programme development. They will also participate in technical cooperation activities pertaining to research and development of technologies for alleviating the drudgery and improving the quality of life of the poor, including the different social groups among them.

101. The Governments call on the Commission to facilitate the provision of technical, advisory and other assistance in the process of planning and implementation, monitoring and evaluation of national action to contribute to

the attainment of the goals and targets contained in this Agenda. The Commission is called on to design programmes for regional and subregional cooperation in human resources development in implementation of the Agenda. Special emphasis should be given under those programmes to the training of public administrators. The Governments will participate in technical exchanges on policy and programme matters related to the implementation of the Agenda.

102. The Governments urge the subregional organizations in Asia and the Pacific to extend their support to the regional and national initiatives to promote the effective implementation of the Agenda by detailing their subregional priorities and targets in conformity with the Agenda and giving commensurate technical and other support to the execution of national programmes.

103. The Governments call on the Commission to energize the *Inter-Agency Task Force for Implementing the Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond*, established by ESCAP in 1992 in compliance with the Strategy, to facilitate coordinated action by the United Nations system in implementation of this Agenda and to monitor progress towards the attainment of its goals and targets.

104. As called for by the Strategy, a regional forum of non-governmental organizations concerned with social development should be established, along with regular institutional mechanisms of consultation and coordination to ensure the consideration of their viewpoints in the formulation of regional and subregional strategies and programmes. The regional forum of non-governmental organizations would motivate and orient participating organizations in implementation of the Agenda and could serve as a consultative mechanism to promote dialogue with concerned international bodies.

105. The Governments call on donor countries and international financial institutions to substantially increase the flow of financial resources

directed to the promotion of social development in the ESCAP region, with specific reference to the goals and targets contained in the Agenda. Particular attention should be given by those donors to the social development policies, plans and programmes of the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries of the region, and to the region's heavily indebted countries.

106. The progress of the ESCAP region in implementing this Agenda will be reviewed periodically, especially immediately after and midway between the benchmark years 2000, 2010 and 2020.

ENDNOTES

These "Endnotes" will be issued separately as an Information Note titled "Concordance to the draft social development agenda for the ESCAP region into the twenty-first century." The citations will be elaborated with the relevant quotations from the sources referred to. The "Concordance" will be introduced with a paragraph or two explaining the relevance of these source citations to the specific points of regional consensus contained in the Agenda.

1. International Development Strategy, page 127, paras. 24-25.
2. International Development Strategy, page 127, para. 25.
3. Bali Declaration, page 17, para. 42.
4. International Development Strategy, pages 129, para. 48(a)-(e); 128, paras. 40-45.
5. Extending the points contained in the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future, paras. 35-40 and 51-60. Also see the Seoul Statement on Empowering Women in Politics.
6. Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes..., para. 36. [References to decentralization contained in the Bali Declaration and the Regional Action Plan on Urbanization could be added.]
7. Declaration on the Right to Development, see especially Article 2, para. 2; Article 6; and Article 8.
8. Declaration on the Right to Development, see especially Article ?????????.
9. Jakarta Declaration for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific, page 32, sets a target of 20 per cent representation of women in legislative bodies, in ministries, at senior levels of the civil service and in the judiciary by the year 2000..
10. Bali Declaration, page 5.
11. In the spirit of the Bali Declaration, paras. 17(a), 18, 21, 22 and 23.
12. Bali Declaration, page 5. See also the Plan of Action for Children, page 31, para. 2, which sets a similar goal of reducing infant mortality rates to 50 per 1000 live births or reducing it by one-third of 1990 levels, whichever is less, by the year 2000.
13. Bali Declaration, para. 48, extended to include other social groups.
14. Bali Declaration, page 5; see also the Plan of Action for Children, page 31, para. 2.
15. Action Plan for Children, page 31, para. 2.
16. Action Plan for Children, pages 33-34, Sections B and C.

17. Action Plan for Children, page 33, para. viii.
18. Bali Declaration, page 17, para. 45.
19. Bali Declaration, para. 46.
20. Following the intent of the Tokyo Declaration on Enhanced Regional Cooperation for Drug Abuse Control and the Sydney Declaration on Enhanced Regional Cooperation to Reduce the Risk of Drug Abuse in Asia and the Pacific.
21. Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, page 11, para. g.
22. Action Plan on Children, page 12, line (f).
23. Guidelines for Action in Support of Education for All in the ESCAP Region, page 24, Section (d).
24. Action Plan for Children, page 12, line (e).
25. Guidelines for Action in Support of Education for All in the ESCAP Region, pages 21-22, Sections (b) and (c).
26. Jakarta Plan of Action, page 17, para. I.A.(1).
27. Jakarta Declaration for the Advancement of Women, page 38.
28. Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development, page 17, para. I.A.(5).
29. Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development, page 18, paras. (9)-(13).
30. International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, paras ?????????.
31. Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development, page 19, paras. 17-20; Bali Declaration, page 8, para. (9).
32. Based on the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development, page 19, para. 21.
33. Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development, page 19, para. (21); and Declaration of Principles and Programme of Action of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development.
34. Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development, page 19, para. 16.
35. Various ILO Conventions, including numbers 79, 87, 98, 135, 138, 155, 141 and 161. [The titles of these conventions should be included.] See also the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development, paras. 17-20, and the Bali Declaration, recommendation 9.
36. Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific, pages 25-28.
37. ILO Convention no. 97 Concerning Migration for Employment.
38. ILO Convention no. 143 concerning Migration with Abusive Conditions and Equality of Opportunity and Treatment of Migrant Workers and the Bali Declaration, pages 8-9, paras. 10 and 15.

39. Global Strategy for Shelter, page 8, para. 13.
40. Global Strategy for Shelter, para. 5.
41. Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, sections 2(d) and 5(a)-(d).
42. Action Plan for Children, page 12, line (d).
43. Agenda 21, page 58, para. 7.38.
44. Global Strategy for Shelter, pages 59-61, paras. 64-68.
45. Global Strategy for Shelter, page 52, para. 53.
46. Agenda 21, page 111, para. 13.15.
47. Agenda 21, pages 111, para. 13.15(b); 195, para. 19.66; 227, para. 26.3(iv) and (vi); and 243, para. 32.5(c)-(e).
48. Based on Agenda 21, paras. 3.4, 10.5, 11.12(b) and 18.39(h).
49. Agenda 21, page 194, para. 19.58, adding the phrase "to the extent possible"; Agenda 21, page 50, para. 6.40 (a). Relevant also is Agenda 21, pages 60-62, paras. 7.55-7.62.
50. Agenda 21, page 72, para. 8.42.
51. Generalization on the scheme on drought-preparedness in Agenda 21, page 105, para. 12.47.
52. Agenda 21, pages 111, para. 13.15(c), and 106, para. 12.48 (a)-(c).
53. Plan of Action Towards the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency and Youth Crime in the ESCAP Region, pages 223-226, paras. (b)2-3 and (c)1, 3 and 5-7, and (d)2 and 6-8.
54. Plan of Action Towards the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency and Youth Crime in the ESCAP Region, page 225, paras. (C)1-8.
55. In the spirit of the Tokyo Declaration on Enhanced Regional Cooperation for Drug Abuse Control, page 29, para. 4 from the top.
56. Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future, page 7, para. 27.
57. ILO Convention number 102: Convention Concerning Minimum Standards of Social Security; also the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, page 11, para. 2(f).
58. Expanding on the Bali Declaration, page 19, paras. 52-53, and the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, page ?????, para. ?????.
59. Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, page 10, para. (c); Bali Declaration, page 19, paras. 50 and 53.
60. Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, page 10, para. (c); Bali Declaration, page 19, para. 52.

DRAFT NGO SYMPOSIUM RESPONSE TO
THE PRELIMINARY DRAFT SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENDA
FOR THE ESCAP REGION INTO THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

Prepared by the NGO Working Group on a Response to
the Preliminary Draft Social Development Agenda

1. This is an initial response to the preliminary draft agenda that was tabled by the ESCAP secretariat at the Symposium. Time has not permitted a full consideration of the text. In addition to the comments here, NGOs in the region have prepared three recent statements on social development in the course of meetings preparing for the Social Development Summit. Those statements should be taken into account in revising the preliminary ESCAP draft. In addition, NGOs will make further statements about social development in the lead-up to the Manila Ministerial meeting and the Social Development Summit.
2. The preliminary draft contains a number of useful analyses of the nature and causes of problems in the region, and outlines a number of important responses to those problems. In particular, it provides a helpful summary and endorsement of many of the principal commitments which governments have made in various areas of social development. Inevitably, this response concentrates on proposals for changing or adding to the document. However, it should be noted that a number of specific aspects of it are strongly endorsed by NGOs even though there are great concerns about the basic economic and development models which are endorsed in the preliminary draft.
3. Our greatest concern about the document is that it places too much emphasis on economic growth as if that should be the over-riding goal of government activity and is always desirable. In our view, the over-riding goal should be to maximize opportunities for all people to lead happy and satisfying lives. We acknowledge the contribution that *sustainable economic development* can make towards that goal, but that is not the same thing as "economic growth". Indeed, excessive pursuit of economic growth can often damage the prospects of achieving sustainable economic development.
4. We strongly believe that the current draft places excessive faith in the model of development, and the general economic theory, that has dominated in this region and globally during the last decade or two. We believe that the social, environmental and even economic damage caused by these approaches has become increasingly clear and will become even more so in the next few years. We also strongly believe that the draft does not sufficiently emphasize the extent to which the development of a successful economy and community requires action by governments to guide and moderate the operation of so-called market forces.
5. A special concern is that the draft appears to endorse or acquiesce in continued application of structural adjustment programs along the lines of recent years. Those programs have caused major economic, social and environmental damage in many countries. Where they continue, they must be radically changed to reflect the importance of social development,

sustainability, social justice and national autonomy. The experience and views of civil society should be given greater weight in the development and implementation of development assistance programs.

6. The preliminary draft should also place much more emphasis on the extent to which sustainable economic development is dependent upon social development, including social justice and human rights. Unless adequate attention is given to these needs, for example, countries are most unlikely to enjoy the degree of social cohesion, political stability and national integrity upon which sustainable economic development is dependent over the longer term.

7. Another major concern is that, especially in the opening section, the preliminary draft is too sanguine about recent trends in the region. Many countries have enjoyed few, if any, of the beneficial trends that are mentioned in paragraph 2. Moreover, much too little emphasis is placed on the major problems that face the region as a whole and many individual countries in particular. The future may hold some encouraging possibilities for some countries but it also poses some very daunting challenges. Much greater emphasis should be given, for example, to the prevalence of poverty and discrimination in many parts of the region, and to the lack of appropriate systems of governance and popular participation.

8. We also believe that greater emphasis should be given to the richness of the cultural and spiritual traditions of the region and to the importance of maintaining and nurturing these aspects of personal and community life. Instead, the preliminary draft tends to concentrate excessively on material values.

9. We recognize that the document is addressed towards a regional meeting. Nevertheless, we believe that it should give greater attention to the extent to which problems within the region are caused or aggravated by the attitudes and activities of countries and people in other parts of the world. This applies, for example, to the impact that over-consumption and inappropriate fiscal policies in countries of the North have in aggravating poverty in countries of the South. It is especially important that these issues are considered at the Manila meeting, as it is a preparation for the global Summit at which regional governments could and should demand changes by other governments.

10. There is a number of other broad issues to which we think more attention should be given in the draft. One very high priority is demilitarization of the region and prevention of nuclear-testing, waste dumping and so on. Another very important problem concerns the prevalence within the region of violence against women. Other important issues include the rise of religious fundamentalism and ethnic violence, poverty (especially in relation to women), indigenous people, internally displaced people and refugees, human rights, environmental destruction, the media, and respect for collective rights

(including land and knowledge). We also believe that greater attention should be given to the special circumstances and vulnerability of the peoples of the Pacific islands.

11. Our final general comment is that the draft should be more specific and ambitious in its proposals for action. A number of recommendations along these lines are made later in this response, and others which merit consideration are in the attached documents by the International Council on Social Welfare and the International Council of Voluntary Agencies.

Comments on Particular Sections

Part I: Introduction

12. Many of the general comments above relate especially to Part I. In particular, the first three paragraphs need substantial change to provide a more realistic and balanced assessment. We believe also that figure 1 should include social welfare services (including counselling, family support services, aged care etc) and that indigenous people should be mentioned. The references to "employment" should recognize the wide range of paid and unpaid work that is not performed as an employee; this is of special significance in our region. We believe that use of the term "full integration into the development mainstream" in paragraph 8 suggests an unduly narrow and restrictive approach.

Part II: An Enabling Context

13. Again, many of our general comments apply especially to the section entitled "economic growth". Paragraphs 13, 14, 18 and 19, for example, need substantial revision to reflect a more balanced analysis of the strengths and limitations of economic growth and of the factors which are necessary for sustainable economic development.

14. We also believe that greater emphasis should be placed on the need for a stable economic environment in relation to matters such as exchange rates and interest rates, on the need for economic competition to be on a fair and honest basis, on the importance of adequate levels of long-term public investment in both physical and human resources, on the need for government activity to facilitate productive and innovative investment, and on the damaging impact of excessive tax competition between countries.

15. Other matters which we believe need attention in this section include a more balanced view about the benefits and dangers of reliance on modern technology, and a warning that excessive "targeting" in the provision of government assistance can aggravate the risk of long-term dependency. It should also be emphasized that systems of national accounts and budgets should recognize more fully than currently occurs such matters as social and environmental costs, the value of public investment, the cost of privatization

and the value of unpaid work.

16. The section on "effective governance" should give more attention to the importance of general public access to independent sources of information and opinion, especially in mass media.

17. The section on "individual rights and civic responsibilities" should give more emphasis to the ratification and application of human rights instruments, especially the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. It should also consider mechanisms for recognizing and enforcing collective rights. Either here or in Part III the attached section on people with disability will be inserted.

Part III: Action on Major Social Issues

18. This Part should give greater attention to issues concerning social welfare services, poverty, women (especially the feminization of poverty), indigenous people and refugees.

19. Section A on "population" should acknowledge the importance of the right to reproduction as well as the right to family planning. It also should refer to dangers in some aspects of reproductive technology, and to the need for due recognition of alternative and indigenous systems of health care.

20. Section B on "health" should emphasize the importance of nutritional issues and of affordability of health care. It also should encourage government action to facilitate economical local production of appropriate drugs and to reduce excessive use of drug treatments.

21. Section C on "education" should be expanded to recognize the importance of traditional and cultural knowledge and wisdom, to endorse the Salamanca statement on special needs education, and to promote the importance of adult education. Special reference should be made to the need to prevent so-called intellectual property rights from depriving people of the benefits of their own long-standing community heritage and knowledge, and of access to the benefits of modern research and development.

22. Section D on "employment" should refer generally to "work" rather than employment and should give greater attention to the informal sector, including ensuring adequate and conducive working conditions. Other matters that should be mentioned include problems relating to child labour and bonded labour, trafficking in people (especially women), the need to provide assistance for unemployed people (especially the long-term unemployed), and the need to implement the ILO agreement on workers and family responsibilities. The removal of tax distortions which encourage speculative rather than productive and job-creating forms of investment should also be mentioned.

23. Section E on "shelter", when referring to inter-generational housing,

should emphasize the desirability of providing sufficient privacy for family members.

24. Section F on "environment" should give greater emphasis to the importance of avoiding urban over-crowding and pollution. It also should urge the use of taxes and charges to reflect the true costs of motor vehicles, industries and other activities which consume resources and pollute the environment. Substantial reference could be made to the outcomes of UNCED, especially Agenda 21. It should be pointed out that it is wealthy people and countries who are the main offenders in over-consumption of resources and pollution of the environment. The impact of nuclear testing should also be dealt with in this section.

25. Section G on "disasters" should refer also to "man-made" disasters such as oil spills, nuclear tests and waste dumping.

26. Section H on "crime" should deal with the severe problem in our region of violence against women. It should also address the problems of political and bureaucratic corruption, of corporate crime, and of the violence arising from inhumane technology and development modes.

27. Section I on "social security" should urge adoption of active assistance to help disadvantaged people become as self-sufficient as possible rather than mere passive provision of a "safety net" to protect them from the severest forms of hardship. The provision of a basic safety net should not be regarded as an adequate response to, or justification for, the hardship caused by inappropriate development methods and economic policy. The target dates for development of social security systems are too modest.

Part IV: Means of Implementation

28. This Part needs to be tighter and more specific. It should include proposals which regional governments could advocate for adoption at the global Social Development Summit. These should include proposals for strengthening international institutions and agreements, for improving the quantity and quality of international financial assistance for development, and for improving the international economic environment. Many appropriate proposals for these purposes are contained in the attached documents by the International Council on Social Welfare and the International Council of Voluntary Agencies. We also urge close consideration of the proposals in the Human Development Report 1994.

29. Section A on "mobilization of enablers" should be re-titled. The role of Nos is broader than that of "enabling". The section should especially recognize and support the role of Nos in advocacy and empowerment, and should emphasize the importance of maintaining the independence of Nos. Specific proposals should be made for the inclusion of NGO representatives on the governing bodies or consultative committees of national and international

agencies in relation to social development and on national delegations to international conferences. The danger that commercial service providers may handle only the "easier" cases should be emphasized.

30. Section B on "planning and target-setting" should incorporate the suggestions for national strategies, reports and NGO monitoring that are in the attached ICSW document.

31. Section C on "information and research" should support further refinement and promotion of the Human Development Index as a key measure of national development and success. It also should recommend the use of "social audits" of public and private sector development proposals and projects.

32. Section D on "human resources development" should emphasize the importance of committing a substantial share of official development assistance for these purposes.

33. Section E on "regional and sub-regional support" should include recommendations for strengthening regional institutions, developing regional or sub-regional charters, and improving the quantity and quality of official development assistance. Appropriate recommendations would be along the lines of the proposals in the attached documents by ICSW and ICVA. Alternatively, these proposals should be the subject of an additional section of Part IV.

34. In relation to the proposal for a regional NGO forum, we are interested in exploring such a possibility provided that the forum is fully independent, is adequately researched, is constituted on a broad and representative basis, and has direct access to governmental meetings at corresponding regional and sub-regional levels. A further response on this proposal will be developed before the Manila Ministerial meeting.

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... August 1994

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference in Preparation
for the World Summit for Social Development
Manila, 12-18 October 1994

DRAFT SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENDA FOR THE ESCAP REGION
INTO THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

(Item 3(c) of the provisional agenda)

Note by the secretariat

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The ESCAP region, comprising 54 countries and areas and accounting for approximately 58 per cent of the world's population, stands poised at the threshold of what promises to be a new century of great progress.

2. That a firm foundation has been forged for further progress into the twenty-first century is evident in a number of trends, among them: substantial and sustained economic growth in many countries of the region; rising public commitment to and active pursuit of an enhanced and equitably shared quality of life; major advances towards broad-based people's participation in governance; a clear determination to resolve intra-regional disputes in a spirit of constructive engagement and mutual respect; and the establishment of effective regional and subregional mechanisms to promote economic and social cooperation.

3. Notwithstanding the economic growth and political reforms recorded in developing countries across Asia and the Pacific in recent years, the region's fundamental social objectives of the eradication of absolute poverty, enhancement of popular participation and realization of distributive justice have yet to be fully achieved. At the same time, various new challenges to the region's sustained social development have emerged.

4. The present Social Development Agenda for the ESCAP Region Into the Twenty-first Century (hereafter referred to as the "Agenda") addresses those critical issues by identifying specific courses of action to be taken by the countries of the region, individually and collectively. With this Agenda, the Governments of Asia and the Pacific reaffirm their commitment to the region's social development objectives by adopting a series of specific, time-bound goals and targets, as well as the means for assessing national and regional progress towards the attainment of those goals and targets.

5. This Agenda arises out of and builds upon the Social

Development Strategy for Asia and the Pacific Towards the Year 2000 (hereafter referred to as the "Social Development Strategy"), adopted by the Fourth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Development, convened at Manila in October 1991. The Social Development Strategy provides an overview of the critical social issues in the ESCAP region and proposes broad national and regional policy guidelines to address those issues. Those guidelines have been applied by a number of countries in the region, with beneficial results.

6. This Agenda has been adopted by ESCAP in anticipation and in support of the global initiatives to be considered at the World Summit for Social Development, to be convened by the United Nations at Copenhagen in March 1995. The Agenda casts the three themes of poverty alleviation, social integration and employment expansion in terms of specific priorities and actions for the ESCAP region. In keeping with the three "core issues" to be addressed by the World Summit for Social Development:

(a) "Poverty alleviation" refers here to both the eradication of absolute poverty and the reduction of relative poverty;

(b) "Social integration" refers here not to the elimination of differences but to the enabling of all social groups to live together in productive and cooperative harmony.

(c) "Employment expansion" refers here to the expansion of opportunities for productive employment leading to the reduction of unemployment and underemployment.

7. The themes of poverty alleviation, social integration and employment expansion carry great relevance for all the countries of Asia and the Pacific, but their significance differs according to each country's development situation and prospects into the twenty-first century. For many developing countries in the