

tained economic development and greater social justice, as well as new forms of cooperation among nations and greater fairness in international economic relations.

83. The alarming situation in most developing countries pointed to the crucial issue of development finance. The constraints brought about by macroeconomic reconstruction and the reduction of financial flows to a trickle had penalized developing country economies and torpedoed their social development. The developing countries had nevertheless undertaken ambitious and punishing structural adjustment programmes to stimulate growth, investment and employment. The immediate effect of the programmes had been the impoverishment of the middle classes and deterioration of the living conditions of the poorest population groups. Algeria had made great efforts to bring its domestic and external finances into balance, revive growth and speed up social integration at the cost of huge sacrifices. Its efforts ought to earn it the encouragement and support of international monetary and financial institutions.

84. The institutions should recognize the social cost of the adjustment programmes they advocated and reshape them accordingly. A seminar on the subject could be organized jointly by the United Nations and the institutions.

85. Among the issues to be deliberated at the World Summit, he stressed the social development/economic development interface, in a long-term perspective; linkages between economic development, technological advances and urbanization; migration questions, with the associated issues of marginalization, racial hatred and exclusion; and capital and commodity flows, which were also linked to migration questions.

86. The common destiny of all countries of the world was becoming apparent. It was up to the United Nations to assume a role in shaping a common future, a task which should begin at once.

*The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.*

## 17th meeting

Wednesday, 30 June 1993, at 3.25 p.m.

*President:* Mr. Martin HUSLID (Norway)

*later:* Mr. Juan SOMAVÍA (Chile)

E/1993/SR.17

### AGENDA ITEM 2

#### **World Summit for Social Development, including the role of the United Nations system in promoting social development (*concluded*)**

1. Mr. JOULYNSKY (Ukraine) said he was confident that the World Summit would be productive. In the meantime Governments already faced the problem of elaborating models for the coordination of economic policy and social programmes. For countries in transition that was not an easy task and in his own country it was complicated by such factors as the influx of refugees, including returning Crimean Tartars and other peoples deported from the Ukraine. New social models had to be constructed to deal with the complex array of political, economic, ecological, cultural and ethical problems.

2. In the difficult period of transition to a market economy, the Government was seeking to maintain social, economic and political equilibrium in the country. In order to preserve social peace and order, it had been obliged to maintain the employment level and was retaining the existing machinery for the protection of the disabled, the elderly and large families.

3. As Deputy Prime Minister for Humanitarian Questions, he was responsible for coordination of the work of ministries and departments in the humanitarian sector and the development of a comprehensive programme for the enhancement of the social environment, taking into account the traditional historical values of the people. In connection with the preparation of that programme, a seminar on humanitarian policy in the Ukraine had been held in Kiev in May 1993 under the auspices of the United Nations.

4. His delegation endorsed the proposal to hold a World Summit and believed the meeting would stimulate the adoption of social policies at the national level. It was appropriate that the Summit should be held in 1995 when the 50th anniversary of the United Nations would be celebrated.

5. The Summit's agenda should include such questions as measures to ensure availability of food, clothing and medical care for the population, the elimination of illiteracy, population policy, the ending of discrimination on grounds of sex, and the strengthening of social peace and concord. The maintenance of a balance between economic development and social protection of the population, in particular vulnerable groups, was an important issue.

6. Mr. ABDELHATI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that the support given to the idea of convening an international conference on social development at such a high level reflected increasing world recognition of the urgent need for social protection of the wide range of sectors and peoples whose lives were characterized by poverty, starvation, backwardness, racial discrimination, oppression and social injustice.

7. The Summit agenda should reflect the social needs of the majority of the world's peoples, who still suffered from a lack of social security, and should be guided by the objectives and principles of the Charter of the United Nations related to social development.

8. The Conference must reiterate the common political will of all members of the international community and stress the importance of the full implementation of all relevant world declarations.

9. World peace and stability were threatened by a variety of factors ranging from environmental deterioration to the widening gap between North and South. Despite those challenges, the world had a unique opportunity to take advantage of the spirit of cooperation and understanding that prevailed in international relations in various parts of the world in the aftermath of the cold war. Peace was an essential element for achieving progress and development in the social field.

10. The Summit should call for world cooperation in all fields of comprehensive development, giving due consideration to the relationship between social security, world peace and security based on full respect for the goals and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. In that connection, he stressed the importance of the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of Member States as well as their sovereignty and territorial integrity and the right of every State to determine its national choices freely in the political, social and economic fields.

11. Despite the difficulties his country had faced in recent years, it had succeeded in improving the economic and social life of Libyans under judicial guarantees in a

society based on the full participation of all the people in decision-making in the economic and social fields.

12. The coercive measures to which his country and others in the third world were exposed were major obstacles to the implementation of the economic and social policies they sought to pursue. The imposition of arbitrary sanctions and economic boycotts did not serve the purpose of social development. The full world potential should be mobilized to serve mankind and social development and to eliminate poverty, starvation and backwardness throughout the world.

13. Dr. NAKAJIMA (Director-General of the World Health Organization) said that, as early as 1977, the World Health Assembly had called attention to the human and social dimensions of development and emphasized health as a basic human right and as a condition for the full participation of individuals and communities in economic and social development. In 1978, WHO had endorsed the Alma-Ata Declaration,<sup>1</sup> which defined the universal goal of health for all by the year 2000 through primary health care.

14. Through political will and community participation, much progress had been made in the implementation of the WHO global strategy for health for all. Technological breakthroughs and political commitment had enabled WHO to launch worldwide campaigns for leprosy elimination and poliomyelitis eradication.

15. WHO had intensified its direct support to countries for their health development programmes. It had also focused on vulnerable groups, such as children and women, and on the least developed countries. In its women's health programme, it had called for integrated and sustainable development policies where health action, together with educational and economic empowerment of women, would be recognized as mutually supportive policies.

16. Providing universal access to health care, in a spirit of equity and social justice, must be a shared responsibility by all countries. But it must be understood that investing in health was also the sensible thing to do from an economic viewpoint. By successfully controlling river blindness, the WHO programme had made 24 million hectares of land in Africa available for human resettlement and economic development. Conversely, failure to recognize health priorities and to sustain funding for disease prevention and national development plans was proving disastrous in the long run, as shown by the current global upsurge of malaria and tuberculosis, at tremendous cost in both economic and human terms.

17. At a time of worldwide economic crisis, funding for social and human development should be protected to the maximum. Mentioning a few examples of health problems that were or would be major social and eco-

<sup>1</sup> Report of the International Conference on Primary Health Care, series "Health for All", No. 1, WHO, Geneva, 1978, p. 2.

economic issues for all and required joint planning and co-ordinated action, he said that AIDS was a threat to the very future of humankind and must be fought with biomedical, educational, social and economic weapons. An integrated approach to the management of the environment would make it possible to reduce health hazards, the economic cost of industrial accidents and pollution and to improve control over diseases such as cholera and malaria. To contain the general upward trend of non-communicable diseases like cancer and cardiovascular diseases in developing and developed countries, changes must be made in lifestyles, and, therefore, in consumption and production patterns.

18. Throughout the world people lived longer but their quality of life was often impaired in their later years. The impending shift in the age structure of many countries would have far-reaching economic and social implications and required urgent attention and concerted action from all sectors of society.

19. With regard to the World Summit for Social Development, WHO was already working with the regional economic commissions and, by 1994, before the first session of the preparatory committee, would have convened a multidisciplinary expert group to consider the three core issues proposed for the agenda of the Summit. The group would focus on determining the health components that could and should be integrated in the many development programmes undertaken by the United Nations system. For example, high priority would be given to working out more systematic linkages and continuity between humanitarian relief operations and health infrastructure rehabilitation.

20. In the changing world of the 1990s, health demanded a new partnership which must be developed between WHO and its member States, among member States themselves, between the North and South, the haves and the have-nots, States and their citizenry, the public and private sectors, health workers and their patients. Health and human development as a whole implied a new social and international covenant, a sharing of resource and responsibilities at many different levels.

21. Mr. HAMILTON (Observer for New Zealand) said it was widely accepted that greater attention must be paid to social rights and social development in the search for a more stable and peaceful world. The three core issues outlined in General Assembly resolution 47/92 as key topics for the Summit were interrelated and in addressing them members must bear in mind how each affected the others.

22. The core issues encompassed many different social problems. Those different interests would need to be considered and the right balance would have to be struck in dealing with them. To avoid disappointment, the direction taken by the preparatory process must be under constant scrutiny to ensure that it was not unrealistically broad or duplicative.

23. An important part of the entire summit process would be the sharing of ideas by Governments and organizations. The social maladies common to all societies would be laid bare and members would examine their causes and why they had not yet been eradicated. New Zealand looked forward to hearing how other countries were attempting to overcome their social development problems and to contributing to the flow of ideas.

24. As the Commission for Social Development had pointed out, while safety-net or welfare provisions formed one aspect of social development policy, they should not simply aim at protecting people but should also provide them with the opportunities to reduce their vulnerability. His Government's policy was increasingly targeted at the community unit and focused on increasing the self-reliance and self-sustainability of individuals and communities. Encouragement and support of personal potential was important for all people and especially so for indigenous people who for too long had suffered a loss of confidence through being expected to conform to non-indigenous systems of social support.

25. His Government had recently financed policy projects under which funding was given to pilot Maori development projects initiated by the Maori community. The outcomes of those projects were fed back by the community and in turn helped to provide policy advice to the Government.

26. His delegation supported the Commission for Social Development's call for action-oriented plans and programmes that could be monitored on a continuing basis.

27. The Summit and its preparatory processes could assist in building a new analytical framework to examine current pressing problems. Development must be woven around people and provide for the empowerment of individuals and groups. His delegation supported the Commission's call for special attention to the impact of social maladies on women and their role in the search for solutions. The voices of indigenous peoples of the world must be heard on issues involving social change as well as human rights, economic development and justice.

28. Mr. NEAGU (Romania) said that the World Summit was one of a series of world conferences that had begun with UNCED in Rio, continued with the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna and would be followed by the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, and later by the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II).

29. The preparation for the World Summit was greatly facilitated by the agreements on principles and the specific measures devised with respect to development and human rights in Rio and Vienna. Without a clear view of ways in which to ensure sustainable development, it would be impossible to find sound solutions to the social

problems facing mankind in general and each regional country in particular.

30. The increasingly fresh look at issues of international cooperation encouraged the consideration of development as a multifaceted and interdependent process in which social aspects were of primary importance. Efforts directed at economic development would not bear fruit without full respect for human rights, as had been shown by the sad experience of Central and Eastern Europe.

31. The same was true with regard to democracy. The fact that people did not participate fully in the political and economic life of their country alienated most of society and resulted in the failure of State structures, as had happened in Central and Eastern Europe. Democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms were interdependent and mutually reinforcing.

32. The emergence of common perceptions regarding development and problems of economic management, as well as increased convergence in favour of democratic values and human rights, had great practical significance. They facilitated the dissemination of valid policies and practices aimed at improving social protection and services, alleviating poverty and developing human resources. His delegation shared the view expressed on behalf of the European Community that the World Summit should be based on a clear commitment to social justice and should put people at the centre of development and international cooperation.

33. The fall of communism had brought the people's accumulated dissatisfactions and frustrations, particularly regarding the standard of living, to the surface. Dramatic poverty in the developing world and soaring unemployment elsewhere together constituted a source of tension and confrontation that endangered peace and security. Those topics should become part of the agenda of preventive diplomacy and his delegation supported the proposal for annual joint meetings of the Security and Economic and Social Councils to review potential economic and social crises.

34. Experience in the countries of Eastern Europe demonstrated the need for a balance between the economic and social dimensions of development and the inclusion of social policy components in comprehensive national strategies. A draft agenda for social development, drawn up during the preparatory process for the Summit, could frame not only the basic principles but the main international actions that needed to be taken in order to promote balanced economic and social development. The mobilization of the necessary resources remained a crucial issue. Such resources could derive only from growth-oriented and sustainable development and a more rational use of the available financial and human resources.

35. Mr. AL-SULTAN (President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development), said that the core issues proposed for the World Summit were of direct relevance to the more than one billion human beings living in absolute poverty. Their economic, cultural, and sometimes even geographical, marginalization had exacted a heavy cost in terms of social disintegration, threatening political and social institutions. Moreover, the under-utilization of their talents and potential imposed an enormous and unnecessary economic loss on their countries. Success in the process of social development would depend on opening the way for those deprived groups to adequate education, health and social services and creating opportunities for productive economic activities and employment.

36. One major aim of the World Summit might be to generate a greater degree of consensus on the level of resources required for health, education and social services. Currently, those services tended to be among the first to suffer from budgetary cuts, often with lasting adverse consequences for social development. In order to create economic opportunities, ways must be found of giving the deprived groups fair access to resources, technology and markets. Without such access, market-oriented reforms carried the risk of accentuating the marginalization of the poor and aggravating social disintegration, thus jeopardizing both adjustment and development. What was needed was an approach to growth and development that placed the poor at the centre.

37. All too often, the poor were seen primarily as a burden and assistance to them was often placed in the context of welfare. The scale of poverty was far too great, however, to allow the poor to be brought out of deprivation only through welfare measures. Few developing countries would be able to afford them. The key to poverty alleviation and social integration lay in enabling the poor to harness their own productive potential. Although the productivity and incomes of the poor were low, owing to the many constraints they faced, they in fact made substantial contributions to economic production. Given proper policies and incentives, they could be transformed into a resource for development rather than a hindrance to it.

38. IFAD had had 15 years of operational experience in helping the rural poor to raise their food output and productive employment, improve their nutrition and overcome poverty. Experience had repeatedly shown that, when offered the chance, poor groups responded eagerly to improved methods. Such a productivity-based approach to poverty alleviation was particularly important for two issues central to sustainable social and economic development: preserving the environment and enhancing the participation of women, especially rural women, in economic activities. The deterioration of the environment was particularly devastating for the rural poor since it directly threatened their resource base. IFAD experience had shown that approaches in which measures to increase food production to meet immediate needs were combined with longer-term steps to enhance

the environment could make the alleviation of poverty and the preservation of the environment mutually supportive.

39. Rural women were among the poorest of the poor. They faced all the constraints of the poor in general as well as special gender-related difficulties. Nevertheless, they made a vital contribution to food production and added to family incomes by a variety of household-based activities. Many studies had shown a strong correlation between the level of women's education and the health of children. It was also closely linked to lower birthrates and progress in other social indicators. Recognizing their vital role, IFAD had long given priority in its projects to women beneficiaries. It had responded to the Geneva Declaration for Rural Women<sup>2</sup> adopted by the Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women, held at Geneva on 25 and 26 February 1992, by including its goals in virtually all current projects. It was also working to develop a comprehensive approach to bringing women into the mainstream of production in rural societies. Unless the economic contribution of rural women was properly recognized and adequately supported, the prospects of achieving sustainable poverty alleviation and balanced social development would be bleak.

40. At the same time, external support of adequate dimension and imaginative form would be indispensable. In that context, IFAD was seeking to mobilize a level of resources for its fourth replenishment, currently under negotiation, that would enable it to maintain and enhance the rhythm of its operations. He urged the members of the Council to lend their support to the Fund's efforts in that regard.

41. The challenge of fostering more rapid and sustainable social development was so great that it required a genuine partnership for development, mobilizing the collaborative efforts of all concerned. Within the United Nations system, IFAD worked with its partners in the Joint Consultative Group on Policies to make programmes complementary and mutually self-supporting. It was also collaborating with the international financial institutions to mobilize additional resources. At the country level, it worked not only with Governments but with local institutions, non-governmental organizations and a variety of grassroots institutions of the poor themselves. The overriding objective of all those endeavours was to mobilize the capacity of the poor for self-help and to link their abilities with formal institutions, including banks, research and extension institutions and the markets. It was through beneficial linkages between the productive activities of the poor and the institutional fabric of society that social integration could be fostered and poverty alleviated. The poor had too long been regarded as peripheral to organized society and the economy. It was time for their capacities to be recognized as social and economic assets. The World Summit offered a

unique opportunity to join hands in working for that goal, and IFAD would be proud to be part of the process.

42. Mr. DLAMINI (Swaziland) said that the decision to choose the World Summit, including the role of the United Nations system in promoting social development, as the major theme for the high-level segment of the Council's substantive session could not have come at a more appropriate time. The end of the cold war and the demise of the bipolar international structure had brought an imperative need to focus attention on development. Each decade seemed to have offered new lessons and challenges in that connection. The 1960s had been characterized by optimism that world poverty could be eliminated by fostering economic growth. That dream had been shattered in the 1970s, when it became apparent that unemployment and inequality were growing and poverty was intractable in the third world. The next attempt had been the pursuit of growth with equity, but that too had not produced the intended results. The 1980s had brought greater caution. It became clear that world poverty could not be eliminated by a simple economic panacea. Resource shortages, of energy particularly, rising protectionism in the industrialized countries, militarism in the third world, the international arms race, the debt crisis, and the structure of the world economy, all made the design of development strategies a complex problem of political economy rather than a simple economic issue.

43. In the 1990s, the East European countries were moving from being centrally-planned economies of the second world to market-oriented underdeveloped countries of the third world. If the development efforts of the industrialized countries were to be focused on aiding Eastern Europe, Africa, Asia and Latin America could well be at a disadvantage. The forthcoming World Summit should draw upon all those lessons and experiences. The aim should be to formulate a multidisciplinary perspective of development, defined in terms of the improved ability of individuals to control their own lives through economic, political and social action.

44. The World Summit should consider social development in conjunction with the goals and objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade. The Secretary-General's report (E/1993/77) on the progress achieved and the obstacles encountered contained a number of pertinent ideas. One such idea was the grass-roots approach to development. Experience had shown that any development undertaking that excluded the individuals, for whom it was intended, from participation was doomed to failure. People should participate in the formation and shaping of development projects. External assistance was also a very important element, but its role should be to support the exercise and not determine the results. The quality of government intervention was also important. Development assistance should be responsive and relevant to the national needs and goals of the developing countries. National Governments and donor agencies had a crucial role to play in coordination and should

<sup>2</sup> A/47/308-E/1992/97, annex.

work within established national structures, in keeping with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 47/199.

45. It should be drawn to the attention of the World Summit that developing country debt constituted a major obstacle to development. Any development strategy that failed to address it would be frustrated. An interdisciplinary approach was needed, recognizing that government and the market were intertwined in modern societies, and that man was a social being whose arrangements for the production and distribution of economic goods must be consistent with the institutions of family, political and cultural life. There was a compelling need for an analysis that incorporated such non-economic influences as social structures, political systems and cultural values, as well as such factors as technological change and the distribution of income and wealth.

46. Cardinal ETCHEGARAY (Observer for the Holy See) said that the Holy See regarded the plan to hold the World Summit as particularly timely at a moment when many countries, disappointed or deceived by the development models which they had had constructed or had imposed on them, had lost faith in the very idea of development. The preparatory process for the World Summit aimed at relaunching the idea of development as a lever capable of moving the world and restoring the confidence of mankind. The Secretary-General's report seemed a good approach whereby to avoid new frustrations and disappointments.

47. The problem of development was not just a problem of the developing countries. Development was not a straight line where some were in front and some behind and where only an increase of speed was needed for the latter, by copying the rest, to be able to catch up with them. The classification of certain countries as "least developed", or others as "newly industrialized", implied that development was guided solely by the experience of the West. It was his hope that the World Summit would present an open platform where all the participants, with the same idea of mankind, worked together to establish a still unknown idea of development based on true interdependence.

48. One of the three core issues of the Summit was poverty. Indeed, nothing was more urgent than the alleviation of the massive and entrenched poverty referred to by the Secretary-General. At the same time, it was important to discover what kind of poverty. Spiritual poverty was perhaps more cruel than material poverty. Perhaps the so-called rich countries needed to discover the values common to the so-called poor countries and indeed to promote them. The "new poor" in the developed countries were perhaps a warning of the precarious nature of societies based on abundance. Could not a certain degree of poverty even be regarded as a thing of value? Such questions, however, must not hold back the campaign against social inequalities or fail to call in

question the structures of a society based on such inequalities.

49. The Holy See had been gratified by the increased attention to human and social development manifested in the recent reports and programmes of the international financial institutions and specialized agencies of the United Nations. In that sense, Rio in 1992, Vienna in 1993, Cairo in 1994, Copenhagen and Beijing in 1995, had acted or would act as sources of illumination combining to cast light on the real face of man and his central place in creation. Thus, development became the place where mankind could learn hope: a development founded in the soil of each people, deriving its impulse from individual responsibility and participation, a development guaranteed by the advance of democracy, a development of which human rights would be at once the means and the goal. The Holy See would do its part to spread the United Nations message to ordinary people throughout the world. In particular, the Church would seek to raise the idea of development to a moral obligation, based on the vision of the human family as one and equal in the plan of creation.

50. Underdevelopment was a worse evil than had ever been imagined. Development was a harder task than had been realized. The world, disappointed, needed to be told again that everything was possible to those who believed in man, and, he would have to say, who believed in God. The Economic and Social Council had constructed a vast workplace where every individual had his task, which he would carry out all the better the more he realized that, in working for himself, he was working for all mankind.

51. Mr. CHOUROV (Observer for Bulgaria) said that his Government shared the expectation that the World Summit would make a valuable contribution to the efforts to strengthen and further develop the guiding principles for development set forth in the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade. Proper preparation for the Summit would require the coordinated efforts of the United Nations, the specialized agencies, the international financial institutions, Member States and non-governmental organizations.

52. Although ideological confrontation on the principles of social development had been largely eliminated as a result of the recent profound political changes, world social development lagged far behind the requirements of the age. The Secretary-General's report (E/1993/77) gave a clear picture of the social injustice, poverty, unemployment and lack of access to social services that affected the lives of millions of human beings. Vulnerable groups in the industrialized countries were also suffering. In the countries in transition, the increase in the number of marginalized people posed an ever-present threat. The translation into coordinated action of universally accepted principles placing the social and human dimension at the centre of the development process, still to be determined, must become a priority item in the United Nations agenda for development. Such action

should also aim at preventing social instability and conflict, including ethnic conflict, with their associated problems of flows of refugees and displaced persons.

53. The intangible characteristics of social development should also be high on the international agenda. Bulgaria considered human rights a matter of priority. The solution to human rights problems should be sought not only through economic recovery but through the spread of moral values. In addressing the problems of the alleviation of poverty, the generation of productive employment and social integration, the World Summit could be expected to focus on comprehensive and action-oriented measures that would take into account all social factors and requirements.

54. Sustained economic growth was an essential prerequisite for sustainable development. It was regrettable that, at a time when market-economy principles had been almost universally accepted, world economic recovery should be proceeding so slowly. Nevertheless, the opportunity to create a worldwide integrated economic system still existed. The successful integration of the former centrally-planned economies would provide a strong impetus for worldwide social and economic development and would speed the process of reform in central and eastern Europe and in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

55. The agreements recently concluded by Bulgaria with the European Community and EFTA States had been guided by that belief. A trade agreement had also been concluded with the United States. The Bulgarian Government was currently in the process of negotiating membership of GATT. In that connection, it hoped for an early conclusion of the Uruguay Round and a consequent positive effect on world trade and development in general.

56. The Republic of Bulgaria and its people had shown their determination to pay the high social and economic price of transition to a market economy. At the same time, the Government was aware that, unless positive economic results and improved living standards were achieved within a reasonable time, the reform process could be compromised. To protect that process, the Government was doing its best to reorganize and improve the social security system and to build the social safety net that was essential during restructuring and de-regulation. Unfortunately, its efforts faced serious economic and financial obstacles. In the past three years, national, social and economic development had not only suffered the inevitable side-effects of the reform but had also been confronted with heavy economic losses resulting from strict observance of the trade and economic sanctions imposed by the Security Council on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). Further restrictions could jeopardize the sustainability of the reform process itself. Bulgaria's special economic problems, resulting from factors beyond its control, should be given priority consideration.

57. Bulgaria welcomed the increasing attention being given to social problems within the United Nations system and supported in principle the approach to social development goals outlined in the Secretary-General's report. Bulgaria also welcomed the increased attention being paid to social aspects of development by the international financial institutions. It intended to participate actively in the World Summit, in the belief that it would yield fresh ideas and new commitments, aimed at improving the quality of life of the world's peoples.

58. Mr. OSMANY (Bangladesh) said that social development problems were universal: social decay, poverty and unemployment existed in the midst of material prosperity as well as in the poorest countries. While the underlying causes were identical, priorities and policies for social development were differently perceived according to the cultural, social, economic and political characteristics of each society. People, expressing themselves through democratic systems, were the final arbiters of social development, and it was to them that the World Summit should address itself. Deprivation and exclusion were common factors in the three core issues and, as the Secretary-General's report (E/1993/77) pointed out, a comprehensive and concerted response was required. The world should look beyond deprivation and exclusion, which were only symptoms of the real malady, destructive impulses born of hatred, fear and greed, and endeavour to harness the basic forces that united humanity, love, confidence and a spirit of sharing.

59. After a long, hard struggle the people of Bangladesh had ousted a dictator and established truly democratic government, the rule of law, an independent judiciary and full press freedom. The Prime Minister was giving priority to social and human resources development and had allocated the highest proportion of the development budget to primary education and health. All sections of the people were being integrated into the social development process through democratic participation. A high priority of the Government's policy was to involve women, the rural population, minorities and other disadvantaged groups in that process. The Grameen Bank and the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee were among the most successful non-governmental organizations in creating rural employment, particularly among women, and the example of the latter organization had been followed by many other countries. The food for work programme was also making a significant contribution to the alleviation of poverty and the creation of rural employment.

60. The international community would be expected to focus attention more sharply on the desperate plight of the 47 least developed countries, in some of which the structure of the State and basic social institutions was in danger of total collapse. The political, economic and social cost of prevention would be far less than the cost of repair and reconstruction following such a breakdown. In least developed countries like Bangladesh, opportunities for productive employment could not be generated without capital and technological input. There would be

no incentive to produce goods and services unless they could be marketed. Unfortunately, the peace dividend had become a forgotten promise, and capital and technology were not finding their way to the poorest countries. Nor had the Uruguay Round yet taken full account of their desperate needs. Unless the global environment of aid, investment and trade supported the LDCs more actively, the World Summit might be yet another exercise in public relations and political inaction.

61. The global strategy for social development might have to focus upon four basic elements: the creation and sustainment of democratic institutions, both national and international, which should assume the task of defining and achieving social development goals; the adoption of viable policies and programmes to initiate and expedite the development process; the generation and allocation of additional and new resources, both internally and externally, to meet programme needs; and the creation of better trade and investment opportunities by the international community. Democracy, respect for human rights and a socially targeted approach would have to be achieved by the developing countries themselves. It would be necessary also to try to unite humanity in a spirit of love, mutual trust and cooperation. In true democratic spirit, the preparatory process and the World Summit itself should remain open to appropriate inputs from all interest groups, including non-governmental organizations.

62. His delegation shared the view that the social and economic dimensions of security were as important as the military dimension and accordingly supported in principle the United States proposal to establish a dialogue between the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council.

63. Mr. MARDOVITCH (Belarus) said that his Government was keenly interested in enhancing the effectiveness of international cooperation on the three core issues to be considered at the World Summit. The Republic of Belarus was embarking in exceptionally difficult circumstances upon the construction of a market-based economic system and the future of social development greatly depended on the tactics adopted to advance in that direction on the priorities of socio-economic policy and on the pace and quality of the economic reforms instituted. The difficulties inherent in making the transition to a new economic system were intensified by a number of circumstances, including the heavy burden of the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl Electric Power Station. One in five of the inhabitants of Belarus lived in the contaminated area, and according to expert calculations, the disaster was costing the Republic one sixteenth of its annual budget. A further cause of the crisis was the breakdown in the economic links that had existed under the former Soviet Union, including the inter-republic division of labour and regional economic specialization, and the Republic's almost complete lack of raw material resources. Further major material and financial difficulties arose from the conversion of military production, and the thoroughgoing demilitarization pur-

sued by the Republic. Those factors were inevitably hampering advances in market reforms, with resulting major social problems: a fall in living standards, an increase in social tensions, a rising crime rate, growing unemployment, especially among young people, women and persons of pre-pensionable age, a deterioration in the situation of invalids, the elderly, and large families, and problems encountered in the fields of health care, education, and the provision of pensions. Nevertheless, the Government was succeeding in retaining control of the socio-economic situation, and Belarus was currently one of the few islands of political stability in the territory of the former Soviet Union. That was largely due to recognition of the political significance of the processes of social development occurring in the Republic, and understanding of the need for balanced economic and social development. Economic and social progress were inseparable and the pursuit of economic growth at the expense of other aspects of social development would inevitably have deleterious effects.

64. Belarus hoped that proper attention would be paid at the World Summit to the problems of countries in transition, which in many cases called for exceptional measures. International support for the social and economic reforms in those countries would be bound to have a positive effect on the direction, timing and quality of their development, and would contribute to the formation of a global social system. He hoped the Summit would substantially widen the scope for State and private initiatives for social development at the national level and would open up new possibilities for active cooperation with non-governmental organizations. In his delegation's view, the Summit should enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations system in the social development process. It considered the United States representatives' proposal for joint meetings of the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council under Article 65 of the Charter of the United Nations deserved careful consideration.

65. The World Summit would have to lay the foundations of a coordinated policy in a world liberated from fruitless ideological confrontation. He hoped the international understanding achieved at the Summit would confirm the recognition by States of their common interest in social progress and stability, and of respect for basic human rights and freedoms as a central component in stable development. His Government believed the Summit would mark a new stage in the international coordination of efforts to meet the global social challenges confronting mankind.

66. Mr. LANUS (Argentina) reaffirmed his Government's support for the World Summit. It attached particular importance to the participation of ILO, because of the contribution the latter could make as a result of its rich tripartite experience in the social field.

67. Economic and social development had been transformed by events that affected individuals and States. The situation created by the end of the cold war, the

technology explosion and the internationalization of the economy had made it necessary to rethink concepts that had appeared fixed for all time. There were many questions and in many cases no answers. The democratization of politics at the world level had resulted in the emergence of new social actors who contested the power of the State, shaping new forms of pluralism and broadening the participation in the administration of community structures. The individual had been placed in the centre of the debate. Development could no longer be considered the accumulation of wealth at the macro-economic level of the national State but a process involving growth, distribution, equity and social justice for individuals and groups. In the international sphere, the data-processing revolution, the globalization of the economy and the presence of the new actors were also realigning the axis of international relations. The traditional concept of an international society of States had been superseded by that of an international community with a multiplicity of actors.

68. In the changed situation new guidelines were needed for economic and social development. The Charter of the United Nations, in particular Article 55, set a series of objectives for international cooperation and social development, which should be given equal status with those relating to peace and security. There could be no development without peace and no peace without development. In that context he congratulated the Secretary-General on his report on the Summit (E/1993/77), which offset the tendency in some quarters to give greater weight to strategic and operational aspects of the maintenance of peace than to fulfilment of the Charter's economic and social goals.

69. Three factors affecting the living conditions and human dignity of the individual—employment, poverty and the social integration of groups threatened by unemployment and marginalization—demanded attention. According to the Secretary-General's report there were over 70 million unemployed in the developing countries, 28 million in the OECD countries and 7.5 million in the countries in transition. The impact of unemployment was particularly grim in the developing countries, where social security safety nets had in many cases been weakened under structural adjustment programmes. In Argentina social measures had been instituted to mitigate the consequences of the economic conversion plan, including the provision of unemployment benefits to alleviate the social effects of the privatization of State enterprises. Responsibility for implementation had been given to provincial and municipal governments, which were closer to the citizens.

70. Argentina's economic experiment could not be isolated from the world context in which economic growth was listless and protectionism and managed trade were on the increase. The lack of progress in the Uruguay Round directly affected social conditions in the developing countries and no doubt in the OECD countries also.

71. Disturbing as the unemployment figures were, they paled in comparison with the poverty statistics cited in the Secretary-General's report. Nearly 30 per cent of the population of developing countries, some 1,133 million persons, lived below the threshold of \$370 per capita income. Mere assistance could not remedy that state of affairs. Equality of opportunity was the only way forward. In that context the organizations representing various groups had a crucial role to play and their interaction with the United Nations system was essential.

72. Equality of access and opportunity was the key to social integration. The individual must not be seen as a recipient of charity. He must be given the means to acquire training and such personal betterment. Integration must be pursued in a framework of respect for plurality and diversity and unqualified respect for universally accepted human rights and basic liberties.

73. Ms. BAUTISTA (Philippines) said that the 20 months that remained before the opening of the World Summit would barely suffice to unravel the complexities of the core issues and unify approaches to social development problems, particularly at the international level. Her Government had launched a strongly socially oriented medium-term development plan whose objectives were the building by the end of the century of a politically, economically and socially stable country with an empowered citizenry, a 50 per cent increase in per capita income, a 30 per cent reduction of poverty, and sustained, broad-based employment. Her Government had created the Philippine Council for Poverty Alleviation to unify the strategies of various agencies and institutions.

74. As preparations for the Summit proceeded, there had been a spate of generalizations and much theorizing on social development. A call had been made for the incorporation of social policies in development strategies as a prerequisite for the achievement of economic goals. The multilateral financial institutions had argued that social and economic development and political stability were inseparable. Others advocated a multidisciplinary concept of development to improve individual and collective material conditions.

75. Meanwhile time was lost and thousands more swelled the ranks of the 1.1 billion people living in abject poverty. In order to facilitate poverty reduction, the simple principle should be accepted that human beings were neither the objects of nor the actors in development but both at the same time, an approach known in the Philippines as "people-empowerment". The challenges of social development called for pragmatic, target-oriented measures to reduce the numbers of the socially deprived. In the developing countries poverty was aggravated by the debt burden, lack of international aid, and worsening trade as a result of protectionism. Decisive action was required to cancel official debt and provide generous relief for other types of debt. That would be a major contribution to the elimination of poverty and would enable poor countries to invest in poverty alleviation. Donor countries should recognize that reiterated

advocacy of dependence on market forces would not suffice.

76. Unemployment was a universal phenomenon but its effects were more acute in the developing countries, in many of which accelerated job generation was heavily dependent on foreign investment. The developed country Governments should encourage their private sectors to invest in developing countries. The integration of marginalized groups—women, children, the handicapped, and indigenous or ethnic groups, amongst others—called for priority attention, mainly by Governments. Such people, who received less from life, should be given more by law. In that field international cooperation was sorely needed, not only in terms of resource transfers but also through the adoption of measures which had proved their worth in other countries.

77. Her Government supported the full participation at all levels of non-governmental organizations concerned with social development activities. The world was slowly advancing towards global interdependency, and a common priority for individual human rights and a common interest in an orderly system of international trade should inspire all countries to pool their intellectual resources and direct their energies to the prompt relief of all those languishing in poverty, unemployment and marginalization. In 1991, the Philippines had hosted the Fourth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development, which had adopted the Manila Declaration on a Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond, calling for new approaches in development policy and the integration of social development in the overall development process. She reiterated her Government's offer to host an Asian regional meeting in preparation for the World Summit.

78. Social development was fundamental in the hierarchy of development structures, for it sustained economic progress and political stability, because the object and actor of the development process were the people themselves.

79. Mr. PINOARGOTE (Observer for Ecuador) said that it appeared to be generally agreed that social development was the primary aim of the 1990s. That consensus reflected a recognition, albeit belated, of the cry raised by the world's peoples, who could not comprehend how millions of them could be sunk in abject poverty while economic growth in the developed world continued apace. At the same time unemployment in the developed countries was breaking all records, creating an unforeseen burden of social security costs which, combined with high labour costs, made it difficult to compete with the third world, where wages were barely above starvation level. Such was the cruel paradox of the market economy. There was, indeed, a socialist market economy, in the world's largest country, whose economic success, however, was not enough to fulfil the hopes of a better world based on political democracy,

economic prosperity, social peace and international security.

80. Rather than repeat the ideas put forward by many previous speakers, he wished to outline some possible practical approaches to the preparations for the Summit. The essential point was to establish an effective link between the ideas expressed and the sharp reality of rapidly spreading poverty. Some channels did exist within the United Nations system but, as could be seen from the Secretary-General's report on cooperation with multilateral financial institutions (E/1993/18 and Add.1 and 2), there were obstacles to the harmonization of efforts. To remove them must be one of the Summit's specific objectives.

81. It was important that cooperation by the developed countries must not be diverted, by seemingly attractive grandiose projects, away from the perhaps more mundane but nevertheless essential aim of genuine and prompt poverty alleviation, as had happened frequently in the past. No true benefit would result unless priority for the social sector was acknowledged by the multilateral financial institutions and development cooperation funds, with a consequent application of a much higher proportion of assistance to such necessities as health and education. International cooperation had helped to modernize the third world, and the multilateral financial institutions were showing some preference for social targets, but much more needed to be done, not simply because it made good business sense, as a number of previous speakers had pointed out, but because a sense of duty was involved.

82. His delegation appreciated the high standard of the current deliberations and expressed its full support for the efforts to ensure the success of the World Summit.

83. Mr. AL-AOUN (Kuwait) said that the Secretary-General's report on the World Summit (E/1993/77) reflected the importance of adequate preparation for that event. The three core issues, social integration, poverty alleviation and productive employment creation, called for serious research. The aim of the Summit should be to provide means to achieve the common goal of alleviating the current suffering not only in the developing countries but throughout the world, avoiding sterile North-South confrontation and recognizing that national efforts alone could not succeed without adequate international support.

84. The current session was especially important in that it provided an opportunity to lay the groundwork for the development of strategies and methods to improve decision-taking relating to the wide range of issues, such as strengthening the roles of women and youth, with a view to social development, which in turn would enhance the security and stability of individuals and nations.

85. Considerable progress had been made in Kuwait in many social fields, such as education, housing and family care, since it was recognized that social deprivation

was often at the root of human rights problems. Social welfare services had not yet been restored to the level that had prevailed up to August 1990, but great efforts were being made to restore the standards and improve them. Kuwait was also assisting other countries in the establishment of social development programmes. It looked forward to an exchange of experiences, in that regard, at the forthcoming Summit. Kuwait also called for the cancellation of poor countries' external debts, and had cancelled the amounts owed to it by other countries.

86. The World Summit should concentrate, *inter alia*, on services to children and youth, the elderly, women and other disadvantaged sectors of society, with the aim of promoting overall social development. Very important in that regard was the effort to divert some of the burden of social assistance from the State to the private sector, with a view to alleviating national budgets. Kuwait fully supported the role of the United Nations in the economic and social spheres, and the many cornerstones, such as the Beijing and Manila Declarations, on which the world community could rely in drawing up strategies for social development. Kuwait would go on doing its utmost to participate in all international cooperation efforts.

87. Mr. DORJI (Bhutan) said that his Government welcomed the Egyptian Government's decision to hold the United Nations Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in 1994. It also appreciated the Danish Government's offer to host the World Summit for Social Development, and thanked the President of the Council for his contribution in regard to that event.

88. Bhutan had an enlightened monarch in the person of His Majesty King Jigme Singye Wangchuck, who had always maintained that the Government and the people were not separate: the people were not passive recipients of aid but active participants in planning, implementing and evaluating projects. Bhutan's development plans for the past three decades had placed maximum emphasis on human development, with the generous cooperation of friends and donors. Education and health services were provided free to all Bhutanese. And ecological concerns, not the motive to make a quick profit, dictated forestry and land-use policies.

89. Since his delegation's observations were similar in substance to those of previous speakers, he would refrain from further comment.

90. Mr. ZAHARAN (Observer for Egypt) said that the World Summit would provide a historic opportunity, calling for great efforts and cooperation by all, for real progress in social development. His delegation appreciated the Secretary-General's statement at the previous meeting and his proposals, which would provide a valuable basis for discussion during the Summit.

91. Despite the revolutionary advances in communications, wide gaps between rich and poor persisted throughout the world. The Security Council's recognition, at its January 1992 Summit Meeting, of non-

military threats to peace and security had drawn attention to the need to reduce such contradictions in the world economic and social situation and thereby promote social peace. As could be seen from the UNDP *Human Development Report 1992*,<sup>3</sup> the gap between rich and poor had roughly doubled during the past 30 years, despite the revolution in contacts and communications. It was significant, in that regard, that the Vienna Conference on Human Rights had recognized development as an inalienable human right.

92. In order to ensure credibility, the work of the Summit must avoid double standards. For example, if the market economy was to be taken as the model for progress, the developed nations must genuinely open their own markets to the third world. As shown in the *Human Development Report 1992*, protectionism cost the developing countries roughly ten times the value of the assistance they received.

93. In any distribution arrangements in national economies, social justice must prevail. That was why Egypt had set up a national social fund. International mechanisms, however, did not always reflect justice. For example, such mechanisms ensured that financial arrangements always worked to the benefit of the developed countries, but restricted the freedom of developing countries in areas in which the latter would have a relative advantage, such as labour-intensive industries. In future there must be a single criterion for all.

94. Economic, social and political development were three essential factors. The development of free markets required a parallel enhancement of respect for human rights and increased freedom of choice for the individual. Attempts to impose certain outside values and frameworks on national societies would endanger freedom and democracy. Therefore, all international effort must be based on equity and respect for individual cultural and religious traditions, as well as recognition of the task of the individual State in ensuring national stability whenever the free market machinery might fail to do so. And the experience of one country was not necessarily valid for another. It should be recalled that the current lengthy economic crisis was largely the result of allowing market forces free rein.

95. Population growth was a further impediment to sustainable development. Therefore, adequate preparation should be made for the forthcoming International Conference on Population and Development, to be held in Cairo in 1994. The outcome of that Conference could provide a further input to the World Summit on Social Development.

96. His delegation pledged its full cooperation with the Council at its current session and in all preparations for the forthcoming Summit.

<sup>3</sup> Oxford University Press, New York and Oxford, 1992.

97. Mr. URRUTIA (Peru) said that, although the cold war had ended, the world community's expectations were being undermined by the growing threat to international peace and security stemming from severe poverty, environmental degradation, terrorism and extreme nationalism. The overriding aim of the World Summit must be to identify the growing social problems and draw up plans for rapid action to avoid an irreversible deterioration of the world social situation, while not overlooking the close interrelationship of economic, social and political aspects.

98. The end of the cold war had led to a fundamental change in the framework of international relations, aimed at new goals. But the change had not led hitherto to enhanced social development. On the contrary, the *Report on the World Social Situation 1993* (E/1993/50/Rev.1) showed an accelerating rise in poverty and unemployment, national and international imbalances, and population growth unmatched by employment opportunities, suffered by developed and developing countries alike and calling for an overhaul of the international economic structure through dialogue and cooperation. If world peace and security were assessed in terms of food, medicine, work, health and housing, it was clear that the world was in danger.

99. Democracy and a market economy had been upheld as the solution. But democracy was not simply a theory and must be viewed in practice: there could be no single universally applicable "democratic system". Similarly, market forces alone could not ensure an equitable distribution of wealth and efficient resource allocation. Therefore, individual countries and the world community as a whole must take positive steps to harmonize economic and social policies at the national, regional and international levels, and strengthen the means of unconditional international cooperation.

100. Peru attached great importance to the convening of the World Summit, the idea of which had been initiated by the President of Chile. It was no coincidence that the initiative stemmed from a country of Latin America, a region which had been facing serious problems stemming from the implementation of stabilization and structural adjustment programmes. Peru was one of the countries affected. According to recent estimates, some 12 million persons were living in conditions of severe poverty, the situation of some 5 million being dire. The Government was providing them with social assistance, including programmes for food, health, education and job creation, all of which relied on a recovery in the national economy in order to provide for the requisite social spending.

101. He reaffirmed his country's belief in international cooperation, solidarity among Governments and the desirability of drawing up an instrument on social development, at the national and international levels, in order to combat poverty.

102. The efforts of the Peruvian Government and people were hampered by terrorism, which had been responsible for the loss of 25,000 lives and over \$25 billion. Nevertheless, the Government and people would make every possible effort to eradicate that blemish, using all legitimate means to protect the vast majority of Peruvians who wished to live in peace and democracy, with respect for human rights. As noted by the World Conference on Human Rights, terrorism sought, *inter alia*, to destroy human rights and fundamental freedoms, overthrow democracy and destabilize legally constituted Governments. His Government reiterated the call, in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (A/CONF.157/23), for the international community to adopt the necessary measures to strengthen cooperation in preventing terrorism.

103. Peru would continue to work for the success of the Summit.

104. Mr. SAMUELSSON (Observer for Sweden) said that his delegation welcomed the statement made by the Secretary-General to the high-level segment at its previous meeting, and reaffirmed Sweden's readiness to contribute to the efforts devoted to social development.

105. At the Council's 1992 substantive session, the Nordic countries had formally introduced reform proposals concerning governance and financing for United Nations development activities. During the past year the proposals had been dealt with in an open-ended negotiating group in New York under the General Assembly. The negotiations had been difficult and time-consuming; finally, however, a compromise had been reached, all countries and groups having made substantial concessions, the formality of adoption by the General Assembly being the only remaining step. On 25 June, at the resumed session of the General Assembly, Colombia had requested, on behalf of some of the Group of 77, that no action should be taken on the agreed package; 70 countries had voted in favour, and thus no action had resulted.

106. The Nordic countries had negotiated in good faith with open intentions all along, their only interest being to strengthen the system in its vital development work. Since they accounted for more than a quarter of the Organization's development resources they were deeply concerned about the development impact. In their project they had extensively analysed the problems and, during countless bilateral and multilateral consultations and seminars over the past two years, had received widespread support for the conclusions drawn. They were extremely concerned about the fact that the negotiations completed in an open and transparent manner were not adhered to. To back away from a negotiated agreement sent a strong signal that negotiations and agreements were not taken seriously.

107. The Nordic countries' commitment to development assistance would not falter, but their commitment to the United Nations ran the risk of being jeopardized if

negotiated agreements were not kept. The countries that had instigated the action would carry a heavy responsibility for the consequences.

108. The studies in the Nordic United Nations project had shown clearly that United Nations development assistance had not achieved the potential results. It was not only in the Nordic countries' interest but, even more so, in the interest of the recipient countries to have a strong, effective and relevant system, delivering the maximum amount of development for each available dollar.

109. The studies had shown a very clear and distinct migration of tasks from the Organization to the Bretton Woods institutions; indeed, the present and previous Presidents of the World Bank had complained publicly about the vacuum in crucial policy areas left by the United Nations. Since the Organization should be a prime driving force in development, the issue had to be addressed at once.

110. Certain things could and should be improved in the Organization's system of development assistance. But without question two key areas, governance and financing, must be changed in order for change to be possible and sustainable in other areas.

111. Governance called for strong influence by member countries on policy and priorities, and strong influence by management in implementation: more macro-management, and much less micro-management. And improved governance needed long-term, sustained and substantial funding.

112. The growing demands for emergency relief and for long-term development funding, and the growing difficulties in resource mobilization, called for a sharper cutting edge both in terms of policy formulation and development action. Otherwise, interest, commitment and funding would increasingly go elsewhere, to the detriment of those most in need of what the United Nations could offer.

113. For those reasons, the Swedish Government was committed to reforms in the United Nations development system, and was disappointed at the recent decision in the General Assembly. As the Secretary-General had said, there was a risk of serious consequences for the Organization's development efforts; and those most affected would be the poor and vulnerable, especially in Africa, who so deserved attention.

*Mr. Somavía, the President, took the Chair.*

#### AGENDA ITEM 4

##### *Conclusion of the high-level segment*

114. The PRESIDENT summarized the deliberations of the high-level segment and informed the Council that the text of the summary would be circulated.

115. Before closing the meeting, he wished to share some thoughts on how the high-level segment could proceed in the future.

116. First, three days were clearly not enough; at least one more day should be made available. Secondly, he thought it would be more interesting and productive to divide each three-hour meeting into two parts—statements and an exchange of views, questions and answers. Thirdly, the high-level segment should each year issue talking-points, perhaps two distinct topics, for discussion elsewhere. Fourthly, he felt that it would be helpful for representatives of the various programmes of the United Nations system to be present at meetings of the high-level segment. Fifthly, he thought that the statements delivered should be published by the Secretariat. He would discuss those ideas with the members of the Bureau and any interested delegations.

117. He declared concluded the work of the high-level segment at the current session.

*The meeting rose at 7.20 p.m.*