



# Earth Negotiations Bulletin

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## WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: YEAR-END UPDATE

As preparations for the World Summit for Social Development continue, there is much to report on the eve of the third session of the Preparatory Committee, which will meet from 16-27 January 1995 in New York. The revised draft Declaration and Programme of Action for the Social Summit (A/CONF.166/PC/L.22) has been released and the General Assembly adopted the provisional rules of procedure for the Summit. This special year-end issue of the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* will review relevant activities that have taken place since the intersessional consultations of the Preparatory Committee for the Social Summit. This issue of the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* is published as part of a series of year-end issues intended to summarize the current state of play in the various sustainable development conferences and negotiations reported on by the *Bulletin* in 1994.

### A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE WSSD

The World Summit for Social Development (WSSD) will take place from 6-12 March 1995, in Copenhagen, Denmark. The Summit, which was called for by UN General Assembly Resolution 47/92 in December 1992, will bring together Heads of State or Government from around the world to agree on a programme of action to alleviate and reduce poverty, expand productive employment, and enhance social integration.

### ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION

The Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) for the WSSD held its organizational session in New York from 12-16 April 1993. Amb. Juan Somavía (Chile) was elected Chair and representatives from the following nine countries were elected to the Bureau as Vice-Chairs: Australia, Cameroon, India, Indonesia, Latvia, Mexico, the Netherlands, Poland and Zimbabwe. Denmark, the host country, serves as an *ex officio* member of the Bureau and as a Vice-Chair. The PrepCom also adopted decisions on: intersessional meetings of the Bureau; modalities for the participation of NGOs; national preparations for the WSSD; mobilization of resources for the WSSD Trust Fund; the UN Department of Public Information's (DPI) plans to launch a public information programme on the issues and objectives of the Summit; the organization of work, including the tasks of the PrepCom, a timetable and level of representation; expert group meetings; the dates for the Summit and the PrepCom sessions; and the provisional agenda for the first session of the PrepCom.

### PREPCOM I

The first session of the PrepCom met in New York from 31 January - 11 February 1994. The objective of PrepCom I was to define the expected output and provide elements for inclusion in the documents to be adopted at the Summit. The first week of the session was devoted to opening statements from governments, NGOs, UN agencies and other intergovernmental organizations. During the second week, the delegates drafted a series of decisions to help guide the Secretariat and the PrepCom in the preparation of the expected outcomes of the Summit.

By the conclusion of PrepCom I, delegates had agreed on the existence, format and basic structure of a draft Declaration and draft Programme of Action as well as the possible elements to be included in these documents. Delegates agreed that the draft Declaration should contain three parts: a description of the world social situation; principles, goals, policy orientations and common challenges to be addressed by all actors at the local, national, regional and international levels; and an expression of commitment on issues relating to implementation and follow-up. The Declaration should be concise and focused, and reaffirm international agreements, instruments, declarations and decisions adopted by the UN system that are relevant to the Summit. The Secretariat was asked to prepare a draft negotiating text on the basis of the contents of the 11 objectives and three core issues stated in paragraphs 5 and 6 of General Assembly Resolution 47/92.

### PREPCOM II

The second session of the PrepCom met from 22 August -2 September 1994, at UN Headquarters in New York. During the course of the two-week session, delegates focused primarily on the texts of the draft Declaration and Programme of Action to be adopted in Copenhagen. The Secretariat's initial draft met with much criticism for both its structure and content. Delegates spent most of the first week reviewing the Secretariat's text. Their comments and drafting suggestions on the Programme of Action were then incorporated into a new compilation text, which was distributed at the end of the first week. Although the Secretariat, the Bureau and the delegates had hoped that the PrepCom would be able to produce a draft negotiating text by the conclusion of this session, this was not to be the case. Instead, the result was an unmanageable 200-250 page document containing the compilation text and all the amendments proposed by delegates during the second week. As a result, the Bureau was requested to convene intersessional informal consultations in October to facilitate the preparation of a new draft text to serve as the basis for negotiations at the third and final PrepCom.

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## **INTERSESSIONAL INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS**

The PrepCom met in New York for a week of intersessional informal consultations from 24-28 October 1994. The purpose of this intersessional session was to give delegates the opportunity to identify areas of convergence and divergence in both the draft Programme of Action and the draft Declaration. The specific goal was to provide enough guidance both to the Secretariat and PrepCom Chair Amb. Juan Somavía to produce an integrated negotiating text. During the course of the week-long consultations, frustration seemed to pervade the Informal Committee of the Whole, which dealt more with the structure than the substance of the Programme of Action. Meanwhile, the real substantive work was carried out in Amb. Somavía's consultations on the Declaration. It was apparent from the start of this session that the Declaration must serve as the philosophical basis for the Programme of Action, and that matters of substance in the Programme of Action could not be tackled until some degree of resolution was reached with the Declaration.

On the Declaration, there was agreement that it must be infused with a strong "presidential tone," with strong commitments on the empowerment of women, the special needs of Africa and the least developed countries (which many regard as the true test of the Summit's success) and the need for socially responsible structural adjustment programmes. The key issue on poverty is how to make the related commitments clear, credible and realistic. In the area of employment, it was felt that there is a lack of appreciation for the implications of the economic globalization process. The most difficult issues were, of course, creation of an enabling international economic environment and implementation and follow-up. While there is general agreement that the substantive commitments must be accompanied with commitments to make the necessary resources available, much disagreement remains as to the possible sources and modalities. Likewise, few concrete proposals were generated around the issue of implementation and follow-up and the possible improvement of existing institutions.

The structure of the draft Programme of Action underwent a considerable metamorphosis as a result of a proposal by the G-77 on the first day. Delegates welcomed the G-77's proposed reorganization and, thus, easily agreed to request the Secretariat to reorganize the Programme of Action in line with the G-77's proposal. Once agreement was reached on the structure, delegates started to discuss the substance of the Programme of Action. However, since these intersessional informal consultations were not intended to be negotiating sessions, few delegates were prepared with concrete or substantive proposals. Nevertheless, delegates concluded the session with optimism for the success of the Summit.

## **SUMMARY OF THE DRAFT DECLARATION**

At the conclusion of the intersessional informal consultations, the Secretariat was asked to prepare a new draft of the Programme of Action and the Declaration by 30 November 1994. The following is a summary of this integrated draft, as contained in document A/CONF.166/PC/L.22.

The draft declaration contains the following sections: the introduction; Current Social Situation and Reasons for Convening the Summit; Principles and Goals; and Commitments.

**INTRODUCTION:** The ten paragraph introduction acknowledges that the peoples of the world have shown an urgent need to address profound social problems, especially poverty, unemployment and social exclusion. Our societies must respond more effectively to the material and spiritual needs of individuals, their families and communities. Social development and social justice are crucial preconditions for the achievement and maintenance of peace and security. Furthermore, social development and economic development are interdependent and

mutually reinforcing. This Declaration is a commitment to enhancing social development throughout the world so that all people have the rights, resources and responsibilities to lead satisfying lives and contribute to the well-being of their families, their communities and humankind. This Summit launches a new era of international cooperation between governments and peoples, based on a spirit of partnership that puts the needs and aspirations of people at the center of decision making.

### **PART I. A. CURRENT SOCIAL SITUATION AND REASONS FOR CONVENING THE SUMMIT:**

This section notes that the expansion of prosperity is being accompanied by an expansion of poverty. Globalization has also resulted in inequality and marginalization, both within and among countries. There has been progress in the following areas: wealth of nations has multiplied seven-fold; trade has grown dramatically; life expectancy, literacy and primary education has increased; infant mortality has decreased; and pluralistic and democratic institutions and civil liberties have expanded. Yet, there is growing distress with regard to: the gap between rich and poor people and countries; serious social problems; hunger and abject poverty; unemployment; and social disintegration and marginalization. The challenge is to establish a people-centered framework for social development to guide us now and in the future, in building a culture of cooperation and partnership and responding to the immediate needs of those who are most affected by human distress.

**B. PRINCIPLES AND GOALS:** This section lists the following principles and goals: (a) place people at the center of development and the economy at the service of human needs; (b) fulfill our responsibility for present and future generations; (c) recognize that social development is a national responsibility that is enhanced through international cooperation; (d) integrate economic and social policies; (e) recognize that sound broadly-based economic policies are a foundation for sustained social development; (f) promote democracy, human dignity, social justice and solidarity; (g) promote a more just distribution of income and access to resources; (h) recognize the family as the basic unit of society; (i) promote and protect universally recognized human rights; (j) support progress and security for people and communities; (k) underline the importance of good governance; and (l) recognize that empowering people to strengthen their own capacities is a main objective of development

**PART II. COMMITMENTS:** The nine commitments are as follows: (1) creating an enabling economic, political and legal environment conducive to social development, at all levels; (2) eradicating poverty in the world, through decisive national actions and international cooperation; (3) enabling all people to attain secure and sustainable livelihoods through freely chosen productive employment and work, and to maintain the goal of full employment; (4) promoting social integration and participation of all people by fostering societies that are stable, safe and just; (5) achieving full equity and equality between women and men and recognizing and enhancing the participation of women in social progress and development; (6) promoting the economic, social and human resource development of Africa and the least developed countries; (7) ensuring that structural adjustment programmes include the social development goals of eradicating poverty, generating productive employment and enhancing social integration; (8) increasing and utilizing more efficiently the resources assigned to social development to achieve the goals of the Summit through national action and international cooperation; and (9) strengthening the framework for cooperation for social development through the UN and other multilateral institutions.

## SUMMARY OF THE DRAFT PROGRAMME OF ACTION

The draft Programme of Action contains a three-paragraph introduction and five chapters. Each chapter contains sections entitled "Basis for Action and Objectives" and "Actions." This summary will emphasize the "Actions" sections of each chapter.

The introduction notes that the Programme of Action outlines policies and measures to implement the principles and fulfill the commitments in the Declaration. It notes the three major themes of the Summit — poverty eradication, productive employment and social integration — and recognizes that many of these issues in the Programme have been addressed in greater detail by previous world conferences.

### ***I. AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT***

This chapter is based on the recognition that social development is inseparable from the economic, political, ecological and cultural environment in which it takes place.

**A. A FAVOURABLE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT:** The actions outlined in this section are structured around the following themes: the promotion of mutually reinforcing growth in trade, employment and incomes as a basis for social development; ensuring that the benefits of global growth are more evenly distributed among countries; giving priority to the needs of Africa and the least developed countries, within the framework of support to developing countries; making economic growth and the interplay of market forces more conducive to social development; and ensuring that fiscal systems and other public policies do not generate socially divisive disparities.

**B. AN ENABLING POLITICAL AND LEGAL ENVIRONMENT:** The actions outlined in this section are structured around the following themes: ensuring that the political framework supports the objectives of social development; promotion and protection of the rights of individuals; fostering an open political and economic system through access by all to knowledge, education and information; and international support for national efforts to promote an enabling political and legal environment.

### ***II. ERADICATION OF POVERTY***

The basis for action for this chapter is that over one billion people in the world live under unacceptable conditions of poverty. Poverty has various manifestations and origins and can only be eradicated through universal access to economic opportunities and basic social services and empowerment.

**A. THE FORMULATION OF INTEGRATED STRATEGIES:** Themes include: governments should give greater focus to public efforts towards the eradication of extreme poverty and the reduction of overall poverty; governments should integrate goals and targets for the reduction and eradication of poverty into overall economic and social policy and planning at the local and national levels; people living in poverty and their organizations should be empowered; there is a need to monitor and assess poverty, evaluate poverty reduction policies and promote understanding and awareness of poverty and its causes and consequences; and the international community should support the efforts of countries to reduce and eradicate poverty.

**B. IMPROVED ACCESS TO PRODUCTIVE RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE:** The actions in this section are based on the following themes: the opportunities available for diversification and productivity growth in low-income communities should be enhanced; opportunities for small farmers

and other agricultural, forestry and fishery workers should be promoted; small producers' access to credit should be substantially improved; and urban poverty should be addressed.

**C. MEETING THE BASIC NEEDS OF ALL:** Themes in this section include: governments and social organizations should cooperate to meet the basic needs of all members of society, including people living in poverty and vulnerable groups; governments must implement their commitments to meet the basic needs of all; and access to social services for people living in poverty and vulnerable groups should be improved.

**D. ENHANCED SOCIAL PROTECTION AND REDUCED VULNERABILITY:** This section is structured around the following issues: social protection systems should be strengthened and expanded in order to protect from poverty people who cannot find work, people who cannot work due to sickness, disability, old age or maternity, families that have lost a breadwinner through death or marital break-up and people who have lost their livelihoods due to national disaster or civil violence; children must be protected; and people and communities should be protected from temporary and long-term impoverishment resulting from disasters.

### ***III. PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND THE REDUCTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT***

The basis for action in this chapter is that productive work is not only a means of economic livelihood, but a defining element of human identity. As such, high levels of unemployment and underemployment require that the State, the private sector and other actors and institutions cooperate to create the conditions, knowledge and skills necessary for people to work productively.

**A. THE CENTRALITY OF EMPLOYMENT-INTENSIVE GROWTH IN POLICY FORMATION:** Themes in this section include: placing the creation of productive employment at the centre of development strategies and economic and social policies; minimizing the negative impact on jobs of measures for macroeconomic stability; stimulating employment-intensive growth; and enhancing opportunities for the creation and growth of private sector enterprises that would generate additional employment.

**B. EDUCATION, TRAINING AND LABOUR POLICIES:** The actions in this section address: encouraging people to work productively in today's rapidly changing global environment and for workers to move from low productivity to better quality jobs; and helping workers adapt and enhance their employment possibilities under changing economic conditions.

**C. ENHANCED QUALITY OF WORK AND EMPLOYMENT:** The actions in this section address: means by which governments should enhance the quality of work and employment; and means to achieve a healthy and safe working environment, remove exploitation, raise productivity and enhance the quality of life.

**D. ENHANCED EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROUPS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** Themes in this section include: improving the design of policies and programmes; addressing the problems of long-term unemployment; guaranteeing all young people constructive options for their future; ensuring the full participation of women in the labour market and their equal access to employment opportunities; broadening the full range of employment opportunities for disabled persons; and intensifying international cooperation to provide for the needs of migrant workers and their families.

**E. A BROADER CONCEPTION OF WORK AND EMPLOYMENT:** This section outlines how to develop and implement a broader conception of work and employment.

## **SOCIAL INTEGRATION**

The basis for action in this chapter notes that the main aim of social integration must be to enable different groups in society to live together in productive and cooperative diversity.

**A. RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT AND FULL PARTICIPATION IN SOCIETY:** Actions in this section relate to making public institutions more responsive to people's needs and encouraging the fullest participation in society.

**B. NON-DISCRIMINATION, TOLERANCE AND RESPECT FOR DIVERSITY:** This section lists the means to reduce and eliminate discrimination and promote tolerance and respect for diversity.

**C. EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE:** This section lists the means by which governments can promote equality of opportunity and social justice.

**D. RESPONSES TO SPECIAL SOCIAL NEEDS:** This section lists the requirements for governmental responses to special needs of social groups.

**E. EQUITABLE TREATMENT AND INTEGRATION OF MIGRANTS, MIGRANT WORKERS, REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS:** This section lists the actions required to promote the equitable treatment and integration of all groups.

**F. VIOLENCE, CRIME AND DRUG ABUSE:** This section lists actions to address the problems created by violence, crime and drug abuse.

## **IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOW-UP**

**A. NATIONAL STRATEGIES:** This section lists the actions required at the national level to promote an integrated approach to the implementation of the Programme of Action as well as the actions by bilateral and multilateral agencies that can support the formulation of national strategies for social development.

**B. INVOLVEMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY:** Effective implementation of the Programme of Action requires strengthening community organizations and non-profit NGOs who work in the sphere of education, health, poverty alleviation, social integration, relief and rehabilitation so that they can participate actively in policy making. The means of enhancing the contribution of civil society and the private sector to social development are also listed.

**C. MOBILIZATION OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES:** This section notes that the implementation of the Programme of Action at the national level will require a reorientation of existing resources and substantial new resources, both in the public and the private sectors. Actions include the means of: augmenting the availability of public resources for social development; increasing financial assistance from the international community to enable developing countries to implement the Programme of Action; reducing the debt burden; ensuring that structural adjustment programmes promote social development goals; and encouraging international financial institutions to contribute to the mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Programme of Action.

**D. THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM:** This section lists the issues that the UN General Assembly should give special consideration to, including: strengthening the Economic and Social Council; strengthening and revising the mandate for the Commission for Social Development; promoting implementation of the Programme of Action at the regional and subregional levels; identifying the role of other UN fora that have a special role to play; and convening meetings of high-level representatives to promote international dialogue on social issues. The UN system should also provide technical cooperation and other forms of assistance to the developing countries in implementing the Programme of Action.

**E. PERIODIC ASSESSMENT OF SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND SOCIAL PROGRESS IN THE WORLD:** This section states that the UN General Assembly should review the implementation of the outcome of the Summit every two years. ECOSOC should review the reporting system in the area of social development to establish a coherent system that would result in a UN Report on Social Development, with clear policy recommendations for governments and international actions. A second World Summit on Social Development should be scheduled in 2005 to review progress and agree on further initiatives.

## **PROVISIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE**

The Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly approved the provisional rules of procedure of the World Summit for Social Development and submitted them to the General Assembly Plenary for its approval. The General Assembly is expected to approve the provisional rules of procedure, as contained in document A/C.2/49/4/Rev.1, before Christmas. The provisional rules of procedure address such issues as: representation and credentials; officers; general committee; secretariat of the Summit; opening of the Summit; conduct of business; decision making; subsidiary bodies; languages and records; public and private meetings; other participants and observers; and amendment and suspension of the rules of procedure.

## **THINGS TO LOOK FOR IN 1995**

**PREPCOM III:** The third and final session of the Preparatory Committee will meet from 16-27 January 1995, in New York. Delegates will have to reach agreement on the Programme of Action, the Declaration and the programme of work for the Summit itself. The basis for negotiations will be the revised draft Programme of Action and Declaration (A/CONF.166/PC/L.22).

**WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT:** The Social Summit will take place at the Bella Center in Copenhagen from 6-12 March 1995. The exact schedule and programme of work is expected to be agreed upon at the third session of the Preparatory Committee.

**NGO FORUM '95:** NGO Forum '95 will take place from 3-12 March at the former naval base on Holmen in Copenhagen. For more information, contact the NGO Forum '95 Secretariat. For information about accommodations, DIS Congress Service Copenhagen has been contracted to assist NGOs with hotel reservations. They can be contacted at: DIS Congress Service, Herlev Ringvej 2 C, 2730 Herlev, Denmark; tel: +45-44 92 44 92; fax: +45-44 92 50 50.

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