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WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION

Population participation in its various forms as
an important factor in the development and in the
realization of human rights

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 37/55 of 3 December 1982, the General Assembly took note with appreciation of the report on the International Seminar on Popular Participation, held at Ljubljana, Yugoslavia, from 17 to 25 May 1982 (A/37/442); invited Member States to take into consideration in their development policies and programmes the recommendations of the Seminar, keeping in view their specific economic and social conditions; called upon the organs and organizations of the United Nations system to promote, as appropriate, popular participation in the execution of their programmes to the extent and in the form conducive to the nature of their work; and requested the Secretary-General to transmit the report of the Seminar to Member States and the relevant United Nations bodies for their consideration. The Assembly also requested the Commission on Human Rights to consider at its thirty-ninth session the question of popular participation in its various forms as an important factor in development and in the realization of human rights, taking into account, inter alia, the results of the deliberations of the Seminar, as contained in the report of the Secretary-General, and to submit to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, appropriate suggestions for more complete realization of human rights; and it requested the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive progress report on the implementation of the resolution, taking into account the suggestions made at the Commission on Human Rights, and to submit his report to the Assembly at its thirty-eighth session.

2. Accordingly, in a note verbale of 7 April 1983, the Secretary-General requested all Member States to submit observations and comments on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 37/55. On 29 April 1983, a letter was sent by the Assistant Secretary-General of the Centre for Human Rights to the specialized agencies and other interested organizations of the United Nations system. A copy of the report of the International Seminar on Popular Participation was also transmitted with each letter.

3. The present progress report on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 37/55 contains a summary of the relevant suggestions made, and the resolution adopted, by the Commission on Human Rights at its thirty-ninth session (section II), and summaries of the substantive replies received from Governments as at 1 July 1983 (section III), from United Nations organs (section IV) and from specialized agencies (section V). 1/ In accordance with editorial directives endorsed by the General Assembly, the replies received are not reproduced in extenso. Any additional replies will be reproduced as addenda to the present document.

II. SUGGESTIONS MADE AT THE THIRTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

4. At its thirty-ninth session, the Commission on Human Rights considered the question of popular participation in connection with item 8 of its agenda 2/ entitled:

"Question of the realization in all countries of the economic, social and cultural rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and study of special problems which the developing countries face in their efforts to achieve these human rights, including:

- " (a) Problems related to the right to enjoy an adequate standard of living; the right to development;
- " (b) The effects of the existing unjust international economic order on the economies of the developing countries, and the obstacle that this represents for the implementation of human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- " (c) The right of popular participation in its various forms as an important factor in development and in the realization of human rights."

The Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the International Seminar on Popular Participation (A/37/442).

5. The debates at the Commission concerning its consideration of subitem 8 (c) are summarized as follows: several speakers noted the importance of popular participation as a human right in itself and as an important factor in the realization of all human rights, including the right to development. It was said that popular participation took many different forms in different societies, ranging from a strategy to mobilize national human resources for development to a transfer of power to people by virtue of their involvement in all decision-making on matters affecting their well-being and their role in society. In this regard reference was made to the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the International Seminar on Popular Participation and to the need for a comprehensive study emphasizing the human rights aspects and the various forms of popular participation. 3/

6. Such a study was said to be necessary in view of the complex nature of the issue as a result of which "the Commission would probably be unable, for lack of time, to make suggestions with a view to facilitating the exercise of that right [to popular participation] as it had been requested to do by the General Assembly". 4/

7. In its resolution 1983/14 of 22 February 1983, the Commission on Human Rights took note with appreciation of the report of the International Seminar on Popular Participation and recommended the adoption by the Economic and Social Council of a draft resolution which was subsequently adopted by the Council as resolution 1983/31 of 27 May 1983. In that resolution, the Council requested the Secretary-General to undertake a comprehensive analytical study on the right to popular participation in its various forms as an important factor in the full realization of all human rights, and to submit a preliminary study to the Commission on Human Rights at its fortieth session and the final study at its forty-first session. The Council further requested the Secretary-General, in the preparation of the study, to take account of the work on the concept and practice

of popular participation that has been carried out by relevant United Nations organs, specialized agencies and other bodies, as well as of the views expressed at the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on Human Rights and such views on, inter alia, relevant national experiences as may be submitted by Governments in response to General Assembly resolution 37/55 and Council resolution 1983/31.

III. COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

DENMARK

[Original: English]

[17 June 1983]

8. The Government of Denmark referred to the explanation of vote on behalf of the member States of the European Community at the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly, indicating the opinion of those States to the effect that the results of the International Seminar on Popular Participation could better be dealt with in the Commission for Social Development, which has been working in the field for some time.

INDIA

[Original: English]

[28 June 1983]

9. Popular participation has been accepted as an essential ingredient of the democratic planning which India has launched for realizing the social objectives enshrined in the constitution. The Parliament at the Centre and Legislatures in the States enable the representatives of the people to participate in the administrative activities of the Central and State Governments on a continuous basis.

10. From the very beginning in India the successive five-year plans have been emphasizing the need for promoting people's participation in planning activities. In the First Five-Year Plan it was recognized that the full effectiveness of a plan could be provided only by public support and public participation. It was, therefore, envisaged that representatives of Panchayats, Municipalities, local bodies as well as members of the State and Central Legislatures should be closely associated with both the planning as well as the execution of development programmes. Referring to the role of public co-operation in planning, the Second Plan stated "by harnessing voluntary effort and local manpower resources, physical targets in the Plan can be supplemented in many fields and even greatly exceeded".

11. The Third Plan also laid great stress on people's participation in planning. According to the Third Plan, "when social change of a large order has to be achieved in a relatively short period, the people's part in respect of scale and

intensity of effort has to be such as to impart to it the character of a mass movement". Stressing the need for popular participation, the Fourth Plan said: "A sense of involvement, of participation by the people as a whole, is vital for the success of any plan of rapid economic growth."

12. The Fifth Plan also emphasized the fact that participation of the people in the implementation of Plan programmes is vital. India is now in the midst of its Sixth Five-Year Plan. The Plan lays great stress on popular participation. It says: "it will be necessary to ensure that at every stage of planning and implementation there is full participation and involvement of people". This is proposed to be achieved by persuasion, mass education, consultation, demonstration and by assisting people's own organizations for development.

The planning process

13. The task of formulation and implementation of the development plans in India is the joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments. While at the Centre the responsibility is shared between the Planning Commission and various Ministries, in the States the Governments seek the involvement of local self-government institutions, particularly in the process of multi-level planning. The preparation of a plan is a vast national undertaking in which valuable contributions come from many sources and people's participation is enlisted at all possible stages.

Multi-level planning

14. It has been recognized that public participation will remain a mere formality unless steps are taken simultaneously to decentralize the process of decision making. The concept of multi-level planning is expected to achieve this objective. It is also expected to bring about better integration and synchronization of sectoral programmes in the context of the development of different area units. Planning bodies have been constituted in all the districts in the country.

15. As pointed out in the Sixth Plan, planning at the local level has an important role to play in investment decisions in agriculture, minor irrigation, animal husbandry, fisheries, marketing and processing, cottage and small-scale industries, local infrastructure, and social services, including water supply, housing, health, sanitation, education and local transport. During the Sixth Plan, planning at the block level will be strengthened. The programmes that will be made are specific at the grass-root level based on local endowments and potential for growth and fuller employment. It is proposed to formulate comprehensive block level plans and identify programmes for development of the area which aim at making full use of local endowments. The object of these plans will be to integrate various programmes for optimal utilization of local endowment with plan objectives and local needs.

Credibility of planning

16. Popular participation in planning depends on its credibility among the people, and a plan for economic development can sustain that credibility only if it is able to fulfill at least the minimum requirements of the vast majority, particularly the poorer sections, of the population. To achieve this objective the Minimum Needs Programme and the 20-Point Programme have been drawn up by India's planners.

Minimum needs programme

17. The National Programme of Minimum Needs, which is now under implementation, seeks to establish throughout the country a network of certain essential services on a co-ordinated and integrated basis, on the basis of certain predetermined criteria of uniformity and equality.

18. The Minimum Needs Programme stresses the urgency of providing social services according to nationally accepted norms within a time-bound programme. It is expected that the integrated planning and careful implementation of the programme will go a long way in establishing a healthy environment for well-being and growth and also create a feeling of participation in national development among all sections of society. Under the programme public resources are allocated only for those items which cannot be procured through local initiative and participation. It is expected that the implementation of this programme, which would bring palpable benefits to the hitherto neglected areas, will become a focal point for public participation.

The 20-Point Programme

19. Another programme which is now being undertaken on a high-priority basis throughout the country is the 20-Point Programme which focuses attention on some of the most important social and economic programmes included in the Sixth Plan and seeks to impart greater dynamism to them. While the thrust continues to be on ameliorating the living conditions of the less-privileged sections of the population, the programme as a whole aims at all-round improvement in productivity.

20. The 20-Point Programme is designed to ensure a certain minimum level of development. These special programmes are creating a favourable situation for the people to participate in developmental activities.

Rural development

21. One of the important programmes in India's Sixth Five-Year Plan relates to rural development and the main agency for ensuring people's participation in its implementation are the Panchayati-Raj institutions. Co-operatives also contribute in this regard. The Sixth Plan lays emphasis on the promotion of non-governmental organizations, which would motivate and mobilize people in specific or general development tasks. The task of educating or mobilizing the people is more effectively accomplished when it is institutionalized. Individual action though important can only be sporadic in nature whereas institutionalized action can be distinctly more effective in mobilizing local resources, articulating needs and co-ordinating developmental tasks that are undertaken by the people.

22. In most of the Government programmes relating to rural development, the existing policies and procedures are reoriented to motivate, integrate and support people's participation in an organized way through local groups and associations or voluntary organizations. The establishment of local self-government institutions, known as Panchayati-Raj, is under implementation in almost all parts of the country.

23. A scheme for promoting voluntary action in rural development by strengthening of local organizations and encouraging pilot projects of public co-operation through financial assistance is now under implementation. The scheme envisages the development of public co-operation techniques through experimental pilot projects, such as the construction of bridges, community centres, playgrounds, clubhouses, culverts, footpaths and the maintenance of kitchen gardens. Other projects taken up by voluntary organizations include the construction and repair of link roads, the construction of community centres, community halls, rural water supply, renovation of irrigation tanks and market places. The cost of the projects is shared between the central government and the local people.

Co-operation

24. As co-operation has an important role to play in rural development, the co-operative movement is being strengthened. Systematic and integrated programmes for the development of co-operatives in the fields of agricultural credit, marketing, processing of agricultural produce and supply of agricultural inputs have been taken up under the Plan with a view to encouraging the growth of co-operatives all over India and to promoting co-ordinated and integrated development of various types of co-operative organizations.

Health and family welfare

25. Improvement in the health of the people is considered as a part of the overall strategy of human resources development. A close relationship is sought between health programmes and those in the fields of integrated rural development, education, social welfare, agriculture, water supply and sanitation, drug development, etc. The programme envisages effective community participation with emphasis on the role of women in the promotion of health within the family and through the family within the community as a whole. In order to involve the people in matters of health, the Central Government has suggested to the State Governments that they set up in each village a health committee, intended to be a contact point at the village level for all health and family welfare activities.

26. The Family Welfare Programmes aim at reducing births, deaths and infant mortality rates and improving the health status of women and children, and is implemented as a people's programme. The aim is to spread information and knowledge, education and motivation to enable a process of voluntary change to take place in individual and social behaviour and attitude. Media and inter-personal communication support is provided. All efforts are being made to educate the people through voluntary organizations, institutions, services and committed individuals to bring about changes in their attitude and behaviour so that they could be enlisted as enthusiastic participants in a mass movement for smaller families.

Protection of the environment

27. The Department of Environment has initiated several programmes oriented to increase public awareness of environmental issues and stimulate public participation in environmental protection. These programmes include (a) the setting up of an Environmental Information System for collection, processing and dissemination of environmental information, (b) programmes to increase public awareness of environmental issues and to stimulate public participation in activities for environmental protection (particular emphasis has been placed on communication programmes for target groups such as village panchayats, district and municipal authorities, state and Central Legislatures and administrators) and (c) in order to accelerate the process of repairing the damage done to the fragile eco-systems, it is proposed to set up an eco-development force consisting of ex-servicemen. It is envisaged that the force, together with the local community, will take steps not only to develop hill and forest eco-systems but also to produce needed quantities of fuel and fodder without damage to forests.

Women's welfare and development

28. The Constitution of India guarantees equality of opportunity and status to both men and women. Improvement of the status of women can be ensured only through full integration and participation in the tasks of national development. A National Plan of Action for Women, prepared by the Ministry of Social Welfare to serve as a guideline at the national and state levels, identifies areas of health, family planning and nutrition, education, employment, legal provisions and social welfare where action programmes for women should be formulated and implemented. The scheme calls for planned intervention for improving the conditions of women in India.

29. The National Committee on Women, under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister, continues to advise the Central and State Government in taking steps to involve women in development and to remove the economic and social injustices, disabilities and discrimination.

Central Social Welfare Board

30. The Central Social Welfare Board is the main agency of the Central Ministry of Social Welfare for undertaking and implementing programmes for the welfare of women, children and the handicapped and for promoting voluntary effort for social welfare programmes in the country. The Board has a programme for the training of rural women in public co-operation. Under the scheme camps are organized for rural women to enable them to participate more effectively in the process of social and economic development and to acquire leadership qualities.

Motivation and communication support

31. One of the essential prerequisites for popular participation is the motivation of different sections of the people. No activity can be undertaken successfully without proper motivation of the people concerned with it. As pointed out in the Third Five-Year Plan "wrong influences and destructive trends have to be

neutralized constantly by positive forces that should be generated within the community all the time. This is, in the first instance, a task of widespread social enlightenment". The role of mass communication media is, therefore, important. A regular two-way flow of information between the Government and the people is essential. Motivational communication has to be decentralized so that it can have local relevance and appeal.

YUGOSLAVIA

[Original: English]

[29 June 1983]

32. In its development policies Yugoslavia takes fully into account the recommendations of the International Seminar on Popular Participation. Bearing in mind that one of the basic premises of the Yugoslav system of socialist self-management is the right to the broadest participation of working people and citizens in all spheres of life and work, Yugoslavia attaches particular importance to those recommendations.

33. Furthermore, in keeping with the relevant provisions of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1983/14, the Government of Yugoslavia has taken all necessary steps for the preparation of its substantive contribution to the preliminary study to be prepared by the Secretary-General. In that contribution, it will present its views and experience in this important field.

IV. COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM UNITED NATIONS ORGANS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

[Original: English]

[27 June 1983]

34. The activities of ESCAP related to popular participation are undertaken mainly by the Social Development and Agriculture Divisions and under the integrated programme on rural development. Details of ESCAP's popular participation activities are to be found in its annual reports. Other relevant ESCAP documents include the following:

A. Poverty, productivity and participation: an analysis of some recent Asian experiences, ESCAP, 1982.

B. Action Plan for Multiplication of Participatory Development Experiences on a Socially Significant Scale.

C. Draft report: Intergovernmental Meeting on Health and Development - ESCAP, WHO, UNICEF. The thrust of the report is advocacy of a participatively very intense approach to health, the latter being very broadly defined. ESCAP's health and society programme, whose activities are described in the annual reports, is a participatory process par excellence. One activity is described in Development of Basic Community Services Through Primary Health Care. The point made in this is that all community services must be participative where poverty is a problem and that such a focus, as such, defines "service", in terms of both substance and the delivery process itself.

D. Transfer of Knowledge and Skills Among Peer Groups and Learning from Rural Women. These are both the result of ESCAP/FAO co-operation. They show the extent to which ESCAP's women's programmes are primarily participative. The central problem of women, after all, is one of inadequate and inappropriate participation.

E. (a) Report of the Mid-project Evaluation Meeting of the Series of National Training Workshops on the Development of Rural Institutions for the Participation of Youth in National Development. (b) Report of the Field Study and Attachment of Youth Work Personnel to Rural Institutions and Development Programmes in Which Youth are Actively Engaged. (c) Report of the ESCAP Training Seminar For Trainers of Youth Workers and Youth Leaders in Co-operation with Existing National and Regional Youth Training Centres and Institutions. As with women, our work with youth recognizes that the level and quality of participation throughout society must improve.

F. Report of the ESCAP/Marga Institute Expert Group Meeting on the Use of Experience in Participation/Law and Participation and Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting. The former describes one of ESCAP's more innovative projects. Participative efforts tend to suffer from an inability to find sources of support in their environments and, obversely, to provide information which could be used to make environments more supportive of environments. We are attempting, in this project, to bring together practitioners and academics in law and participation in order to foster mutually supportive co-operation.

35. An Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting to be held in late 1984 will bring together several streams of ESCAP's participative interests in order to provide a unifying platform, or model, for further activities.

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

[Original: English]

{21 June 1983}

36. The Economic Commission for Latin America has been active in research and reflection on popular participation since the inception of the "unified approach" to "alternative styles of development", having played a key role in the development of both concepts. The Commission presented a paper entitled "Peoples Participation

/...

in Development in Latin America" to the International Seminar on Popular Participation. Other recent research has produced an article on "Andean communities: resource management and social differentiation", to be published by ECLA in a book on high altitude eco-systems, edited by the joint ECLA/UNEP unit, and a paper on "The Mexican Food System: A New Form of Rural Social Development", to be presented at the ECLA/FAO seminar on peasant producers and food-marketing systems to be held at Santiago in July 1983. Both documents are in Spanish; the first deals with endogenous village-level participatory institutions, while the second analyses the situation of the peasantry as a group "actor" vis-à-vis the State.

37. One ongoing research activity is the project on Social Structural Change in Latin America. This project takes a highly empirical approach to the study of participation in the 1980s, seeking to identify emerging social groups that constitute potential political actors for the near future. Both through national case studies by consultants and by computer analysis of census samples for 1960, 1970 and 1980, efforts are being made to clarify and quantify major changes in major socio-occupational groups. Preliminary results will be discussed and compared at a seminar in September. Future activities will involve studies of relations between these social group "actors" and the State.

38. In its work on the situation and needs of youth within the context of International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace, ECLA has highlighted the problem of popular participation among young people. One of the key themes of the Latin American Regional Preparatory Meeting for the International Youth Year is youth as a social movement. In addition, the preliminary version of a study on youth viewed as an agent in the process of social change in the region has been completed. This work deals with the history, the present challenges and future scenarios of youth movements in Latin America.

39. With regard to the integration of women, various activities under way at ECLA promote the participation of women in development. For example, the study of the legal situation of women according to the legislation produced by the United Nations system as early as 1948, will be widely disseminated in all countries of the region, with the purpose of contributing to bridge the gap between legal provisions which have been adopted internationally by Member States, but which have not, in most cases, been implemented at the national level. The regional project on action-research projects and programmes on poor urban women and their families will also contribute to the popular participation of women by identifying those strategies, policies and measures which have been most effective in providing those women with access to the most elemental services, as well as expanding their educational and employment opportunities.

40. Finally, ECLA has assisted in the promotion of women's participation through its regional project on information and communication, by which a regional information system is being developed with the aim of exchanging useful information on all matters pertaining to women, especially information which will assist in decision-making (planning; projects; funding).

UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

[Original: English]

[9 June 1983]

41. In its reply, UNIDO referred to the report of the Seminar on the Role of Women in the Development of Industrial Branches Traditionally Employing Female Labour, which was held at Sofia, Bulgaria, from 15 to 18 October 1981. 5/ This report is of particular relevance to the question of the full participation of women in development. UNIDO also provided a description of its activities for promoting and implementing economic and technical co-operation among developing countries.

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

[Original: English]

[26 May 1983]

42. UNEP is in complete agreement with the analysis and conclusions contained in the report of the International Seminar on Popular Participation. Not only is participation a human right as has been suggested by the report and by General Assembly resolution 37/55, but it is often a prerequisite for ensuring the sustainability of development and equitable distribution of its benefits.

43. From its inception UNEP's work has reflected recognition of the significance of effective and broadly-based participation in action for environmental protection and improvement. Environment provides the resources for human activities and links them: agriculture, industry, construction, mining, transportation, disposal of all residues, consumption of goods and services and recreation, all depend on the integrity of eco-systems and environmental health, just as they bring about changes in the environment. It is people's actions more than anything else that causes environmental changes and it is the people themselves who stand to gain or suffer in the wake of those changes.

44. As the environment programme of the United Nations system, UNEP's function is primarily catalysing, co-ordinating and stimulating action for environmentally-sound development. Hence, for the effective performance of its role, UNEP's work has inevitably come to reflect promotion of popular participation in environmental action, as a guiding principle.

45. Non-governmental organizations concerned with matters of the environment with grass-root level constituencies, played a very important role in the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment (1972), which brought UNEP into existence. These organizations collaborate actively with UNEP in spreading awareness of individual and group responsibility for environmental protection and improvement, and thus promote popular participation in environmental action. UNEP has a programme entitled "Environmental Awareness", which includes the components of environmental education, training, public information, information referral service

(INFOTERRA), and data and the state of the environment, all of which should be seen as contributing to the promotion of informed popular participation in action for environmentally-sound development.

46. Finally, pilot projects initiated by UNEP in co-operation with concerned co-operating agencies and Governments and addressed to demonstrating viable approaches to environmental management in various sectors of development seek to embody, where feasible, the component of popular participation. Following a recent Governing Council decision, UNEP has undertaken a clearing house function to catalyse assistance to developing countries in dealing with their serious environmental problems, and there is no doubt that the success of the programmes resulting from the initiative will depend, in a good measure, on the nature and extent of popular participation in their design and implementation.

UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT)

[Original: English]

[7 June 1983]

47. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) efforts for promoting popular participation are centred on the ongoing "Training Programme for Community Participation in Improving Human Settlement". The programme aims at promoting community participation in the improvement of housing conditions for the low-income population in urban areas of developing countries. The programme is global in scope, i.e. it provides, training courses in six or seven countries throughout the third world. In order to ensure utilization of the skills and knowledge acquired, the courses are organized within the framework of existing sites and services schemes and squatter settlement upgrading projects. The Training Programme tries to show the project staff the advantages, possibilities and limitations of community participation and to transfer skills to channel and optimize participation in project execution.

48. Within technical co-operation projects emphasis has increasingly been placed on participation of beneficiaries in the entire process of project execution. The Research and Development Division also incorporates this aspect as an integral element in all relevant activities.

WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

[Original: English]

[20 June 1983]

49. With the exception of the limited number of food reserve and price stabilization projects aided by the Programme, all WFP-assisted projects for economic and social development call for popular participation, be they in the field of vulnerable group feeding, of food-for-work activities or for projects

aimed at increasing agricultural, and especially food, production. As at 31 December 1982, 98 per cent of all WFP commitments made in favour of development projects, from the inception of the Programme in 1962, have been for these three categories: this amounts to a total of \$5,265 million.

50. In so far as direct feeding of the victims of emergency situations - another of the Programme's activities - is to be considered as an undertaking which indeed involves popular participation of a kind, the amount spent for emergency operations over the same period was \$1,055 million.

51. The different ways employed to bring the food provided by WFP to the workers involved in developmental activities, and to their families, are in general too well known and too diverse to require, or allow detailed description in connection with the present report.

V. COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

[Original: English]

[26 May 1983]

52. In its reply, WHO referred to a document entitled "Activities of the World Health Organization in promoting community involvement for health development". 6/ Popular participation for health development is in this paper called community involvement, which is understood to refer to a process by which partnership is established between government and local communities in the planning, implementation and utilization of health activities in order to increase benefit from local self-reliance and social control over the health infrastructure and technology. Community involvement means that people, who have both the right and the duty to participate in solving their own health problems, are actively involved in the planning, implementation and evaluation of primary health care activities. Such involvement will lead to greater responsibility on the part of the communities in assessing their health needs, finding local resources, suggesting new solutions, and creating and maintaining local health oriented organizations in support of these efforts.

Notes

1/ The full texts of these replies are on file with the Secretariat and are available for consultation upon request.

2/ The relevant summary records of the Commission's debate on this item are E/CN.4/1983/SR.17-20 and 31.

3/ Economic and Social Council, Official Records 1983, Supplement No. 3 (E/1983/13), para. 103; and E/CN.4/1983/SR.17-20 and 31.

4/ E/CN.4/1983/SR.18, para. 28.

5/ ID/WG.351/9.

6/ WHO document SHS/83.3.
