

'95 코펜하겐회의  
홍보자료집

# '95 코펜하겐 사회개발 세계정상회의와 세계 NGO 포럼



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확립 (Building solidarity), 고용창출  
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세계 NGO 포럼  
WSSD 영문자료집

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**사회개발 정상회의  
유엔 홍보자료**





**WORLD  
SUMMIT  
FOR SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT**

Copenhagen  
Denmark  
6-12 March 1995

**Attacking  
Poverty**

**Building  
Solidarity**

**Creating  
Jobs**

## Logo for World Summit

A better life for all the peoples of the world. That is the objective of the United Nations Charter, and the task of leaders at the upcoming World Summit for Social Development, to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, from 6 to 12 March 1995.

The United Nations vision has been distilled into a simple but powerfully evocative logo symbolizing the Social Summit's three goals: attacking poverty, building solidarity, creating jobs.

The new insignia — which depicts three interlinked figures climbing towards the sun — combines an expression of hope with an assertive symbolism: that hand in hand, step by step, nation by nation, people everywhere can realize the Charter's goals of higher standards of

living and full employment. And that they can do so on their feet, on a platform of principles built on respect for human dignity, individual freedom and equality of rights and duties.

The logo, designed by United Nations graphic artists, is to be used in all official references to the Social Summit. It can also be used for information purposes relating to the Summit. Permission to use it for fund-raising or commercial purposes must be obtained from the United Nations.

The second of three Summit preparatory sessions will convene at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 22 August to 2 September 1994. The last session will be held in New York from 16 to 27 January 1995.



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## WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

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Jobs



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## Why a Social Summit?

### To Attack Poverty

More than a billion people live in poverty—without jobs, without basic necessities, without hope. Most are in rural areas of Asia and Africa—although millions more can be found in the cities of the industrialized countries as well as the developing world. How can this condition, which afflicts women in disproportionate ways, be alleviated? How can the poor become productive members of society?

### To Build Solidarity

Social inequalities and polarization are deepening. Can intolerance and racism be ended? How can regions torn by ethnic and national differences bring their people together? A theory and practice of social integration is needed, drawn from lessons learned around the world.

### To Create Jobs

Jobs have become so scarce in most regions of the world that high unemployment may be turning into a permanent feature of the modern economy, swelling the ranks of the poor and undermining social stability. How can nations create new jobs—and ensure that they are not only plentiful, but productive and satisfying for all?

National leaders and delegations intend to grapple with these questions—and draw up a plan of action to address them—when they meet in March 1995 at the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, Denmark.

"This will be the first time in the history of the United Nations, or the League of Nations, in which heads of State and Government will meet in order to deal with social development as a priority issue of the international agenda", said the chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the Summit, Ambassador Juan O. Somavia of Chile.

From the perspective of the United Nations, which is organizing the Summit, the

three interrelated problems of poverty, unemployment and social integration share something besides universal concern: the possibility that they can be solved over time through collective international efforts.

"We need an international conference, a summit, so that leaders of the world, public and private institutions and all citizens of goodwill can agree to mobilize their energy and intelligence for the achievement of common goals and the solution to pressing problems", said United Nations Under-Secretary-General Nitin Desai, whose Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development is the home base of the Summit secretariat.

### Putting People First

In many ways, Mr. Desai and others say, the Copenhagen meeting represents an opportunity to build on the accomplishments of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development—the so-called Earth Summit. At that Conference, in Rio de Janeiro, more than 150 nations agreed that "human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development".

Earth Summit leaders also concluded that preserving the planet for future generations will require nothing less than the eradication of poverty; appropriate population policies; the elimination of wasteful patterns of consumption; a supportive and open international economic system; and the participation of all concerned citizens—especially women, the young, indigenous peoples and local communities.

The ultimate goal of the Social Summit, Ambassador Somavia declared, is to help make "ordinary people throughout the world feel less insecure, less threatened and more dignified".

"The dignity of the human being is a great endeavour", he said. "It is an ideal well worth fighting for; a fundamental value to orient our life; a moral need for contemporary societies."

Coming in the 50th anniversary year of the United Nations, the 1995 Social Summit will

The world faces  
a 'social and  
moral crisis ...  
of immense  
proportions'

— Secretary-General  
Boutros Boutros-Ghali

occupy a central position in a constellation of other United Nations—organized gatherings on global development issues. These include the 1990 World Summit for Children, the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights, the 1994 International Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and the upcoming 1994 International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo; the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, and the 1996 UN Conference on Human Settlements.

### The World Situation

The world has witnessed unprecedented material progress in the last half of the twentieth century. But the benefits of this progress have not been distributed equally. The gulf between the haves and the have-nots has widened dramatically in recent years—between rich and poor nations, and between rich and poor citizens.

The persistence of poverty, exacerbated by increases in world-wide unemployment rates, has raised doubts about the likelihood of continued material progress into the twenty-first century. Combined with the environmental repercussions of unchecked population growth and reckless economic development, a grim picture has taken shape.

"Together with spectacular advances in science and technology in such fields as biology and genetics, the wounds blindly inflicted upon the environment by present systems of production and consumption are causing humankind today to have doubts about its future", said the United Nations Secretary-General, Boutros Boutros-Ghali. "This atmosphere of general uncertainty is compounded by a social and moral crisis which, in many societies, is of immense proportions."

Even in the most prosperous nations, the dimensions of this crisis are unmistakable: in developed countries where 1 of every 10 people of working age cannot find a job that pays a living wage, and where the young no longer see the usefulness of education; when tried-

and-true social values become suddenly obsolete, and when solidarity between individuals and groups is eroded, replaced by individual or political egoism.

In virtually every region of the world, there is rising insecurity brought on by the effects of crime, substance abuse and drug trafficking.

### The Post-Cold War Reality

Although it once seemed a harbinger of peace, the end of the cold war has had a destabilizing effect. Cut adrift from the moorings of bipolar super-Power rivalry, many nations have become caught up in ethnic violence and civil warfare. People seeking better lives in new lands have fallen victim to xenophobically inspired terror.

Developing countries have lost the influence they once wielded as objects of cold war competition—and their leaders contend that they are inadequately represented in decisions on international trade and finance.

Meanwhile, international financial institutions—and a new world trade organization—have assumed larger roles in global affairs. But they have failed to halt economic deterioration in crisis-torn countries, much less distribute equitably the social and financial costs of restoring national economies to health.

"It is evident that with the end of the cold war, a new organizing concept is needed to replace the old order of the struggle against communism on one side and imperialism on the other", Ambassador Somavia said. "Shouldn't the improvement in conditions of life of people and the planet become the new organizing factor of international life?"

### The Trend Towards Globalization

Globalization—the growing linkage of economic and political policies, trends, even modes of behaviour and consumer habits—is transforming the evolution of modern society.

The interdependence of economic and financial decisions, often via multinational corporations, has helped fuel a rapid expansion of



Development must now be seen as part of the task of building a more secure and peaceful world for everyone.

markets. But the benefits are not being apportioned equally, as in the case of developing countries that have not been able to share in globalized foreign investments. New forms of international cooperation must be devised that will make it possible for all to share in the positive aspects of economic globalization.

But the negative aspects of cultural and ethical globalization must also be dealt with. The eagerness of individuals and societies to embrace newly transnational tastes and aspirations—often no more profound than style of dress, food or choice of television programmes—shows how late twentieth century societies can grow by opening their doors to all creations of human intelligence.

But openness can also lead to homogenization, to the loss of traditional values and unique lifestyles—of individuality itself. The loss of intergenerational solidarity, and the bonds that unite communities, can create moral and cultural vacuums—and these vacuums become fertile ground for alienation and delinquent behaviour.

The enhancement of social integration will involve finding ways to reconcile openness and cultural change with pluralism and respect for tradition.

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### Development as a Common Thread

The Summit's core issues of poverty, unemployment and social integration have been identified by the General Assembly as severe problems of modern society, whose solution is crucially important to sustainable human development. And development is central to the goals of the United Nations.

"Increased international cooperation for economic and social development would significantly contribute to the strengthening of international peace and security", the General Assembly declared in December 1992, in a resolution authorizing the Social Summit.

In another time and context, development—whether social, economic, cultural or sustainable—would have been simply termed human progress or human evolution, Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali said. As it is, they are all different facets of a single aim and a single process.

"We must integrate the previously separate concepts of peace and security on the one hand, and social and economic development on the other", the Secretary-General said. "Development must now be seen as part of the task of building a more secure and peaceful world for everyone."



## WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Copenhagen  
 Denmark  
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Attacking Poverty

Building Solidarity

Creating Jobs

## World Employment

### The Situation

**The Global Workforce:** Out of a 1994 global population totaling some 5.3 billion people, 2.8 billion constitute the current global workforce. Of these, more than 120 million are estimated to be unemployed.

**The Widening Income Gap:** The annual per capita income in industrialized countries stands at \$20,000, as compared to only \$500 in the least developed countries of the world.

The top 20 per cent of income earners receive 83 per cent of world income, while the bottom 20 per cent receive only 1.5 per cent.

**Employment Facts:** An estimated 30 per cent of the labour force—over 800 million people—are not productively employed; that is, they are either hunting vainly for jobs or are underemployed, working at tasks that do not allow them to make ends meet. There are 700 million people in the underemployed category. These people constitute the majority of the 1.1 billion "absolute poor" in the world.

♦ **Industrialized nations:** One out of every 10 persons in the 24 major industrialized countries is unemployed.

♦ **Developing countries:** 60 per cent of the overall population in developing countries live in rural areas, depending primarily on agriculture for their livelihood.

Even though export crop prices have declined substantially in recent years, as the dominant sector of the economy, agriculture accounts for the bulk of the labour force and contributes an average 40 per cent of Gross Domestic Product.

♦ **Subsistence workers:** Some 300 million people, most of them women in developing countries, live hand-to-mouth lives in the so-called informal employment sector, without any sort of social security, insurance, disability or retirement benefits.

♦ **International migration:** Mounting fear of unemployment has led a number of major

immigration countries to further restrict the flow of an estimated 30-35 million economically active migrants, 1.3 per cent of the global workforce.

**The Debt Crisis:** External debt in developing countries nearly doubled over the past decade, reaching \$1.4 trillion in 1992, resulting in a development standstill and increasing unemployment.

### The Trends

In most regions of the world, unemployment and underemployment are rising rapidly.

♦ **Industrialized countries:** The average unemployment rate is predicted to reach 8.6 per cent in 1994; Western Europe is expected to reach 12 per cent, while Eastern Europe may reach 15 per cent.

♦ **Africa:** Exacerbated by two decades of economic crises, the urban unemployment rate in sub-Saharan Africa stands at about 20 per cent, with the vulnerable informal sector comprising over 60 per cent of the urban labour force; in rural areas, underemployment affects well over half the labour force.

♦ **North Africa and the Middle East:** Unemployment ranges between 10 and 20 per cent, with youth being hardest hit;

♦ **Latin America:** Despite stringent structural adjustment policies, urban unemployment has once again climbed to 7 per cent, the same level as in 1980.

♦ **East and South East Asia:** 50 per cent of the world's 1.1 billion poor live in South Asia, while another 15 per cent live in East Asia

Source: World Summit for Social Development: An Overview, Report of the Secretary-General (A/CONF.166/PC/6), 4 January 1994.



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**The Situation**

**Basic numbers:** Of the 5.6 billion people who will be on the planet by the end of 1994, more than a billion live in a state of absolute poverty, with income and consumption levels below nationally defined poverty lines.

They are essentially bereft of life's basic necessities, struggling to survive on the equivalent of less than US \$370 a year.

Some 550 million go to bed hungry each night. More than 1.5 billion lack access to clean drinking water and sanitation.

Life expectancy is short, a consequence of such factors as disease, hunger, malnutrition and crime. In Sub-Saharan Africa, people rarely survive beyond the age of 50, on average. In Japan, by comparison, the average is 80.

Education is virtually nonexistent. A billion adults are functionally illiterate, while some 500 million children have nowhere to go to school.

**Who:** The poor are in virtually every country, but the overwhelming majority are in the developing nations.

Women suffer disproportionately; they represent 70 per cent of the poverty-stricken population, followed closely by the elderly.

Infant mortality rates are about 175 per 1,000 live births in Africa and close to 100 in India; in the developed world, East and West, the average is about 15.

**What:** Poverty has been typically measured by the income or expenditure level that can sustain a bare minimum standard of living. But it is also a matter of such factors as nutrition, life expectancy, access to clean water and sanitation, illness, literacy and other aspects of human existence.

In terms of income levels, the World Bank has used an upper poverty line of \$370 a year per capita as the cutoff; anyone below that is classified as poor. The very poor, by this definition, are those whose annual income equivalent falls below \$275.

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**Fact Sheet 2**

**Where:** The greatest concentrations of poor people are in rural areas of Africa and Asia.

Numerically, the largest number of severely impoverished people — about half of the total — live in South Asia, which is home to 30 per cent of the world's population.

But they are most concentrated in Africa, particularly the Sub-Saharan nations. Although Africa has about 16 per cent of all the world's poor, fully half of all Africans are impoverished.

Although urban poverty continues to worsen, the rural poor still represent more than 80 per cent of the total number of poor people in the developing countries. Sixty per cent of the rural population of sub-Saharan Africa live in poverty, along with 31 per cent of the rural population of Asia. In Latin America and the Caribbean, 61 per cent of the rural population is poor, according to national estimates.

But poverty has also begun to swell in the developed countries; in the United States and Western Europe, nearly 15 per cent of the population live below the poverty line.

**The Trends**

Despite overall improvement in living conditions all over the world, poverty and inequality remain and appear to be worsening.

The World Bank has estimated that, if current trends continue, the number of poor people in the developing world alone could explode by 200 million by the end of the century.

This has highlighted the fact that poverty is a consequence not only of the misfortunes and limited capabilities of individuals but also of the structures and processes that determine the distribution of income. These include such elements as distribution of wages and salaries; the impact of various taxes and other public revenue sources at different income levels; land distribution; access to ownership and control of productive resources; and market and price structures.



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**Social Integration**

**Signs of Social Progress**

◆ Average life expectancy in developing countries has increased from 40 years in 1950 to 63 years in 1990;

◆ Fertility rates are falling in every region except Africa and it is estimated that the annual number of births in the developing world will have peaked by the year 2000;

◆ Despite population growth and high infant mortality rates in a few countries, the absolute number of child deaths worldwide is falling;

◆ From 1960 to 1990, education spending in the developing world rose from 2.2 per cent to 3.4 per cent of GNP; female literacy increased in all regions of the world, actually doubling from 18 per cent to 36 per cent in the least developed countries between 1970 and 1990.

◆ Economically, since the Second World War, average real incomes in developing countries have more than doubled; since 1990, the world economy is gradually reviving from recession, as evidenced by a growth rate increase from 1 per cent in 1993 to a projected 2.2 per cent for 1994 and 3 per cent for 1995.

◆ Since 1987, global military spending has declined at a rate of 3.6 per cent a year, resulting in a cumulative theoretical "peace dividend" of \$935 billion between 1987 and 1994.

**Symptoms of  
Social Disintegration**

**Social Exclusion**

◆ It is estimated that fewer than 10 per cent of the world's total population participate fully in the political, economic, social and cultural institutions that shape their lives. The poor, women, the disabled, the elderly, minorities and rural dwellers are most marginalized;

◆ Political power remains centralized, especially in the developing world where, on average, less than 10 per cent of national spending goes to local governments.

◆ In the USA, real benefit spending per old age pensioner declined by 40 per cent between 1987 and 1990 while the unemployment rate for blacks was twice that for whites;

**Discrimination**

◆ Women comprise 66 per cent of the world's illiterates and 70 per cent of the world's poor; Asia alone has 374 million poor rural women, more than the population of western Europe;

◆ An estimated 100,000 women are missing from the global population, most of them from South and East Asia, where female foetuses are often aborted after amniocentesis or ultrasound scanning;

◆ In the non-US corporate world, women hold only 1 per cent of top management positions; one study predicted that it would take 475 years for women to reach equality with men as senior managers;

◆ Indigenous people, 300 million in over 70 countries, often face severe discrimination and violence: for example, in Canada, they are six times as likely to be murdered as other Canadians; in Venezuela, the 10,000 surviving Yanomami may face extinction, victims of economic and environmental exploitation;

◆ Racial discrimination is reflected in the disparity between blacks and whites in South Africa, which in 1993/94 was four times as great as in the United States based on life expectancy, per capita income and the human development measurement scale.

**Violence and Abuse**

◆ The United States leads the world in violence with the highest incidence of murders (over 12 per 100,000), reported rapes (150,000 in 1993) and child death by gunshot wounds (7,000 in 1992); another estimated 3 million American children are chronic victims of abuse and neglect;

◆ Children everywhere are vulnerable victims of violence. In Brazil, home to an estimated 200,000 street children, four youngsters a



day are murdered; the killing of Brazilian minors has increased by 40 per cent in a single year (1993-1994);

- ◆ A total estimated 500,000 child prostitutes work the sex tourism centers of Thailand, Sri Lanka and the Philippines;

- ◆ Violence against women is ubiquitous but often unreported: for example, depending on the source, there are between 5,000 and 9,000 dowry-related deaths per year in India; one-third of all wives in developing countries are allegedly battered while one woman in 2,000 worldwide is reported to have been raped;

**Crime**

- ◆ Illegal activities are increasing. In the US alone, 14 million crimes were reported in 1992, costing the country \$425 billion; American spending on narcotics is thought to exceed the combined incomes (GDPs) of over 80 developing countries.

- ◆ Worldwide, many crimes are drug-related. Each year 225 : 100,000 people in Canada and 400 : 100,000 in Australia suffer from drug-related crimes, which also doubled in Denmark and Norway, while increasing more than thirtyfold in Japan, during the second half of the 1980s;

- ◆ Transnational criminal organizations operating across national borders have an annual turnover estimated at \$1,000 billion per year.

**Migration**

- ◆ One in every 115 people on earth is a migrant or refugee, having been forced to leave home for economic, political or military reasons;

- ◆ Over the past three decades, some 35 million people—almost equal to the entire population of Argentina—have migrated from the South to the North; another million move each year;

- ◆ The number of political refugees and victims of ethnic conflict has grown from 8 million at the end of the 1970s, to a current figure

of some 20 million people who have fled across borders and another 26 million internally displaced persons.

**Conflict**

- ◆ About 40 per cent of the world's countries have a minimum of five ethnic populations while half of all countries have experienced some form of recent inter-ethnic strife;

- ◆ Of 82 conflicts since 1990, 79 were within national borders;

- ◆ During the four months, April-July 1994, 3.5 million people in Rwanda—almost half the total population—were killed or forced to flee their homes due to tribal conflict.

- ◆ At the beginning of the century 90 per cent of war casualties were military; now 90 per cent of casualties are civilian;

- ◆ More than 1.5 million children have been killed in wars in the last decade; five million children live in refugee camps today while some 12 million have lost their homes, families or both;

- ◆ Developed countries spend as much on military power in one year as the poorest 2 billion people earn in total income;

- ◆ In a world spending over \$800 billion a year on military programmes—an amount equal to the income of nearly half the world's people—one billion people lack basic health care; one adult in four is unable to read and write; and one-fifth of the world population goes hungry every day;

Sources: Secretary General's Overview Report on the Social Summit, (A/CONF.166/PC/6); 1993/94 Human Development Reports (UNDP); UNICEF Facts and Figures 1993; UNICEF Progress of Nations 1994; World Survey on the Role of Women in Development 1994; Military and Social Expenditures 1993 (Sivard).



**WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

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**The Job Crisis**

The question of how to reduce unemployment — while simultaneously creating productive, fulfilling jobs — is one of three core issues to be addressed by heads of State or Government when they gather at the World Summit for Social Development, 6-12 March 1995 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

This backgrounder offers an overview of productive employment as a factor in human development. It draws on a report (document A/CONF.166/PC/6) of the United Nations Secretary-General to the first meeting of the Summit Preparatory Committee, held 31 January-11 February 1994 in New York, as well as the report of an Expert Group Meeting hosted by the Government of Sweden from 4-8 October 1993.

**Attacking Poverty**

**Building Solidarity**

**Creating Jobs**

**A World in Crisis**

"The world is suffering from a social and moral crisis", the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, declared in his report to the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development.

Symptomatic of this crisis, this "malaise of the modern world", as Mr. Boutros-Ghali put it, is the growing atmosphere of uncertainty which, he noted, affects virtually all areas of life.

In the realm of work, for example, such a state of crisis may be said to exist "when one out of every 10 people of working age cannot find work paying a decent wage and when the young no longer see the value of the education they are receiving" in terms of jobs and income.

The persistent increase in unemployment and low-productivity employment constitutes a major threat to social development the world over. It is a primary cause of poverty.

The lack of productive and fulfilling work also contributes to social disintegration, conflict and migration.

**Social Darwinism?**

It was once assumed that the globalization of economies and cultures would benefit all peoples. However, although real material progress has been achieved during the second half of the twentieth century in terms of annual per capita growth, increased life expectancy and other

economic and social indicators, the benefits of this progress remain unequally distributed.

Spectacular achievements in some industrialized countries stand side by side with increasing poverty and inequality in less developed regions. Instead of equalization, there is polarization as the rich get richer while the poor get poorer. The Secretary-General describes this phenomenon as a kind of "social Darwinism" in which only the "fittest" survive.

Of the world labour force of 2.8 billion people, an estimated 30 per cent — most of them in developing countries — are not productively employed. Of these, more than 120 million want to work, but cannot find jobs.

A far larger number — 700 million — are classified as underemployed: working long hours, but not earning enough to lift themselves and their families out of poverty. These people constitute the majority of the estimated 1.1 billion absolute poor.

In the last decade, the employment situation in most regions of the world — apart from the growth areas of East Asia and parts of South-East Asia — has worsened, both in terms of the number and quality of jobs.

Many developing countries — especially in Africa and parts of Asia and Latin America — are suffering the effects of a virtual standstill in new jobs, combined with vast declines in real wages in the formal job sector. Unemployment levels are on the rise in the industrialized countries, as well as in Eastern Europe and the coun-



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### Youth Unemployment in Selected Industrialized Countries

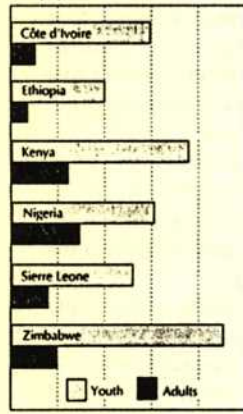
% of youth (15-24) unemployment in 1992.



Source: Human Development Report, 1994, UNDP, p.195.

### Youth and Adult Unemployment Rates in Selected African Countries

Unemployment rates (%) / Data for mid-1980s



Source: World Labour Report '93, ILO, p. 28.

tries of the former Soviet Union. At the same time, many workers, in both industrialized and developing countries, have been forced into precarious, low-security jobs.

In such socially primitive conditions, vulnerable groups suffer. For example, youth unemployment rates are often higher than the national average: in Latin America, they exceed 20 per cent, while some industrialized countries report over 30 per cent youth unemployment (Italy's was recently put at 33 per cent, Spain's at 34 per cent).

Women are doubly vulnerable. Not only do they bear a disproportionate share of the unemployment burden, but even when they find work, they earn a global average of 30-40 per cent less than their male counterparts. For many others as well — the disabled, older, migrant, indigenous and tribal workers and the long-term unemployed — there are simply no jobs to be had.

### Jobless Growth

There was once a time when job supply outstripped demand; when almost any college graduate in an industrialized country could pick and choose a plum position from a number of offers; when unemployment was minimal and real wages grew commensurate with the economy.

Today workers are confronted with a vanishing job market. Even the world's foremost economies are suffering the ill effects of so-called jobless growth — although there are some isolated areas of success in the developing world (India, Pakistan and China, for example).

Africa's plight, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa, is especially dire. There, average unemployment stands at 20 per cent, while wages have fallen steadily in the last decade. Sixty per cent of Africa's rural population — 300 million people — live in absolute poverty, a 50 per cent increase between 1988 and 1990, according to the International Fund for Agricultural Development and other sources.

Viewed from a gender perspective, as unemployment rises like a flood tide, women

all too frequently become the "shock absorbers", marginalized in employment policies that often put profits before people.

Clear proof of the widespread alarm caused by rising unemployment is provided by the fact that, for the first time, the Group of 7 (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States) devoted their March 1994 Summit in March 1994 in Detroit, Michigan, to jobs—and included labour ministers, as well as finance ministers, in talks among the heads of State or Government.

At this so-called "Jobs Summit", statistics were cited indicating that the global unemployment crisis is particularly critical in countries of the European Union, where 1993 output fell by 3.5 per cent as a result of unemployment, underperformance and lack of competitive incentive.

Statistical data covering more than two decades reveal that, while the United States has created 41 million new jobs since 1970, Europe has produced only 8 million.

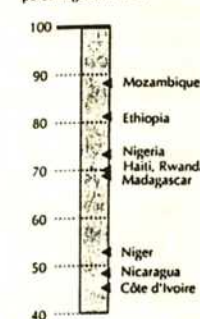
The signs of distress are everywhere, amid recession and accumulated debt. In Spain, the boom times of the 1980's gave way to an unemployment rate that recently reached 24.5 per cent, the highest in Europe. In the United Kingdom, the proportion of the population with incomes less than half the national average doubled between 1961 and 1991, to 11 million people—or 20 per cent of the populace. In Finland, unemployment reached as much as 20 per cent in the early 1990s, compared with levels of about 3 per cent in the years soon after World War II.

There are many theories for the European situation. According to the *Europa Times*, this jobless crisis in Europe may be largely "self-inflicted" — a result of "artificially high wages, lavish fringe benefits and prohibitive payroll taxes" that have devastated the job market.

But Europe is not the only victim. Countries around the world are facing crises of unprecedented proportions: from Afghanistan to Haiti, Myanmar to Mozambique, Zaire to the Sudan, and Iraq to Angola (the aforementioned countries are the topic of special studies in the

### Falling Incomes Threaten Human Security

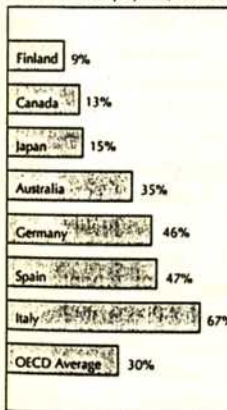
1991 GNP per capita as a percentage of 1980's



Source: Human Development Report, 1994, UNDP, p.26.

### Long-term Unemployment (More than 12 months)

% of total unemployment, 1991-92.



Source: Human Development Report, 1994, UNDP, p.195.

Human Development Report 1994, commissioned by the United Nations Development Programme.)

The reasons behind the phenomenon of jobless growth are multiple. To name just two of the most obvious:

- ◆ Too many people, resulting from a global population explosion that will create a demand for one billion new jobs within the next 10 years;

- ◆ Too few labour-intensive jobs, making technologically sophisticated societies victims of their own success.

### Insecurity and Exclusion

The results are reflected in a pervasive sense of insecurity, exclusion and social disintegration that poses serious problems in contemporary societies. Not only is insecurity — in the traditional military and territorial context — increasing both within and across borders but today there is also a new, more subtle variety that has its roots in economic factors.

For example, the chronically unemployed, the youths who are unable to find work and the migrants — fearful of expulsion, whose rights are exploited — live in a continuous state of anxiety over the uncertainty of their futures. Such conditions are hardly conducive to the kind of social harmony and productive well-being that are vital to social development.

### Joblessness and Crime

The combination of economic crisis and ever-increasing unemployment has contributed to a marked rise in crime, which, as people run out of lawful options, is increasingly being perceived as the only way to survive.

Burgeoning cities, teeming with unemployed economic migrants, are especially fertile breeding grounds for crime. The problem is compounded by economic upheaval, crumbling infrastructures, unplanned urbanization, and rapid social change.

Recession-battered Europe, with its newly opened frontiers, is especially vulnerable to both joblessness and crime. Money laundering, drug trafficking and gun trading threaten such cosmopolitan capitals as London, Berlin and

Brussels, and Europol has predicted that the rising crime wave will not be stemmed without an improvement in Europe's economic climate.

### Global Nervous Breakdown?

While some symptoms, such as crimes, are external, others are internal, invisible, lodged in the psyches of individuals who can no longer rely on their jobs to define their worth or their place in society. As the contagion of jobless growth spreads, it brings with it a sense of isolation, social exclusion and uncertainty.

All these symptoms of dysfunctional societies are interactive and have produced, in the words of a non-governmental organization delegate to the first meeting of the Summit Preparatory Committee in 1994, a world experiencing a "global nervous breakdown".

Against this backdrop of mounting tensions, there is no question of the need for Governments to address the issue of employment at the Social Summit. The cost of political inaction, many experts believe, is likely to be exceedingly high.

### The Right to Work

"Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment."

— Article 23

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights dates back to 1948. Yet some of its concepts remain revolutionary even today. Although most people in civilized society readily embrace the "right to life, liberty and security of person" (Article 3) as self-evident, the "right to work" may appear almost a contradiction in terms. The word "work" frequently conjures up an image of drudgery, deprivation, even servitude. How, then, should it be construed as a right?

Work transforms itself into a right and privilege the moment it is linked to rewards that are life-sustaining and enhancing; to conditions that ensure, in the words of the Declaration, "an existence worthy of human dignity..."; to "a standard of living adequate for health and well-



**"Social development cannot be pursued in a society that is stagnant or prone to high inflation."**

— Secretary-General  
Boutros Boutros-Ghali

being..., including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services...".

### Social Summit Goals

Transforming noble rhetoric into nuts-and-bolts reality is the primary objective of the Social Summit, whose three core issues are:

- ◆ Reduction and elimination of widespread poverty;
- ◆ Productive employment and the reduction of unemployment; and
- ◆ Social integration.

As Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali noted, all three issues are closely interwoven within a tapestry of values, especially social justice and democracy, the common thread being "their crucial importance for the development of individuals and societies".

We are beginning to realize that territorial security does not guarantee human security. Nor are GNP and economic growth sufficient. Nor is environmental sustainability an end in itself.

Rather, people — all citizens of all countries — need to be placed at the centre of development strategies, with their welfare paramount over more narrowly focused economic objectives.

This commitment at the local, national, regional and international levels embraces even the outermost periphery — the socially marginalized and disadvantaged groups in the least developed countries who are perhaps most of all in need of legal protection, effective social welfare, education, training and meaningful livelihoods.

General Assembly resolution 47/92 of 16 December 1992, which mandated the convening of a World Summit for Social Development, identifies eleven major objectives aimed at fulfilling Article 55 of the Charter, which calls for the promotion of "higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development."

"Creating the Charter" is what the Social Summit is all about: that is, creating real-life conditions for sustainable human development and following through on commitments to bring it about. There is a prerequisite to the

attainment of this goal, however: a nurturing economic environment.

### An Enabling Environment

"Social development cannot be pursued in a society that is stagnant or prone to high inflation and instability", according to the Secretary-General's report. "With the growing interdependence between countries, the international economic environment must be such as to promote employment and poverty reduction."

Rather than viewing the jobless purely from the welfare standpoint, there is a need for economic policies that can generate gainful employment. Donor countries and financial institutions must re-examine the social costs of structural adjustment and find ways to support longer-term, labour-intensive projects.

As countries become ever more economically interdependent, the expansion of productive employment must be designed in a new context of globalization, with domestic efforts directed at promoting greater market access for labour-intensive products.

### Productive Employment

While there is no set recipe for creating a culture in which "dynamism, tolerance and compassion co-exist in harmony", it is clear that "full and productive employment is the most effective method to combat poverty".

This was one of the conclusions reached by experts from Bangladesh, Ethiopia, France, Nigeria, Poland and Peru, who met with representatives from the International Labour Organisation and the World Bank in Saltsjobaden, Sweden, from 4 to 8 October 1993 to examine the issue of employment in preparation for the World Summit for Social Development.

These experts concluded that societies have both the knowledge and the means to overcome the unemployment crisis, using "a cooperative strategy based on national responsibility, buttressed by international solidarity".

"This could best be achieved", they said in their report, "in an international environment of free flow of private investment, free trade, reversal on the part of industrial countries of the



East and South-East Asia's surplus of jobs contrasts with high levels of unemployment in the rest of the world.

Source: Human Development Report 1993. UNDP, p. 37.

recent trend toward protection directed against developing countries, and a new regime of international aid where the developing countries contribute according to their ability, and aid is distributed on the criteria of need and effective use."

But all of this, the experts warned, will require "a degree of international cooperation which has been rare in recent history".

The Secretary-General's report targets three fundamental policy concerns for national and international action:

- ◆ Enabling higher rates of economic growth;
- ◆ Ensuring that growth creates jobs; and
- ◆ Achieving balance between the quantity and quality of jobs.

Both the Expert Group Meeting on the Expansion of Productive Employment and the Secretary-General's report suggest certain approaches, including the following:

◆ **Creating Opportunities:** There is consensus that tomorrow's employment opportunities will be generated primarily by small to medium-sized individual, private and cooperative enterprises that should enjoy opportunities and incentives in an atmosphere of governmental support so that they may grow freely in a competitive market.

◆ **Encouraging Investments:** Businesses, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, must be encouraged by simplifying regulations and procedures and by facilitating access to credit, markets, training, etc. There must also be increased support for micro-enterprises in the heretofore largely ignored informal sector — the sole source of sustenance for an estimated 300 million people worldwide.

◆ **Enabling Growth:** Concrete governmental contributions to enable growth should include an appropriate legal framework, a sound fiscal policy, a clear investment code and supportive investment environment, nondiscriminatory labour legislation and the necessary infrastructure. Such supportive environments are particularly needed in developing countries, where the vast majority of workers find themselves in precarious, marginally productive jobs.

◆ **Ensuring that Growth Creates Jobs:** Employment is the result of an intricate interaction between supply and demand that is increasingly interlinked across political borders. Although there is no miracle cure for jobless growth, government taxation and spending can, under certain circumstances, promote job creation and stimulate growth in employment.

◆ **Adapting Outward:** There should be an export-oriented industrialization strategy to catalyze job growth in newly industrializing countries. The experience of East Asia confirms the value of substantial investment in an educated work force, export diversification and continual adaptation to the changing global marketplace. Governments have frequently made active contributions to the economic transformations of such countries.

◆ **Supporting the Service Sector:** Just as labour moved from agriculture to industry, the hallmark of post-industrial societies has been the emergence of a dynamic service sector. Although technological changes may have a labour-displacing and/or wage-lowering effect, other factors support the growth of service sector jobs: a) generation of additional jobs through environmental protection measures, health care and personal services for the aging and expansion of the travel and leisure market; b) rising productivity/remuneration in many service sector jobs; and c) rehiring/new jobs spurred by the end of the recession.

◆ **Improving Labour Markets:** Well-being for workers means both employment and income security. On the job side, active labour-market policies should include self-employment and small-enterprise support programmes; public works projects and job-creating community development activities. On the income side, Governments and the private sector should support job training and re-training, geographic labour mobility assistance, incentive assistance and support services, (e.g., child-care facilities, housing and transportation).

◆ **Investing in Education:** There is undeniable evidence that investment in education pays off. So does investment in vocational and apprenticeship training, as well as enterprise-



based training, which helps develop new skills and allows employees and businesses to adjust rapidly to changing technological requirements.

♦ **Protecting Vulnerable Groups:** As previously mentioned, particularly vulnerable groups in all societies include youth; women; the disabled, older, migrant, indigenous and tribal workers; and the long-term unemployed. All of these marginalized and disadvantaged groups need protection and affirmative action measures to assist them in finding gainful employment.

♦ **Quality Job Balance:** "Productive and freely chosen employment constitutes the key link between job creation and poverty alleviation", the Secretary-General's Report states. At the same time, a healthy, well-motivated and educated work force is essential for economic growth.

♦ **Protecting Workers' Rights:** Workers' rights must be protected in word and deed. Since its founding in 1919, the International Labour Organisation has made significant contributions to this end, from raising awareness and gathering data to formulating landmark international conventions such as those requiring ratifying States to implement national policies governing occupational safety and health and the fitness of the working environment.

### The Ultimate Challenge: Growth with Justice

Few would question the assertion that economic growth is a reliable indicator of a society's overall well-being. What is becoming apparent is that economic growth alone is not enough: it must be combined with social justice, equitable sharing and the inclusion of all the diverse elements that constitute any given society.

In developing this new work ethic, the ultimate challenge will be to create economically sustaining and psychologically fulfilling work which, at the same time, values each individual. These are vital to socially sustainable development and human progress.

As the Secretary-General noted after the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee, the Summit itself cannot "solve the problems of poverty, unemployment and social disintegration, but it should be capable of generating the political momentum and clarity of vision to intensify national action and international cooperation through a renewed commitment to better the life of people in all societies."

The Summit's objectives reflect an evolution of premises expressed in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, which resulted from the ground breaking 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The Social Summit takes the next logical step towards the Declaration's goal of placing "human beings... at the centre of concerns for sustainable development" and by addressing Rio-generated issues, such as "unsustainable patterns of production and consumption."

### Creative Coalitions

Dealing effectively with the complicated phenomenon of jobless growth will require mutually reinforcing policies, including:

**Growth:** promotion of sustainably high growth;

**Stability:** achievement of macroeconomic stability with high and equitably distributed levels of employment;

**Efficiency:** policies that encourage efficient labour-market functioning;

**Incentives:** fairly allocated incentives to support productivity;

**Solidarity:** enhancing economic policies through human development.

Keeping in mind the implications of economic globalization on the quantity, quality and distribution of jobs, a balance between labour-market flexibility and employment security needs to be created by workers and employers together in a partnership that is beneficial to both the private and the social good.



## WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Copenhagen  
Denmark  
6-12 March 1995

### Attacking Poverty

### Building Solidarity

### Creating Jobs



UNITED NATIONS

## Attacking Poverty

*The reduction and elimination of poverty—a goal implicit in the 1945 Charter of the United Nations—is one of three core issues to be addressed by heads of State or Government when they gather at the World Summit for Social Development, 6-12 March 1995 in Copenhagen, Denmark.*

*This backgrounder offers an overview of the problem, and examines the range of approaches being considered in advance of the Social Summit. It draws on a variety of sources, especially a report of the United Nations Secretary-General to the first meeting of the Summit Preparatory Committee held 31 January-11 February 1994 in New York.*

### A Challenge for Development

The half-century since the founding of the United Nations has been a time of exhilaration in the world—and deepening despair for hundreds of millions.

Amid unprecedented material progress, human misery has reached almost unimaginable proportions.

Poverty, in tandem with prosperity, has become globalized.

"Absolute poverty, hunger, disease and illiteracy are the lot of one fifth of the world's population", the United Nations Secretary-General, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, has said. "There can be no more urgent task for development than to attack both the causes and the symptoms of these ills."

### The Basic Symptoms

The key facts about poverty are these:

♦ Poverty affects individuals and families in every part of the world, although most of the very poorest people—a total of 1.1 billion—live in the developing world, where they represent one third of the population.

♦ Poverty has increased in recent years, in both relative and absolute terms, in Africa, Latin America and the industrialized countries, while decreasing in Asia.

♦ Its impact is heaviest on women, followed by the elderly and children.

### The World Social Summit

"The struggle against poverty has been part and parcel of the intellectual and political evolution

of the notion of social progress in world culture since the end of the eighteenth century", the Secretary-General has noted.

That long and honourable tradition will be advanced at the 1995 World Summit for Social Development, which was authorized in December 1992 by the United Nations General Assembly.

The Copenhagen Summit, one in a constellation of United Nations-sponsored conferences on development, will seek international and country-specific commitments to alleviate and ultimately eradicate global poverty.

Governments will examine the issue in the context of two other interrelated core issues: unemployment and social disintegration. Solutions to all three are vital prerequisites to social development.

"The expansion of productive employment is central to the alleviation and reduction of poverty and the enhancement of social integration", the Secretary-General said in his report.

### The Nature of the Problem

The 1.1 billion absolute poor live in conditions that Robert S. McNamara, president of the World Bank from 1968 to 1981, described in 1978 as "so limited by malnutrition, illiteracy, disease, squalid surroundings, high infant mortality, and low life expectancy as to be beneath any reasonable definition of human decency".

Among all poor people, 1.5 billion have no sources of clean drinking water or access to sanitation. Most go to bed hungry.

They are particularly vulnerable to natural disasters such as drought, floods and storms,



## More than 70 per cent of the world's poor are women

having little or no margin for survival when their housing, possessions and means of production are destroyed.

Out of the world labour force of 2.8 billion, there are 120 million people who are actively looking for work, but without result.

The vast majority of the absolute poor—700 million people—are classified as under-employed, working long hours, often at back-breaking jobs that don't come close to covering their most basic needs. A startlingly disproportionate number of these people are women.

The largest number of poor people—about half of the total—eke out existences in the countries of South Asia.

One quarter live in East Asia.

Eighty per cent of the world's poor live in rural areas, with the great majority in Asia and Africa. But the rural poor are mostly landless, or have farms that are too small to yield an adequate income.

Extreme poverty is most concentrated in Africa, particularly in the band of countries south of the Sahara Desert. Africa has about 16 per cent of the world's total—but fully half of all Africans are impoverished.

### Poverty Amid Plenty

Poverty is also making significant inroads in the recession-battered rich countries.

In both the United States and the 12 countries of the European Union, nearly 15 per cent of the population live below the poverty line.

Over the last decade, the number of jobs in the industrialized countries has decreased at a rate only half that of GDP growth.

This phenomenon—dubbed “jobless growth”—combined with budget-dictated cuts in welfare and unemployment benefits, has swelled the ranks of the unemployed and weakened social safety nets, especially for the most vulnerable people: women, the young, the old, the disabled.

The effects are dramatized in the numbers and faces of the urban homeless.

“Nearly a quarter of a million New Yorkers—more than 3 per cent of the city's population and more than 8 per cent of its black children—have stayed in shelters over the past five years”, according to *Human Development Report 1994*, an annual study commissioned by the United Nations Development Programme. “London has about 400,000 registered homeless people. France has more than 500,000—nearly 10,000 in Paris.”

But the situation is worse still in the developing countries, the *Report* says. “In Calcutta, Dhaka and Mexico City, more than 25 per cent of the people constitute what is sometimes called a floating population”.

### Poverty and Gender

Impoverished women suffer disproportionately from social and cultural problems and from underdevelopment. An increasing number, in both developed and developing countries, are falling into crushing cycles of poverty.

More than 70 per cent of the world's poor are women, followed closely by the elderly.

“They are also the ones who, in the midst of destitution, poverty and disintegrating social structures, sacrifice their comfort and sometimes their lives to hold their families together”, the Secretary-General has said.

The so-called feminization of poverty grows out of a stark demographic reality: since women control fewer resources, enjoy a considerably smaller share of the world's wealth and earn lower incomes, they are poorer than men.

In fact, men generally fare better than women on almost every socio-economic indicator except life expectancy.

*Human Development Report 1994* found that, in industrial countries, gender discrimination is generally reflected in employment and wages, with women often getting less than two thirds of the employment opportunities and about half the earnings of men.

“In developing countries”, the *Report* notes, “the discrimination is more broadly based. It occurs not only in employment but also in education, nutritional support and health care.”

Children also suffer more. They are exploited for their labour at a young age, and hurt nutritionally, educationally and in susceptibility to disease.

“Child labor and the impoverishment of children are not uniquely urban phenomena”, the Secretary-General has said. “Some of the worst manifestations are to be found in rural areas, but with increased crowding into shanty towns and urban slums, as well as the growing plight of street children in many large cities, the effects of poverty on children are becoming more well known.”

“Children in slum neighbourhoods are often the most exposed to hazards of urban poverty”, he added, “and the morbidity and mortality rates are three to four times higher than the average for their age group”.

### Good News and Bad

The indicators used to assess the severity of poverty vary, and there is disagreement about whether poverty is increasing or decreasing on a global scale, as opposed to just regionally.

But there is consensus among experts that there has been a significant reduction in the proportion of poor people in the world in recent decades.

“The last two and a half decades have seen remarkable progress in the developing world”, said Lewis T. Preston, President of the World Bank. “The per capita incomes of the poorest countries have doubled. Life expectancy has risen by 10 years. Infant mortality rates have almost been halved. And with increased immunization rates, child death rates have decreased.”

While nearly 70 per cent of humanity were living in abysmal conditions in 1960, only 32 per cent were in that state in 1992, according to *Human Development Report 1994*.

“The share of the world population enjoying fairly satisfactory human development levels (above an HDI of 0.6) increased from 25 per cent in 1960 to 60 per cent in 1992”, the *Report* said.

Moreover, both the numbers and the proportion of poor people have decreased in many countries in East and South-East Asia.

The downside of these statistics is that the improvement has slowed, and the absolute number of poor people has actually increased, particularly in Africa, where economic growth since 1980 has fallen considerably behind population growth.

The World Bank has estimated that, if economic growth remains low and recent trends in poverty continue, there could be 200 million more poor people in the developing world by the year 2000.

There has also been a substantial increase in poverty levels in Eastern Europe. But experts say it is not yet clear whether this is a temporary phase *en route* to renewed economic and social development or a longer-term trend.

“Taken as a whole, the available data suggest that the gap between the 20 per cent of the world population at the bottom of the income ladder and the 20 per cent at the top of that ladder is widening”, Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali has noted.

“It increased from 1 to 20 in 1960 to 1 to 60 in 1990. In other words, the top 20 per cent received 83 per cent of the world's income, while the bottom 20 per cent received only 1.5 per cent.”

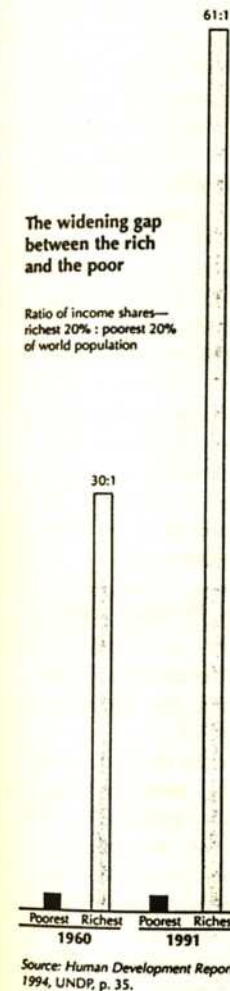
### Poverty and Population

There are many reasons for the international community's failure to stem the tide of world poverty.

Rapid population growth is one.

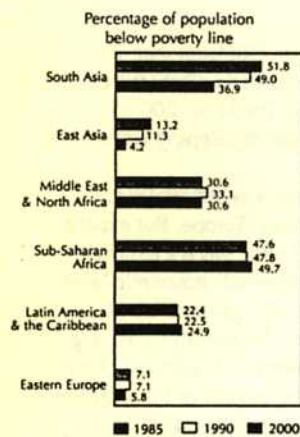
Worldwide, the human population—5.6 billion by the end of 1994—is growing by 90 million a year. Although the rate of growth has slowed, plausible estimates are that there will be 6.2 billion people by the year 2000 and between 7.8 and 12.5 billion by the year 2050.

In the developing countries, the annual rate of population growth—currently 1.94 per cent—is “making it extremely difficult to raise living standards and reduce poverty”, Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali has noted.





Poverty in developing countries (1985-2000)



Source: The UNESCO Courier No. 143, p. 79.

There is growing fear that the combined effects of poverty, population growth, social and economic inequality and wasteful consumption patterns pose a serious threat to the basic resources that future generations will need for their survival and well-being.

The intensity and rapidity of population growth in the cities—where the poor, many fleeing rural privation, congregate in sprawling, disease-ridden slums—has thrown old assumptions about consumption and development into doubt.

Already, an average of 51 per cent of the world's people live in cities—77 per cent in the industrialized North, and 72 per cent in Latin America.

"Towns and large cities—the sources of economic activity, innovation, freedom and culture—are suffering today from problems of overcrowding, inadequate public services and insecurity", the Secretary-General has observed.

On its face, the situation seems grim, especially looked at in terms of simple logic.

"Of the 90 million new people on earth this year", the philosopher Holmes Rolston 3rd said, "85 million will appear in the countries least able to support them."

"Even if there were an equitable distribution of wealth", Professor Rolston argues, "it would be illogical to assume the human population could continue escalating without people becoming poorer as a result. The pie would continually need to be divided into smaller pieces as the population grew."

Other experts argue that it is too early to make assumptions.

"We do not know what the next generation's consumption preferences will be", caution the authors of *Human Development Report 1994*. "Nor can we anticipate future increases in population that may require more capital to sustain the same opportunities per head. It is also difficult to predict the technological breakthroughs that may reduce the capital that would be required to achieve the same level of well-being."

### The Lost Decade

Besides population, another factor in the persistence of extreme poverty has been the failure of many Governments to reform their economic and political systems.

Also, foreign aid donations have stagnated since the mid-80s. And \$1.2 trillion worth of foreign debt has accumulated, sapping financial earnings and undermining the creditworthiness of low-income countries. The \$950 billion spent on the military in 1990 alone was the biggest single drain on resources, according to a report by the Worldwatch Institute.

Many authorities trace the resurgence of regionalized poverty, particularly in Africa, to the stagnation that began in the world economy during the oil crisis of the 1970s and continued into the 1980s—the so-called "lost decade" of development.

"In the course of that decade, the favorable trends in human development in the preindustrial world have slowed, leveled, and even reversed", said Gerard Piel, an authority on population trends. "The prospects of the most deprived people there have darkened."

### Political and Social Perils

The precise reasons for the vast disparities between rich and poor are the source of much debate. These disagreements, the Secretary-General suggests, miss the point.

"While issues relating to the distribution of income and of basic services elicit reactions, views and theories which vary greatly according to time and place", Mr. Boutros-Ghali notes, poverty is nonetheless "universally recognized as morally repugnant, economically destructive and politically dangerous."

The danger is inherent in the perception that to be impoverished is not simply to be without the basic necessities of life. It implies exclusion from the goods, services, rights and activities that constitute the basis of citizenship.

"If poverty persists or increases and there is neglect of the human condition, political and social strains will endanger stability over time",

## The eradication of poverty is a priority development objective for the 1990s

— United Nations General Assembly

the Secretary-General has warned. "The reduction of poverty requires development in which access to the benefits of economic progress is as widely available as possible, and not concentrated excessively in certain localities, sectors or groups of the population."

Historians reexamining certain periods have found striking parallels in the past. The situation in eighteenth-century France is a classic example of the explosive power of extreme poverty and population pressure, according to the historian Paul Kennedy:

"Although the French Revolution had specific causes—for example, worsening state finances during the 1780's—many felt that there were deeper reasons for these social upheavals", he notes in his study *Preparing for the Twenty-First Century*.

"One such was obvious to anyone who visited Europe's crowded cities or noted the growing incidence of rural unemployment: it was the sheer press of human beings, all needing food, clothing, shelter, and work in societies not well equipped to meet those demands, at least on such a scale".

### Poverty and the Environment

There is wide agreement that the industrialized nations are responsible for most of the world's pollution.

But the poor, struggling for survival on a day-to-day basis, often lack the resources to avoid degrading the environment.

"Most of the rural poor in the world live in areas of low agricultural productivity and have little alternative to unsustainable practices that will make it even more difficult for their children to escape from poverty", Mr. Boutros-Ghali notes.

At the same time, most of the world's poorest countries depend for increasing export earnings on tropical agricultural products that are vulnerable to fluctuating or declining terms of trade. Expansion can occur only at the price of environmental damage.

The connection between poverty and destruction of the natural environment was

officially acknowledged more than two decades ago, at the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, Sweden, a watershed moment in world-wide awareness of environment and development issues.

Twenty years later, the link between poverty and sustainable development became the basis for a sweeping series of affirmations.

The 178 Member States represented at history's largest diplomatic gathering, the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, called for an end to poverty, and recommended that all nations move to attack the problem in country-specific ways.

"All States and all people", says the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, "shall cooperate in the essential task of eradicating poverty as an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in order to decrease the disparities in standards of living and better meet the needs of the majority of the people of the world."

In "Combating Poverty", one of 40 chapters in Agenda 21, the UNCED blueprint for development into the twenty-first century, the Governments set out a series of recommendations to "enable the poor to achieve sustainable livelihoods".

The document notes that because poverty is "a complex multidimensional problem with origins in both the national and international domains", "no uniform solution can be found for global application".

Instead, it says, what is needed are "country-specific programmes to tackle poverty and international efforts supporting national efforts, as well as the parallel process of creating a supportive international environment".

### The Role of the UN

The 1995 World Social Summit is part of a multifaceted drive against poverty by the United Nations and its agencies. These include the World Bank, United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development



Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, among many other organizations.

The World Bank, which has made the reduction of poverty and the improvement of living standards its overall objective, has charted a two-pronged strategy against poverty. The strategy was first detailed in the Bank's 1990 *World Development Report*.

One element involves expanding employment and income-earning opportunities among the poor, and is thus necessarily concerned with the nature and rate of economic growth.

The second aspect of the Bank's strategy is to enhance the ability of poor people to respond to the opportunities presented. It is thus involved with improving access to such aspects of social infrastructure as health services and education.

The General Assembly has called the eradication of poverty — particularly in the least

developed countries, Sub-Saharan Africa and other countries that have areas of concentrated poverty — "one of the priority development objectives for the 1990s".

In its call—a resolution of 31 March 1994—it invited all countries to begin implementing domestic policies to help create jobs and assure food security, health, education, housing and population programmes for all citizens, especially the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.

The chairman of the Preparatory Conference of the World Summit for Social Development, Ambassador Juan Somavia of Chile, has said that he hopes the meeting will result in a commitment from every nation to eliminate poverty.

"A political decision to eliminate — and yes, I mean eliminate—extreme poverty within a time frame distinctly specified by each nation would be a true achievement in which we could take legitimate pride", he said.



**WORLD  
SUMMIT  
FOR SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT**

Copenhagen  
Denmark  
6-12 March 1995

**Attacking  
Poverty**

**Building  
Solidarity**

**Creating  
Jobs**

## Towards a Society for All

*How to strengthen social integration—ensuring that a society reflects and is responsive to the needs of all its citizens—is one of three core issues to be addressed by national leaders at the World Summit for Social Development, 6-12 March 1995 in Copenhagen, Denmark.*

*This backgrounder offers an overview of the issue. It draws on the January 1994 Report of the United Nations Secretary-General, the recommendations of an Expert Group Meeting held 27 September-1 October 1993, and other relevant studies.*

The sense of deepening social inequalities worldwide, fragmenting societies, and polarizing population and income groups is more than just "perception", according to United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. He reports that "the previously attained level of social security, and thus inclusion in society, is increasingly under threat".

The *Human Development Report 1994*, an annual study commissioned by the United Nations Development Programme, cites ten indicators which reflect a "weakening social fabric": homicides, rapes, divorces, births outside marriage, single parent homes, drug crimes, suicides, requests for asylum, numbers of prisoners and the percentage of juveniles in the prison population. These figures are increasing, especially in economically developed countries and countries in transition.

The irony is that evidence of social development and social deterioration often appear juxtaposed within the same societies. For example, the United States, ranking eighth highest on the Human Development Index, is simultaneously the aggregate leader in indicators of a weakening social fabric.

### What is social integration?

What is a socially integrated society? The Secretary-General defines it as one that is "able to accommodate different and divergent individual and group aspirations within a flexible framework of shared basic values and common interests."

Seen in the context of sustainable human development, social integration is a synonym for greater justice, equality, material well-being

and democratic freedom that implies equal opportunities and rights for all.

Within society, it manifests itself as solidarity, interdependence, respect for cultural diversity, tolerance for non-mainstream life styles and the courage to replace dysfunctional systems (eg, slavery, apartheid) with more equitable ones.

In the words of the Secretary-General, the goal of constructive social integration is a "society for all" in which citizens feel that the state is responsive to their needs; one that promotes "development consistent with justice for the individual, harmony among groups and social cohesion."

It is clear that this goal cannot be achieved without successfully addressing the Summit's other two core issues of poverty and productive employment. In fact, the common thread that links all three issues is their "crucial importance for the development of individuals and societies," according to the Secretary-General.

Because most of the world's abjectly poor people live in the developing world, where they account for a third of the population, poverty is a major threat to social integration in these regions.

At the same time, poverty is increasing in industrialized countries—for example, nearly 15 per cent of the population of the twelve European Union countries live below national poverty lines.

Social integration is also threatened by the rising tide of unemployment and "jobless growth" which, if it persists, inevitably produces poverty. This downward spiral of social disintegration is characterized by marginalization of large portions of a society's population through

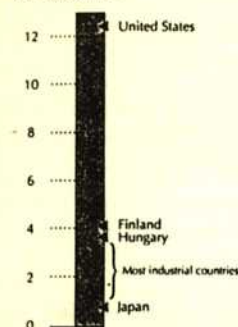


UNITED NATIONS



### Profile of human distress in industrial countries

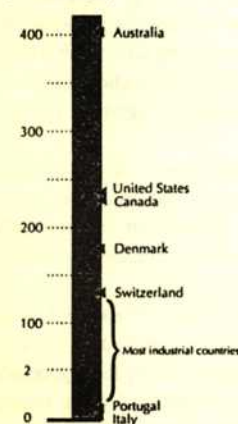
**Murder**  
International homicides by males per 100,000 males



**Reported rapes**  
per 100,000 women aged 15-59



**Drug crimes**  
per 100,000 people



Source: Human Development Report 1994, UNDP, p. 30.

exclusion and neglect, homelessness, and high crime and mortality rates.

### Symptoms of Disintegration

Rapid, far-reaching change is a hallmark of contemporary society. In the realms of economics, technology, culture and social values, change is ironically one of the few "permanent" features of the world. Yet, although change has brought a multitude of improvements, one of its most adverse repercussions has been its tendency to marginalize, discriminate and exclude groups and even entire nations.

Who are the marginalized and excluded?

They include:

- ◆ illiterate migrants moving from rural poverty to urban slums, their search for a better life often unattainable;
- ◆ unemployed teenagers hanging out on street corners, "looking for trouble" because they can't find worthwhile work;
- ◆ orphaned children, victims of ethnic conflict, subsisting in the nether world of refugee camps;
- ◆ elderly widows, struggling with too little money to make ends meet.

### Exclusion

As with poverty, exclusion anywhere poses a threat everywhere, particularly when sheer numbers of these marginalized minorities attain critical mass. And their numbers are increasing.

Consider the elderly, one of the most vulnerable population groups: by the year 2025, the world's elderly population (people aged 60 or more) will number 1.2 billion, 14 per cent of the projected total global population. That means that this portion of the world population will have grown approximately by a factor of six, double the growth rate of the overall population.

Exclusion and discrimination are not only economics-driven. They are often based on racial, ethnic or tribal differences and may also be gender-based. Harvard economist Amartya Sen estimated that some 100,000,000 women are missing from the global population figures, most of them from South and East Asia, where female fetuses are routinely aborted after amniocentesis or ultrasound scanning.

Statistics from 43 developing countries reveal that mortality rates for female children between a few months and four years old

exceed those of boys in the same age groups. Even if they survive early childhood, discrimination against girls continues, fueling further societal marginalization.

Take education: of the 100 million children worldwide between the ages of 6-11 who do not attend school, 70 per cent are girls. Some 660 million people—two thirds of the world's illiterates—are women. And, although they are making progress, women as a group are still subject to varying degrees of discrimination in virtually every country of the world.

### Ethnic conflict

All too often, institutionalized discrimination results in ethnic or racial violence and armed conflict, as societies disintegrate under the weight of their own prejudice. As the *Human Development Report 1994* revealed, of the 82 conflicts since 1990, 79 were within national borders.

Played out in both political and military arenas, these conflicts characteristically take a high toll of civilian casualties. Fully 90 per cent of war casualties since 1990 have been civilian as opposed to only 10 per cent at the beginning of the twentieth century. Those who survive often become refugees.

As case in point, the prolonged warfare in the former Yugoslavia has generated the largest refugee exodus in Europe since the Second World War. Another example is Tajikistan (in the former Soviet Union) where war has taken the lives of more than 20,000 citizens and made refugees of over half a million people, the equivalent of 10 per cent of the country's total population.

Yet another example is Africa, which accounts for one third of the world's refugee population. Since April 1994, an estimated 3.5 million, or almost half the entire pre-war population of Rwanda, were either killed or forced to flee their homes due to ethnic conflict. Many who survived the slaughter fell victim to cholera and other diseases sweeping the refugee camps.

### Migration

Whether because they are seeking a better life or because they are forced to flee from hostile political conditions or natural disasters, more people today are living outside their home villages, countries or regions than ever before. Although many migrants and refugees expect to

remain only temporarily in their host communities, increasingly, they are there to stay.

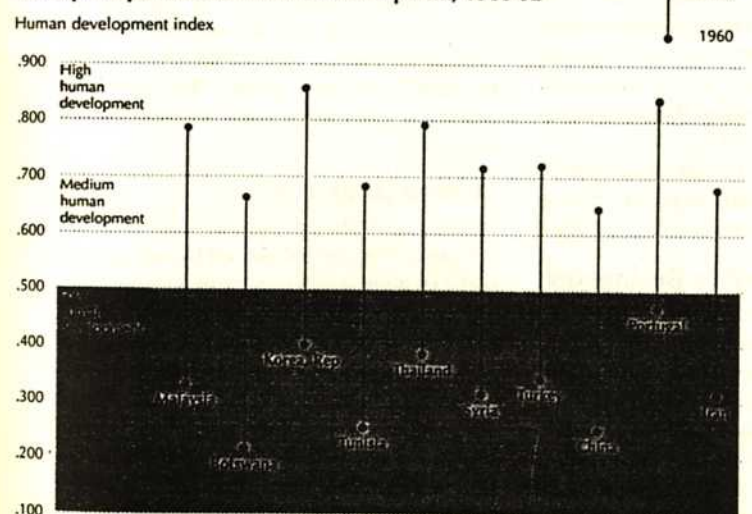
In search of work or higher wages, economic migrants often move to urban areas, leaving their families behind. Although the majority are men, in recent years economic migration rates for women have almost caught up, especially in southern and southeast Asia where more than 70 per cent of women migrants are under 25 years old.

Economic migration may bring privation, even physical danger, as well as a cultural backlash when groups who often share neither a common language nor a common religion or culture are thrown together, straining existing social services as well as human tolerance.

Most problematic is migration that involves political refugees. The current human tidal wave of some 20 million refugees who have fled across borders, along with another 26 million internally displaced persons, is swelled by armed conflicts, political instability, violations of human rights and persecution.

Many societies are becoming increasingly multi-cultural as a result of migration. This fact is potentially positive, with the possibility of greatly enriching the receiving societies, but it may equally lead to greater misunderstanding, confrontation and anxiety.

### The top ten performers in human development, 1960-92



These ten countries have made the most progress in human development over the last three decades.

Source: Human Development Report 1994, UNDP, p.96

### Crime

Many societies are threatened by rapid increases in crime, which seem to be outpaced only by skyrocketing fear of victimization felt by ordinary citizens. Often the response to this fear has been to seek to withdraw from contact with the community, behind high walls or barred windows. Increasing fragmentation of the physical environment into "safe" and "risky" areas creates distances among residents which lead to misperceptions, distrust and eventually, social disintegration.

Frustrated at diminishing legal opportunities, crime seems to offer a tempting path to affluence and power. Especially amid the near-anarchy of severe social disintegration, such as that being experienced in Russia and other countries of the former Soviet Union, crime proliferates.

For a handful of entrepreneurs, versed in the sophisticated niceties of marketing and money laundering, illegality may pay off big—at least in the short run. The total annual turnover of organized transnational crime is judged to be in the vicinity of \$1,000 billion.

Global trade in drugs has also become an illegal goldmine, raking in estimated profits of some \$500 billion annually, an amount which exceeds the GDP of many of countries. It is estimated that, in the United States alone, \$85 billion a year from the sale of cocaine, heroin and cannabis is available for money laundering and black market investment. This illegally acquired wealth only serves to exacerbate the already yawning chasm between the very rich and very poor in the world.

### The Vision

How do we transform the vision of a "society for all" into reality? This is the challenge of the Social Summit. Even at this early stage, the Secretary-General's report has identified certain criteria, including:

- ◆ an "enabling environment";
- ◆ fulfillment of basic human needs (eg, health, shelter);
- ◆ literacy and primary education for all;
- ◆ economic growth with social justice;
- ◆ respect for, and protection of, diversity
- ◆ equal opportunities for all;
- ◆ accurate, timely information for all so



that citizens can fully participate in their societies;

◆ means to measure social development over time.

### Setting New Priorities

The real goal is not merely to integrate a social dimension into the development process, but to redefine the very concept of development so that it truly becomes socially relevant. That means setting new priorities.

First of all, it will be vital to bring governments closer to the people, humanizing their bureaucracies and making them more responsible and responsive to their citizens.

Within countries, governments have prime responsibility for assuring overall social security by ensuring an environment which encourages sustainable economic growth, increases the number of productive jobs, guarantees social safety nets, and empowers the disadvantaged.

Governments have a very powerful means at their disposal: the power to redistribute economic and taxation burdens which can discourage exorbitant income differentiation and target needy portions of the population through well-defined social programmes. For example, progressive taxation, if not excessive, can be effective in creating socially supportive incentives.

Governments also must take "preventive action" against social exclusion. They must pass, and enforce, legislation to ensure equal rights for all and to respect diversity. Where discrimination has previously set the tone, equal opportunities must be created through affirmative action and similar policies.

Government is not the sole actor when it comes to promoting social integration. It must work with the private sector and civil society.

### Socially Responsible Businesses

The role of the private sector in promoting social integration is clearly evolving and it is likely to take on added importance in the years to come. Gone are the days when clear distinctions could be made between the role of government and the role of private companies in promoting social and economic well-being. Increasingly, there is a need for partnership between private the public institutions to ensure quality and choice in the goods and services people require.

This is where a growing sense of corporate social responsibility comes in. As experts at a 1993 meeting in The Hague put it, "in order to survive, private enterprises will have to change from a model based on maximizing profit to a model which emphasizes social responsibility and accountability to the community. Through the vehicle of private sector initiatives, the focus of productive employment must shift from profit towards people".

### An Engaged Civil Society

Equally important for promoting social integration is the community of non-governmental organizations, religious institutions, professional associations, labour unions, cooperatives, community groups and other social networks which make up civil society. Such organizations often provide the means and the structures for people to express their aspirations, meet their needs, represent their interests and participate in local and national decision-making. They can also provide the forum for various interest groups to reconcile their differences democratically and peacefully, thus avoiding conflict and potential social disintegration.

To be able to function effectively, the organizations of civil society may need the active support of government. By decentralizing responsibilities and authority, by guaranteeing freedom of association and organization, and by ensuring active, two-way communications, governments can promote a lively, active and functioning civil society. This "enabling" action by government will promote social integration.

### Vision to Reality

"No one goes through life alone. All of us are created within, and influenced by, networks of social relations which provide us with our identity and establish a framework for our actions," said the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development report on social integration. It stressed that people live and pursue their goals within a structure of institutions, ranging from families and households to schools, street gangs, sweatshops, stores and offices in which they work.

On a more general level, their opportunities in life are affected by the larger economic and political context, ranging from bartering for

"To integrate: to combine parts into a whole; to bring or come into equal participation in... society."

— *The Concise Oxford Dictionary*

food to betting on the stock market, from decisions of tribal councils to those of international tribunals.

As of August 1994, the United Nations numbered 184 Member States, actually made up of several thousand "nations" or "peoples". In this multi-ethnic, multi-cultural patchwork world, a flexible, socially responsive framework which supports civilized cultural change while, at the same time, fostering respect for tradition is crucial to sustainable human development.

Social integration, states the Secretary-General's Report, should be very clearly and firmly based on "a platform of principles built on respect for human dignity, individual freedom and equality of rights and duties."

### Empowering the UN

There is a pressing need for the world community to recognize its common heritage. Due to

the increasing interdependence between nations, many proposals for social integration and a socially just global system of governance can be implemented only at the international level. Here the United Nations has a unique and vital role to play.

Convened by the United Nations, the Social Summit will produce a political Declaration as well as a Programme of Action aimed at alleviating and finally eliminating extreme poverty, at creating adequate productive employment for an increasing population and at enhancing social integration. The Social Summit will endorse an agenda for social development—but that is only the beginning.

Empowering the United Nations to meet this challenge effectively means paving the way for "social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom" as envisaged almost fifty years ago in the United Nations Charter.

"No man is an island...."

John Donne





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## Population and Social Development

*Although most of the world's people live in developing countries, unbalanced population growth and lagging human development have profound implications for the quality of life everywhere. The issue goes beyond numbers, to the need for a new, people-centred vision of development.*

*This backgrounder looks at the links between population growth and social development. It draws on a variety of sources, including reports prepared for the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development and the 1995 World Summit for Social Development.*

### Establishing the Connections

With global danger signs proliferating, the United Nations is pressing a drive to align policies for balanced population growth with goals for social development. The campaign includes special emphasis on the development needs of families and individuals—especially women.

The effort, which comes as the United Nations approaches its 50th anniversary, grows out of the links between rapid and unbalanced population growth and three mutually reinforcing threats to a just and stable world: extreme poverty, unemployment, and social disintegration.

The connections are at the heart of the agendas of three major United Nations gatherings: the International Conference on Population and Development, in Cairo, Egypt, in September 1994; the World Summit for Social Development, in Copenhagen, Denmark, in March 1995; and the Fourth World Conference on Women, in September 1995 in Beijing, China.

The Population Conference is part of a broad United Nations-backed effort to forge agreement on how to achieve a sustainable balance between human numbers and the needs and resources of the planet. The Social Summit is focused on finding ways to alleviate, and ultimately end, absolute poverty, unemployment, and the many causes of social breakdown.

The gatherings are way stations in a campaign to secure the commitment of all countries to a human development agenda that will help fuel the engine of economic development.

Stepping up the rate of economic growth in the context of sustainable development, Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali has said, "is a condition for expanding the resource base and hence for economic, technological and social transformation".

The questions implicit in population and development are fundamental. Can the world feed twice as many people? Can productive employment be found for everyone? Can women everywhere gain access to the same opportunities for a full and healthy life as men? Can sufficient health, housing, and social services be provided for the billions more people expected to crowd into the world's cities?

### Fewer Resources, Fewer Chances

The problems of poverty and serious social conflict and gender inequity are especially severe among individuals and societies with the fewest resources—the poor, the unemployed, the weak and the vulnerable. All have significant influence on, and are influenced by, demographic factors.

The human population, now 5.6 billion, is increasing by an average of 236,000 people a day—the equivalent of another Switzerland every 30 days, a new China every 10 years. By the year 2054, according to United Nations projections, there may be as many as 10 billion people on the planet, amid dwindling basic resources, widespread social disorder, and worsening degradation of the Earth's life-support systems.

The empower-  
ment of women  
is essential  
to ensuring  
humanity's  
future

Many believe that development and advances in technology will help ease the transition to new circumstances and dwindling resources, as has happened repeatedly since the English theorist Thomas Robert Malthus first predicted widespread famine and apocalypse two centuries ago.

"Explicitly integrating population into economic and development strategies will both speed up the pace of sustainable development and poverty alleviation and contribute to the achievement of population objectives and an improved quality of life of the population", according to the Population Conference's Draft Programme of Action.

Among its principal objectives, the Draft Programme of Action lists the goal of fully integrating population concerns into "all aspects of development planning in order to promote social justice and to eradicate poverty through sustained economic growth in the context of sustainable development".

But there is worry that the sheer press of numbers could eventually confound humanity's ability to adapt, sparking a deepening cycle of scarcity, conflict, and social disintegration.

"We meet at a time when, driven by unprecedented growth in human numbers and wasteful consumption, many of the basic resources upon which future generations will depend for their survival are being depleted, when environmental pollution is intensifying and when widespread poverty and social and economic inequality persist", said Dr. Nafis Sadik, Secretary-General of the Population Conference.

There is growing recognition that the empowerment of women—who not only make up the vast majority of the world's poorest people, but are key actors in the development process—is essential to ensuring humanity's future. Without it, many experts believe, there is no likelihood of eradicating poverty, promoting sustainable economic development, ensuring quality family planning and reproductive health services, and achieving a balance between human numbers and the Earth's resources.

"There is now an international consensus that we should invest in people, especially women, and give them the power to make their

own choices about family size", Dr. Sadik said.

Not only will this approach eliminate hundreds of thousands of maternal deaths each year, she argues, "it will slow the rapid population growth that is making it difficult for many developing countries to provide their growing numbers with food, shelter, employment, education and health".

### A Multiplicity of Connections

"The population issue is not solely about numbers", the World Commission on Environment and Development told the United Nations in its landmark 1987 report.

"Threats to the sustainable use of resources come as much from inequalities in people's access to resources and from the ways in which they use them as from the sheer numbers of people", said the Commission, headed by Gro Harlem Brundtland of Norway. "Thus concern over the 'population problem' also calls forth concern for human progress and human equality."

In fact, the question of population is caught up in a vast sweep of issues, ranging from abortion and unequal access to resources to foreign aid and the status of women. These continue to fuel long-standing disputes between rich and poor nations, and among such groups as economists, environmentalists, feminists, religious institutions, and family-planning authorities.

The disagreements involve some development models, which have been criticized for making a bad situation worse. Foremost among these are "structural adjustment" policies. Typically involving cuts in social spending and in shifting domestic food production to export, they have been blamed for spreading poverty further in already impoverished lands.

"Structural adjustment remains a necessary prescription to remedy serious economic imbalance", the United Nations Secretary-General, Boutros Boutros-Ghali has noted. "But it should also be clear that human needs and priorities must not be neglected, and that adjustment and transformation must have a clear human focus."

### Population and Consumption

There is general agreement that extreme poverty and social and gender inequities have significant influence on—and are influenced by—



Unsustainable  
consumption  
hampers the  
fight against  
poverty

population factors. This is especially apparent in the developing countries, where most of the planet's 1.3 billion absolute poor—those who have sunk beneath even national poverty lines—live on the fringes of existence.

It is also widely acknowledged that unsustainable patterns of production and consumption in the industrialized nations are the biggest factors in the depletion of natural resources and environmental pollution—even though only one quarter of the world's population live in those countries.

These unsustainable consumption patterns and their environmental consequences reinforce social inequities and widespread poverty—which, in turn, affect, and are affected by, population patterns.

The lowest-income countries are caught up in a phenomenon that has been called the "poverty-population-environment spiral":

The poor, seeking economic and social security, tend to have more children. But their growing numbers impede development, thus perpetuating poverty.

Poverty, in turn, causes environmental stress, a consequence of growing numbers of impoverished people living in vulnerable areas. And environmental stress reinforces poverty and more population growth.

"Demographic growth rates affect the consumption and production patterns of societies", Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali has noted.

"Beyond a certain point, however, unsustainable and unsupportable population growth can have adverse effects on development efforts globally", he said. "These effects in turn have profound implications for the use of natural resources such as water, food, fuel and air. They affect the ability of Governments to supply the basic services that people require, including education and health care."

### Some Basic Trends

Although population growth is gradually slowing, United Nations projections indicate that the absolute number of people worldwide is still growing. From the middle of 1993 to mid-1994, according to United Nations figures, population increased by 86 million people.

Worldwide, the phenomenon is not simply a matter of high birth rates. In fact, fertility has been declining in most countries for the last 40 years. But because of lower mortality rates, and the sheer number of couples of child-bearing age, the absolute number of births continues to increase.

The total population could double by the middle of the next century, and demographers say that 95 per cent of this doubling will occur in the developing world—particularly China, sub-Saharan Africa, India, and Central America. Seventy-nine per cent of the total world population—4.5 billion people—already live in the less developed areas.

The average annual population growth rate in the developing countries, currently 1.9 per cent, is expected to drop to 1.15 per cent in the first 25 years of the next century. But even then, it will still be "extremely difficult to raise living standards and reduce poverty", according to Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali.

The developed countries, by contrast, are experiencing dramatic population slowdowns—and some, such as France, Italy, and Japan, are seeing their populations actually decline. Overall, the average annual growth rate for the more developed countries has been measured at about 0.4 per cent.

### Population and Women

A key element on the agendas of both the Social Summit and the Population Conference is the issue of improving the status of women. Many demographers and other experts believe that women's limited access to the benefits of development is the single most important cause of rapid population growth—and a primary cause of poverty.

Some 70 per cent of all poor people are women, according to United Nations estimates.

"Gender bias", said Jodi L. Jacobson of the Worldwatch Institute, "prevents hundreds of millions of women from obtaining the education, training, health services, child care, and legal status needed to escape from poverty. It prevents women from transforming their increasingly unstable subsistence economy into one not forced to cannibalize its own declining assets."

The Earth's  
demographic  
growth is  
dramatically  
lopsided

The fact that women are denied access to productive resources and family income makes them tend to depend heavily on children for economic security and social status. The result is a vicious circle: more people competing for fewer resources, causing more environmental degradation—and more poverty.

"Much remains to be done throughout the world to improve the status of women", Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali has declared. "It is essential that the role of women be fully understood and fully integrated into the thinking and policies that are to contribute to social progress".

"Women are those who suffer the most from social and cultural problems and from underdevelopment", he added. Yet in all societies, they have "a decisive part to play both in ensuring cultural continuity and in implementing social progress."

A vital first step in stabilizing population growth and alleviating poverty, many believe, is to reduce births voluntarily by offering family-planning resources to the 120 million or more women in developing countries identified by the United Nations as eager to limit family size, but unable to get help.

To do this will require increasing women's productivity and their control over resources.

### Population and Employment

Although some economists have argued that population growth can be an important spur to development, this optimism does not apply to most developing countries, where Governments are hard-pressed to provide jobs and services for their growing and largely impoverished populations.

"The unusually high number of young people, a consequence of high fertility rates, requires that productive jobs be created for a continually growing labour force under conditions of already widespread unemployment", the Population Conference's Draft Programme of Action notes.

The rising trend of social disintegration, Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali notes in his report on the Social Summit, "particularly of the more disadvantaged and marginalized groups", is largely a reflection of unequal access to the benefits of economic progress.

"There is widespread agreement", he says, "that the best way to reduce poverty is to ensure that people have opportunities for productive and remunerative employment sufficient to support themselves and their families."

The Secretary-General also warns that if poverty persists or increases and there is neglect of the human condition, "political and social strains will endanger stability over time".

The result will be further "global sharpening of social inequalities, fragmentation of societies and polarization of population or income groups".

### Urbanization and Aging

A major element of concern is the increasingly urban nature of the world's population. In the last 40 years, the urban population of the industrialized North doubled, while increasing five-fold in the developing countries.

Today, 51 per cent of the population live in cities—a figure that is expected to rise, in large part because of migration sparked by such factors as poverty, environmental stress, and social or military conflict.

"The intensity and the rapidity with which populations are being concentrated in urban areas adds to the feeling of uncertainty about the viability of contemporary models of consumption and development", the United Nations Secretary-General has said. "Towns and cities—the sources of economic activity, innovation, freedom and culture—are suffering today from problems of overcrowding, inadequate public services and insecurity".

Another worry is that while some societies are becoming not only more populous but younger, others are becoming older and less populous.

"The Earth's demographic growth is dramatically lopsided", the historian Paul Kennedy said. For example, 60 per cent of Kenya's population is under the age of 15, while 20 per cent of Sweden's is over 65.

This phenomenon has major implications for the future, not only for jobs, education, health services and housing, but for social divisions.

"There is today a vast demographic-technological faultline appearing across our planet", Professor Kennedy said. "On one side



Development  
should empower  
people, not  
marginalize them

of this line are the fast-growing, adolescent, under-resourced, under-capitalized, under-educated societies; on the other side are the rich, technologically inventive yet demographically moribund, aging populations."

### A New Vision of Development

The United Nations-led effort to align population with development strategies is part of a larger drive to reaffirm the primacy of development—what the Charter of the United Nations calls the promotion of "social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom".

The task, according to Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali, will require nothing less than a new vision of development, aimed at ensuring universal human security, and based on equity and sustainability for this and succeeding generations.

James Gustave Speth, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, put it this way: "Sustainable human development is development that not only generates economic growth but distributes its benefits equitably; that regenerates the environment rather than destroying it; that empowers people rather than marginalizing them. It is development that gives priority to the poor, enlarging their choices and opportunities, and providing for their participation in decisions that affect their lives. It is development that is pro-people, pro-nature, pro-jobs and pro-women."

The Population Conference and the Social Summit come at a time of deep collective apprehension, when the spectre of a third world war has been replaced by uncertainty that humanity can survive the environmental and social consequences of rapid population growth, wasteful production and consumption, and militarism.

"The world can never be at peace unless people have security in their daily lives", say the authors of *Human Development Report 1994*, a study commissioned by the United Nations Development Programme. "Future conflicts may often be within nations rather than between them—with their origins buried deep in growing socio-economic deprivation and disparities. The search for security in such a milieu lies in development, not arms."

The situation has a special urgency because of what the Secretary-General has called the crisis of development, which originates in a variety of factors, including a severe case of post-cold war "donor fatigue".

The crisis comes amid a proliferation of failed States—Bosnia, Somalia, Rwanda, to cite the most recent examples—whose rapid descent into anarchy is taken by some experts as a harbinger of what may ultimately lie ahead for other, more heavily populated parts of the planet unless current political, economic, and demographic trends are reversed.



## WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Copenhagen  
Denmark  
6-12 March 1995

Attacking  
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## UN Unveils a Draft Strategy for World Social Gains

Preparations for a major United Nations meeting of world leaders, the 1995 World Summit for Social Development, moved forward today with publication of a proposed global strategy for an assault on the intertwined crises of poverty, unemployment and social disintegration.

Saying the "moral fibre of our societies is being eroded" as surely as the natural environment, the draft strategy declares that social progress must become "the major objective of the international community and of each one of us".

At a time of dizzying global change, the draft strategy says, "it is unacceptable" that "individuals and societies with the fewest resources—the poor, the unemployed, the weak and the vulnerable"—should have to bear "the greatest burden of the economic and social transformation of our world".

The two-part text—a Draft Declaration and Draft Programme of Action—offers a first look at what can be expected from the Summit, to be held from 6 to 12 March in Copenhagen, Denmark. The United Nations Secretary-General, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, has called the meeting an indispensable opportunity for the international community to "elevate the social development agenda to an equal level with economic growth".

Release of the Summit draft documents follows the 25 May presentation of "An Agenda for Development", in which Mr. Boutros-Ghali urges the international community to adopt a compelling new vision of development based on human-centred economic growth, protection of the environment, and societal justice and democracy. Without these, he warns, peace will be forever beyond reach.

The inspiration for the Summit grows out of the General Assembly's determination, in the coming 50th anniversary year of the United Nations, to reaffirm the United Nations Charter goal of promoting "social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom".

The Copenhagen Summit, the draft text notes, "is not an isolated event". It will build on the commitments of a whole constellation of other United Nations conferences, including history's largest diplomatic gathering, the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, the so-called Earth Summit.

"To reduce social inequalities and to achieve sustainable development is a measure of our solidarity as individuals, members of society and of the international community", the Draft Programme of Action declares.

The Summit draft documents reflect discussions among more than 150 Member States at the first substantive session of the Summit Preparatory Committee, which was held in New York from 31 January to 11 February 1994.

### A Moral Obligation

The documents, prepared by the Summit secretariat at the request of the Preparatory Committee, will be taken up by the Committee at its second substantive meeting, from 22 August to 2 September in New York. A third and final preparatory meeting is scheduled in New York from 16 to 27 January 1995.

"We proclaim that social progress is, in effect, possible", the Summit Draft Declaration says. But it warns that solutions must be identified—and collective will mustered—to deal with the three core problems at the heart of the Summit's agenda: extreme poverty; unemployment and underemployment; and the question of how a diversity of nations—and people within nations—can learn to live together in harmony.

With more than a billion desperately impoverished people, and with women bearing a disproportionate share of the suffering, "the struggle against poverty constitutes a moral obligation to ensure that all human beings enjoy at least the basic food, shelter, social services and human relationships that are necessary



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for health, dignity and social participation", the Draft Programme of Action declares.

The Draft Declaration calls for the elimination of "all forms of discrimination which mutilate our societies", and for "the elimination of extreme forms of poverty, with precise targets at the national level". It also proclaims "the value of human labour" and "our will to make every possible effort to enable every man and woman who so desires to hold a paying job".

A basic premise of the draft strategy is that "unequal access to resources, technology and knowledge has created unequal growth and led to increasing socio-economic inequality, both within and among nations".

### An Enabling Environment

An essential first step in alleviating this situation, according to the draft text, will be to create an "enabling environment" in which global solutions are feasible.

A favourable economic environment, the Draft Programme of Action suggests, could grow out of efforts to assist developing countries, such as reducing trade barriers and debt, and re-examining the social consequences of structural readjustment programmes.

A favourable political environment could emerge from United Nations-led efforts to reduce tensions and violence, and to encourage Governments to redirect resources into development that are now used for military purposes.

Effective universal forums will be required as well—including new uses for the General Assembly, whose agenda, according to the Draft Programme of Action, should be restructured "to facilitate the systematic, integrated discussion of the implications of emerging global changes on human well-being and to set priorities and direction for national policies and international action".

While "there are no simple solutions to poverty", the text says, national and interna-

tional actions must be aimed at "making economic and social policies sensitive to the interests of the poor", and by integrating "specific anti-poverty policies and programmes in the framework of development policy".

A vital component in a global war on poverty, according to the Draft Programme of Action, should be the creation not only of jobs for all, but of productive, worthwhile employment that will allow people to lift themselves and their families out of impoverishment.

Poverty's link with the issue of productive employment is starkly apparent, the text notes, in the fact that the working poor constitute the largest share of the 1.1 billion absolute poor people in the world.

With more than 120 million people without jobs worldwide and an estimated 700 million underemployed, the text says, it is clear that employment "is a key, if not the primary factor, in the achievement of higher living standards".

### A Productive Diversity

Yet none of this, the Draft Programme of Action declares, will be possible without creating an environment in which different groups can live together—not by eliminating differences, but "in productive and cooperative diversity" both "within our national borders and in the wider setting of the 'global village'".

Towards this end, an important goal must be to protect "the integrity of indigenous and tribal cultures and ways of life", as well as "ending discrimination in all its forms"; "promoting equal opportunity"; "using education as an integrating force"; and "bringing government closer to the people".

The overall goal of the Summit, the Draft Declaration says, will be to identify ways in which the international community and individuals everywhere can enhance the dignity of each human being, develop the material and spiritual well-being of every community and build solidarity among groups and nations.



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## Children Are Our Future

### The Situation

In confronting poverty, unemployment, population growth and urbanization, and widespread instability and conflicts, the world needs to remember the enormous potential that exists for human progress. Revolutions in industry and production — reflected in a global economic output valued at more than US\$20 trillion — make it possible to bring the benefits of progress to everybody and help to solve our major social challenges.

The child, a Chilean poet once wrote, cannot wait. This means that of all the social challenges, children's needs are the most pressing. Luckily, the world has the financial, technical and organizational resources to provide for all its children.

It also has a compelling reason to do so: at the 1990 World Summit for Children, where the global focus on human development received a major boost, world leaders committed their countries to achieving crucial goals for child survival, protection and development. Keeping those commitments will lay the foundation for progress in social development, ensuring a healthier and better educated, and thus more productive, citizenry, into the next century.

As United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said, "Of all the subjects of development, none has the acceptance, or the power to mobilize, as does the cause of children. Our children are our future".

Children are a gauge of progress—and lack of it—their lives highly sensitive barometers of social distress and of the impact of poverty, unemployment, dislocations of rapid urbanization, and conflict.

◆ Each year 13 million children under five worldwide still die from easily preventable diseases and malnutrition.

◆ There are nearly 200 million moderately to severely malnourished children under five in developing countries—36 per cent of all

children in this age group. Some 69 million are severely malnourished.

◆ In developing countries, 130 million children, almost two thirds of them girls, lack access to primary education.

"In a world where we now talk about gross domestic product of tens of billions of dollars", observed James P. Grant, Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), "to have children deprived of basic education, health care and minimal amounts of food is increasingly obscene. Morality must change with capacity."

Some impressive gains have been made for children in developing countries, saving an estimated 20 million young lives in the last decade and improving the quality of life for an additional 100 million children.

In little more than one generation, child death rates have been more than halved; malnutrition rates have been reduced by about 30 per cent; and the proportion of children enrolled in primary school has risen from less than half to more than three quarters.

### The Approach

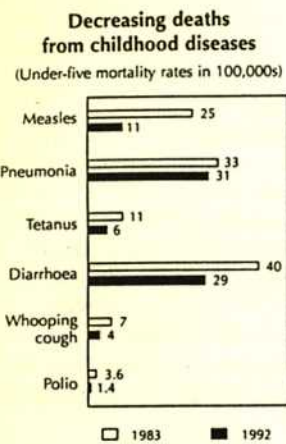
A transformation is under way in the world's treatment of children. The new ethic is reflected in the broad spectrum of rights guaranteed in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1989, and the goals set at the World Summit for Children in 1990.

Now ratified by more than 150 countries and close to becoming the world's first truly global human rights law, the Convention transforms children's basic needs into legal rights. The Convention's 54 articles commit countries to guarantee children's rights to:

◆ Survival, development and protection from abuse, neglect and economic or sexual exploitation;

◆ The highest attainable standard of health care;





Note: 1983 figures do not include China.  
Source: World Health Organization, 1993.

- ◆ Free and compulsory primary education;
- ◆ Assistance for families to achieve an adequate standard of living;
- ◆ Freedom of thought, conscience, religion, association and expression.

Almost all countries support the World Summit for Children's 7 major and 20 supporting goals for children and women, as they constitute the best social development investment a society can make. Progress towards the goals lays the foundation for alleviating poverty and unemployment, improving gender equality, slowing population growth, protecting the environment, and instituting sustainable social development.

These goals for the year 2000 were also endorsed by the UN Conference on Environment and Development (the Earth Summit). Achieving them can save 30 million children's lives during this decade.

Already, 9 out of 10 children in the world live in countries that have national programmes of action in the following key areas:

**Universal child immunization**—Fifteen years ago, the benefits of immunization were restricted to 15 per cent of the developing world's children. Today, immunization reaches almost 80 per cent of all children, preventing some 3 million child deaths each year. The challenge is to broaden coverage to save the 2 million children a year who die because they are not immunized against measles, polio, tuberculosis, diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough) and tetanus.

**Oral rehydration therapy**—Dehydration from diarrhoeal disease is still a major child-killer, despite gains in promoting oral rehydration therapy (ORT)—a low-cost treatment that families provide at home and that can prevent 90 per cent of these deaths.

Worldwide, less than 1 per cent of diarrhoeal disease cases were treated with ORT in 1980; the usage had increased to approximately 40 per cent in 1993, preventing more than 1 million child deaths. But more than 3 million children under five years of age still die each year from diarrhoeal dehydration.

**Nutrition**—Children require access to adequate food as well as the prevention and control of disease and improved care and feeding of young children in the family and community

environment. Malnutrition, implicated in 30 to 40 per cent of under-five deaths from preventable illnesses in developing countries, damages children's physical growth, impairs cognitive development and learning abilities, and compromises countries' long-term social development efforts.

A mildly malnourished child has twice the risk of dying from common childhood diseases as an adequately nourished child. A moderately malnourished child's mortality risk triples, and for a severely malnourished child the risk of death is 10 times as great.

**Breast-feeding**—This is the cornerstone of infant health and nutrition, yet it is an endangered practice around the world. Exclusive breast-feeding of infants during their first four to six months of life could prevent more than 1 million infant deaths each year.

A bottle-fed baby in a poor community is 15 times more likely to die from diarrhoeal disease and 4 times more likely to die of pneumonia than an exclusively breast-fed baby.

**Micronutrient deficiencies**—"Hidden hunger", a lack of essential micronutrients in the diet, has devastating effects on physical and mental development. More than 2 billion people, mostly women and children in developing countries, are deficient in one or more micronutrients, risking impaired health, disability and death.

◆ **Iodine deficiency disorders (IDD)** that affect 1.5 billion people would virtually disappear if the world achieves universal salt iodization by the end of 1995. Due to IDD, each year 120,000 children are born with severe mental and physical retardation, known as cretinism; 20 million children suffer less severe retardation and 50 million children are unable to take full advantage of primary schooling.

◆ **Vitamin A deficiency** affects some 40 million children worldwide, causing blindness in 250,000 children each year. By increasing the severity and risk of childhood diseases, vitamin A deficiency contributes to the deaths of more than 1 million under-fives annually. Countries are eliminating vitamin A deficiency by supplying supplements, encouraging breast-feeding, consumption of vitamin A-rich foods, and, in some countries, fortifying foods with vitamin A.

◆ **Iron deficiency** affects over 1 billion people, and 50 per cent of all iron deficiency occurs among pregnant women and preschool-age children. Iron-deficiency anaemia is partially associated with 50 per cent—and wholly responsible for 20 per cent—of all maternal deaths. Improved diet, food fortification and low-cost supplements all prevent the problem.

**Education**—Access to primary education for all children is essential for social development. Approximately 500 million children in developing countries start primary school each year; however, more than 100 million of them, two thirds of whom are girls, drop out before finishing four years of primary school.

Disparities between budget allocations favouring secondary and college education at the expense of primary school education must be narrowed to revitalize primary education, and other approaches need to be created to reach children not served by the formal primary school system.

**Girls**—Treated unfairly in virtually every society and culture, girls endure one of the world's most pervasive yet least acknowledged forms of discrimination. This "apartheid of gender" affects a girl's and woman's entire life-span, impeding social progress and perpetuating injustices and inequalities that cripple individuals and whole societies.

In South Asia, North Africa, the Middle East and China, there are 100 million fewer women than could be expected from demographic trends. Extreme forms of discrimination include female infanticide, sex-selective abortions and severe neglect.

In at least 25 countries, mainly in Africa, an estimated 2 million girls each year undergo some form of genital mutilation, which inflicts severe pain and trauma, causes medical complications that can be fatal, and permanently damages the genital organs and normal body functions.

## Other Priorities

**Child labour**—While unemployment is a global problem, increasing numbers of children in developing countries—estimated at 200 million—work for their own and their families' survival, often in dangerous and exploitative conditions.

Asia has some of the highest numbers of working children, accounting for up to 11 per cent of the labour force in some South Asian countries.

**Focus on Africa**—African countries have struggled to improve child health and education, more than doubling immunization coverage in a number of countries since 1985 and lifting primary school enrolment levels from 46 per cent in 1970 to 68 per cent in 1990. But Africa's economic crisis, the growing burden of debt, natural disasters, and the persistence of many brutal armed conflicts threaten these gains.

About 220 million people—half the population of sub-Saharan Africa—live in poverty, unable to meet their basic needs.

The more than US\$10 billion sub-Saharan African countries pay each year in debt service is three times their expenditures on health.

There is global agreement on the urgent need for both debt relief for Africa and significant assistance for the UN New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s.

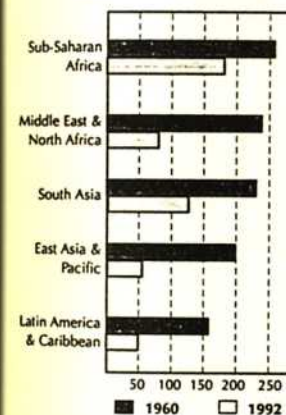
**AIDS and youth**—The AIDS pandemic threatens to reverse many gains achieved in children's health and welfare. Approximately 1 million children are believed to be infected with the virus that causes AIDS, and by 2000 an estimated 10 million children will have been orphaned by the disease.

With young people now most at risk of contracting AIDS, the UN system agencies, as well as other committed public/private-sector entities, are assisting countries with education, life-skills training and health services for vulnerable youth.

**Armed conflicts**—The many armed conflicts around the globe seriously undermine progress already made and threaten future development. The number of refugees worldwide has swelled to 18 million, and another 24 million people are displaced within their own countries.

Children have been the most tragic casualties of armed conflicts during the past decade, with more than 1.5 million killed, more than 4 million wounded or disabled, and some 12 million left homeless. Ten million children are believed to suffer war-related psychological trauma. The estimated 100 million land-mines in 60 countries kill or maim hundreds of children each month.

**Reducing child mortality**  
(Deaths per 1,000 live births)



Source: UNICEF, *State of the World's Children*, 1994.



Of all the subjects of development, none has the acceptance, or the power to mobilize, as does the cause of children. Our children are our future.

—UN Secretary-General  
Boutros Boutros-Ghali

UNICEF has pioneered "days of tranquility" and "corridors of peace" to assist children in war, programmes to help heal psychosocial trauma, and Education for Development programmes that sensitize children against prejudice and teach conflict-resolution skills.

### 20/20: Mobilizing Resources for the Future

To sustain global commitments to children, UNICEF supports the "20/20" strategy proposed by the UN Development Programme in 1991. At best, the share currently allocated to basic human needs in the budgets of developing countries and by international donors is only about 10 per cent. Under the "20/20" strategy, both developing countries and donors would increase their allocations to 20 per cent, thus

ensuring the greater resources needed to usher in a brighter future for children and all humanity.

#### For further reading:

*The State of the World's Children*, UNICEF (annual).

*The Progress of Nations*, UNICEF (annual).

*Girls and Women: A UNICEF Development Priority*, UNICEF, 1994.

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## WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

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## Families: The Heart of Society

Historically, families have been at the heart of societies, both sociologically and symbolically. But, in today's rapidly evolving world, what actually constitutes "a family"? In population censuses and other data sources, a family/household is defined as "a group of two or more persons living together who make common provision for food or other essentials for living, and who are related to a specific degree through blood, adoption or marriage (including consensual unions)".

### The Situation

The composition and circumstances of families differ vastly within and across societies. For example:

◆ Families vary in size, on national average, from 2.2 members in Sweden and Denmark to 7.1 members in Iraq;

◆ While the majority of adults in industrialized countries are married by the age of 30, the average age at marriage for women drops precipitously in developing regions; half the women in Africa, 40 per cent of Asian women and 30 per cent of Latin American women are already married by the time they are 18 years old. On the Indian sub-continent, some are as young as 10 or 11 years old;

◆ Fatherhood is often off-site, with fathers spending, on global average, less than one hour a day alone with their children; Hong Kong fathers invested only six minutes a day, while, in the US, only four out of 3,600 men in one study provided full-time care for their children;

◆ Parenthood outside formal marriage is becoming increasingly commonplace in many areas: for example, in the UK, half of all births in 1990 were to single women;

◆ The proportion of children under five ranges from more than 20 per cent in developing African countries, such as Côte d'Ivoire, Malawi and Rwanda, to as low as 5.5 per cent and 5.0 per cent in industrialized countries, such as Japan and Italy, respectively;

◆ Violence in the family is also increasing: it is estimated that 4 per cent of all the children in the US and Western Europe experience serious violence within the home each year;

◆ The proportion of elderly (60+ years) ranges from a low of 2.1 per cent in Kuwait to less than 5 per cent in countries such as Zambia, Syria and Sri Lanka to highs in excess of 20 per cent—a fifth of the entire population—in many countries of Western Europe (e.g., Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Sweden, Germany, Switzerland and the UK).

◆ Even in the so-called "developed" countries of the European Union (EU), one fifth of the elderly population live in relative poverty, often isolated in urban ghettos without the support of an expanded family structure.

### The Issues

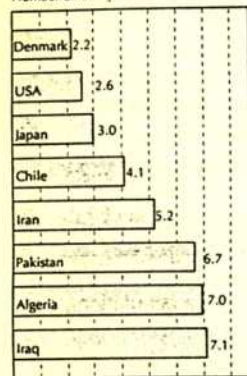
It is evident from the foregoing that families everywhere need support to perform their crucial functions, and to meet the demands of change: Homelessness and hunger, poverty and disease, joblessness and social exclusion, human rights abuses, crime and violence are only some of the serious problems that families around the world confront on a daily basis. These problems exact a heavy toll on individuals and families, seriously compromising the capacity of communities and nations to achieve their full potential.

In the absence of alternative mechanisms, the erosion of the welfare state has placed tremendous burdens on families, magnifying the responsibilities they have always carried for the care of vulnerable members of society. Economic change, retrenchment and structural adjustment programmes affect families' abilities to function effectively. When social safety nets are inadequate or dysfunctional, women inevitably have to fill the gap.

**Poverty:** Among the social ills that place families at risk, perhaps none is more pervasive or destructive than poverty. Abject poverty afflicts



**Average Family Size**  
Number of family members



Source: United Nations Statistical Chart on World Families (ST/ESA/STAT/SERS/Y/7), 1993.

**Female-headed Households**  
Percentage of total households



Source: United Nations Statistical Chart on World Families (ST/ESA/STAT/SERS/Y/7), 1993.

some 20 per cent of the world's population, who struggle to meet basic needs. Poverty generates many problems within families, yet it is largely through families that the poor seek to cope with its effects. Some forms of families, notably single-parent families, are disproportionately overrepresented among the poor in many countries. For example:

◆ Today, between one quarter and one third of all households worldwide are headed by single parents, of whom 90 per cent are women;

◆ In certain Caribbean countries, female-headed households account for almost half of all families;

**Unemployment:** During the 1990s more than 80 per cent of global population growth will take place in cities. As migration to cities increases, families are split apart or must cope with increasingly difficult circumstances, not the least of which is joblessness. Already half of humanity is urbanized and migration from rural to urban areas is rapidly changing the shape and behaviour of families: 70 to 95 per cent of new housing in most developing world cities is unauthorized, because poor families cannot afford formal housing.

Industrialized countries are not immune: for example, a recent UNDP-sponsored mayors' conference revealed that:

◆ Unemployment was perceived by the majority of over 130 participating mayors as their prime area of concern;

◆ Unemployment in Helsinki has hit 18 per cent and the municipal government expressed anxiety that youth unemployment would lead to "a permanent marginalization of our young people".

Families are often compelled to assume adaptive strategies which are destructive to the health of individuals and societies. When economics force family members to migrate in search of employment, when political problem-solving breaks down and war is waged to solve disputes, when excessive consumption ravages the environment or when poverty reaches epic proportions it has in some areas of the world, then families are seriously compromised.

**Flux and Social Disintegration:** We are, to a great extent, witnessing what might be described as the reorganization of the family as

the pace of change to which it is subjected quickens. This is reflected in the shrinking of extended families into nuclear and single-parent families within the space of a few decades. However, family policies and programmes often lag behind, notably with respect to gender equality and the rights of the most vulnerable members of families. Only one of the tragic examples is the HIV/AIDS epidemic, which is striking hard at families in many parts of the world:

◆ More than 1 million HIV-infected children have already been born;

◆ Projections for Central and East African countries suggest that in the 1990s more than 5 million children will be orphaned by AIDS;

◆ Many of these children have to care for sick or dying parents, while many of their grandparents have to care for them; WHO estimates that 10 million children will have lost their parents to AIDS by the year 2000.

### Approaches

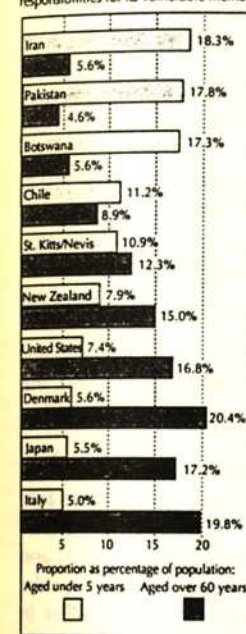
Families, the basic social units of all societies, are in danger of extinction in some areas. Yet, as the primary source of nurturing and care, and a conduit for the transmission of values, culture and information, the social institution of the family, which provides the basis for a more holistic approach to the social development process, should be supported for the benefit of all society.

Ideally, families form an oasis of caring in a competitive world. They look after family members who are very young, elderly, ill or disabled. Even in industrialized countries, families continue to be the primary caring institutions. The productive capacity and stability of societies as a whole is likewise heavily reliant upon the supportive caring activities of families. Families are the social group charged with the principal responsibility for the care, protection and socialization of the young.

As the source and immediate environment for future generations, families are, first and foremost, the basic instrument through which children acquire the knowledge and skills to serve them as adults. Intergenerational understanding and equity are basic principles of a just and civil society and are likewise a major requirement of healthy family life.

### Families: Caring and Coping

The table below reflects the family's special responsibilities for its vulnerable members.



Source: United Nations Statistical Chart on World Families (ST/ESA/STAT/SERS/Y/7), 1993.

It is also within families that tolerance must be practised and learned, as a precondition for cross-cultural, international and interracial understanding in the greater society. The needs of minority groups, migrants and refugees must be appreciated within families, as the basic instrument of education for tolerance and peace.

In a larger context, the role of families as producers and consumers is a vital one. As micro-enterprise employers, families contribute to the maintenance and development of healthy societies by buffering the ill effects of unemployment. Similarly, the "employee-maintenance" role of families should be recognized and strengthened to support the expansion of productive employment.

The relationship between families and the workplace, gender equity in employment, child care, the distribution of domestic work in the home and caring responsibilities for vulnerable members of society are all interlinked. To underscore this, the United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution 44/82 of 8 December 1989, proclaimed 1994 as the International Year of the Family, with the theme: "Family: resources and responsibilities in a changing world". "Building the Smallest Democracy at the Heart of Society"—the Year's motto—reflects the pivotal role families play in ensuring the well-being of society and expresses the conviction that families should provide an environment where all family members enjoy the full measure of their human rights as a precondition for development.

One of the major objectives of the Year is the achievement of gender equity in the family and the equal sharing of responsibilities, for reproductive as well as productive work, within it. The double burden of paid labour and unpaid reproductive and household work still rests mainly with women. Without gender equity, there can be no "democracy at the heart of society".

### Future Priorities

Future socio-economic and development policies and programmes will invariably affect families. Therefore, public policy decisions should incorporate a *family impact consideration*. Even if the policies are not directly addressed to them, organizations and agencies, governmental or non-governmental, national or international, must be encouraged to recognize

that their decisions and actions will usually have an impact on families, on how families will be formed, whether they will survive or not, and how well they function as nurturers and providers.

The corollary to this goal is the formulation and implementation of *family-sensitive policies* in *family-friendly societies*.

In describing the pivotal role of families in the social development process, as a key consideration for the World Summit on Social Development, the UN Secretary-General said:

*"Through the International Year of the Family, we are returning to the basic elements of human society as a primary step towards a clearer and more powerful agenda for social justice. This is just the beginning of a process that will not be complete in 1994 nor in the immediate follow-up to the Year.*

*"We must establish a partnership with families in the formulation of a new social contract enabling us to face the challenges of the twenty-first century in all sectors of human activity. We must...restore the place of people in development, enriched by our diversity and nourished by our commitment to a world at peace.*

*"In this hope lies the hope of families all over the world. In this vision lies the prospect of a world where every family can be the sanctuary of security, respect and love."*

### For further reading:

Information booklet: 1994 International Year of the Family: *Building the smallest democracy at the heart of society*.

Press kit: 1994 International Year of the Family (UN, DPI/1432).

*Statistical Chart on World Families* (UN Statistical Division, Sales No. E.93.XVII.9)

### For further information, please contact:

Secretariat, International Year of the Family 1994  
Vienna International Centre  
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Tel. (431) 21131/4223 or /5203  
Fax: (431) 23 74 97

Sources: *Statistical Chart on World Families* (UN Statistical Division, Sales No. E.93.XVII.9).

*Families, celebration and hope in a world of change*, by Jo Boyden with UNESCO, Gaia Books, London, 1993.)





## WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

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## A New Age for Old Age

The "age of ageing", the "gray revolution", "humanity's coming of age": these and similar phrases are now part of common discourse and have a clear statistical basis.

In the 75 years from 1950 to 2025, the world's population of elderly people (those 60 years old and over) will have increased from 200 million to 1.2 billion, and from 8 to 14 per cent of the total global population.

In the same 75 years, the very old (those aged 80 and above) will have grown from 13 million to 137 million. In short, between 1950 and 2025, the total world population will have grown by approximately a factor of three, the elderly by a factor of six and the very old by a factor of ten.

### Rising to the Challenge

The developed countries — whose populations are ageing fastest — are adjusting and refining policies and programmes, addressing the needs of older people, including not only how they can be cared for, but how they can continue to participate in society. These countries are attempting to adjust national spending to reflect current and projected demographic ageing and its ripple effects on such sectors as health, housing, education, welfare, employment, and income security.

The developing countries, whose populations are expected to age even more quickly in the coming decades than those of the developed countries have in the past, have begun gradually introducing ageing policies and programmes.

Population ageing in developing countries is a critical problem because of two factors: a weak institutional infrastructure for meeting the needs of increasing numbers and proportions of the elderly and the uncertainty that families can continue to provide care and solidarity for the elderly as a result of many societal changes, such as migration and the increasing participation of women in public life.

### A Key Summit Topic

The question of ageing will be an important topic of discussion at the World Summit for Social Development, which is to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, in March 1995. The General Assembly has designated three core issues for the Summit — social integration, reduction of poverty, and productive employment — each of which has important implications relating to ageing.

The Summit will consider how to maintain and improve the participation of older people in social and economic activities, how to protect older people from poverty, and how to adapt employment policies to the needs of the elderly.

The policies and programmes recommended by the Summit will be integrated into the continuing activities of the United Nations programme on ageing.

The challenge of ageing to governments of both developed and developing countries falls along two interrelated paths: first, the overall impact of population ageing on all sectors and generations; and second, the situation of older people as their traditional status and roles in society change — whether it is the "young old" or the very old.

In addressing the situation of older people in rapidly changing societies, the rights and responsibilities of older women, older migrants and refugees need particular attention to ensure that they share equitably in social and economic entitlements.

Despite the complexities of the issue, one clear policy option has emerged in recent years for both developed and developing countries: "help for self-help", a term for government policies that support and facilitate choice for older people to remain active in society as agents and beneficiaries of development. Help for self-help is a policy option that recognizes the dignity and capabilities of older people while address-

## Ageing

ing their need for employment, income security, and social integration.

### The Role of the United Nations

The United Nations programme on ageing involves the Secretariat and a number of the Organization's specialized agencies, including the International Labour Organisation, the World Health Organization, UNESCO and others. The effort involves cooperation with Member States, experts and organizations of the elderly in setting standards and in devising policies and programmes.

The question of ageing was first discussed at the United Nations General Assembly in 1948. It was not evident then that the world's population would age so dramatically in the coming decades. Twenty years later, in 1969, the General Assembly re-examined the issue, calling, eventually, for a World Assembly on Ageing to be convened in 1982 in Vienna, Austria.

The World Assembly adopted the International Plan of Action on Ageing and, later the same year, the United Nations General Assembly endorsed it. This Plan, the first global instrument on ageing, guides the United Nations programme. Every four years, the United Nations Secretariat conducts a global appraisal of progress in implementing the Plan.

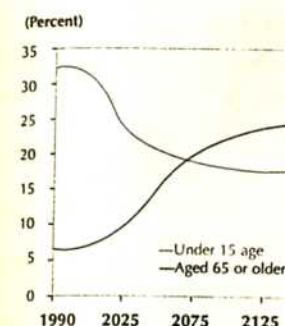
### The Global Programme

In 1992, ten years after adopting the International Plan of Action on Ageing, the General Assembly endorsed a set of global and suggested national targets on ageing to be reached by the year 2001. Also, the Assembly designated 1 October every year as the International Day for the Elderly. It designated the year 1999 as the International Year of Older Persons.

Future activities of the United Nations programme on ageing will revolve around these events. The period 1992-2001 has been established for reaching a set of global and suggested national targets on ageing. Each event offers an occasion to examine the impact of ageing on society and the situation of older people in that society.

Activities proposed for 1 October, the International Day for the Elderly, include announcements by heads of State, municipalities and organizations; conferences; media discussions; skills exchange among older people; intergen-

Changing Age Structure of World Population, 1990-2150



Note: Based on medium fertility projection

Source: United Nations Population Division, Long-Range World Population Projections; Two Centuries of Population Growth, 1950-2150, (United Nations, New York).

erational debates; and essay and art celebrations in schools. Proposed themes for the years ahead, which tie in with major United Nations years or conferences, are as follows:

#### 1 October

- 1994 "Older Persons and the Family"
- 1995 "Employment Opportunities for Older Women and Men"
- 1996 "Eliminating Poverty in Old Age"
- 1997 "Celebrating Organizations of Older Persons"
- 1998 "Older Persons Support International Year of Tolerance"
- 1999 "Towards a New Age for Old Age: A Society for all Ages"

The International Year of Older Persons (1999) will offer an occasion to assess the needs ahead, particularly in developing countries. A framework for the Year's observance will be elaborated by the United Nations Commission for Social Development in 1995. Two themes are being considered: "a new age for old age", which would address the situation of older people in changing socio-economic contexts; and "a society for all ages", addressing the complexities of society-wide adjustments to population ageing. Country programmes, international campaigns, expert debates and local celebrations are envisaged.

A practical strategy on ageing was endorsed for the period 1992 to 2001. The targets guide current actions on ageing and will give direction to the fourth and fifth appraisals of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing at the United Nations Commission for Social Development in 1997 and 2001, respectively.

The year 2001 will be a capstone for the century in which developed countries aged and, at the same time, the launching pad for the decades in which developing countries are projected to age with unprecedented rapidity.

#### For further reading:

- ♦ International Plan of Action on Ageing (DPI/932)
- ♦ Global targets on ageing for the year 2001: A practical strategy (A/47/339)
- ♦ Third Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing (E/CN.5/1993/7)
- ♦ United Nations Principles for Older Persons
- ♦ The World Ageing Situation 1991 (ST/CSDHA/14)





**WORLD  
SUMMIT  
FOR SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT**

Copenhagen  
Denmark  
6-12 March 1995

**Attacking  
Poverty**

**Building  
Solidarity**

**Creating  
Jobs**



UNITED NATIONS

## Jobless Growth and the Right to Work

*"Creating sufficient opportunities for productive employment and sustainable livelihoods is one of the most important — and most difficult — tasks in any society."*

Human Development Report - 1994  
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

### Jobless growth

The right to work is a basic human right, recognized by the United Nations as fundamental to the well-being of people and their societies.

Over the past three decades, however, most countries in all parts of the world have been unable to create enough jobs to accommodate the growing numbers of people entering the workforce. Instead, they have experienced "jobless growth", with increases in output far exceeding gains in employment.

Of the world's total labour force of 2.8 billion, around 30 per cent are not productively employed, according to the International Labour Organisation (ILO). This includes more than 120 million people who are unemployed and some 700 million who are underemployed. These people constitute the bulk of the world's estimated 1.1 billion absolute poor.

Employment has consistently lagged behind economic growth in both industrialized and developing countries. For example:

- ◆ less than one third of the increase in output in developing countries during 1960-1987 came from increased labour; more than two thirds resulted from capital investment;

- ◆ in India and Pakistan, during this period, despite annual growth rates of more than 6 per cent a year, unemployment was above 15 per cent;

- ◆ industrialized countries as a whole managed fairly respectable growth in output during 1973-1987, but in France, Germany and the United Kingdom employment levels fell; by 1992 unemployment had climbed to roughly 10 per cent in the Western European countries;

- ◆ in Sub-Saharan Africa not one country had single-digit unemployment during the 1970s,

1980s and early 1990s; urban employment rate range between 15 and 20 per cent;

- ◆ informal employment has increased sharply in developing countries, offering low-wage, precarious jobs, rather than remunerative permanent employment.

### Widening gap

Trends that have contributed to the widening gap between economic growth and the creation of new jobs include:

- ◆ a preference for capital-intensive rather than labour-intensive production methods;

- ◆ increased use of labour-saving technologies to counter rising labour costs;

- ◆ growing efforts of labour unions to protect the jobs of their members;

- ◆ a tendency to reduce the permanent labour force and employ more temporary workers.

Unless steps are taken to counter present trends, unemployment is sure to worsen. In developing countries, the total labour force increased by more than 400 million during 1960-1990. In these countries, it will continue to increase by 2.3 per cent a year in the 1990s, requiring an additional 260 million jobs.

Taking into account the number of people already unemployed or underemployed, the total requirement for the next decade will be around one billion new jobs. In the developing countries, this would mean increasing jobs at the rate of 4 per cent a year.

In addition to limiting people's purchasing power and options for participation in other aspects of economic life, failure to create jobs is likely to have serious social consequences. For example, the annual rate of net migration is likely to be about 4.6 per cent by the year 2000 as people move to urban areas in search of work. This will cause overcrowding, put pressure on water and energy resources and strain health, education and social services. Consequences related to the lack of jobs — for example homelessness, crime, prostitution leading to HIV infection and AIDS, and tensions among ethnic groups — are likely to multiply.

UNDP

## Employment creation

Policy makers worldwide are searching for strategies that combine a high GDP growth rate with more job opportunities. According to UNDP's *Human Development Report 1994*, the central elements of an effective national employment strategy are likely to include:

- ◆ **Education and skills** — To compete in a fast-changing global economy, every country has to invest heavily in the education, training and skill formation of its people.

- ◆ **An enabling environment** — Most new employment opportunities are likely to be generated by the private sector. But markets cannot work effectively unless governments create an enabling environment — including fair and stable macro-economic policies, an equitable legal framework, sufficient physical infrastructure and an adequate system of incentives for private investment.

- ◆ **Access to assets** — A more equitable distribution of physical assets (land) and better access to means of production (credit and information) are often essential to ensure sustainable livelihoods.

- ◆ **Labour-intensive technologies** — Developing countries have to be able to make the most efficient use of their factors of production — and to exploit their comparative advantage of abundant labour. Tax and price policies should, where appropriate, try to encourage labour-intensive employment.

- ◆ **Public works programmes** — Where private markets consistently fail to produce sufficient jobs, in certain regions or at certain times of the year, it may be necessary for the State to offer employment through public works programmes to enable people to survive.

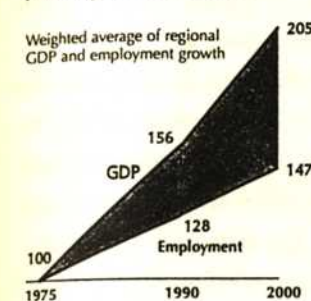
- ◆ **Disadvantaged groups** — Where markets tend to discriminate against particular groups, such as women or certain ethnic groups, the State may need to consider targeted interventions or programmes of affirmative action.

- ◆ **Job sharing** — With the growing phenomenon of "jobless growth", it has become necessary to rethink the concept of work and to consider more innovative and flexible working arrangements — including job-sharing.

While the UNDP *Human Development Report* makes it clear that the experiences of one group of countries cannot be easily replicated elsewhere, it does suggest that unemployment is best solved by focusing on people, rather than solely on capital or production processes.

Another factor essential to job creation is the relevance of workers' skills to today's fast-changing

Jobless growth worldwide



The upper curve represents GDP growth (1975-1990) and its projected trend (1990-2000), weighted for major regions (OECD countries, Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and East Asia). The lower curve represents employment growth, weighted by region. Since 1975, employment growth has consistently lagged behind output growth, and this gap is likely to widen during the 1990s.

Source: *Human Development Report, 1993*, UNDP.

environment. Education may not guarantee a job, inasmuch as there is often a mismatch between the number of educated people and the jobs calling for the knowledge and skills they have acquired. In the short term, more vocationally oriented training for the unemployed, and incentives to the private sector for hiring them, could be offered. Longer-term, however, the education and training systems of societies need to be adjusted so that people are able to acquire the skills that are in demand and flexible enough to enable labour to move to other areas.

Some of the greatest generators of jobs are small businesses, often started by individuals, families or community groups, and often including women. As would-be small-scale entrepreneurs lack collateral, it is usually difficult for them to obtain credit. Or, if they do manage to get loans, they must pay exorbitant interest rates. Ensuring ready access to capital is probably the most important step a government can take to promote entrepreneurship.

### Strategy for the 1990s

Sustainable solutions will require looking at work in relation to a variety of issues countries must confront as they strive to alleviate poverty and achieve sustainable human development.

In its 1991 resolution on human resources for development, the UN General Assembly called for a well-conceived and integrated approach "... taking into account such vital areas as population, health, nutrition, water, sanitation, housing, communications, education and training, as well as the need to create more opportunities for employment ..."

This implies addressing employment within a broad-gauged human resources development strategy that not only trains people but assesses the employment market, provides good basic education, offers access to credit and builds a strong health-care system that provides jobs even as it prevents disease. Such a strategy requires the cooperation of many partners, including government ministries, the business and NGO communities, other members of civil society and UN and bilateral donor agencies. It may offer the best hope for moving towards the ideals embodied in Article 23 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*:

*"Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment."*





# Challenges for NGOs

ATTACKING POVERTY • BUILDING SOLIDARITY • CREATING JOBS

Number 2

May 1994

**The World  
Summit for  
Social  
Development**

**Bella Center,  
Copenhagen,  
Denmark**

**6-12 March  
1995**



UNITED NATIONS

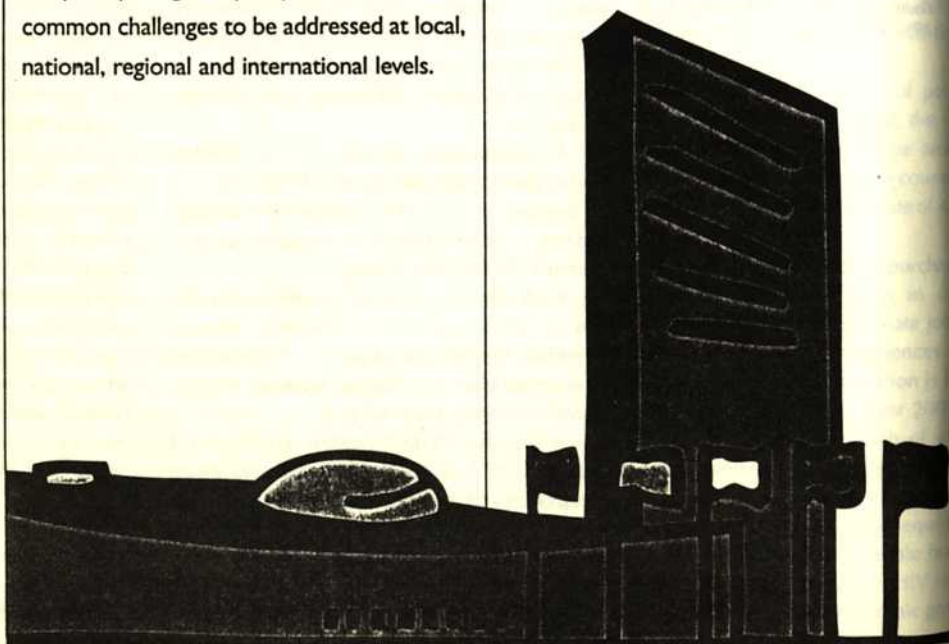
Note: Challenges for NGOs will be issued at irregular intervals, corresponding generally to the Social Summit PrepComs, in order to keep NGOs posted on matters of interest.

## PREPCOM I FROM THE NGO PERSPECTIVE

The first substantive Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) for the World Summit for Social Development met from 31 January to 11 February 1994 in New York. A total of 246 NGOs were accredited to participate in this initial PrepCom, which concluded its two-week session with the adoption of an outline for a Declaration and Programme of Action. Draft texts for both documents will be published by June 1994.

The Summit draft Declaration will express common values and objectives for social development policies and will affirm the principles, goals, policy orientations and common challenges to be addressed at local, national, regional and international levels.

The Summit draft Programme of Action will focus on strategies to ensure an enabling environment for social development, reduce and eliminate widespread poverty, create productive employment and reduce unemployment, emphasize social integration and establish means for follow-up utilizing the United Nations system, international financial institutions and other intergovernmental organizations. The draft texts of both documents will be reviewed by PrepCom II (22 August-2 September) in New York.



## Challenges for NGOs

ATTACKING POVERTY • BUILDING SOLIDARITY • CREATING JOBS

### WHY A SOCIAL SUMMIT?

"Social development cannot be pursued in an economy that is stagnant or prone to high inflation and instability", according to the Report of the Secretary-General for the first Preparatory Committee meeting (31 January-11 February 1994) in New York.

Over the past five decades, while there has been progress, the Charter's stated goal to "promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom" for all have not been realized. As a result:

- Poverty remains widespread, even increasing in absolute terms; one out of every five people in the world (over one billion people) lives below the poverty line.
- Unemployment, even in industrialized countries, is reaching levels unprecedented in recent history. Twenty per cent of the world's total population earns less than two per cent of its income. Unemployment and underemployment account for a rising number of "economic migrants".
- Social disintegration, which happens when "the marginalized" become the mainstream, is increasing in many regions of the so-called "developed" world. Only one in ten people participates fully in the political, economic, social and cultural institutions that shape their lives. The excluded include the poor, women, minorities and rural dwellers.

### SUMMIT "CORE ISSUES"

- Reduction and elimination of widespread poverty: The Summit hopes to achieve consensus at the highest levels on economic policies which will enhance both economic and social efficiency in an environmentally sustainable manner.
- Productive employment and the reduction of unemployment: As primary causes of poverty, social unrest and migration, unemployment and low-productivity employment must be replaced by more productive work opportunities.
- Social integration: Policy-makers at all levels must address the issues of sharpening social inequalities, fragmentation of societies and polarization of population or income groups to better balance individual aspirations with the common good.





## Challenges for NGOs

ATTACKING POVERTY • BUILDING SOLIDARITY • CREATING JOBS

### SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS

Heads of State or Government will participate in the two-day Summit (11-12 March 1995), while their representatives, high-level officials and experts will attend pre-Summit consultations (6-10 March 1995). Participants and observers will also include representatives of UN system organizations, intergovernmental organizations, national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity (OAU), experts, professional associations and accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

NGOs in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) expressing the wish to attend the World Summit for Social Development and/or the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) meetings will be accredited for participation.

Non-ECOSOC NGOs may apply to the appropriate NGO Unit responsible for evaluation of accreditation requests (see provisions under "NGO Participation in the Summit" on page 7 of this brochure).

### SETTING THE STAGE: THE UN PREPARATORY PROCESS

The Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) of the World Summit for Social Development comprises all United Nations Member States, as well as members of UN specialized agencies. A Bureau is

chaired by Ambassador Juan O. Somavia (Chile), with representatives from Australia, Cameroon, India, Indonesia, Latvia, Mexico, the Netherlands, Poland and Zimbabwe, as well as Denmark (as Summit host country), serving as Vice-Chairpersons. UN preparations for the Summit are being coordinated by a small secretariat headed by Jacques Baudot, under the responsibility of Nitin Desai, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development.



The Summit will be the culmination of three substantive preparatory meetings, in addition to input from the General Assembly, all of which share the following five objectives:

- Raising awareness (enhancing conventional methods);
- Exchanging information and experience (social indicators);
- Establishing policy dialogue in areas of international concern (NGO potential as catalysts and re-disseminators);

## Challenges for NGOs

ATTACKING POVERTY • BUILDING SOLIDARITY • CREATING JOBS

### NGOS: TAKING AN ACTIVE ROLE

The involvement of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in UN conferences has increased in recent years, particularly after the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development ("Earth Summit"). The contribution by NGOs to the World Summit for Social Development is considered important by the Preparatory Committee, which stresses that NGO participation is also essential at the national, regional and international levels.



### NGOS AND THE SOCIAL SUMMIT

To date 246 NGOs have been expressly accredited to participate in this Summit. About 150 actually attended the first PrepCom. A list of currently accredited NGOs may be obtained either from the NGO Liaison Officer for the World Social Summit (see page 7) or electronically through the APC electronic communications network (see next page).

- Developing norms, standards, conventions and other international instruments (quantified targets);

- Identifying areas of cooperation and direct support for developing countries.

PrepCom I: 31 January-11 February 1994  
New York  
See page 1 for details.

PrepCom II: 22 August-2 September 1994  
New York  
A draft Declaration and draft Programme of Action will be under discussion.

General Assembly:  
September-December 1994  
New York  
The forty-ninth session of the General Assembly will consider reports from the First and Second PrepCom meetings.

PrepCom III: 16-27 January 1995  
New York  
Third Session of the Preparatory Committee

World Summit for Social Development:  
6-12 March 1995  
Copenhagen



## Challenges for NGOs

ATTACKING POVERTY • BUILDING SOLIDARITY • CREATING JOBS

### NON-GOVERNMENTAL LIAISON SERVICE (NGLS)

The Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS) is a United Nations inter-agency unit with offices in both New York and Geneva. It focuses on the sustainable and social development agendas of the UN, highlighting such current programme priorities as human development, environment and development, the global economy and African recovery and development. Its role in the Social Summit includes:

- Reporting to the Summit secretariat on relevant NGO, Member State and UN Secretariat preparatory activities;
- Facilitating NGO activities around the PrepCom meetings and at the Summit itself; and
- Facilitating information exchange between NGOs and the UN system.

For additional information, please contact:

#### UN-NGLS

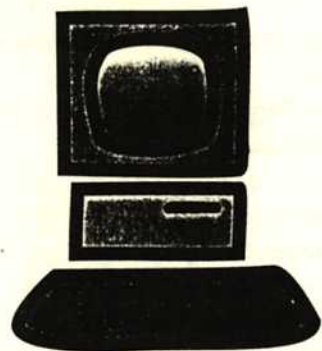
866 UN Plaza, Room 6015  
New York, NY 10017, USA  
Tel. (212) 963-3125  
Fax (212) 963-8712  
E-mail: [ngls@igc.apc.org](mailto:ngls@igc.apc.org)

#### UN-NGLS

Palais des Nations  
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland  
Tel. (4122) 907-2076  
Fax (4122) 907-0057

### NGO ELECTRONIC ACCESS TO UN DOCUMENTATION

NGLS distributes relevant official UN documents in English, French and Spanish to NGOs via the APC electronic communications network under the access code <un.socdev.docs> conference.



The Association for Progressive Communications (APC) is a coalition of independent, non-governmental and mostly non-profit computer network systems which cooperate to provide networking and information-sharing tools worldwide. More than 30,000 NGOs, research institutes and UN agencies and several Governments are users of APC nodes.

## Challenges for NGOs

ATTACKING POVERTY • BUILDING SOLIDARITY • CREATING JOBS

### NGO PREPARATIONS FOR THE WORLD SUMMIT

In addition to items listed in the first issue of this publication, here is a current list of NGO Summit preparatory meetings, along with the contacts for further details:

#### • 31 May–4 June 1994

Tunis, Tunisia

Regional meeting for African NGOs preparing for the World Summit convened by enda inter-arabe, Environment and Development in the Arab World. For further details, contact:

enda inter-arabe

Cité Vénus Bloc 2

El Menzah VII, 1004 Tunis, Tunisia

Tel./Fax (2161) 766 234

#### • 8–10 July 1994

Helsinki, Finland

The International Council for Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) and the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) are holding regional consultations, as well as a global NGO Preparatory Meeting, for the Social Summit in conjunction with ICSW's International Conference on Social Welfare.

For further details, contact:

#### ICVA

13, rue Gautier  
CH-1201 Geneva  
Switzerland  
Tel. (4122) 732-6600  
Fax (4122) 738-9904

#### ICSW

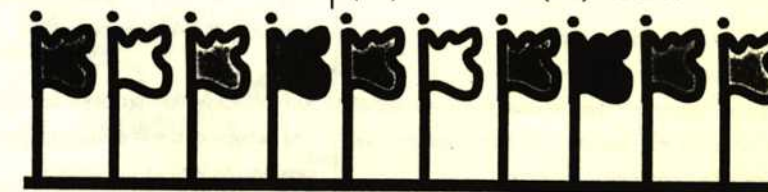
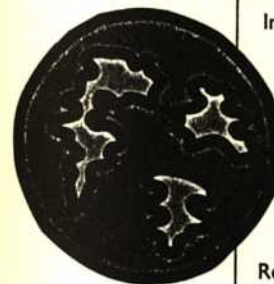
380 St. Antoine Street West  
Suite 3200  
Montreal, Quebec H2Y 3X7  
Canada  
Tel. (514) 287-3280  
Fax (514) 987-1567

#### • 12–14 September 1994

New York, NY, USA

The Annual NGO/DPI Conference, entitled "We, the Peoples . . . Building Peace", will focus on the role of NGOs in peacemaking, peace-keeping and peace-building. Military and human security are another aspect of last year's NGO/DPI Conference on the theme of "Social Development: A New Definition for Security". For further details, contact:

NGO Resource Centre, United Nations  
Department of Public Information, 801 UN Plaza,  
Room U-102, New York, NY, 10017, USA. Tel.  
(212) 963-6842 Fax (212) 963-6914





## Challenges for NGOs

ATTACKING POVERTY • BUILDING SOLIDARITY • CREATING JOBS

### NGO PARTICIPATION IN THE SUMMIT

For information on NGO participation in the Summit, please contact:

#### NGO Liaison Officer

Secretariat of the World Summit for Social Development  
Room DC2-1372  
United Nations  
New York, NY 10017, USA  
Tel. (212) 963-1957  
Fax (212) 963-3062

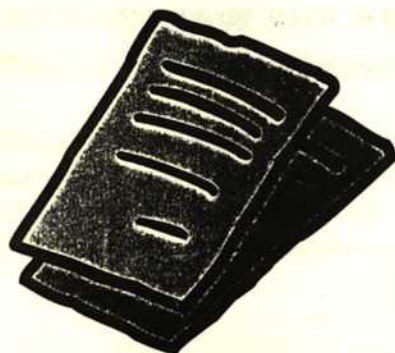
NGO Accreditation: NGOs in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) will be accredited automatically upon written request to:

#### NGO Unit/DPCSD

Room DC2-2340  
United Nations  
New York, NY 10017, USA  
Fax (212) 963-3892

NGOs not in consultative status with ECOSOC that desire accreditation to the World Summit for Social Development should complete an application form obtained from the above NGO Unit, providing the following information:

- Purpose of the organization;
- Information on its programmes and activities of relevance to the Summit, including substantive content and geographic location;



- Description of membership, indicating the total number of members and their geographic distribution; also a list of members of the governing body and their countries of nationality.

The application must be accompanied by a copy of the organization's most recent annual report which reflects its activities at the national and/or international level.

NGOs seeking accreditation must also confirm their interest in the goals and objectives of the Summit. The background of each organization and its involvement in social development issues, particularly the core issues of poverty, unemployment and social integration, will serve as primary criteria in granting accreditation.

Deadlines for application:

PrepCom II: 13 June 1994

PrepCom III: 30 November 1994

Any NGO which has been accredited to attend one session of the PrepCom may attend all future sessions, as well as the Summit.

## Challenges for NGOs

ATTACKING POVERTY • BUILDING SOLIDARITY • CREATING JOBS

### NGO-FORUM '95: MARCH 1995 COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

Concurrent with the World Summit for Social Development, NGOs will hold a parallel NGO-Forum event in Copenhagen, details of which may be obtained from the address below.

The NGO-Forum '95 secretariat has several areas of responsibility:

- Publication of its own NGO newsletter to keep NGOs abreast of the latest developments;
- Facilitation of on-site participation of NGOs in the NGO Summit;
- Organization of parallel NGO events during the Summit week, such as conferences, workshops, exhibits and performances.



NGOs wishing to participate in NGO-Forum '95 activities should address their requests as soon as possible to:

#### NGO-FORUM '95

Social Summit Copenhagen  
Njalsgade 13C  
2300 Copenhagen S, Denmark  
Tel. (45) 32 96 19 95  
Fax (45) 32 96 89 19

#### NGO ACCOMMODATIONS IN COPENHAGEN

DIS Congress Service Copenhagen has been contracted to assist NGOs with reservations for hotel accommodations in Copenhagen during the World Summit for Social Development. For further details, please contact:

#### DIS Congress Service

Herlev Ringvej 2 C  
2730 Herlev  
Tel. (45) 44 92 44 92  
Fax (45) 44 92 50 50

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'95 세계 NGO포럼  
홍보자료



**G**lobal issues of unemployment and social deprivation cannot be entrusted to national governments and the UN alone. The world community as a whole, therefore, is being urged to participate in NGO-Forum '95, to be held parallel with the UN World Summit for Social Development.

The Danish Host Committee invites delegates to the NGO-Forum in Copenhagen.

Fifty years after its foundation the United Nations is holding its first ever summit on social development. This summit will take place in Copenhagen between 6th and 12th March 1995. The World Summit for Social Development will bring together heads of State or Government from around the world to discuss and reach a consensus on a programme of joint action to:

- reduce and eliminate widespread poverty
- expand productive employment and reduce underemployment
- enhance social integration

A number of Danish NGOs have taken the initiative to hold an NGO-Forum, parallel with the UN Summit.

NGO-Forum '95 will act as an alternative to the official UN Summit. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Popular Organizations (POs) from around the world are invited to Copenhagen from 6th - 12th March to discuss public attitudes to global social development, offering the opportunity for an exchange of views and experiences, and a platform for the formulation of a plan of action for the future.

## Social Development:

# off the ground

The world community as a whole can participate in influencing UN decisions. NGOs will, quite often, afford another interpretation of social development in specific countries, than the, at times, evasive version expounded by heads of government and state officials at official UN Summits. NGO-Forum '95 has all the ingredients of becoming the foundation stone for the development of a global social movement. A movement that, like a strong rope, is composed of many thousand of cords.

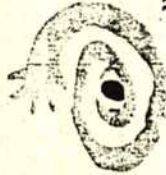
Many pious platitudes will be expressed and lofty pledges made during the UN Summit. A dynamic NGO-Forum will, however, contribute to ensuring that these statements and promises don't gather dust, but are transformed into concrete action, after the last summit speech has been given and the last delegate departed for home.

## Rio, Vienna, Copenhagen

The World Summit for Social Development is the United Nation's third global summit.

The first two were held in Rio de Janeiro (The UN Conference on Environment and Development) and in Vienna (World Conference on Human Rights). The NGOs made considerable impact through their parallel arrangements in both Rio and Vienna. Building on the experiences gleaned at these two summits, the Danish Host Committee has been preparing for the forthcoming NGO-Forum in Copenhagen since August 1993. We expect the participation to be in excess of 2,000 NGO delegations and in the region of 10,000 people attending the conference, daily.





### **Who constitutes the Host Committee?**

NGO-Forum '95's Host Committee is composed of nine Danish NGOs. The task of the Host Committee is to:

**co-ordinate, facilitate, communicate.**

### **Co-ordination**

The Host Committee will be instrumental in organizing contacts between NGOs, who wish to co-operate or exchange ideas.

The Host Committee will co-ordinate contacts between NGO-Forum '95 and UN planners of the UN Social Summit.

The Host Committee will co-ordinate the preparation and implementation of NGO-Forum '95, with the Danish Government.

It will not be the task of the Host Committee to co-ordinate political viewpoints.

### **Facilitation**

The Host Committee will offer participating NGOs:

- a topic of global significance (social development)
- a framework (NGO-Forum '95)
- international contacts (over 2,000 participating NGOs)
- global attention (5,000-6,000 accredited journalists are expected to attend NGO-Forum '95 and the Social Development Summit).

Expenses accrued by the Host Committee in the preparation and implementation of NGO Forum '95, will be met by the Danish Government. Danish financial contributions may not be utilized for participating organization's activities or cover delegates expenses towards subsistence, accommodation and transport to Copenhagen.

- Organizations who wish to avail of special facilities before and/or during NGO-Forum '95, must meet any expenses incurred themselves (for example, special office facilities or large exhibition areas)

# **facts & details**

- All participating organizations will be offered a standard exhibition stand. Exhibition area size has not yet been determined. Delegates will have access to typing facilities. Against payment, delegates may avail of telefaxes, telephones, the transmission of E-mail and photocopying.
- Premises will be made available for workshops, large conferences and plenary sessions.
- A limited number of interpretive systems will be supplied for larger arrangements.

March is the first month of spring in Denmark. At this time of year the weather can be rather cold, with snow showers. However, outdoor arrangements in the form of parades or demonstrations are definitely possible.

On the whole, we urge those participating in NGO-Forum '95 to think in terms of alternatives. NGO-Forum '95 should, as far as possible, be something other than the multitude of words and piles of paper produced at UN Summits. Theatre, music, song, stand-up comedy, film, exhibitions, parties, concerts etc etc, are more than welcome.

### **Communication**

In the months ahead the Host Committee will keep participants informed on on-going preparations for NGO-Forum '95. NGOs will be kept up to date through our newsletters.

If you wish to receive continual information and the application form for NGO-Forum, it is crucial that you complete the Tentative Registration Form, in this newsletter, and return it to the NGO-Forum '95's secretariat in Copenhagen.

Deadline for final registration and requests for exhibition and conference facilities is 1st December 1994.

The Host Committee has established a secretariat. The secretariat is headed by our Secretary General, Mr Jan Birket-Smith, with Mr Bo Simonsen, Communication & Press and Ms Gitte Just Mikkelsen, Secretary.

### **Few NGOs from East and South**

Before the Social Summit and NGO-Forum in Copenhagen, three global preparatory meetings are scheduled for New York under the auspices of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom). The first of these meetings was held in February 1994.

While government delegations from UN member states discussed possible subject matters and contents of official documents, representatives of over 250 NGOs were offered the opportunity of meeting and discussing the possibility of a joint approach to the World Summit. Discussions and viewpoints ensuing showed clearly that the majority of organizations assembled came from North America and northern Western Europe. Latin America was represented by only a few organizations with even fewer from Asia, Africa, the Arab world and the former Soviet Union.

Ensuring far greater representation from these regions during the preparatory phase and at the Summit itself, is a crucial question to be addressed. The Host Committee, therefore, urges recipients of this newsletter to contact donors with requests for financial assistance for those organizations who, due to a shortage of funds, would otherwise be prevented from participating in NGO-Forum '95 and in preparatory sessions of the Social Development Summit.

The second PrepCom meeting is to be held in New York on 22nd August. 2nd September 1994 and the third and final PrepCom meeting on 16th-27th January 1995 also in New York. Numerous regional NGO meetings are also being organized.

NGOs wishing to influence the subject matter of the Social Summit official documents are urged to formulate their proposals now. The earlier NGOs demonstrate their viewpoints the greater the possibility of influencing the tone of the Social Summit's final declaration and programme of action.

The PrepCom's organizational session in April 1993 recommended UN member countries to establish national preparatory committees for the Summit, to hold public meetings and formulate national reports. NGOs can play a vital and decisive role in this national preparatory work.

The Host Committee looks forward to the preparatory sessions of the Social Summit over the months ahead, and to welcoming thousands of NGO representatives to Copenhagen in 1995.

# **Welcome in '95!**

### **International Youth Forum in Copenhagen**



We are a group of young Danes, who take the high sounding statements of the UN on popular participation seriously. We have, therefore, initiated a project entitled "UFO-International Youth Forum", to be held in Denmark just prior to the UN Summit on Social Development.

All over the world young people are actively involved in various types of voluntary projects. From helping the street children of Lisbon, to food distribution in New York, performance workshops in Harare, campaigns against violence in Copenhagen, and much, much more.

In Denmark, UFO will co-ordinate these activities into a huge manifestation of ideas and action. Danish youth, already active on voluntary projects in various parts of Denmark, invites young people from the rest of the world to come and work with us, exchange experiences, make new contacts and find new inspiration.

Topics to be addressed could include, for example, minorities, unemployment, gender roles, education policy, theatre and music workshops ...

Following 10 days visiting local communities around Denmark, we will congregate together in Copenhagen for a large assembly.

As we approach the UN Summit on Social Development, the UFO will attempt to bring discussions on development back to reality, making them more accessible and relevant to the general public. Through our action campaign we will show the older generation and politicians alike, that young people must also be involved in decisions effecting our future.

UFO will take place from 17th February to 5th March 1995.

If you are interesting in more information, want to make proposals or wish to participate in UFO, then contact:

Stine Heiles  
MS/Danish Association for International Co-operation  
Borgergade 14  
DK-1300 Copenhagen K  
Denmark

Tel: +45 3332 6244

Fax: +45 3315 6243



**Tentative registration form**

Please write in BLOCK LETTERS. Write CLEARLY and in ENGLISH

- We are interested in receiving further information on NGO Forum '95
- We are planning to participate in NGO Forum '95 in Copenhagen, March 1995

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Contact name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Your main area(s) of activity or interests relating to social development:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

We are planning to carry out the following activities during NGO Forum '95 in Copenhagen:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please return the completed form to:**

NGO Forum '95, Njalsgade 13C, DK-2300 Copenhagen S, Denmark, Fax +45 3296 8919

**NGO FORUM '95**

NGO-Forum '95  
 Njalsgade 13C  
 DK-2300 Copenhagen S  
 Tel: +45 32 96 19 95  
 Fax: +45 32 96 89 19  
 E-mail address:  
 ngo95@inet.uni-c.dk

Copenhagen, August 94'

**fact sheet**

In this fact sheet, the NGO Forum '95s Secretariat answers a range of questions about the preparations for, and participation in, NGO Forum '95 in Copenhagen. The questions are typical of those we are asked daily, via mail and telephone conversations with NGO's from all over the world.

The Secretariat will, during the coming months, keep you informed of the preparations for the UN World Summit on Social Development and the national organisations NGO Forum '95.

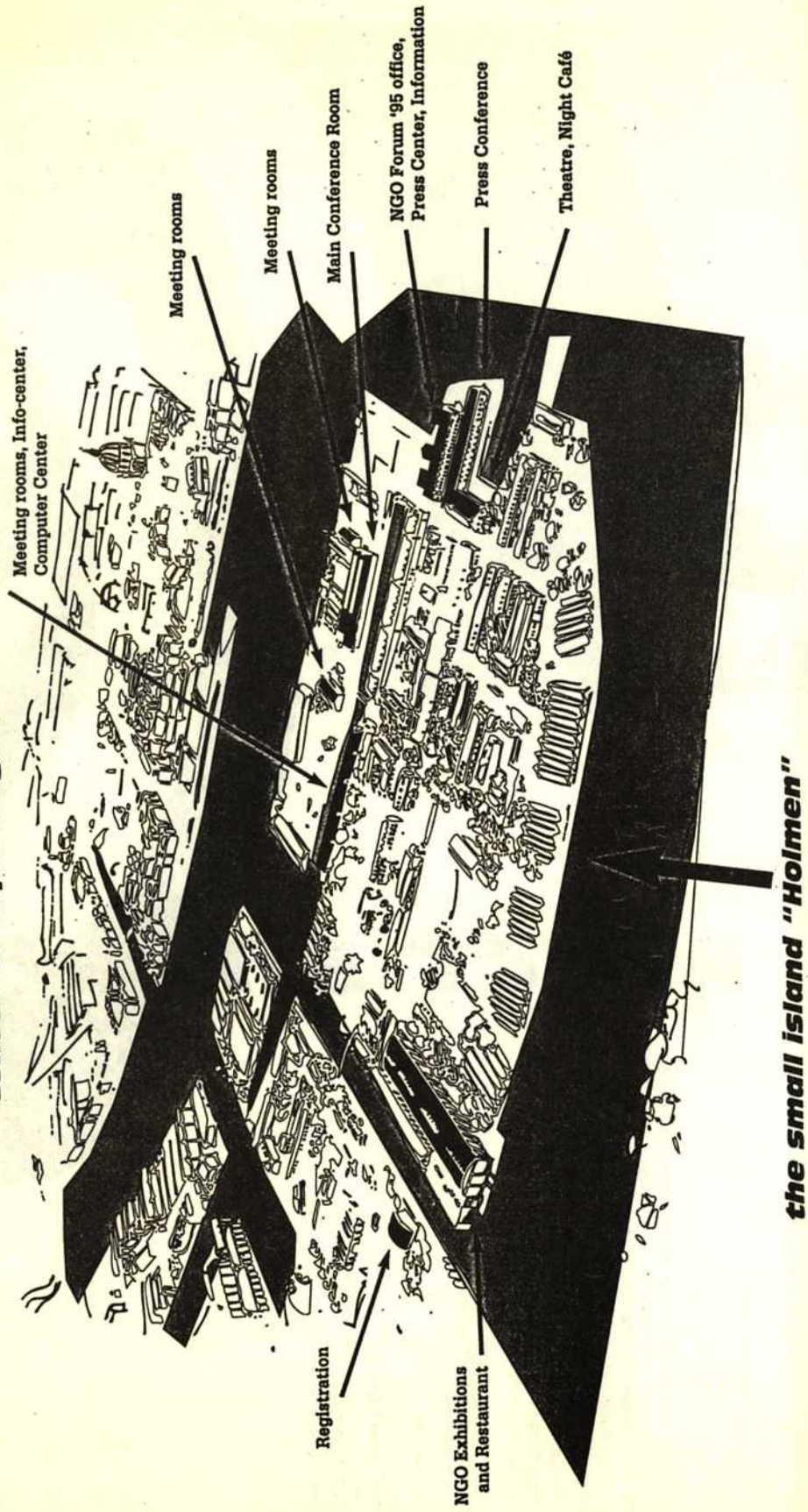
If you have any further questions, you are always welcome to write or fax the secretariat, at the following address:

NGO Forum '95  
 Njalsgade 13C  
 DK-2300 Copenhagen S  
 Denmark  
 Fax: +45 32 96 89 19  
 Tel: + 45 32 96 19 95





**center of Copenhagen**



**the small island "Holmen"**

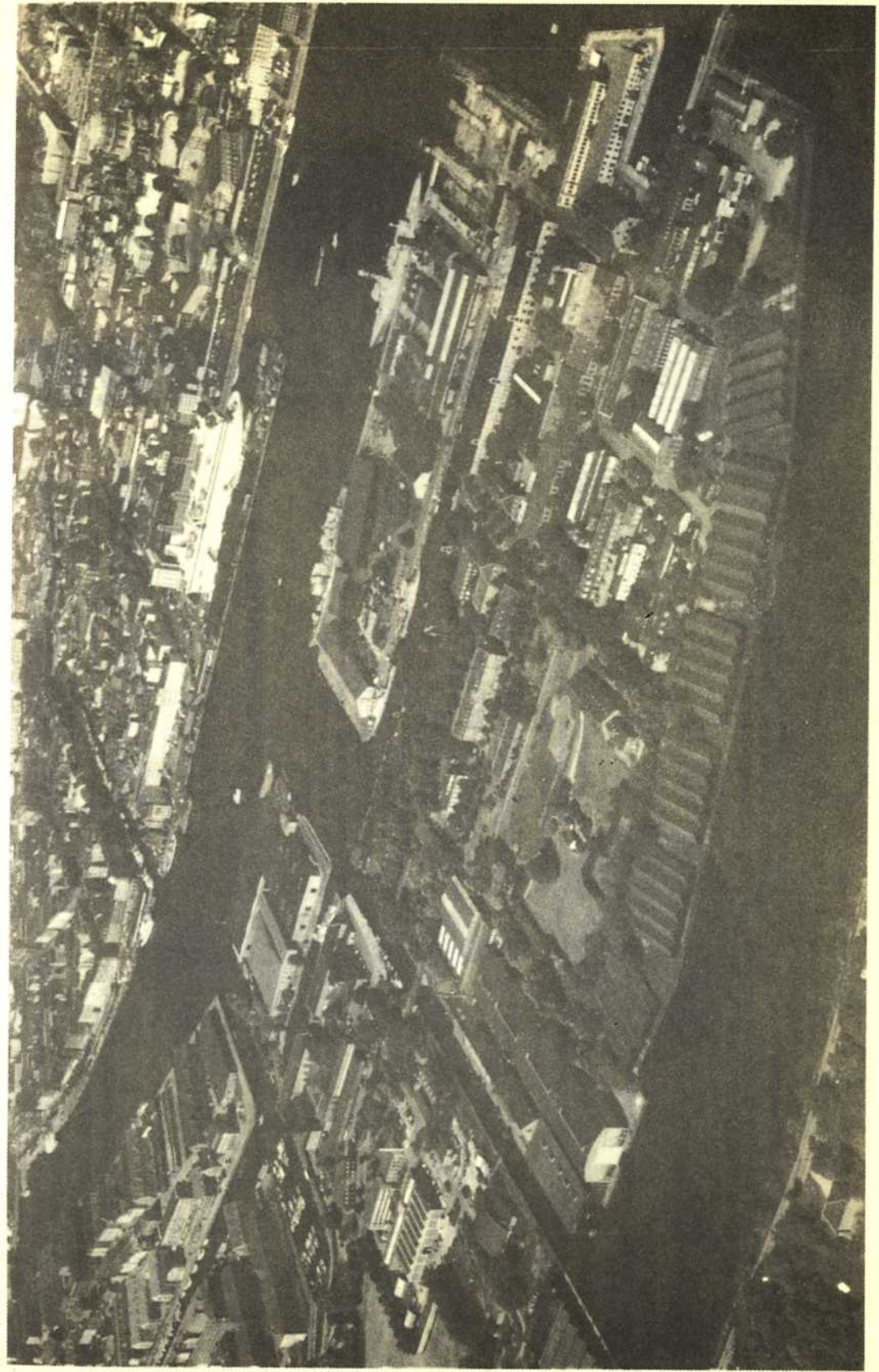
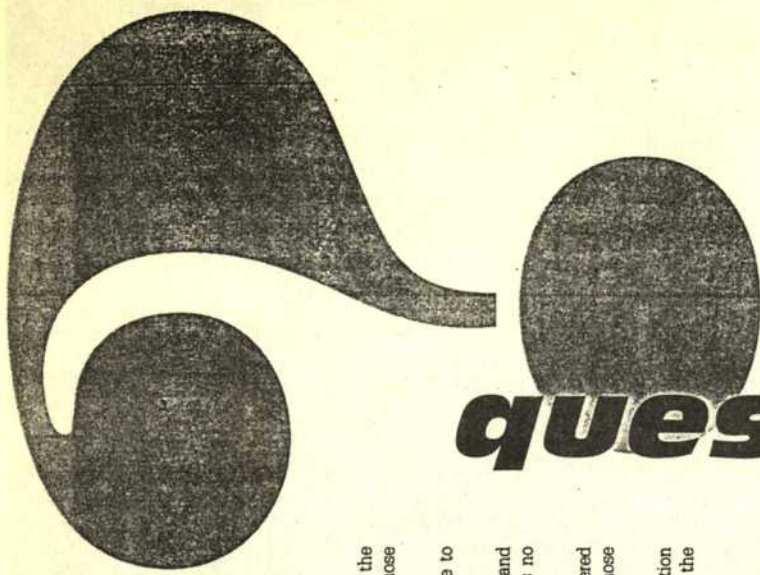


Foto: Forsvarets Bygningstjeneste





# question & answer

## When does the NGO Forum '95 take place?

- Within the first 14 days of March 1995. The final start date will be determined during PrepCom II, due to take place at the end of August.

The last day will be the 12th of March.

## When does the UN's World Summit on Social Development take place?

- From the 6th to the 12th of March, 1995. For the last two days of the summit, national and government leaders from the world over are expected to be present.

## Where does the NGO Forum '95 take place?

- At the former Naval Station on Holmen, in Copenhagen. Holmen, which is situated ten minutes from the centre of Copenhagen, has for over 300 years played a major role in the city's defence, and has been home to the Danish navy. The navy has now deactivated Holmen, and the Danish Department of Defence has given permission for a part of the area to be loaned to NGO Forum '95. NGO Forum '95 has at its disposal a total of 30,000 m<sup>2</sup> of indoor premises distributed through a range of buildings of different sizes.

## Where does the UN World Summit take place?

- In the Bella Centre, situated 5 km from the NGO Forum '95. Shuttle buses will be organised between Bella Centre and Holmen, so participants in the World Summit and the NGO Forum '95 can be transported between the two locations. From TV-screens set up on Holmen, participants at the NGO Forum '95 will be able to follow events at the World Summit.

## Who can participate in the NGO Forum '95?

- Representatives from Popular Organisations and Non-Governmental Organisations, which are interested in social development, expressed in three themes:

- The enhancement of social integration, particularly of the more disadvantaged, marginalised groups.

- The alleviation and reduction of poverty.

- The expansion of productive employment.

## Do you have to be accredited for NGO Forum '95?

- No. There is no requirement for accreditation. In the next international newsletter, which will be issued in the beginning of October, a final application form will be printed.

## Do you have to be accredited to take part in the World Summit as an NGO?

- Yes. Applications for accreditation to the World Summit for Social Development can be obtained from:

NGO Unit/DFPCSD  
United Nations, Room DC2-2340  
New York, N.Y. 10017, USA  
Fax: +1 212 963 3063

Additional information on NGO accreditation to the world summit can be obtained from:

NGO Liaison officer  
Secretariat of the World Summit for Social Development  
United Nations, Room DC2-1372  
New York, N.Y. 10017, USA  
Fax: +1 212 963 3062

Note: The deadline for registration for the World Summit and PrepCom III is the 15th of December, 1994.

## What activities are open to NGOs at the NGO Forum '95?

- Workshops, seminars, meetings, hearings, exhibitions, theatres, films, music, events etc. etc. The possibilities for content and form are endless.

## Can we be certain that our wishes of premises for activities will be fulfilled?

- No. The buildings on Holmen include a hall with space for up to 2,500 people, medium rooms with space for 3-500 people, smaller rooms with space for 50-100 people and a range of smaller venues with space for 20-50 people. Altogether there are meeting facilities for 5,000 people simultaneously.

But there could be problems. If the demand for facilities exceeds the supply, the facilities available must be shared equally between those organisations who have activities planned.

The Danish host committee will do everything humanly possible to accommodate the wishes of every participating NGO.

A short description of the activities planned, premises required, and the period of time involved should be in the secretariat's hands no later than the 1st of December.

After this date, the premises will be distributed between the registered participants. NGO's that register after this date will only get those premises and times that remain after the first round.

Requirements for premises should be stated on the final registration form, which will be sent out with the International Newsletter in the beginning of October.

## In which language can we receive information on the NGO Forum '95?

- The International Newsletter with the tentative registration form has been issued to 50,000 NGO's the world over in english, french, spanish, portuguese, and russian.

Future communications from the secretariat will primarily be in english. In your correspondence with us, primarily use english, subsidiarily spanish or french

## Is the secretariat of NGO Forum '95 capable giving financial support to the travel and stay of NGOs?

- In their letters many NGOs have asked if the secretariat financially can support organisations that wish to participate in the world summit and/or NGO Forum '95.

The Secretariat hasn't the economic resources to pay for participants travel or accommodation expenses. The participating NGO's must

## Where can one apply for economic support for travel and accomodation expenses?

- As mentioned in the International Newsletter, the UN has at its disposal a "Trust fund" with limited resources. The Fund gives economic support to NGO's from the Least Developed Countries, which wish to take part in the UN's World Summit and the remaining PrepCom in New York (PrepCom III, from the 16th- 27th of January, 1995 - see the enclosed list over the LDC countries). The Fund does not give assistance to NGO's, who wish solely to participate in the NGO Forum '95, but NGO's who receive support from the Trust Fund may participate in both the World Summit and NGO Forum '95.

Information on the Fund is available from:

The NGO Liaison Officer,  
Secretariat of the World Summit for Social Development,  
United Nations/ Room DC2-1372,  
New York, N.Y. 10017,  
USA  
Fax: +1 212 963 3062.

But other sources of financial support do exist:

- Local country offices of the UNDP (UNDP = United Nations Development Programme)  
- Local country offices of the UN  
- Local representations of the EU  
- Embassies and consulates

The offices of NGLS in New York and Geneva:

United Nations Non-Governmental Service, NGLS  
Room 6015

866 UN Plaza  
New York, N.Y. 10017, USA  
Fax: +1 212 963 8712

or

NGLS  
Palais de Nations  
1211 Geneva 10  
Switzerland  
Fax: +41 22 788 7366

The Danish host committee calls on wealthy NGO's to support their NGO co-operation partners in finding financing and thereby secure a broad international participation at NGO Forum '95.



### When can we get more information from the secretariat?

The secretariats first international newsletter was issued via The Center of Our Common Futures magazine, "The Network" (35,021 subscribers), NGLS's magazine "Go Between" (5,000 subscribers) as well as a separate issue to a range of NGO's in former Soviet Union and Africa.

The next newsletter with among other things the final registration form, will be sent out in the beginning of October to those organisations, that have sent in a tentative registration form, or who have informed us in writing of their intention to participate.

### Where can we get more information on the World Summit?

The Summit Secretariat in New York can supply written material on the UN summit.

Local UN offices can also be helpful with information.

Key United Nations Documents:

- Draft of the Summit Declaration
- Draft of the programme of action
- Human Development Report 1994 (Printed by the UNDP in several languages)
- Report on the World Social Situation. United Nations (Sales No. E.93.IV.2.ISBN 92-1-330140-5)
- World Summit for Social Development: An Overview (A/Conf.166/PC/6+A/Conf.166/PC/8+A/Conf.166/PC/9)

### Can we receive information via electronic data base?

Official United Nations documents on the Summit may be accessed on a number of electronic networks, for example:

Association for Progressive Communications (APC) users can access files via the access code: <un.socdev.docs> conference. Internet users can access files via gopher by connecting to gopher.undp.org.

Users without gopher access can search E-mail by sending a message to gopher@undp.org. An automated response will then give instructions on how to access via E-mail, documents on the Summit which can be located under the heading United Nations Conferences.

Information from the NGO Forum '95s Secretariat can also be found on APC at the conference, at the following address: <ngo95dk.info>

### How will knowledge of the NGO Forum '95 become more widespread in the media?

The international attention currently focussed on the UN Summit and NGO Forum '95 is not enough. NGOs around the world can help in raising the debate to a national level (e.g. through the printed and the electronic media, public meetings, etc.) through the coming months by taking up the themes of both the summit and the NGO Forum. For the majority of the nations inhabitants is an embarrassing one. With the summit, World society has a chance to ensure that the development policy debate is lifted to a level, that makes it difficult for the more reluctant countries to duck out of the political process. The exploitation of this historic chance depends to a large extent on active and dynamic NGOs that can pressure their countries government leaders to take a stand, and to participate in the Summit in Copenhagen, when the World's government leaders gather.

# question & answer

### Does it cost anything to take part in NGO Forum '95?

Yes. Each participant shall pay a registration fee (probably around 300 danish kroner, approximately 50 US dollars.) This amount shall be paid on registration.

### Do you have to have a visa to enter Denmark?

Citizens from a range of countries from around the world do not have to have a visa to enter Denmark (See attached list: Exemption From Visa). Citizens from various countries shall produce a valid visa on entering the country. Further information can be obtained from the nearest Danish consulate. Danish embassies and consulates will be informed about the holding of the UN's World Summit and the NGO Forum '95.

Leave yourself plenty of time with your visa application.

### Where can we reserve hotel accommodation for our stay in Copenhagen?

All questions on hotel reservations shall be referred to:

DIS Congress Service Copenhagen A/S  
Herlev Ringvej 2C  
DK-2370 Herlev  
Copenhagen  
Denmark  
Telephone: +45 44 92 44 92  
Telefax: +45 44 92 50 50

Reserve accommodation, as soon as you know how many will be in your party. With regard to hotel reservations, the people who book first stand the greatest chance of having their requirements met.

At the moment, the Danish host committee is working on finding private accommodation for those participants in NGO Forum '95, who want it. Further information can be obtained in the forthcoming International Newsletter.

### TV NIGHT FILM FESTIVAL IN COPENHAGEN

The Danish state television service, DR-TV, has offered transmission time to NGO Forum '95 for a short film festival from the 6th to the 12th of March, 1995.

The contents of the short films will relate to the themes of the World Summit and NGO Forum '95.

The films will be shown on DR-TV's nationwide channel every night after midnight between 6th to the 12th of March, 1995. Before the nights film, a report of the days events at the World Summit and NGO Forum will be transmitted.

The films should be submitted free of charge to DR-TV. Before the film can be transmitted, the rights holder shall give permission in writing for the film to be shown on DR-TV without the rights holder claiming compensation.

DR-TV will choose the films to be transmitted from those that are sent in. During the selection process, emphasis will be laid on the technical quality and content of the film, as well as differences in geographical distribution and subject matter.

The films shall be sent to the NGO Forum secretariat before 1st December, along with a short description of the films content, length, producer(s) name, and copyright holders name. Remember also to include a clearly written senders address, including a telephone number (also fax number, if relevant).

DR-TV prefer to receive films in the PAL system on Umatic or Beta-cam. But if these technical standards can't be met, other systems are acceptable (e.g. NTSC).

All films submitted will be returned to sender.

During NGO Forum '95, equipment for the showing of videofilms will be available. Those films that are shown on DR-TV will also be shown in the video cinema at NGO Forum '95. When you register for NGO Forum '95, please specify if you plan to show a film or films.



## Exemption from Visa

Visitors from the following countries are allowed entry into Denmark without having been granted a visa before entry:

Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bermuda 1), Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India 2), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Kiribati, Korea, Republic of Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Pakistan 2), Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines 3), Poland, Portugal, San Marino, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Surinam, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Thailand, Trinidad-Tobago, Turkey 4), Tuvalu, Uganda, UK 5), United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zambia, Zimbabwe

- 1) Only BDTC-passport
- 2) Only diplomatic and service passport
- 3) Only diplomatic and service passport marked "official"
- 4) Only diplomatic special and service passport
- 5) Holders of British Passports: Exemption from visa includes holders of valid British Passport "Common Format Passport" which describes the holder of the passport as "a British Citizen), as well as holders of "British Visitors Passport"

bw

## List of the Least Developed among the developing countries:

Afghanistan, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Ethiopia, Guinea, Haiti, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Samoa, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, Bangladesh, Central African Republic, Gambia, Cape Verde, Comoros, Guinea Bissau, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Togo, Vanuatu, Tuvalu, Kiribati, Mauritania, Myanmar, Mozambique, Liberia, Cambodia, Madagascar, Solomon Islands, Zaire, Zambia, Eritrea, Angola



NGO FORUM '95

NGO-Forum '95  
Njaisgade 13C  
DK-2300 Copenhagen S  
Tel: +45 32 96 19 95  
Fax: +45 32 96 89 19  
E-mail address:  
ngo95@inet.uni-c.dk

Design: N. Vestrup & K. Andersen, Copenhavn, DK

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**Now is the time to register for the NGO Forum '95!**  
NGO Forum '95 is the parallel activity to the UN World Summit for Social Development.

The World Summit and the NGO Forum '95 will be held in Denmark's capital, Copenhagen.

The NGO Forum '95 starts the 3rd of March, and finishes the 12th of March, 1995.

If you would like to participate in the NGO Forum '95, now is the time to register.

This newsletter contains three different types of registration forms:

- The individual participant's registration form, page 15
- A request form for meeting facilities, page 17
- A request form for exhibition space, page 19

**Return the completed forms as quickly as possible. The deadline is the 1st of December, 1994.**

Read the guidelines (page 3 to page 5) before you fill in the registration forms.

Even if you have previously sent in a "Tentative registration form", or have been in contact with the NGO Forums secretariat in Copenhagen, you **MUST** use the registration forms to be registered as a participant in the NGO Forum and to book meeting and/or exhibition facilities.

No assurance can be given that requests for meeting and/or exhibition facilities received after the 1st December, 1994 can be fulfilled.

**In this newsletter you can also read:**

- General Secretary Jan Birker Smith: Welcome to Copenhagen
- Poor marks for the Summit preparations
- Denmark - a green country by the sea
- Fact sheet

# register now!