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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

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Whole

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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

Twenty-eighth session of the Commission/  
nineteenth meeting of the Conference of  
Ministers

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
3-6 May 1993

**PREPARATIONS FOR THE WORLD SOCIAL SUMMIT 1995**

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 16 December 1992, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted resolution 47/92 in which it decided to convene a World Summit on Social Development at the level of heads of State or Government to be held in Denmark in early 1995 (see annex I).

2. The resolution listed the following as objectives for the Summit:

(a) To further the objectives of the Charter of the United Nations, as stated in Article 55, to promote "higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development", and "solutions of international economic, social, health, and related problems", with particular focus on social development aspects;

(b) To express a shared world-wide commitment to put the needs of people at the centre of development and of international cooperation as a major priority of international relations;

(c) To stimulate international cooperation at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels, through governmental, private and non-governmental initiatives, in order to assist in the implementation of nationally appropriate, effective and efficient social policies and to formulate strategies which enable all citizens to be actively engaged in those policies;

(d) To formulate strategies on goals, policies and priority actions that could be taken at the national, regional and international levels to address, in the different development realities, core issues of shared universal concern in the field of social development, giving particular attention to the needs of the least developed countries.

(e) To create international awareness of and address the modalities to attain the necessary balance between economic efficiency and social justice in a growth-oriented, equitable and sustainable development environment in accordance with nationally defined priorities;

(f) To address, in creative ways, the interaction between the social function of the State, market responses to social demands and the imperatives of sustainable development;

(g) To identify common problems of socially marginalized and disadvantaged groups and promote the integration of those groups into society, highlighting the need for societies to equalize opportunities for all members;

(h) To promote programmes to ensure legal protection, foster effective social welfare programmes and enhance education and training for different groups in all societies, including the marginalized and disadvantaged groups;

(i) To assist in ensuring a more effective delivery of social services for the more disadvantaged sectors of society;

(j) To highlight the need to mobilize resources for social development at the local, national, regional and international levels;

(k) To make appropriate recommendations regarding more effective action by the United Nations system in the sphere of social development, in particular measures and policies for the revitalization of the Commission for Social Development."

3. The resolution stipulates that the core issues affecting all societies to be addressed by the Summit are:

(a) The enhancement of social integration, particularly of the more disadvantaged and marginalized groups;

(b) Alleviation and reduction of poverty; and

(c) Expansion of productive employment.

4. The General Assembly resolution further stipulates that the preparation of the Summit, including the preparation of the provisional agenda and draft decisions for consideration and adoption by the Summit, is to be entrusted to a Preparatory Committee open to all member States of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies, with the participation of observers in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly. The Commission for Social Development is to give consideration to the agenda of the Summit at its thirty-third session in 1993, and the Economic and Social Council is to consider issues related to the Summit at the high-level segment of its substantive session of 1993.

5. The regional commissions are specifically requested "to include in their work programme for 1993 the World Summit for Social Development, with particular emphasis on the social situation in their respective regions, including proposals, and to prepare an integrated report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session".<sup>1</sup>

6. The Commission for Social Development considered the question of the World Summit on Social Development at its thirty-third session, held in Vienna during 8 to 17 February 1993, and adopted resolution 33/1 in which it states that the agenda for the Summit should strictly adhere to the agreed core issues as stated in resolution 47/92. The resolution further states that in order to ensure the efficacy of the preparatory process and to avoid duplication and that since the preparations of the Summit have been entrusted to a special Preparatory Committee, it would not be appropriate to convene an extraordinary session of the Commission for Social Development dedicated solely to the Summit (see annex II).

7. The Preparatory Committee for the Summit is scheduled to hold its organizational session at the United Nations Headquarters from 12 to 16 April 1993. An informal United Nations inter-agency meeting will also be held in New York on 13 April 1993 to provide an opportunity for "brainstorming", by policy makers and practitioners of the United Nations system in the area of social development on the framework, orientation and key issues to be addressed in the Secretary-General's report to the meeting of the high-level segment of ECOSOC on the Summit, which is scheduled to take place during 28 to 30 June 1993.

## II. THE ROLE OF AFRICA IN THE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT

8. No where is the human and social development situation so serious as in Africa. Special efforts need to be made by Africa and its partners to reverse this serious situation and to improve the human conditions of the African people. As such, the Summit does provide a unique opportunity for Africa to bring these concerns to the fore and to delineate the actions that ought to be taken, at all levels and by all concerned, to improve the situation and achieve human-centred development in Africa. Thus, Africa has a special stake in the Summit, and should, therefore, strive to play an active role in the Summit as well as in the preparations for it.

9. It is recommended in this regard that African countries should adopt a common position at the Summit. The first meeting of the ECA Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Human Development, which is scheduled to be held in 1994, would serve as an excellent forum for the development of a common approach and position vis-à-vis the Summit. It is, therefore, further recommended that the

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<sup>1</sup> A/RES/47/92, para 14.

first meeting of this conference should be designated as the regional preparatory meeting for the Summit. ECA, in cooperation with OAU and other regional organizations and institutions, will have the responsibility of preparing a draft common position for consideration by the Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Human Development. Needless to state, ECA will also be actively involved in assisting its member States with the implementation of the decisions of the Summit as well as in the monitoring and reporting on the implementation of these decisions.

10. Within the framework of the United Nations, ECA has been actively involved in the preparation for the Summit and has already prepared inputs for the integrated report to be submitted to the General Assembly by the regional commissions. ECA will also participate in the United Nations inter-agency meeting, the meeting of the preparatory committee, and subsequent preparatory activities on the Summit. The followings are views of the ECA secretariat on what should constitute the objectives, agenda and anticipated outcome of the Summit:

#### Scope

11. While there is general agreement that there is an intrinsic relationship between economic growth and development and social development, and that social development issues and concerns must be dealt with within the framework of overall development, differing interpretations, both conceptually and from an operational point of view, have been given to the term "social development". Thus, aspects related to diverse issues such as the family, disabled, ageing, youth, children, crime prevention, drug abuse, human rights, civil and political rights, migration, poverty, status of women, education, employment, popular participation, health, shelter, etc. have been considered as part of the domain of social development. Moreover, quite frequently, the terms "social development" and "human development" have been used interchangeably.

12. The manner in which the term "social development" is defined would certainly affect the issues to be discussed at and the objectives of the summit. In light of the above, it does not pay if the summit were to:

- (a) Enter into a discourse on the concept of social development; or
- (b) Deal with too many and diffused social development issues.

13. Indeed, it should be recalled in this latter regard that many of the aspects and issues related to social development have been dealt with within the framework of the United Nations through international plans and programmes of action and special decades. One could recall in this context General Assembly resolution 42/125 of 7 December 1987 endorsing the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future; General Assembly resolution A/46/91 endorsing the International Plan of Action on Ageing; General Assembly resolution 44/82 of 8 December 1989 proclaiming 1994 as the International Year of the Family; General Assembly resolution 42/04 of 7 December 1987 by which it proclaimed 1990 the International Literacy Year; General Assembly resolution 37/53 of 3 December 1982 in which it proclaimed the period 1983-1992 the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons; General Assembly resolution 44/77 of 8 December 1989 in which it endorsed and re-affirmed the importance of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, etc. A world summit on children has already taken place in 1991 and an International Conference on Assistance to the African Children has also taken place in November 1992. Furthermore, the implementation of the aforementioned mandates has been reported to and monitored by the General Assembly on a regular basis and has also been the subject of a number of follow-up resolutions by the General Assembly.

14. It would be a loss of a ripe opportunity and a waste of resources and energy if the summit were to deal anew with all these areas. The opportunity offered by the convening of the summit should be utilized

for the achievement of more concrete objectives with respect to fundamental social and human concerns, taking into account the prevailing social, human and economic conditions in developing countries, and Africa in particular; the changing global situation; and the ongoing debate on the role of the United Nations.

15. Furthermore, as it is unlikely that another summit on "human development" would be held, the social development summit should be seized on as an occasion to raise basic "human development" concerns. Thus, the social development summit should be viewed as an opportunity to deal with basic social as well as human development concerns through joint action and global cooperation, and this focus should be spelt out clearly in the overall objectives of the summit.

16. Thus, it is recommended as follows with regard to the objectives and focus of the summit:

(a) Objectives

17. The developing countries, and Africa in particular, should see the proposed summit as a unique opportunity to:

(a) Put the main social and human development concerns at the forefront of the international and United Nations agenda;

(b) Affirm that international security and peace cannot be maintained without the achievement of human and social development;

(c) Emphasize that the United Nations system should give priority to social and human development concerns;

(d) Emphasize that while improvement of the social and human conditions in developing countries, and particularly in Africa, rests mainly with the individual countries, the achievement of this objective will not be possible without a hospitable external economic environment and the availability of adequate external support;

(e) Reach agreement between the North and the South on:

(i) the social and human development objectives to be achieved during a period of 20 years or so; and

(ii) the actions and policy shifts that need to be adopted, at the national, regional and international levels, to facilitate the implementation of these objectives. (Commitment by developing countries/Africa to focusing on human development and giving priority to it in budgetary allocations and investment as well as pursuing policies for sustained and sustainable development at the national levels; and ensuring that the industrialized countries would commit themselves to pursuing policies in support of this objective through increased resource flows for human development, a reformed system of official development assistance, removal of the debt constraint, improvement of the external environment in general and refraining from dictating policies and reform programmes on developing countries/Africa that have deleterious effect on human focused development);

(f) Reach agreement on the mechanisms to monitor and report on the implementation of the decisions of the summit.

(b) Focus and agenda

18. It would not be advisable, from a tactical point of view, if the summit were to deal with two sets of concerns; one for the North and another for the South. The summit should focus on the main common social and human development concerns facing the North and the South, the solution of which would require joint action between and collaboration of the North and the South; the rich and poor. These could be:

- (a) Making human development the focus and ultimate goal of the development process. (human development as both a means and an end);
- (b) Attainment of basic human goals (education, PHC and safe water, elimination of malnutrition);
- (c) Poverty reduction;
- (d) Enhancing opportunities for productive employment and income generation; and
- (e) Promotion of social stability and cohesion.

### III. PROPOSED ACTION

19. The Conference of Ministers is invited to consider and adopt the following proposals:

- (a) ECA member States should actively participate in the preparatory activities for the Summit, particularly the meetings of the Preparatory Committee set up by the General Assembly;
- (b) African countries should adopt a common position at the Summit; and
- (c) The first meeting of proposed Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Human Development should serve as the African regional preparatory meeting for the Summit, where Africa's common position at the Summit should be developed and adopted.

Annex I47/92. Convening of a world summit for social development

Date: 16 December 1992  
Adopted without a vote

Meeting: 89  
Report: A/47/703/Add.1

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 46/139 of 17 December 1991 and Economic and Social Council decision 1991/230 of 30 May 1991 and resolution 1992/27 of 30 July 1992,

Having considered the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the consultations requested by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 1991/230,<sup>1</sup>

Recalling its resolution 45/199 of 21 December 1990, in which it adopted the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, which includes as one of its principal themes the need to strengthen the mutually reinforcing relationship between economic growth and human welfare,

Recalling also its resolution 42/125 of 7 December 1987, by which it endorsed the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future,<sup>2</sup>

Welcoming the support expressed for the world summit for social development at the Tenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Jakarta from 1 to 6 September 1992,<sup>3</sup>

Conscious that increased international cooperation for economic and social development would significantly contribute to the strengthening of international peace and security,

Convinced of the need for the enhancement of the social component of sustainable development to achieve economic growth with social justice,

Reaffirming the right and responsibility of each State to determine freely its own priorities, policies and objectives for social development in accordance with its constitutional and legal systems and social conditions,

Conscious of the need to address ways and means for the elimination of widespread poverty and the full enjoyment of human rights, including civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, as interrelated goals,

Acknowledging the need for an integrated approach in the fields of social and economic development in the United Nations system to deploy more effectively the widespread experience of the system in those areas,

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<sup>1</sup> E/1992/80, annex.

<sup>2</sup> See E/CONF.80/10.

<sup>3</sup> See A/47/675-S/24816, annex.

Stressing that poverty, unemployment and social integration are closely interrelated in all societies, with a particularly profound impact on developing countries,

Convinced that a world summit for social development should contribute to efforts by all countries to foster sustainable development and to promote policies against poverty and unemployment in all societies,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General and his Special Representative for their efforts in carrying out a comprehensive process of consultations on this matter;

2. Welcomes with satisfaction the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General concerning the positive outcome of the consultations on the possibility of convening a world summit for social development;<sup>4</sup>

3. Decides to convene a World Summit for Social Development at the level of heads of State or Government to be held early in 1995;<sup>5</sup>

4. Accepts with deep appreciation the generous offer of the Government of Denmark to act as host to the Summit;

5. Decides that the Summit shall have the following objectives:

(a) To further the objectives of the Charter of the United Nations, as stated in Article 55, to promote "higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development", and "solutions of international economic, social, health, and related problems", with particular focus on social development aspects;

(b) To express a shared world-wide commitment to put the needs of people at the centre of development and of international cooperation as a major priority of international relations;

(c) To stimulate international cooperation at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels, through governmental, private and non-governmental initiatives, in order to assist in the implementation of nationally appropriate, effective and efficient social policies and to formulate strategies which enable all citizens to be actively engaged in those policies;

(d) To formulate strategies on goals, policies and priority actions that could be taken at the national, regional and international levels to address, in the different development realities, core issues of shared universal concern in the field of social development, giving particular attention to the needs of the least developed countries;

(e) To create international awareness of and address the modalities to attain the necessary balance between economic efficiency and social justice in a growth-oriented, equitable and sustainable development environment in accordance with nationally defined priorities;

(f) To address, in creative ways, the interaction between the social function of the State, market responses to social demands and the imperatives of sustainable development;

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<sup>4</sup> E/1992/80, annex.

<sup>5</sup> This decision notwithstanding, Governments may be represented at the ministerial or similarly high level.

(g) To identify common problems of socially marginalized and disadvantaged groups and promote the integration of those groups into society, highlighting the need for societies to equalize opportunities for all members;

(h) To promote programmes to ensure legal protection, foster effective social welfare programmes and enhance education and training for different groups in all societies, including the marginalized and disadvantaged groups;

(i) To assist in ensuring a more effective delivery of social services for the more disadvantaged sectors of society;

(j) To highlight the need to mobilize resources for social development at the local, national, regional and international levels;

(k) To make appropriate recommendations regarding more effective action by the United Nations system in the sphere of social development, in particular measures and policies for the revitalization of the Commission for Social Development;

6. Decides, taking into account the objectives set out in the present resolution, that the core issues affecting all societies to be addressed by the Summit are:

(a) The enhancement of social integration, particularly of the more disadvantaged and marginalized groups;

(b) Alleviation and reduction of poverty;

(c) Expansion of productive employment;

7. Decides to establish a Preparatory Committee open to the participation of all States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies, with the participation of observers in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly;

8. Decides also that the Preparatory Committee shall hold an organizational session for one week in April 1993 and, at the level of personal representatives of the heads of State or Government or other appropriate high-level representatives specifically designated by Governments, three substantive sessions in 1994 of no more than ten working days each, at United Nations Headquarters;

9. Decides that the Preparatory Committee, at its organizational session, shall elect, with due regard to equitable geographical representation, a Bureau, of which the host country, Denmark, shall be an ex officio member;

10. Decides that the Preparatory Committee shall:

(a) Consider reports submitted by the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system on matters relating to the World Summit for Social Development;

(b) Draft the provisional agenda of the Summit, in accordance with the provisions of the present resolution;

(c) Prepare the draft decisions for the Summit and submit them to the Summit for consideration and adoption;

(d) Adopt other appropriate decisions relevant to the successful preparation, outcome and follow-up of the Summit;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to establish an ad hoc secretariat unit, including personnel of the relevant organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, to assist in the preparatory process and the substantive work of the Preparatory Committee;

12. Recommends that the Commission for Social Development give consideration to the agenda of the World Summit for Social Development at its thirty-third session, in 1993, and to the question of holding an extraordinary session dedicated solely to the question of the Summit before the first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee in 1994;

13. Recommends also that the Economic and Social Council, at the high-level segment of its substantive session of 1993, consider the theme "World Summit for Social Development";

14. Requests the regional commissions to include in their programme of work for 1993 the World Summit for Social Development, with particular emphasis on the social situation in their respective regions, including proposals, and to prepare an integrated report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-eight session;

15. Requests the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as other intergovernmental organizations, in particular the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the International Labour Organisation, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to contribute fully to the preparations for the summit;

16. Recommends that the Preparatory Committee take full account, as appropriate, of the preparations for and the outcome of the World Conference on Human Rights to be held in 1993 and the International Conference on Population and Development to be held in 1994 and the preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women to be held in 1995;

17. Requests the non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to contribute in accordance with established practice to the Summit and the preparatory process, as appropriate;

18. Invites the Secretary-General to provide the resources required for initiating the preparatory process of the Summit in 1993, including through redeployment;

19. Invites also the Secretary-General to establish a trust fund and to mobilize voluntary contributions from public and private sources for the financing of the additional activities required by the preparation and holding of the Summit;

20. Decides that the resources of the trust fund should be utilized to finance the participation of the least developed countries in the Summit and the preparatory process;

21. Requests the Preparatory Committee to report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions on the progress of work of the Committee and the preparations for the Summit.

Annex II

**WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

Draft resolution submitted by the Chairman of the Committee of  
the Whole on the World Summit for Social Development

World Summit for Social Development

The Commission for Social Development,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 47/92 of 16 December 1992 on convening of a World Summit for World Summit for Social Development,

Having given consideration to the agenda of the World Summit for Social Development and to the question of holding an extraordinary session dedicated solely to the question of the Summit before the first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee in 1994, as called for by the General Assembly in operative paragraph 12 of resolution 47/92:

Transmits the Annex to the present resolution to the Economic and Social Council at its high-level segment of its substantive session of 1993 and the Preparatory Committee established by the General Assembly in operative paragraph 7 of resolution 47/92.

Annex

**A. CONSIDERATION TO THE AGENDA OF THE WORLD SUMMIT  
FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

The Commission for Social Development has given due consideration to the agenda of the World Summit for Social Development at its 33rd session, as called for in operative paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 47/92, and has arrived at the following conclusions:

- I. A detailed definition of the agenda of the World Summit for Social Development, on the basis of the core issues contained in operative paragraph 6 of resolution 47/92, will be the task of the Preparatory Committee. As requested, the Commission for Social Development has given a substantive consideration to the aforementioned core issues.
- II. The Commission for Social Development is of the view that the agenda for the World Summit for Social Development should strictly adhere to the agreed core issues, as related to the objectives contained in operative paragraph 5 of the aforementioned resolution.
- III. The Commission for Social Development is of the view that the agenda for, and the outcome of, the World Summit for Social Development should lead to concrete, action-oriented plans and programmes which can be monitored on a continuing basis. In this connection, the Commission recalls the existing instruments which have been agreed upon by intergovernmental bodies, in particular those promoting the well-being of specific social groups. Results of the World Summit for Social Development should include the enhancement of the effectiveness of the United Nations system in the sphere of social development and the effective implementation of existing instruments, as appropriate to national circumstances, through, inter alia, standard setting and heightened efforts to give coherence to disparate social strategies and to develop from them concrete projects and programmes. In doing so, new approaches should be considered to ensure appropriate impact and lasting solutions.

- IV. The Commission for Social Development is of the view that the Summit should foster a greater understanding of the following:
- (a) Social and economic development can not take place independently of each other and must be integrated;
  - (b) Social factors must be adequately understood and considered in order to formulate effective economic policies;
  - (c) Social policies need to be formulated so that they are economically sustainable;
  - (d) Social development represents an approach which aims to enhance people's capacity to lead secure lives and provides them with the conditions necessary for their full participation in society;
  - (e) Safety net or welfare provisions form one aspect of social development policy. Such provisions, however, should not simply aim at protecting people but should also provide them with opportunities to reduce their vulnerability;
  - (f) A peaceful, stable and non-discriminatory international environment is essential for social development within nations;
  - (g) The impact of social development in strengthening international peace and security;
  - (h) The interrelationship between social, economic and demographic aspects of development.
- V. In considering the three core issues, the enhancement of social integration, particularly of the more disadvantaged and marginalized groups; alleviation and reduction of poverty; and expansion of productive employment, it should be noted that all are interrelated.

In order to promote more effective nationally appropriate strategies and to enhance the effectiveness of international cooperation in all directions, *inter alia*, South-South, North-South and North-North cooperation, the Commission for Social Development recommends to the Preparatory Committee to particularly take into consideration the following elaboration of the three core issues:

1. Social development strategies for the enhancement of social integration

- (a) Creating equal access to opportunities and information through the elimination of all forms of discrimination;
- (b) Promoting education for all, eradication of illiteracy, particularly among women, and continuing training of the labour force;
- (c) Promoting the role of grass-roots and non-governmental organizations, within the national context, in defining and executing social programmes;
- (d) Decentralizing decision-making to encourage more effective and efficient social policy-making and programming and enabling people to participate in the decisions which directly or indirectly affect their lives;

- (e) Identifying successful, cost-effective programmes in countries at various levels of development which ensure the full participation in society of all people, especially in situations of particular vulnerability;
- (f) Improving social returns by directing spending priorities towards investment that creates social multiplier effects for example in basic education, primary health care and in general social services;
- (g) Ensuring that public administration is transparent and accountable, and that institutions which deliver services operate efficiently, effectively and responsively to needs;

## 2. Social development strategies for the alleviation and reduction of poverty

- (h) Formulating nationally-appropriate, effective and efficient social policies and programmes for the alleviation and reduction of poverty and of extreme poverty, reduction of vulnerability and thus enhanced individual choice and security. These policies and programmes should address the root causes of poverty;
- (i) Developing methods for monitoring and evaluating the impact of social policies and programmes which are poverty-focused, the assessment of the efficacy of the projects included and systems for the exchange of views and mutual learning, in particular, such methods and systems should aim to alleviate the effects of and to eliminate the impoverishment of women;
- (j) Encouraging complementary action between public and private providers of social services, in order to encourage wider choice and more efficient use of resources;

## 3. Social development strategies for the generation of productive employment

- (k) Formulating nationally appropriate, effective and efficient economic and labour market policies which maximize the expansion of productive employment particularly through the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises;
- (l) Enhancing human development through the provision of improved and appropriate education systems, including basic literacy, skills training and health care;
- (m) Improving opportunities for workers in all spheres, especially in rural and informal sectors, to increase their productivity through improved access to markets, credit, technology, training and social services;
- (n) Defining nationally appropriate policies to ensure workers' rights of organization and free collective bargaining as well as protecting wages and working hours, rights to social security, non-discriminatory employment practices and labour legislation;
- (o) Elaborating ways and means to enhance the access of women, young and elderly people, persons with disabilities and other disadvantaged groups to productive employment and to ensure that their contributions are recognized.

VI. With reference to operative paragraphs 15, 16 and 17 of resolution 47/92, the Commission for Social Development welcomed a wide variety of input to summit preparations. Some representatives expressed the desirability of seeking input from experts and practitioners in

the field of social development, and indicated the willingness of their Governments to host expert group meetings on the three core issues as elaborated in paragraphs IV and V. The Preparatory Committee would decide to what extent expert group meetings, and the reports they may produce, would be useful to the preparatory process for the Summit.

The Commission for Social Development suggests that the Preparatory Committee give full consideration to this question, including reporting procedures, at its first (organizational) session in April 1993.

#### **B. CONSIDERATION OF THE QUESTION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN 1994**

The Commission for Social Development has given due consideration to the question of holding an extraordinary session dedicated solely to the question of the Summit before the first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee in 1994, as called for in operative paragraph 12 of resolution 47/92.

- I. The Commission for Social Development is conscious of the fact that, in accordance with operative paragraphs 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 of resolution 47/92, the preparation of the World Summit for Social Development has been entrusted to a special Preparatory Committee, to be assisted by an ad hoc secretariat, inter alia, to enable all countries to participate in the preparatory process. In order to ensure the efficacy and efficiency of the preparatory process and to avoid duplication, the Commission is of the view that it would not be appropriate to convene an extraordinary session.
- II. In consideration of General Assembly resolution 47/92 and in view of the specific competence of the Commission for Social Development, the Economic and Social Council and the Preparatory Committee should consider what further role the Commission for Social Development can play in the preparations for and follow up to the World Summit for Social Development.
- III. In view of the normal agenda for the Commission for Social Development, the Economic and Social Council might need to consider modifying the date of the next regular session of the Commission for Social Development.