



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/37/442
22 September 1982

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-seventh session
Item 78 of the provisional agenda*

WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION

International Seminar on Popular Participation

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
I. INTRODUCTION	1 - 3	2
II. POPULAR PARTICIPATION: CONCEPT AND DYNAMICS	4 - 11	2
III. INSTITUTIONS AND PROCESSES FOR PROMOTING PARTICIPATION IN THE FORMULATION OF PLANS AND PROGRAMMES	12 - 14	4
IV. ORGANIZATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SYSTEM OF DECENTRALIZATION	15 - 17	4
V. POPULAR PARTICIPATION AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	18 - 21	5
VI. OTHER INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS OF GENERAL APPLICABILITY IN PROMOTING PARTICIPATION	22 - 35	6
VII. PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT	36 - 41	8
VIII. PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT	42 - 49	9
IX. WORKING PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION AND SELF-MANAGEMENT	50 - 56	11
X. CONCLUSIONS OF THE SEMINAR	57 - 77	12

* A/37/150.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted in accordance with paragraph 13 of the General Assembly resolution 34/152 of 17 December 1979, which called upon the Secretary-General, to organize an international seminar to compare policies, institutions and experiences of Member States in the participation of all sectors of society in their economic and social development, as well as collective bargaining, worker participation in management and workers' self-management, to submit a report on the results of that seminar to the Assembly at its thirty-seventh session under the agenda item entitled "World social situation".

2. The Seminar was convened at Ljubljana, Yugoslavia, from 17 to 25 May 1982. The Government of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia provided the host facilities. It was attended by 48 participants from 36 countries: 11 from Africa, 9 from Asia, 9 from Europe, and 7 from Latin America. The participating countries were: Algeria, Angola, Austria, China, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, India, Iraq, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mexico, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Also, 11 United Nations entities, institutions, regional commissions and specialized agencies took part in the Seminar. Also a non-governmental organization, the World Federation of Trade Unions, participated in the Seminar. One country (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) was represented by an observer; 15 other countries were invited, but were unable to attend. Similarly, 11 international institutions and non-governmental organizations could not attend the Seminar, primarily for financial reasons.

3. The participants compared pertinent policies, institutions and experience of their respective countries and also the ongoing activities of the United Nations system. Based on the review, the Seminar recommended a number of policy measures for consideration by national authorities and international organizations. The full report of the Seminar has been circulated to the Member States and to the relevant agencies and entities of the United Nations system. This document gives the highlights of the Seminar and its conclusions.

II. POPULAR PARTICIPATION: CONCEPT AND DYNAMICS

4. Popular participation is widely recognized as an important principle for meaningful socio-economic development. In practice, different countries attribute various meanings to popular participation and emphasize different aspects of it. These range from popular participation as a strategy to mobilize national human resources for development to genuine transfer of power to people and their involvement in decision-making on matters affecting their well-being. In certain countries, popular participation has developed into a comprehensive system for self-management. The policies of various countries show a range of values assigned to popular participation. The view-point of a State on the legitimacy and limits of popular participation depends partly on its socio-political system, guiding

development concept and policy choices concerning the centrality of economic growth, use of scarce resources, and the role of planning and markets. It is also influenced by certain biases of bureaucracies and technocracies that condition the ways in which the State functions, sometimes hampering its ability to promote autonomous and innovative popular participation in spite of its commitment.

5. There was a general consensus that popular participation is a historical phenomenon, but that its inherent complexities were creating implementational problems which revolve around the lack of clear delineation of the relationships, functions and roles of various actors involved in the process, and the continuously evolving situations. Accordingly, emphasis was placed on the need for a clear definition of the concept as the basis for national policy measures at a given time.

6. It was recognized that every State has the right to choose the institutions, policies and measures for popular participation which are best suited to its national circumstances and socio-political dynamics, with a view to eventually making popular participation in development an effective reality. It was noted that Member States have instituted a variety of policies and programmes to promote popular participation in national development and management of public affairs. For this purpose, they have singled out a number of areas and approaches for experimentation. These included promotion of citizen participation in the formulation and implementation of national development plans, decentralization and local government reforms, reorientation of public administration, education and information, community and rural development, workers' participation and self-management in socio-economic activities, and associating specific groups with public affairs directly relevant to their interests.

7. The Seminar decided to review national policies and experiences in terms of the above categories, within the context of the definition of popular participation indicated in Economic and Social Council resolution 1929 (LVIII), which, inter alia, provides for involvement of people in contributing to the development effort, sharing equitably in the benefits derived therefrom and in decision-making in respect of setting goals, formulating policies and planning and implementing economic and social development programmes.

8. There can be tensions between different concepts and the policies that derive from them. These are permanent and legitimate aspects of the efforts of national societies to improve the well-being of the whole population. For example, there may be tensions between the concepts and policies of the groups in power and those of the excluded groups. Another kind of tension may emerge between participatory mechanisms promoted by the State in order to achieve centrally determined development objectives and participation arising from below. A third kind of tension may arise between the State and political or ideological movements trying to organize people to bring about a redistribution of power.

9. The interactions between agencies of the State, political movements and interest groups call for flexibility, mutual tolerance of shortcomings, distrust of supposedly infallible prescriptions, and a predisposition to expect the unexpected. Effective participation and development also require individual and collective self-reliance by the nations of the world, establishment of the new international economic order and minimization of international tensions.

10. National governments can promote authentic popular participation only if they act upon the implications of the redefinition of development they have supported in such texts as General Assembly resolution 34/152: "The fundamental aim of development is the sustained increase of the well-being of the entire population on the basis of its full participation in the process of development and a fair distribution of the benefits therefrom." This implies, inter alia, that economic growth as the central objective of development give way to an integrated package of objectives, comprising growth, equity in distribution, popular participation both as an end and a means to optimal utilization of human creativity, as well as fundamental human rights, self-reliance and ecological balance.

11. At the international level, the international community must be able to promote the economic system which is equitable for all Member States and provide them with the wherewithal of development and well-being of their population. It also calls for effective sovereignty over national resources and their use for national development purposes. A deteriorating world economic situation is highly inimical to participative development and the process of global negotiations should be strengthened to achieve early results.

III. INSTITUTIONS AND PROCESSES FOR PROMOTING PARTICIPATION IN PLAN AND PROGRAMME FORMULATION

12. There is an inherent conflict between the classical and participatory approaches to planning. Participatory planning requires voluntary action by people at the grass root, and other, levels. State planning on the other hand has evolved as a highly technical subject generally based on complex economic concepts and methodologies and carried out by specialized government institutions.

13. Many countries have been experimenting with regionalization of national development plans, greater autonomy for community and local institutions to do their own planning, organization of various types of deliberative bodies to advise on planning and other related activities. There is a growing interest in the concept of participatory planning, but effective modalities for this purpose need to be articulated.

14. Greater endeavours are required for preparing and implementing national plans based on popular consensus and participation. For example, it is essential to strengthen the local structures in order to enable them to function more effectively in identifying and expressing the needs of the local population. The extent of local participation in planning also depends on the degree of decentralization, autonomy and control of resources given to intermediate levels and local population.

IV. ORGANIZATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SYSTEM OF DECENTRALIZATION

15. Practically all countries have local government units and field structures. However, the functions entrusted to local government units have remained minimal and marginal to the mainstream of development. The organization of local

communities is confronted with many difficulties in different countries. The working of the local government has also not been efficient. In some cases, local government systems continue to be treated as appendages to field administration and under close supervision of central authorities, although in some cases administrative personnel were replaced by party cadres. The most important limitation on their effectiveness continued to be the centrally established pattern of allocating resources and authority. In many cases, the administrative and technical personnel assigned to serve the local government units have remained accountable to central governments for programme implementation and dependent on the central government for career and professional advancement.

16. The trend in local government reforms is to increase the role of elected representatives of the people and to promote forms of direct democracy at both local and national levels. The ultimate objective in relation to popular participation has to be decentralization with democratization, connected to creation of local communities as real and comprehensive (universal) human communities.

17. Among the outstanding issues which remain important for strengthening local government systems to promote participation are the genuine decentralization of meaningful functions to local governments, enabling them to extract and use resources autonomously, commensurate with the tasks entrusted to them and subordinating the administrative and professional services functioning under their jurisdiction.

V. POPULAR PARTICIPATION AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

18. While there has been considerable interest in introducing participatory measures in development, as well as systems of decentralization, the public administration systems have tended to retain their structures and processes. Many have undergone considerable expansion with the introduction of development planning and public enterprises. Similarly, community development and various measures introduced to promote participation usually ended up in elaborate arrangements being added onto the existing administrative structures, without much change in their traditional orientation of control and headquarters domination. The district administration, usually an arm of the central system and control, has also remained authoritative in form and substance. Related factors inhibiting participatory programmes have been administrative élitism, resistance to control of popularly elected representatives, and exclusion of citizens from regulatory processes. The over-all feature of paternalistic administrative structures has been to create an illusion rather than substance of popular participation.

19. The first requirement to correct the situation is to bring out the implication of national policies on participation for administrative systems as the basis for their reorientation to new realities, and promulgation on necessary changes. In this connexion, it is recommended that the United Nations formulate new guidelines for public administration which take note of the nationally and internationally stated objectives on popular participation and development.

20. A related requirement is the development of training activities to modify administrative behaviour. This should be a co-operative venture undertaken with the full co-operation and participation of administrative personnel. There have also to be opportunities for the redress of complaints of citizens. In the final analysis, administrative services will have to be decentralized to conform to the pattern of decentralized functions, authority and resources. In doing so, care should be taken to balance the interests of administrative services with that of the local communities.

21. The use of legal and judicial processes should also be considered to promote participation. Legal and judicial constraints on participation should be eliminated and positive measures taken to promote participation. Examples of the latter include structural legal aids and rights associated with development.

VI. OTHER INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS OF GENERAL APPLICABILITY IN PROMOTING PARTICIPATION

A. Education, information and participation

22. Popular participation and education defined broadly are mutually supportive. Participation in discussion, management and decision-making about community affairs and production work is also an important kind of education. Formal and informal education can also expand the base of participation and facilitate the dialogue needed between the modern State and the local community. However, it was recognized that with or without formal skills of reading and writing people can enter into dialogue about their own community problems.

23. For purposes of stimulating participation two kinds of learning need to take place: (a) learning participation skills by the previously excluded groups and learning to accept the broader base of participation by traditional decision makers and (b) specific learning to understand and resolve the development problems arising in the community.

24. The question of early child care and pre-school education must not be overlooked in view of the fact that the vast majority of women are involved, of necessity, in productive activity which often takes them away from the home. This was considered as rights of children, both male and female, and the social responsibility of the community to provide adequate and appropriate care and stimulation for the future citizens of the country.

25. Information is another part of the equation for successful participation. Free flow of appropriate information is the life-blood of any participatory effort in the community. As with some other issues, a link should exist between the local, national and international levels of information, and in this context there is need to improve the world flow of information.

26. Finally, participatory research is an example of the mutually supportive nature of education, participation and information. The chief characteristic of participatory research is the involvement of community members in its various

phases, e.g., problem identification, data collection and analysis, and ultimate use of the conclusions. While producing basic information on popular participation in community affairs, the participatory research also becomes a learning process.

B. Health and participation

27. In most countries, health resources tend to concentrate in large urban areas, being mostly available to those with the best ability to pay for them. Even in developed countries, the rapidly rising costs of health care may prevent an equitable distribution of health services. In response to the global health problems, the World Health Organization has repeatedly stated since 1977 that primary health care is the key to attaining the goal of "Health for All by the Year 2000" in the spirit of social equity.

28. In most countries, health planning and decision-making are centralized and seldom involve communities or local-level health workers. The establishment, therefore, of a system for involving local communities in planning, implementing and managing health-care programmes should be pursued with urgency to increase local self-reliance and social control over health care.

29. Since this will necessitate changes in most health systems - from an institution and technology-based curative system to a community-based, self-help, preventive system - a national policy is necessary with appropriate legislative and budgetary measures. Central planning should stimulate communities to work out their own primary health care activities.

30. Global trends show that health and socio-economic development are closely linked with each other. Developments in other sectors, e.g., increased education, better nutrition, improved hygiene, sanitary water supplies, appropriate disposal of wastes and changes in harmful beliefs and behaviour of people, can greatly reduce the major health risks in the community. Full account should therefore be taken of the extent to which the achievement of the health goals will be determined by policies outside the health sector. To this end, inter-sectoral collaboration should be strengthened.

C. Motivation and incentives

31. Many countries which have initially relied upon administrative hierarchies for the implementation of development plans, have been more concerned with compliance and with fulfilling schedules and quotas than with humanizing development processes or promoting participation. There has been a tendency to underestimate the capacity of the people to transform themselves by mistaking as their innate capacity the apparent limitations they have acquired in the process of their marginalization.

32. Distinction needs to be made between the right and opportunity to participate and actual participation by all citizens. The important point is to remove constraints on those willing and able to participate and to demonstrate effectively to others the utility of participation.

33. Citizens at the grass root level can be expected to participate actively only if they see concrete advantages in doing so, and if their experience in the course of participatory activities confirms their hopes. Neither immediate material achievements nor participation confined to locally felt needs is the exclusive spur to authentic participation. As long as people feel that they are agents in control of their own destiny rather than passive objects of exhortation and manipulation, or simply on the receiving end of development, they can accept unavoidable sacrifices and disruption of their life-styles.

34. Furthermore, the motivations and incentives of the people cannot be considered in isolation from those of agents of the State. Unless joint socio-psychological changes emerge permitting dialogue on equal terms, the State will hardly be able to promote popular participation.

35. Rising expectations, either promoted by the State for political reasons or which have been demonstrated experimentally which cannot be easily fulfilled, create frustration and also become a contributing factor to apathy or reluctance for self and community development. Therefore, it may be necessary in many cases to de-emphasize the role of the State and highlight the responsibilities of the people and local communities for self-development. A proper balance needs to be maintained between the State and the community in the light of the objective conditions and available resources at a given time.

VII. PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT

36. Almost all the developing countries have predominantly agrarian economies, with 60 to 90 per cent of their population living in rural areas. In these countries, national development becomes virtually synonymous with rural development. In practice, however, often large segments of the rural population have been almost completely bypassed in the development process or they have benefitted only marginally from a "trickle down" effect. Among the reasons for this have been a lack of access of rural poor to productive resources and development decisions.

37. Effective participation of all sectors of society and particularly of the rural poor in the development process is considered essential for both accelerated growth and equitable distribution of income. The rural poor participate most effectively in activities that earn livelihood or income for them. They have to organize themselves into small homogeneous groups so that they can practise collective participation and become gradually aware of their rights and obligations. However, for forming their groups, the poor often need stimulation and advice from external agents. Dependence on traditional local money-lenders or élite groups, or on government programmes should be consciously addressed and ultimately eliminated. The redistribution of land and other production assets is often an essential component in the over-all changes required for inducing growth with equity. Consideration needs to be given to the preservation and improvement of traditional participatory mechanisms and indigenous technologies. It is also necessary to make local officials accountable to the rural population through their organizations.

38. The issues of equity, dependence and continuity once addressed should allow for: a clear determination of the quantifiable and qualitative improvement of the rural life; the promotion of community self-confidence and ultimately self-reliance; and Government's intervention to be more demonstrative of its genuine desire to participate in the efforts of the community than of its paternalistic benevolence.

39. The access of people to structures of participation, the sensitivity of such structures to the peculiar needs and conditions of people, continuous processes of information-sharing and dialogue among all actors, the recognition of the role and responsibility of people themselves rather than its usurpation, can improve the quality, content and pace of rural development.

40. Since rural development is influenced in large measure by resource allocation, the disruptive impact of the current international economic situation on the economies of some countries, especially development loans, underscores the fragile relationship between rural development and international goodwill.

41. Member States and international organizations need to take a number of measures further to promote participation in rural development. They should identify the modalities of innovative approaches to people's participation in rural development, analysing their effectiveness and identifying constraints hindering their implementation. Rural development projects and programmes should be fundamentally participatory in approach to their design, implementation and evaluation. Efforts should be made by Governments, non-governmental organizations and United Nations agencies to provide appropriate training to leaders of rural organizations, as well as government staff engaged in participatory rural development programmes. National and international financing institutions and United Nations technical assistance bodies should place particular emphasis on projects and programmes for promoting self-reliance and should be prepared to adjust their own administration, practices and procedures to increase their ability to respond to such participatory programmes and projects. Finally, participation should be recognized as a continuing learning process both for the participating target groups and for government leaders.

VIII. PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

42. Women are increasingly becoming more economically active in many parts of the world and they contribute significantly to the family, community and nation. However, their exclusion from decision-making and many aspects of life remains a major issue. Some economic structures and systems have consistently benefitted from the abuse of women's labour, but remained resistant to change even under the conditions of economic life and division of labour in modern societies. During the struggle for independence and nationhood, women are often actively involved and gain for themselves expanded roles and wider experience and recognition than previously. But with the passage of time, there is often a tendency to "return women to the home". Social traditions and customs in some areas have cast women in an inferior position legally, socially and economically, exploitative economic policies and practices of multinational corporations in many cases have had special

impact on women. Women have also suffered from lack of education and skills for functioning in a larger society and economy than the home.

43. The majority of countries nowadays have full constitutional or legal guarantees of the equality and protection of men and women before the law. However, there is frequently a gap between legal provisions and the experience of women.

44. Eliminating material obstacles and learning to practice equality can be slow and difficult and need attention from men and women and from Governments and communities. Action programmes, especially those adopted by the two World Conferences of the United Nations Decade for Women, should be more rapidly implemented through legal codes and national policy reviews, intensification of education of men and women and enforcement of relevant laws. The legal protection of women's position and equality in society is to a large extent conditioned by the recognition of women's rights as workers, producers and social subjects.

45. Frequently women, in particular in developing countries, are active in the informal sector self-employment, small industry, small-scale marketing, casual employment. However, they are often persistently excluded from equal participation in and access to the management of the formal economic structures, managing duties, public offices and political life. These practices are wasteful and work to the disadvantage of women and society. Economic participation of women in national life should be consciously planned and included in systems of planning of national economies, as well as in long-term programmes of economic and social development.

46. Governments and international agencies, as employers, must set the example of equal and appropriate policy and practice with regard to employment and career advancement of men and women. The special and important role of trade unions should be fostered for achieving the necessary results.

47. Of critical importance to the whole issue of economic activity of women is the question of child care. As a general rule, child care must be recognized as a community responsibility, as well as a shared responsibility of both parents and institutions and facilities provided accordingly. Child care institutions and their large-scale operation, in developing countries in particular, are a necessary pre-condition for bettering the position of women, parents, and families as subjects of social and community life.

48. Education and training are important to promote participation of women. Three kinds of education are needed: basic literacy for all boys and girls to enable them to be active and informed citizens, parents, husbands and wives; ongoing education and motivation for both men and women with regard to the importance of full participation of both in social, economic and political life; and skill-specific training appropriate to women.

49. The existence of women's organizations should not be seen as a substitute to fuller participation in society. Although, the conditions for the creation and activities of women's organizations differ from country to country, it is essential to ensure that these organizations enable and promote women's direct involvement in

economic, social and political life, as well as to organize and facilitate their broad engagement in self-management and other forms of popular participation.

IX. WORKING PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION AND SELF-MANAGEMENT

50. Working people's participation in the management of economic and social activities is important for the attainment of individual rights. It fosters modernization, innovation and productivity; supports social, economic and political development; democratizes human relations; raises human dignity and motivates the workers. It was recognized that working people's participation in management should be combined and carried out in concert with other participatory schemes in managing local and national affairs.

51. The principles of working people's participation in the management of economic and social activities are applicable to both the developed and developing countries. In several countries, self-management and various other forms of participation in management are based on control of the means of production, natural resources and the producers' rights to dispose of the results and surpluses of their labour and to exercise direct control over their social condition.

52. Co-operative organizations have also become a vehicle for social ownership or participation in managing common activities under private ownership. In some countries, co-operative ventures and credit unions have been established to improve the economic lot of their members. In countries with private ownership of land, service co-operatives are effective in meeting the needs of their members.

53. Trade unions have successfully promoted workers participation in socio-economic development. In Africa particularly, trade unions have closely co-operated with national movements for liberation and they can play a major role in effecting popular participation. The relationships among state, owners and trade unions, of course, vary among different countries, depending upon their socio-economic organization. These relationships acquire a new significance as a result of inclusion of workers in schemes of participatory management. Historically, trade unions' interests, particularly in market economies, have not been always compatible with those of owners and managers. The inclusion of workers in participatory schemes of management may, under certain conditions, change this. Under the new conditions, workers and managers have to assume joint social responsibility for production and national development. This may also introduce an element of change between trade unions and the State. Such sets of relationships should further be studied and guidelines formulated to conform to new realities.

54. Effective participation of migrant workers, the unemployed and youths seeking to enter the labour force pose special problems. These have not been adequately studied, but should be.

55. The opportunities of the working people to manage their work and economic and social activities should receive a wider recognition by the international community as inherent to basic human rights, and suitable conditions for the purpose should be created. To this end, efforts will be required to promote national legislation

aimed at ensuring the attainment of human rights and worker and farmer participation in decision making, development planning and programme formulation and implementation. Since national policies and political structures are, to a certain extent, conditioned by external forces and global relations, international organizations and United Nations agencies should be more active in establishing and developing participatory mechanisms for economic and social development by providing the technical co-operation needed to shape the systems of social planning, information, and education for participation. Technical co-operation should also be available to trade unions and non-governmental organizations on matters related to freedom of association, the right to organize and collective bargaining and direct forms of workers' organization. Furthermore, the international organizations should promote scientific research, comparative studies and analyses of participative processes and exchange of experiences and information.

56. Various resolutions of the United Nations system, especially General Assembly resolution 34/152 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1929 (LVIII), constitute the basic framework for the promotion of international efforts in this field. However, these should be further developed, specified and implemented by concrete actions and measures.

X. CONCLUSIONS OF THE SEMINAR

57. Having reviewed the experiences of different countries in promoting popular participation in development, the Seminar came to the following conclusions and recommendations for action by national authorities and international organizations.

58. Practically all countries are agreed in principle to consciously promote popular participation in development. Many of them have also launched programmes for that purpose for specific sectors, groups of population and rural areas. It is urged that all countries which have not done so adopt popular participation as a basic policy measure in national development strategy and take appropriate steps to translate it into concrete actions.

59. It is recommended that Member States establish an over-all and comprehensive framework for popular participation in development and fully reflect its implications in different institutions and processes for national, territorial, sectoral and programme components of development.

60. It is strongly recommended that programmes and reforms in areas covered by the report should be further strengthened, albeit within the framework of linkages between popular participation and development.

61. As popular participation experiences are an unfolding and continuously evolving phenomenon, it is recommended that countries review periodically the stage at which they have reached with a view to determining future courses of action.

62. Measures taken to promote institutions, policies and practices for popular participation frequently remain partial and therefore ineffective. The most striking example is provided by programmes of decentralization and democratization

which have remained limited in impact for lack of corresponding measures relating to financial, administrative and managerial decentralization and democratization. Accordingly, it is recommended that steps should be taken to undertake reforms of all elements related to a programme to ensure its effectiveness.

63. Education and information should receive particular attention as they are important conditions for promotion of participation.

64. The Governments should increasingly involve trade unions, non-governmental organizations, community and civic groups, as well as representatives of all segments of the society to promote popular participation. This in turn should be reflected in the activities of the United Nations system.

65. The Seminar reviewed the activities of the United Nations system and stressed that it has a major role in promoting development and participation. At the highest level, it promotes global consensus standards and strategies on important issues of peace, development and human rights. It is urged that the United Nations system include participatory aspects in all its global strategies, particularly in its international development strategies for development decades.

66. The Seminar felt that the United Nations system should expedite global negotiations on international economic relations, including such important matters as trade, concessional finance, credit and flow of official development assistance: these have a strong bearing on citizen participation and their well-being.

67. It was also of the opinion that the United Nations system should provide technical co-operation to countries, upon request, to design and implement popular participation programmes. It should also help the Governments in building a popular-participation dimension in technical co-operation projects in different sectors and functions.

68. The United Nations development system should promote technical co-operation among developing countries on programmes of popular participation, as well as those in other development sectors.

69. The United Nations should develop participatory models suitable to the conditions of different groups of countries.

70. The United Nations system should promote exchange of experience among different countries at subregional, regional and global levels, and through publications and seminars.

71. While most future activities should be taken on more narrowly defined subjects so that these can be treated in depth, meetings should be convened periodically to review the subject in its entirety in order to continue to elaborate and clarify the evolving concept of popular participation.

72. Steps should be taken to develop indicators for measuring levels of participation. Studies for this purpose can be taken by the United Nations in

collaboration with other intergovernmental organizations and national institutions, as appropriate.

73. Among the suggestions and conclusions approved by the seminar were the following:

(a) Periodic consideration by the General Assembly of the views of Member States on popular participation, worker's participation in management and self-management, and to this end, include in its agenda a new item entitled "The right to popular participation, including worker's participation in management and self-management, as an important factor in development and its human rights aspects".

(b) Request the Secretary-General to prepare an over-all and comprehensive study on the question of popular participation, worker's participation in management and self-management and development and to submit progress reports on conclusions and recommendations; in preparing this study, full account should be taken and effective use made of findings of work undertaken by different United Nations development system agencies and intergovernmental bodies;

(c) Request the Secretary-General to prepare a comparative study on normative regulations concerning the above-mentioned questions, based on the information supplied by the countries and make the results available to all States Members of the United Nations.

74. It was further suggested that:

(a) The Human Rights Commission consider the results of deliberations of the Seminar, particularly the human rights aspect of popular participation, worker's participation in management and self-management and that it make appropriate suggestions for a more complete realization of human rights through their comprehensive exercise;

(b) Special attention be paid within the system of the United Nations and its specialized agencies to the consideration and study of the question of worker's participation in managing economic and social structures;

(c) The Committee for Development Planning to include the question of popular participation, worker's participation in management and self-management as a part of its review and evaluation of the implementation of the Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade;

(d) The United Nations (Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, regional commission) and specialized agencies (UNESCO, the ILO, FAO, UNICEF, WHO) and all other specialized agencies and organizations within the United Nations system continue with the study of an engagement in the promotion of popular participation, worker's participation in management and self-management and in particular through technical co-operation, the building-up of a system of education for participation, as well as ensuring the

appropriate dissemination of information, and to encourage and help the co-operation of the Member States;

(e) The funding agencies and Member States give special consideration to the support of technical co-operation projects and intergovernmental institutions meant to promote popular participation.

75. The Seminar appreciated the assistance of the International Centre for Public Enterprises (ICPE) in research and implementation of worker's participation in developing countries and suggested that it continue to extend such assistance to countries in general, and least developed among them in particular. It further called upon ICPE to continue research in the functioning of participation in developing countries in all activities of its work programme, especially in the field of self-management and participation, participatory planning and women as a factor of development and include the findings in its appropriate reports.

76. United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) was requested to carry out studies on the role and participation of women in development.

77. Finally, the Seminar adopted the following resolution:

The participants in the International Seminar on Popular Participation, held in the Congress and Cultural Center "Cankarjev Dom" in Ljubljana from 17-25 May 1982,

1. Express their deep appreciation and gratitude to the Government of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Yugoslav Center for Theory and Practice of Self-Management for the generous invitation of the Seminar and to the people and government of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia and of the City of Ljubljana for their warm hospitality and the excellent working facilities offered at Cankarjev Dom;

2. Decide to include this resolution in the report of the Seminar to the General Assembly of the United Nations.
