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WSSD PREPCOM III HIGHLIGHTS TUESDAY, 24 JANUARY 1995

WORKING GROUP I

The Chair introduced CRP.4, the report from Amb. Butler's consultative group on the draft Declaration. Amb. Butler recommended that delegates approve the paper, with the exception of the five reservations. Where agreement could not be reached, Somavía sent the text back to the Butler Group.

In **paragraph 4** (good governance), delegates accepted the G-77/China proposal to change "sustainable economic and social development" to "social and people-centered sustainable development." Delegates retained the brackets in **paragraph 8** (overriding goals of the international community).

IA. CURRENT SOCIAL SITUATION AND REASONS FOR CONVENING THE SUMMIT

Paragraph 15 will be drafted on the basis of the Programme of Action. The G-77/China proposal focused the second sentence of **paragraph 16** (critical situation of Africa and LDCs) on developing countries. In **paragraph 17** (support for countries with economies in transition), the G-77/China proposed deleting the introductory "for the same reasons," stating that some reasons for support are not the same in Africa and LDCs, and economies in transition. In **paragraph 18** (sources of social distress), the following changes were made to the list of sources: "illicit narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances" reads "illicit drug problems;" "illicit arms trafficking" will be placed after "armed conflict;" and "security" will stand on its own rather than being linked as "peace and security." In **paragraph 19** (communicable diseases), delegates accepted the US reference to "HIV/AIDS" rather than simply "AIDS."

B. PRINCIPLES AND GOALS

In **paragraph 22** (vision for social development), the G-77/China proposed a reference to the "various values, ethical and cultural backgrounds of people," which reflects Cairo language. The proposal was accepted, pending further reflection by the Holy See. Sub-paragraphs **23(a)-(h)** (framework for action) were accepted, with the exception of **23(g)** (equitable income distribution). Delegates disagreed on many of the remaining sub-paragraphs. The G-77/China accepted those sub-paragraphs apart from the reservation to **23(k)** (right to self-determination), but the EU called for several changes. The EU replaced "compensate" with "mitigate" in **23(i)** (compensating the consequences of disability), but Norway, who had originally proposed the sub-paragraph, objected. In **23(j)** (human rights), the EU replaced "social cohesion" with "social integration." The EU called for the deletion of **23(q)** (disabled and older persons), which the

G-77/China and the US insisted on retaining. In **23(s)** (participation of women), the EU replaced "improve" in the reference to women's participation with "ensure." In **23(t)** (return of refugees), the EU, supported by the US, replaced "for the return of" with "to deal with the problems of" and deleted "to their places of permanent residence." Azerbaijan noted that the EU amendments undermined the purpose of the sub-paragraph, which was to create the conditions for the return of refugees. He proposed "to allow them to return to their places of permanent residence or their home of origin." In **23(u)** (return of prisoners of war), the EU added a reference to international conventions.

In **paragraph 24** (responsibility of the international community), delegates agreed to the EU proposal to replace "remove inequities" among people with the phrase "reduce inequalities." The Russian Federation proposed a reference to countries with economies in transition in the sentence on the widening income gap between developed and developing countries. The G-77/China objected to including new categories of countries. Amb. Butler warned against re-drafting the "finely balanced" text.

The Group then reviewed the bracketed paragraphs together. **Paragraph 8** (goals of the international community) was not accepted by the G-77/China. The EU insisted on the reference to "equity" in **sub-paragraph 23(g)** (equitable income distribution). In **23(k)** (right to self-determination), the EU requested that the sub-paragraph reflect Vienna language. Somavía announced that the Working Group would not reconvene until Wednesday afternoon to allow the consultative groups of Amb. Razali (Commitments 7, 8, 9 and Chapter V, Implementation and Follow-up) and Amb. Butler (Declaration and Commitments 1 to 6) to continue, and for the regional groups to review their work.

Amb. Ostergaard-Andersen (Denmark) reported that most hotel rooms in Copenhagen have been pre-booked at special rates by DHS Congress Services. Individual arrangements can be made, but delegates should deal with DHS to benefit from the special rates.

WORKING GROUP II

Although Working Group II worked until 11:00 pm on Monday night, it did not complete its first reading of Chapter III. Thus, amidst growing time pressure on Tuesday, the Group managed to complete Chapter III and was scheduled to work until 11:00 pm, Tuesday, to try to complete Chapter IV.

CHAPTER III: PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT

D. ENHANCED EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROUPS WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS

Paragraph 53 bis, as proposed by the EU, was accepted: "Programmes for entry and reentry to the labour market aimed at the disadvantaged and vulnerable groups which can effectively

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combat the causes of exclusion on the labour market by:”. After a lengthy discussion on **53 bis (a)** (training on business management), followed by additional consultations in the corridors, delegates agreed on a new formulation for complementing literacy, general education or vocational training with teaching on business management. Delegates accepted **53 bis (b)** (relationship between skills, employment and housing, health and family life).

The chapeau in **paragraph 54** now reads: “Policies should seek to guarantee all youth constructive options for their future by:”. Sub-paragraph **54(a)** now reads: “Providing equal access to education at the primary and secondary levels, with literacy as a priority, with special attention to girls.” **54(a) bis** (promoting literacy training), **54(b)** (youth training programmes), and **54(b) bis** (participation of youth in decision-making with regard to their future) were accepted.

Canada and Norway argued that **paragraph 55** (participation of women in the labour market) does not belong in a section on groups with specific needs. Benin proposed considering its relocation during the second reading. Sub-paragraph **55(a)** now reads: “Establishing the principle of equality between men and women as a basis for employment policy.” In sub-paragraph **55(b) bis** (women’s equal access), the G-77/China, supported by the US, thought the formulation on positive action should be included in **55(b)** (eliminating gender discrimination). Fiji, supported by the G-77/China, felt that **55(b) ter** should retain reference to gender sensitivity training for employers. The US disagreed and the phrase “for employers” remains bracketed. In **55(c)** (women’s access to technology), the original text was accepted, without agreement on Canada’s amendment concerning reduction of occupational segregation. The G-77/China proposed the following compromise language for **55(d)**: “Changing those policies and attitudes that reinforce the division of labour based on gender, and providing institutional support, such as social protection for maternity, parental leave, flexible working arrangements, including parental part-time employment and childcare facilities, which enable working parents to reconcile work with family responsibilities, paying particular attention to the needs of single parent households.” Elements of paragraph **58(a) bis*** (family and employment responsibilities) that are not already found in paragraph 55(d) will be incorporated into that paragraph. The US wanted to move **55(d) bis** to a more appropriate place, but first proposed the following: “Acknowledging the value of both remunerated and non-remunerated work performed by women.” The EU agreed, but China said this has already been mentioned in paragraph 42. Canada said that in **55(e)** (men’s role in household responsibilities), the language about fostering family responsibility is consistent with the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategy.

In the chapeau to **paragraph 56** (broadening employment for disabled persons), delegates agreed that the term “persons with disabilities” would be used throughout the text. Since new text for paragraphs 57, 58 and **58 bis** was only distributed in the morning, delegates asked for more time to consider it. Thus, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.

During the afternoon session, the Chair asked interested delegations to start informal consultations on paragraphs 57 and 70, both of which deal with migrant workers.

In **paragraph 58** (broader understanding of work and employment), the EU said that in **58(a) bis**, they would prefer not to quantify unremunerated contributions made to society and the economy. In **58(d)** (encouraging volunteer work), the EU noted that the text supports partnership with NGOs. The US bracketed the reference to allocation of resources to support such work.

Delegates accepted the amended EU proposal for **58 bis**, which now reads: “This broader recognition and understanding of employment and work can permit the development of additional socially useful new types of employment and work [aimed at/required], *inter alia*:”. **58 bis (a)** (integrating disadvantaged and vulnerable groups into society) and **58 bis (c)** (employment strengthens social ties) were accepted. **58 bis (b)** now reads:

“Helping dependent elderly or giving support for families needing educational assistance or social support.”

CHAPTER IV: SOCIAL INTEGRATION BASIS FOR ACTION AND OBJECTIVES

The Working Group began consideration of Chapter IV at 4:30 pm. After a 45-minute drafting session involving the EU, the G-77, China, Norway, the US, Australia, Canada and the Holy See, delegates agreed on **paragraph 59**. It now reads: “The aim of social integration is to create a society for all where every individual, each with rights and responsibilities, has an active role to play. Such an inclusive society must be based upon respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, cultural and religious diversity, social justice and special needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, democratic participation and the rule of law. The pluralistic nature of most societies has, at times, resulted in problems for the different groups to achieve and maintain harmony, cooperation, and to have equal access to all resources in society. Full recognition of each individual’s rights in the context of the rule of law has not always been fully guaranteed. Since the founding of the United Nations, this quest for humane, stable, safe, tolerant and just societies has shown at best a mixed record.”

In **paragraph 60** (decolonization), China wanted to add “cultural diversity” to “fundamental freedoms,” since these should be respected together. In **paragraph 62** (violence as a threat to security), the US added “older persons” to the list of those groups affected by violence. Australia supported the Chair’s suggestion to delete **paragraph 63** (main aim of social integration), since consensus had been reached on paragraph 59, making this paragraph superfluous.

In **paragraph 64** (urgent needs), the US preferred the reference to systemic discrimination (i.e., structural barriers permeating society) in the 6th bullet to avoid the creation of another list. In the 7th bullet (dangers to society), the Holy See wanted to add “the production and sale of arms,” in view of the problem with land mines. The G-77/China believed the 8th bullet (strengthening the role of civil society) would pre-empt ECOSOC’s review of NGO consultative arrangements. Australia, the EU and Rwanda supported the Canadian amendment regarding the role of civil society in the implementation, design and evaluation of public policies. China did not think NGOs could help formulate public policy.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 6:20 pm and was expected to reconvene at 8:00 pm to continue this discussion.

IN THE CORRIDORS

Many of the NGOs teeming in the corridors are satisfied with the extent to which their input has been incorporated into the Programme of Action and Declaration. Much of the wording related to structural adjustment programmes, Africa, gender and poverty can be attributed, in part, to the work of the various NGO caucuses. Some observers have noted that the firmness and visibility of NGOs have led to a greater degree of accountability among governments. It is felt that the degree of NGO collaboration has been unprecedented and bodes well for Copenhagen. Some NGOs, however, have noted concern that the Working Groups are “losing sight of the forest for the trees.”

THINGS TO LOOK FOR TODAY

WORKING GROUP I: The Working Group will not meet this morning, but will reconvene at 3:00 pm to review the work of the Butler and Razali Groups. A night session may be necessary.

WORKING GROUP II: The Working Group will continue its first reading of Chapter IV this morning, if delegates were unable to complete the reading on Tuesday night. The Group will then review the report on the Introduction and Chapter I from the informal consultative group. Look for a report from the informal consultative group on Chapter II to be circulated this morning.